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Speech by the President of the Republic of Suriname, H. E. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan, with regard to the unveil and hand - over of the war monument in honor of the “Surinamese ex - Korea volunteers” to the Surinamese Community by the Korean Government, Friday 20 february 2009

- Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H. E. Won - sun Choi;
- H. E. Minister of Defense, Mr. I. Fernald;
- H. E. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. L.L.I. Kraag - Keteldijk;
- Ambassador of the United States of America, H. E. Lisa - Bobbie Schreiber - Hughes;
- Charge d' Affairs a.i. Embassy of the Netherlands, Mr. Willem Aalmans;
- Members of the Association of Surinamese Ex - Korea Volunteers;
- Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Tim van Ommeren;
- Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Suriname and on my own behalf I would like to welcome you on this important day, a day on which we will unveil the war monument in commemoration of the Surinamese ex - Korea volunteers, who contributed in defending the sovereignty of the Republic of Korea during the Korean war from 1950 - 1953.

Likewise I take this opportunity to welcome the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea for our country, H.E. Won - sun Choi. As I mentioned during the presentation of your credentials Mr. Ambassador you can be assured of the support of the Government of the Republic of Suriname.

I have every confidence that you will succeed in meeting the challenges associated with your diplomatic assignment.

The establishment of this monument has been preceded by a long preparatory period in which actors of both Governments played a pivotal role.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Korea for the monument to be unveiled as a taken of recognition and honor for the Surinamese soldiers who have fought during

the war in Korea. Our country men heeded the call to stand united with the people of South Korea in the defense of freedom. Back then, we were part of the Dutch Kingdom. As an independent State, Suriname will not change its stance regarding protection of freedom. This monument therefore, symbolizes our determination to join hands with other people all over the world when freedom and democracy are at stake.

Ex - Korea volunteers,

Our nation is very proud of your endeavors during the Korean War. All volunteers dedicated themselves to achieve peace and stability in the region. It gives us great pleasure to see so many of you here today for the unveiling of the Korean War monument.

Ambassador,

May I request you to convey our appreciation and best wishes for good health and prosperity to the President, H. E. Mr. Lee Myung - Bak, the Government and People of the Republic of South Korea.

Thank you.