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The Israeli Jewish Comm. Against the
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ThINK (There is Hope in North Korea)
The Wilberforce Forum
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August 11, 2010

National D-Day Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 77
Bedford, Virginia 24523

Dear Officers and the Board of Directors of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation:

The North Korea Freedom Coalition, an organization representing over 70 American, Korean, Japanese, and European human rights, religious and non-governmental organizations promoting the freedom, human rights and dignity of the North Korean people, respectfully request that the bust of the communist leader Josef Stalin be removed from the National D-Day Memorial.

Although Stalin joined the Allied forces in WWII, it is also well-known that his decision was motivated by Hitler's violation of their non-aggression pact and Nazi Germany's invasion into the Soviet Union in June 1941. While we acknowledge the fact that the Soviet Union had the greatest loss of life during World War II and that Stalin was an ally, Stalin had no role in D-Day and has no place at the National D-Day Memorial. Americans should never forget that Stalin, throughout his murderous reign, contributed greatly to the death and incarceration of millions of innocents among the people of the Soviet Union. His dictatorship was marked by a catastrophic famine; the establishment of Gulag labor camps; arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and execution of innocent people during the "Great Terror"; and discrimination through the exile of millions of ethnic minorities. And after WWII, he succeeded in placing much of Eastern Europe under communist dictatorships. Furthermore, he played a key role in the establishment of another destructive regime that has led to the deaths of millions of Koreans.

Stalin's destructive leadership gave rise to the communist regime that exists to this present day in North Korea in which 23 million are enslaved and 200,000 languish in political prison camps. After the Soviet Union declared war on Japan in August 1945 and successfully invaded Pyongyang, Stalin appointed Kim Il-Sung to head a new puppet regime in North Korea. Stalin not only supplied advisers and equipment to build an army in North Korea, he also provided permission to Kim Il-Sung to attack the south in 1950 which started the Korean War, had Soviet generals take over the war plans, and pressed China to intervene when North Korea experienced difficulty during the war.¹ The Korean War, still unresolved, led to the death of an estimated 2.5 million Korean civilians and hundreds of thousands of soldiers from many nations including over 200,000 Koreans and 37,000 U.S. servicemen and servicewomen during the three year conflict.

Moreover, Stalin's support for the regime in North Korea continues to impact the lives of 23 million in North Korea where millions have died in political prison camps and from starvation because of the regime's policies. In fact, the regime continues to destroy the lives of hundreds of North Koreans daily as they suffer under a complete totalitarian regime headed by Kim Il-Sung's successor, Kim Jong-Il. They lack every freedom enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted in reaction to the atrocities of World War II.

The placement of the Stalin statue among the leaders of the Allied Forces of World War II is offensive to all who fight for freedom and human rights today, as well as all who died on D-Day and all who fought and died in the Korean War.²

Erecting a statue portraying the image of a political leader is a deed that is customarily reserved for those whom we honor. The bust of Stalin does nothing to promote the memory of the suffering and death of millions of people under his cruel dictatorship, and brings no positive tribute to those who valiantly fought to defeat the proliferation of communism, including the twenty soldiers from Bedford who perished on D-Day. Alternatively, it has only brought forth fervent sentiments of opposition and objection from around the world.

We urge the Foundation to remove the bust of Josef Stalin from the National D-Day Memorial and return the Memorial to one that truly honors those who made the greatest sacrifices for peace and freedom.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Scholte
Chairman



Sin U Nam
Vice Chairman



Rabbi Abraham Cooper
Vice Chairman



Pastor Heemoon Lee
Vice Chairman



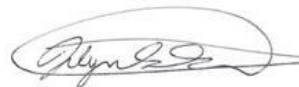
Ann Buwalda
Treasurer



Mariam Bell
Legislative Chair



Sue Yoon Logan
Administrator



Hyun Song
Secretary

[1] These facts are according to *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War* by David Halberstam [Hyperion, 1957] and *Uncertain Partners* by Sergei Goncharov, John Lewis, and Xue Litai [Stanford University Press, 1993]. These books draw on archives in Moscow.

[2] Three Bedford County men gave their lives in service during the Korean War. Twenty-one other county men were wounded in the Korean War, two were prisoners of war, and at least 172 from the county served in the Korean War.