

Wellington Chung: *Child of the Korean Independence Movement Crushed by Cold War Regimes**

Vladimír HLÁSNY and Byung Joon JUNG

Abstract

Wellington Chung (1927–1963) was a Korean American doctor born and raised in Hawaii, striving all his life to move to Korea, and dying in despair in Czechoslovakia. Chung received medical education at Charles University and practiced pathology in Czechoslovakia for eight years. Chung's life, however, ended tragically when he committed suicide. This study recounts the untold life story of Chung as well as his Korean American family. Reverend Hyun Soon, Chung's grandfather, was a nationalist movement leader. Alice Hyun, Chung's mother, was labeled Korean Mata Hari. This study argues that Chung was a son of the Korean independence movement who perished amidst the Cold War. The lives of his mother, grandfather, and uncles influenced Chung's life path. He joined political organizations, wrote essays, and organized fundraisers in support of North Korea, and wanted to return there after becoming a doctor. However, his mother was executed in North Korea around 1956 as an alleged U.S. intelligence spy. His uncles were summoned to the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee hearings and harassed with the threat of deportation. Chung himself lost his American citizenship. He had nowhere to return. He was trapped in rural Czechoslovakia by the witch hunt of the Cold War regimes.

Keywords: Wellington Chung, Alice Hyun, Korean American, Korean Independence Movement, Cold War, Czechoslovakia, Karlovy Vary

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Vladimír HLÁSNY is Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Ewha Womans University. E-mail: vhlasny@ewha.ac.kr.

Byung Joon JUNG is Professor in the Department of History, Ewha Womans University. E-mail: bjjung@ewha.ac.kr.

Prologue

A Korean man named Wellington Chung lived in Czechoslovakia for 15 years. He became a head physician of a city hospital, published medical research, and raised a family. But in 1963 he committed suicide. What happened to him? Why did the Hawaii-born Korean American decide in 1948 to travel to Czechoslovakia where he had no relatives nor knew any fellow Koreans? Why did he not return to the United States or continue on to Pyongyang or Seoul but instead stayed in Czechoslovakia?

This is the untold story of the tragic life of a Korean American who suffered from the division of his motherland after World War II and who was crushed by the Cold War windmill. He was the first grandson of Reverend Hyun Soon (1879–1968), a well-known leader of the Korean independence movement. Wellington’s mother was Alice Hyun (1903–1956), the so-called “first lover of Pak Hon-yong (1900–1956),” the prominent leader of the South Korean Communist Party and future Vice-Premier of North Korea. Alice Hyun served in a U.S. intelligence agency during the Pacific War and in the United States Forces in Korea after Korean liberation. She went to Pyongyang via Czechoslovakia in 1949. In 1953, Alice Hyun was accused of being a U.S. imperialist spy and a liaison between Pak Hon-yong and U.S. intelligence agencies. She became known as Korean Mata Hari.¹ She was executed around 1956 without due trial. The turbulent lives of Wellington’s mother, grandfather, and uncles reflecting their struggle for Korean independence made their mark in Wellington’s life and fate.

The Hyun Family History: Hyun Soon and Alice Hyun²

Short Biography of Rev. Hyun Soon

The story starts in the year 1903 when Wellington’s grandparents moved to

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1. “Hangukpan matahari Aelliseu Hyeon iseotda” (There was a Korean Mata Hari Alice Hyun), *Kyungghyang Shinmun*, November 8, 2002.
 2. This part is based on Jung’s (2012, 2013) previous work.

Hawaii. The Hyun family was well-known as official translators in the Joseon dynasty. Hyun Soon was curious about the Western world. He agreed to serve as an official translator for the migrants and sailed along with them and his pregnant wife Lee Ching (Maria Hyun). According to the Hawaiian passenger list, they arrived at a Honolulu port on March 3, 1903, on the S.S. *Coptic*. On May 8, Maria Hyun gave birth to a girl in Koʻolau, the first Korean baby to be born in Hawaii (D. Hyun 2002, 151). The parents named her Mi-ok, meaning “beautiful jade.” Her baptismal name was Alice, a name from the Bible.

In 1907, the Hyun family returned to Seoul, Korea. Alice Hyun graduated from Ewha Girls Middle School in 1918. As she enrolled in Ewha Girls College in 1919, the March First Independence Movement of 1919 started. That changed the history of colonized Korea and completely uprooted the life of the Hyun family. Reverend Hyun moved to Shanghai shortly before the outbreak of the March First Movement as a secret delegate to the Korean independence movement leaders in Shanghai. His mission was to liaise with the leaders to propagate the March First Movement. In 1920, the rest of the Hyun family narrowly escaped to Shanghai with the help of missionaries and Korean journalists to join Hyun Soon there.

