

Toespraak van de ambassadeur van de Republiek Korea, Z.E. Mr. Yeondoo Jeong



Good morning,

Distinguished Korean War Veterans, the board members of VOKS, and representatives of the Regiment Van Heutsz,

I am honored to stand with you here today. Having had the opportunity to look back upon the courage and sacrifice that Dutch soldiers displayed during the Korean War, I would like to express my sincere gratitude as the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea towards all those who have contributed to the freedom and democracy of Korea.

As of today, it has been 71 years since the Korean War broke out. Furthermore, this year marks the 70th anniversary of 'Hoengseong battle' in which Commander Lieutenant Colonel Marinus den Ouden and his comrades died a brave and heroic death. A total of 17 Dutch soldiers were killed in this battlefield, and we hold them in our hearts all the time. On the 12th of February this year, I had another great honor to place a plaque inscribed with the name of Commander den Ouden at the National Military Museum.

Nevertheless, we must pool the more considerable efforts of us to remember the war and the names of all 5,322 Dutch soldiers who fought. It is important that we continue to tell their stories so that the value of their noble spirit and dedication is not forgotten. Our two countries are now working closely together in line with the agreement, signed last December, to discover Dutch troops who went missing during the war.

In this year of 2021, marking the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between our two countries, I look forward to many more years of our friendship. Given that our combat against the pandemic is not over yet, I would like to remind you that the Korean government will always be with you in any difficult time. I genuinely hope that all the Dutch veterans and all the soldiers from Van Heutsz Regiment stay well and healthy for a long time.

Once again, we thank you sincerely from our hearts for your commitment. We will remember you. Thank you.