Country: Republic of Korea 

Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee(SOCHUM)

Topic: Counnterculture, New Left, Anti-War Protests and Movements in the 60s

Historically, South Korea has faced a lot of problems because of its geographical location and the impacts of the Korean War so the Republic of Korea acknowledges the nature of countercultural movements, being aware of they offer a platform for freedom of expressions. Still goverment is aware of the importance of a cautious welcome, knowing that these movements can cause problem if they are not controlled. In embracing the beliefs and ideals of the New Left, the goverment of South Korea acknowledges and supports the way of thinking which is shaping the young generation’s thougts about politics and also social justice. The Republic of Korea strongly believes that fostering a society structure that encourages and protects freedom of expressions and discourse will lead to a happier society.

South Korea is dealing with a period of both rapid industrialization and modernization at the same time. While economic progress could not be ignored, political atmosphere is shaping with authoritarianism, feminism,limited civil liberties and political pluralism. This atmosphere created the groundwork for emergence of the counterculture and New Left.

The counterculture movement in South Korea is a vital expession of the younger generation’s ideals and beliefs. With the desire for self expression they searched for better ways of art,music,fashion,and lifestyles. This was not just an artistic shift it was a social desire for change in a lot of ways. The young generation is inspired by global movements and as a irresistible result some of them become hippies. More than only a rebellion, hippies are an effective response to socio political atmosphere which is againist individual freedom. Goverment was sceptical and cautious about hippies. The authoritarian regime in administration sees this new ideal as a threat to social stability. Hippie ideals which emphasized peaceand anti war disturbed the goverment. This situation ended with the emergence of the student movement for democracy and brought down the authoriatarian regime.

As a result of counterculture movement, the New Left emerged as a political value believing and advocating to change in the old World. Activists who are advocating New Left made workers rights,feminism, and democratic governance come to fore. This ideals played a vital role in developing social beliefs and challenging the goverment.The democracy revolation led to the establishment of a developmental dictatorship as a result of effects of conditions in South Korea. The New Left movement become a fervor to change both social and political environment.

As the society started to care more about peace the idea of anti-war emerged in South Korea and there was a significant increase in anti-war protests which were reflecting societys thoughts. These protests were not only expressions of society with the aim of global peace but also reflections of a increasing desire for stability and security in the World. Many South Koreans were increasingly dissapointed because of the harmony of the goverment with the Vietnam war. Korea’s entry in to the Vietnam war is in the procces of laying the groundwork for constitutional change. It caused the developmentalist state to turn in a developmentalist dictatorship. The goverment responded to the actions of protesters with pressure that led to arrests. Despite all of these challenges anti war movements played an important role in South Korean history and shaped the country’s decisions in the ulterior years.

POSSIBLE SOLUTİONS

1. To evaluate the complaints of the society to develop new reforms and make changes in policy.
2. To sign peace agrements with neighboring countries in order to be an anti-war country and protect the safety of our society.