



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The past year has been the most active and successful period in the history of The Korea Society. The major reason for this is the success of Korea, in terms of its economic recovery, its diplomatic activism, and the dramatic summit meeting in Pyongyang. The Korea Society has thus had an increasingly interesting story to tell, we have told it well, and more and more people have become attracted to and involved in our programs.

When I served as ambassador in Seoul, I used to speak of the need to change the U.S.-ROK relationship from a military alliance to a political and economic partnership. Significant progress toward that change has been made in recent years, as Korean democracy has become more deeply rooted and our economic ties have become increasingly more vital. The military dimensions of the relationship have not changed as markedly, however, given North Korea's aggressive military posture along the DMZ, and its refusal until recently to enter into real dialogue with South Korea. Indeed, under the circumstances, any weakening of U.S. deterrence could only have been viewed as foolhardy.

Now, with a Seoul-Pyongyang dialogue having started, and with the prospects for lasting peace having been enhanced, happily a new era is beginning to emerge in Northeast Asia. America's role in the area will continue to be important, but it will have to be adapted to a time when military deterrence will gradually give way to an emphasis on providing balance and stability to the region. As this occurs, the size and shape of the U.S. military presence in Korea and Japan will have to be adjusted. This is an issue to which The Korea Society will devote additional emphasis over the coming year.

All of us are looking forward to our 8 September 2000 dinner, when we will honor President Kim Dae-jung and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. This will be a major highlight in a year that has proven to be a turning point, in so many ways, both for Korea and for The Korea Society.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Donald P. Gregg". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

Donald P. Gregg
President & Chairman of the Board
The Korea Society