



Meeting October 21, 2017

In Attendance

Ruy Romano, Maria-Luiza Romano, Linda Woods, Robert Strang, Kelly Megyesi

Todd Smith was hoping to participate for a short time period but meeting was late. Special thank you for attending our event. It was wonderful to have the alternate REVP participate and it was very much appreciated. .

Minutes

Previous minutes reviewed and accepted m/s/c

Building Communities IV Migrant Dreams

Very successful event. Kelly will do up the report for PSAC BC
43 Participants.

Maria-Luiza will finalize the attendance sheet and forward to Kelly
Decision on comp tickets.

It was agreed that we would not host an event for next year but would look at alternate ideas.

PSAC Rep

Discussion on the area of the Okanagan Human Rights Committee. Robert talked about including Kamloops. The group was in agreement that they liked the idea of being inclusive and have always welcomed all. The committee needs help and more people willing to participate is seen as a good thing. In the past invitations have been extended to individuals that have expressed interest. It was noted that the formation of the group was the Okanagan and in-person meetings would only be held in this area.

Asked Robert for names and addresses of PSAC union members in our area that we can send a meeting invitation to.

Financial

As this is our last meeting of 2017 – reviewed full financial.
Current balance is 2588.40

Migrant Dreams

Revenue deposited \$1050.00 (\$350 each from Okanagan Area Council / Women's / PSAC BC
\$50.00 from ticket sales.

Revenue to be deposited from ticket sales \$410 (\$380 + \$30)
Total Revenue **\$1510.00**

Expenses

Capri Hotel Invoice 1152.80

Travel Allowance Min Sook Lee 400.00

Westjet Flights 485.43 (re-imbursed K Megyesi)

Honouriam for Min Sook Lee of \$200.00

Cinema Politic – film screening rights \$100

Misc - Conference call \$6.54 + 10 cheques \$2 + postage \$9.83 (re-imbursed K Megyesi)

Host pins – donated K Megyesi

Motion to approve total expenses of **\$2356.60 m/s/c**

Other

Motion to donate \$200.00 Amnesty Vernon for Dec. 10th, 2017 Write for Rights Campaign **m/s/c**

Motion to donate \$200 to Min Sook Lee's next documentary "Dotards vs Rocket Men" * **m/s/c**

Motion to support Children Calendar project – \$50 supplies – Maria-Luiza Romano **m/s/c**

Motion to contribute a gift certificate (s) for Rotary Xmas Event up to \$100 **m/s/c**

2018

Preliminary planning for the following year. Maria-Luiza would like to do another quilt project and would like and observer to take to convention to raise money and awareness. To be discussed further at our next meeting.

Next Meeting

January 27th, 2018 11.30 am– Kelowna

Dotards VS Rocket Men

A feature documentary that braces history against the nuclear present



"I would have dropped between thirty and fifty atomic bombs (on Korea)"
General MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command in Korea

At a recent speech to the United Nations General Assembly, US President Donald Trump minced no words: "*The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime. The United States is ready, willing and able, but hopefully, this will not be necessary.*"

North Korea's Supreme Leader, Kim Jon Un took the unusual step of addressing the nation via a live public address on North Korean television. He vowed to "*tame the mentally deranged US dotard with fire*". In response, the Korean Central News Agency reported that five million North Korean youth volunteered to join the military with the rallying cry: "Let us blow up the U.S. empire of evils with five million nuclear bombs!"

The hyperbolic war talk between the US and North Korea positions the two states in a confrontation that most military analysts assess as devastating and unwinnable. South Korea's capital Seoul lies just a few tens of kilometers from the border with a population of 26 million people. North Korea doesn't need nuclear bombs to cause levels of casualties that could very easily run to hundreds of thousands. With 30,000 US troops stationed in South Korea, the likelihood of substantial body-bags returning home will undoubtedly affect the political mood in the US. Military action over North Korea is widely seen as the worst possible solution with unimaginably heavy consequences.

Nuclear threats and war talk have loomed over Korea since the war period. General Douglas MacArthur the US Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command during the Korean War lobbied to drop atomic bombs on North Korea. Since the 1970's the U.S has conducted war games with South Korean forces that simulate nuclear attacks against the North. These began before the North had nuclear weapons. In 1994, President Bill Clinton was close to launching a military attack on North Korea with the aim of destroying its nuclear facilities. In 2002, President Bush talked about seizing North Korean ships as part of a blockade of the country, which is an act of war. In 2016, the U.S. conducted war games which involved planning for preemptive attacks on North Korean military targets and "decapitation" of the North Korea leadership and a first strike nuclear attack.

Dotards VS Rocket Men is a feature documentary that presents a sober, objective and historically contextualized account of the potential nuclear conflict between the US and North Korea. Over the decades North Korea and its leaders have regularly been portrayed as psychotic, irrational madmen. The regime is no doubt totalitarian and despotic. However, the irrationality of North Korea's nuclear ambitions can be easily disputed against the frame of American military aggressions in the region. The North Koreans are surrounded on all sides by countries that have invaded or occupied them in living memory and the world's most powerful military is still technically still at war with them and poised to invade at a moment's notice. This is the sort of scenario that would make any country not merely paranoid, but legitimately insecure.

Dotards VS Rocket Men looks at the history of the construction of North Korea with a particular attention paid to the relationship between the US and North Korea. We will frame the contemporary conflict against the history of the Korean war. Using exclusive interviews with historians, surviving military veterans, journalists, contemporary military and policy analysts and

reaching back into rare archives mixed in with contemporary media - the documentary will bring the current rhetoric of war and devastation into a new context. The goal is to shoot on both sides of the Korean border to access archives, historians and military analysts from all sides. This is an attempt at balancing the coverage on North Korea. Requests will be submitted to the U.S. military to shoot inside the 2018 summer war games.

Korean War Atrocities – A Small Note

Korea's division was arbitrary – no consultation took place with the Korean people. Prior to division, the country was unified for thousands of years. The 38th parallel, the general line that split the country was hastily chosen by Dean Rusk, then a young colonel in the U.S. army. He recounts in his memoirs being given minutes to split the country: *“Using a National Geographic map, we looked just north of Seoul for a convenient dividing line but could not find a natural geographical line. We saw instead the thirty-eighth parallel and decided to recommend that ... [Our commanders] accepted it without too much haggling, and surprisingly, so did the Soviets.”*

The war between the two Koreas stands as one of unaccounted atrocities on both sides. Before the war broke out, the Republic of Korea (ROK) backed by the Americans summarily executed up to 1 million guerrillas and peasant citizens. Evidence of these executions were largely hidden until the 1990's. It is estimated that 20% of the North Korean population died during the war. Dean Rusk, who later became a Secretary of State, said the US targeted and attempted to execute every person “that moved” in North Korea, and tried to knock over “every brick standing on top of another.” By 1953 American pilots were returning to carriers and bases claiming there were no longer any significant targets in all of North Korea to bomb. In fact a very large percentage of the northern population was by then living in tunnels dug by hand underground. A British journalist wrote that the northern population was living “a troglodyte existence.” In the Spring of 1953 US warplanes hit five of the largest dams along the Yalu river completely inundating and killing Pyongyang's harvest of rice. Air Force documents reveal calculated premeditation saying that “Attacks in May will be most effective psychologically because it was the end of the rice-transplanting season before the roots could become completely embedded.” It is “the collective memory” of the above “that animates North Korea's policies toward the US today”.