

True Parents Arrive in Washington, D.C. To Begin Evangelizing The USA

Sun Myung Moon
December 18, 1971



The Kennedy Center is where the Little Angels played the day they greeted True Father in Washington, D.C. - date of photo unknown.

Having been denied visas on arriving in Los Angeles on December 11, 1971, because of alleged "communist affiliations," True Parents traveled to Toronto, Canada. There, due to the intervention of U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), who was familiar with True Father's Victory over Communism work, their situation was clarified and they arrived in Washington, D.C., on December 18.

Dr. Bo Hi Pak, who welcomed True Parents, stated that it "pained" him that he and others had not made "the necessary social and political preparations" for True Parents. However, it comforted him that the Little Angels were scheduled to perform that very night at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and they were all at the airport to greet True Parents. True Father, he said, "was extremely pleased with this unexpected welcome."

That night, True Parents' party sat in the VIP section of the balcony at the Kennedy Center. Dr. Pak noted, "More than a hundred senators, congressmen and other notables were there with their families, including Sen. J.W. Fulbright [D-Ark], Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, and several other Cabinet-level officials." There were ambassadors from around a hundred countries, he said, with more than 2,200 people in the sold-out crowd. Dr. Pak commented, "In a symbolic sense, the Little Angels' invitational performance was a welcoming banquet held in celebration of Reverend Moon's arrival in America that day. ... It could also be said that Reverend Moon was the real host of that performance." At the conclusion, Dr. Pak introduced True Father as the Little Angels' founder and invited everyone to welcome him with a round of applause.

According to Dr. Pak, "the leading figures from all walks of life in the United States were receiving the Lord for the first time and, symbolically, were giving him an enthusiastic welcome."