

S. Korea

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in South Korea, David Easter says, and "overall, 1700 firms have ties to the country."

"We need to question the companies involved. Why do they support a dictator? The labor is cheap — one-tenth of costs here — and the government is 'gracious' toward business."

Besides blacklisting pro-union Koreans, the government has continually given financial incentives to foreign companies, especially American ones, David Easter says. "The government, in some cases, guarantees companies a profit."

Park's death might change things within the Asian country, but observers are not predicting any major shake up in the government's politics with the North — especially regarding reunification.

A warning to North Korea was issued shortly after Park's death by opposition leader Kim Young-sam, who said the entire nation was united in the warning against the communist regime.

Warnings to the North and support of acting Pres. Choi Kyu-hah were also issued by Pres. Carter, defense secretary Harold Brown and the commander of the U.S. and United Nations forces in Korea, Gen. John Wickham.

But, says David Easter, "unification is what the people want. For 1,200 years Korea was one country. It has only been in

the last 34 years that the two have been separated."

"By taking a new diplomatic posture the United States can initiate that change," Maud Easter says.

But observers admit the possibility that the people of South Korea will initiate the change. Complaints against Park's government are strong enough that "one student told me she

was ashamed that only one-third of the students at her university were actively opposing the government," David Easter says. "In the United States, it's more like point-one-third."

The days of "unstinting support of dictators are gone," he says. "They said there was no opposition in Iran, and that the United States could support Somoza forever. We can see

where that went."

The opposition movement in South Korea has an extremely broad base, Maud Easter says. "But they want to operate under a democratic government. A truly democratic government."

Perhaps, says David Easter, the new government will establish a democratic country. The first signs of that possibility are there.

The government may have signaled its intentions by allowing publication of an opposition appeal for democratic reforms in South Korea.

"They would have been jailed for even speaking against the government under Park," David Easter says.

"Peace. Perhaps, if the United States will support it, it is a possibility."



David and Maud Easter recently returned to the United States after living in Japan for two years, pleading the cause of Korean peace

with officials from Asian governments. "Every Korean we've talked to favors unity," says David Easter.

Photo by Jeff Patterson

Final chance nears to buy hoop tickets

Today is the last day to buy student basketball tickets.

Dennis Mohatt, ASUO vice president for administration and finance, says there will be no more deadline extensions. "This is it," he says.

Unless students wage a last-minute ticket-buying spree today, the ASUO will sell some 1,400 unsold tickets back to the Athletic Department, who will sell them to the public, according to Mohatt.

"We've lost about 1,400 student seats in Mac Court this year," he says.

The ASUO contract with the athletic department guarantees that all 4,000 seats will be available to students again next year. Mohatt says that while the athletic department can't refuse to give students seats next year, the lack of student interest will probably reduce the ASUO's bargaining power in ticket contract negotiations with the Athletic Department next year.

About one-half the 4,000 available seats were sold in the

annual ticket lottery. A second week of ticket selling enticed only another 400 students to buy tickets, leaving about 1,600.

Scott Bassett, ASUO president, then announced that the athletic department would sell football and basketball passes separately in an effort to bring the ticket price down and encourage more students to purchase the passes.

That was two weeks ago, and only 200 more tickets have sold since then.

"I really don't know why they aren't selling," Mohatt says. "They're less than \$3 a game. That isn't bad."

Mohatt says that with double-digit inflation, students can't afford to spend \$43 at one time for a basketball pass.

"It's hard times for everybody," he says.

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