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00:00:02 --> 00:00:07

To our Korean dongpos (brothers and sisters) living in the US

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and to our progressive and conscientious honorable comrades

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I speak to you from the community of Mang-wol.

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As you can see this is the Old Cemetery. It is called the Mang-wol Community Democratic Cemetery.

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It was here that from the site of the May 18 massacre

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after the countless corpses that were buried in unknown ditches, the remaining ones were gathered,

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rolled up in plastic bags, piled on garbage trucks,

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brought to the community of Mang wol, and buried in a corner of the Citizen's Park. That is where we now are.

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After that, for 33 years we have worked ceaselessly to reveal the truth behind the Mang wol community massacres

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and to punish those responsible

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in order that the unfulfilled dreams of those spirits, our country's democratization and people's liberation, be achieved

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in order to do this, independence and reunification are absolutely essential...indispensible conditions.

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Aware of this, in the course of our struggle, countless martyrs have died and left us.

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and each time those that survived would bring them to this place once again.

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This place, we might say is filled with the democratic yearnings of our people.

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That's why this place is called the Democracy Memorial Cemetery

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For the past 33 years, we have truly fought rooted on this memorial cemetery

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Today, the clouds of war are gathering once again in our homeland of mountains and rivers.

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That is why first we must stop war and then make peace...a true peace...blossom

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To do this we need not dialogue that is

just talking or peace on a piece of paper

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not a pretense peace!

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if we are talking about a true peace

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isn't it time that the unfulfilled armistice agreement of 60 years ago that was supposed to become a peace treaty, isn't it about time that we turn it into a true peace treaty?

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Isn't that why...we in the homeland and you, beautiful Korean dongpos in the US, came together into one purpose and mind and committed to the movement against war and for peace?

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00:03:42.5 --> 00:03:50.5

that is why I in place of comrades in the homeland and also representing them

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00:03:51 --> 00:04:01

I had planned to seek you out and visit you. With the beautiful hearts of our US dongpos and the beautiful hearts of Koreans in the homeland

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to fight against war and for peace and through that establish a peace treaty...abolish the 60 year armistice agreement and in its place establish a peace treaty

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and end the war and upon that foundation by achieving independence and reunification

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we would no longer have
a society where the strong oppress the weak

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a society where one can work their whole lives
sweating blood yet never escape poverty

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00:04:44.5 --> 00:05:03

a society where that more precious than our lives, our children,
are mired in an infinitely endless and constant competition.
Countless wilting away and falling off before even blossoming.

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00:05:03.5 --> 00:05:17

Let this society quietly slip away
and in its stead come a beautiful society based
on fellowship...a peaceful and equal society

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Are we not standing at a desperately crucial crossroads in
the path to such fertile and plentiful new world?

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00:05:30 --> 00:05:42

Yet truly regretfully, I have not been able to
seek you out and to visit you and instead
I have returned back here to the community of Mang-wol

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I am truly sorry. It is for me to reflect on more deeply but

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00:05:53 --> 00:06:00

I believe that I had not been able to shed off my "amateurism"

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00:06:03 --> 00:06:18

After suffering so many times against the sharp talons
and might of the US military industrial complex
and Wall Street's transnational capital,

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we should have gotten our act together, and working more intelligently and thoroughly should have achieved success.*

* getting into the US

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But we were unable to do so and enroute were intercepted and now have returned. But it appears that I am whining.

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Nonetheless...there is a saying that when hearts are distant even the near is distant and when hearts are near the distant is near also.

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What does it matter if there are 30,000 li* between the US and the Korean Peninsula... when our hearts are as one?

*1 li = .333 km

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When our hearts are near...even if right now, we cannot come together and embrace each other while shedding tears of joy...

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00:07:23 --> 00:07:33

Even if at the moment we cannot do the various tasks needed to unfold the future of our people together or unfold humanity's dream for a peaceful world,

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because our hearts are one, we must for now prepare from where we are and, I dare ask, maybe this time our work can be more integrated together.

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And so that is my promise for the future.

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They say that a large scale fleet capable of inflicting nuclear war is coming to Korean seas again and doing another war exercise.

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The essence of the problem is being clearly revealed. Even without our efforts, it is being revealed.

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They themselves are revealing the truth. Who is the driving force behind war? Who is the essential element? What is the root of the division? Aren't they themselves revealing these answers?

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There is much to say but because of our limited time, I will stop today's talk here.

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00:08:54 --> 00:09:01

The picture that you are all seeing...this photograph and this gravestone

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00:09:03 --> 00:09:19

In May 21, 1981 err 80 May 21...at the site of the massacre, while waiting for a husband, a teacher who had gone out worried about his students, a pregnant wife...

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Her name was Mrs. Choi Mi Ae. After waiting and waiting for her husband, because he was not returning, she went and waited for him outside when she and the baby inside her were killed by a soldier's gunshot.

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This is her gravesite...that massacre...

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and the suffering since then...Let us struggle together to end it.

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The sight of our struggle is a beautiful thing. I will end my talk here and let us meet again in the near future.

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Unable to go to the United States, Chairman Oh Jeong Ryul rushed to Mangwoldong.

He came to attend the 24th remembrance ceremony for Martyr Lee Cheol Gyu, held every May 6th.

Pinned to his chest was a carnation in preparation for the coming Parent's day.