

## Report on Special Programs Broadcast to North Korea in 2016

**To:** Participants in Free North Korea Radio Special Programs for 2016

**Fr:** Suzanne Scholte

**Re:** Report on Reactions from North Koreans to These Programs

As 2016 draws to a close, I wanted report to you the responses received from North Koreans regarding the special programs we prepared here in the United States for broadcast to North Korea this past year on Free North Korea Radio (FNKR). FNKR is the Seoul-based radio station staffed by North Korean defectors that broadcasts news, true history and information, and hope, every day to the people of North Korea. During 2016, we prepared several special programs specifically aimed at educating North Koreans about what Americans are really like. Since North Koreans are brainwashed from childhood to hate Americans as “Yankee Imperialist wolves” who occupy South Korea, and are the source of their suffering, these programs expose the truth through the words of American leaders, citizens, and North Korean defectors who have resettled or visited the United States.

These programs consisted of special messages from Members of Congress sent for Seollal (Korean New Year) and for Korean Liberation Day (August 15). We interviewed North Korean defectors for the program entitled *Coming to America* and Korean Americans for *Hello Grandparents*. *Washington, D.C. Today* was a special program that reported on actions taken in America to promote North Korea’s freedom and human rights.

Our deepest appreciation goes to **Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, Congressmen Steve Chabot, Eliot Engel, Alan Lowenthal, Mark Meadows, Scott Perry, Joe Pitts, Ed Royce and Chris Smith** for sending messages of hope for Seollal and Korean Liberation Day. We deeply appreciate **Deborah Choi, Jinhye Jo, Grace Jo, Joseph Kim, Hyeonseon Lee, Dr. K.C. Han, and Seong Min Lee** for participating in the *Coming to America* interviews and the students representing the **Korean Church Coalition for North Korea Freedom** who participated in *Hello Grandparents*.

The following excerpts are from North Koreans responding to these programs:

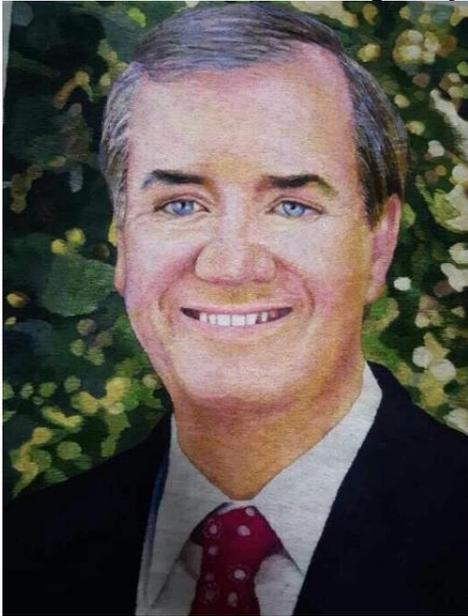
*“The [North Korean] government always mentions that America is our total enemy but a lot of people already know that America is the most developed and democratic country. I never imagined that politicians from the U.S. would have participated in the radio show, which is run by North Korean defectors, and send messages to North Koreans. Please send my message to the Americans”* -- **North Korean citizen living in Chongjin**

*“We never dare to say Kim Jung Un’s government should be collapsed, so that people can live peacefully. However, I am extremely happy that someone else could say this for us.”* -- **North Korean citizen living in Hyesan**

*“I am a North Korean and listen to Free North Korea Radio often...Please keep airing the programs because I know that there are other North Koreans who listen to FNKR. When I heard the 8.15 (Korean Liberation Day) messages stating that Americans and people from around the world have been praying for North Koreans, I felt that we are no longer alone. Also the message that the oppressed have to work for their freedom was very inspiring. However, I think that it may not be possible for North Koreans to move against the regime but there are still people out there who listen to the radio and they will ponder what they hear. I hope that the radio operates until the world changes.”*-- **North Korean citizen living in Sinujoo**

*"Instead of reactions to 8.15 (Korean Liberation Day) messages, here are a few arts and craft items for the American politicians who delivered the messages. My brother and I spent three months making them late into the night. Please send them to the politicians. Please tell them that there are some people in a dark place who still have hope because of South Korea and the US."*

**- North Korean citizen living in Pyongyang; Kim and his brother made this special art:**



The Honorable Ed Royce



The Honorable Chris Smith

*"The messages from the American politicians are proof that America has not forgotten North Koreans. When I was in North Korea, I also listened to a Korean radio show. On the show, an American politician said not to lose hope. Initially, I wondered what this mortal enemy was talking about but then I began to question whether the textbooks were lying. Some North Koreans may have thoughts similar to mine. If they hear this type of message repeatedly, I think that we can change opinions about America. – North Korean defector Kim Soojin*

*"Thank you for these programs. I believe that there is still hope for North Koreans. As a matter of fact, North Koreans still believe that the US is their enemy because the regime has brainwashed them. A lot of North Koreans are still being lied to by the regime. However, I believe that one day North Koreans will think differently about the US if the US maintains its stance toward North Koreans and a concern for North Koreans." -- North Korean defector Park Sang Hak*

*"I have been listening to Coming to America. Especially, the very inspiring story about the male defector who resettled in the US at an early age, went to college and published a book about his life. I think that stories from the North Korean defectors may be more effective in changing North Koreans ... because North Koreans have been brainwashed about the Korean and American governments. – North Korean defector Kim Youngjun*

*"Dear Americans, we sincerely thank you for loving the North Koreans without expecting anything in return. We don't know if you can keep helping us, but if you do, we will do our best to make FNKR even better. We will do our best to cause the regime of Kim Jung Un to fall and liberate the North Koreans as quickly as possible. People who listened to your messages informed us that they realized how much the U.S. and international communities are concerned about us and work hard for us to gain our freedom and human rights. They also criticize Kim Jung Un for his nuclear and missile tests and argue that the regime's fall will bring a day when North Korean people can live like normal human beings. Their voices are still spread cautiously and secretly through cell phones made in China. However, one thing for sure is that they keenly listen to the outside world and they surely know that people like you are supporting them.*

*Dear Americans, FNKR pledges to work hard to bring the truth to the North Koreans so that we will not disappoint you. We will also work with our fellow North Korean defectors to ensure that they become advocates for democracy. We further promise that we will spread the sound of the Liberty Bell until the day of Korean unification."-- Kim Seong Min and the staff of Free North Korea Radio*