

## Founder speaks out

# Koreans fight Park regime

By CARL STODDARD

Sang-Don Kim, 77, knows much of South Korea — and much of what he knows displeases him. Kim was among those who helped frame the South Korean constitution in 1948 and served as a congressman for several years. He also was the first elected mayor of Seoul, capital of South Korea, in 1961.

When Park Sung-Sun took control of the government that year, Kim and his family were imprisoned. They were held in relative freedom, but were forbidden to ever again seek public office. Five years ago, Kim came to this country and has not returned. He was in Southfield last week with his daughter, Shin-Hyung, Kim of Farmington Hills, as part of his continuing campaign for human rights for the people of Korea.

Kim's daughter, too, is deeply involved in the movement. She is vice-president of the Korean Human Rights Committee of Michigan, an organization formed in January to pro-

test the repressive government of South Korea.

According to Mrs. Kim, there are more than 3,000 Koreans living in the Detroit area. Many, however, are reluctant to speak for fear of personal harassment or intimidation of their relatives in Korea, she said.

Part of this fear is based on the working of the Korean CIA agents and informants known to be working in this country, she said.

**SPEAKING OUT** against the iron-fisted rule of President Park also leads to other problems. Mrs. Kim, 77, told an interview last week that she and her husband protested outside the Korean consulate in Southfield two years ago. newspaper reports erroneously indicated that protest was pro-Communist.

In fact, Mrs. Kim said, she and others in her group seek to have a democratic government restored in South Korea.

"The American public, as well as Koreans here, must recognize Korea's basic problem is that instead of pro-

coming a democratic country, it has become a dictatorship," she said. "It has become a repressive government with the benefit of American money."

She and her father advocate a public outcry that would demand restoration of all human rights in South Korea as a condition for continued U.S. aid.

"Park's government replaced the democratic constitution and made him a lifetime president," Kim said. "To do this, he has declared unwarranted emergency measures."

"In order to silence the people, he has created nine measures. Thus the people are having to act blind, deaf and dumb just for basic survival in politics, economics, industry, the literary society, the press, religion and education — in every area — people have lost their inherent rights."

THE ELDER KIM charges that more than 140 newspaper reporters have been ousted from their jobs, another 450 professors were removed from universities, and thousands of others have been silenced or imprisoned.

"I want to make this point very clear to everybody, especially the American government," Kim said. "Koreans are not saying we do not want or need American aid. But if such aid would continue to strengthen the repressive regime . . . then Koreans would prefer even starvation or death (rather than) continue to live with harassment and be spoon-fed aid."

Kim, a gary man who must speak through an interpreter, came to the U.S. to visit his daughter. While here, he teamed up with Dae Jong Kim, a prominent South Korean leader who had once tried to oust Park. Together they traveled around the U.S. and foreign areas in an on-going effort to change conditions in South Korea.

While in Japan, Dae Jong Kim was kidnapped and taken to South Korea, Kim said. So now, Kim continues the efforts of his own.

"Korea as a country has bled for more than 30 years," he said. "Therefore, Koreans urge the Carter administration to institute a committee which will seek to heal and bring about a wholeness for South Korea as a nation."



SANG-DON KIM



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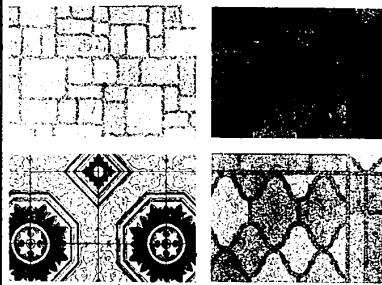
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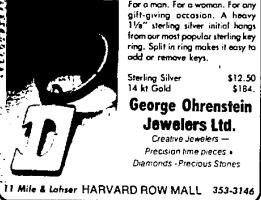
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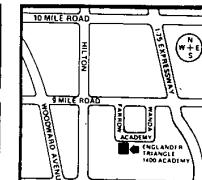
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