Hyun Soon was very busy in his new position, as the newly established Korean Provisional Government (KOPOGO) sent him to Vladivostok, Manchuria, and Washington, D.C. for the independence movement and diplomatic missions. The March First Movement and the KOPOGO were energized by Wilson’s “Fourteen Points” declaration and the upcoming Versailles Peace Conference of 1919. The leaders of the KOPOGO focused on preparing a diplomatic appeal to the Versailles Peace Conference. Hyun Soon was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of KOPOGO to the United States. He worked on establishing an official Korean legation in Washington, D.C. However, he was purged by Syngman Rhee’s faction and had to return to Shanghai in 1921.

Meanwhile, the Versailles Peace Conference had concluded without hearing the voices of Korean independence fighters. In 1922, Soviet Russia called the First Congress of the Oppressed Peoples of the Far East in Moscow in response to the Washington Conference on Disarmament held during

1920–1921. Korean nationalist leaders who believed in the principle of national self-determination and shared Wilsonian idealism were disappointed at the results of the Versailles Peace Conference. Previously supporters of Western benevolence, they turned their backs on Washington and went to Moscow to seek financial and ideological support there. The spirit of the times had all at once changed. Socialism and communism became the torch of hope for Koreans in exile.

Alice Hyun Meet Pak Hon-yong in Shanghai (1920–1924)

A new life started for Alice Hyun when her family settled in the French Concession in Shanghai. Her parents sent her to a girls' missionary boarding school. Peter Hyun, Alice's younger brother, offered interesting testimonies regarding Alice Hyun and Pak Hon-yong (1986, 107–108, 122, 168–173). Peter remembered Pak as a calm, intelligent, polite, and energetic socialist leader. Pak once gave Peter a chance to travel to Russia, which was a step for Peter to become a revolutionary elite, but Peter's mother stopped him from going. Pak also once rescued Peter and his father from a French Concession prison in Shanghai. Peter joined Sonyeon Hyeongmyeongdan (Young Revolutionary Society) composed of Korean boys between the ages of 13 and 14. Pak served as the leader of this society, a teacher of new theories of the socialist revolution, and a liaison between the movement groups for Korean independence and Chinese communists. Peter, following Pak's instructions, took charge of the dissemination of printed leaflets in the streets.

The Hyun family used to arrange picnics with Pak and other young Korean revolutionaries. Peter confessed that he had wanted Pak to become his sister's fiancé (P. Hyun 1986, 107–108, 172). They were just in their upper teens and may have felt like siblings toward each other. A notorious version of their relationship came from the North Korean official records. The 1956 North Korean indictment against Pak Hon-yong reads:

Alice Hyun was a civilian employee of the War Department (DAC: Department of the Army Civilians) and worked for the Civil Communi-

cation Intelligence Group-Korea (CCIG-K) under Section G-2, Intelligence, of the United States Army Forces in Korea. She was the first lover of Pak Hon-yong during his stay in Shanghai in early 1920.³

But they both married somebody else. Pak married a famous Korean communist named Ju Se-juk (1901–1953) around 1921. Alice, after graduating from the boarding school, was offered an opportunity to study in Japan. Unfortunately there is no record about which school she attended in Japan or how long she stayed there. However, we know that in Japan she met a Korean student and a fighter in the independence movement named Chung Jun (1901–1956). Alice brought him to Shanghai to introduce him to her family, and married him in 1922.

Chung Jun was born in Geochang-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do province in Korea. He participated in the March First Movement in his hometown at the age of 18. He was arrested and sentenced to nine months in prison with hard labor. After his release, he traveled to Japan to study. He spent one year as a visiting student at Kyoto Middle School (1920–1921). Later, he was admitted to the department of law at Kansai College in Osaka in 1921.

Alice and Chung's wedding was held in a Korean church and was the first wedding in the Korean community in Shanghai. According to Peter Hyun's memories, Alice's marriage to Chung quickly turned into a painful mistake. Peter recalled:

On the rich Chung family estate at the southern tip of Korea, Alice found herself relegated to the "women's quarters" while her husband spent his days with his friends in the "men's quarters." All the family wealth came from their tenant farmers, and they lived in the old feudal ways. Chung would not heed [Alice's pleas]; he continued his life of an indolent landlord, immersed in the pleasures of drinking and playing (P. Hyun 1986, 178).

3. *Mijegukjuui goyong gancheop Bak Heon-yeong, Lee Seung-yeop dodang-ui joseon minju-juui inmin gonghwaguk jeonggwon jeonbok eummo-wa gancheop sageon gongpan mun-heon* (The Trial Documents on the Conspiracy to Overthrow the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Espionage Case of the Pak Hon-yong and Lee Sung-yop Clique, Hired as Spies for American Imperialists), 1956, Joseon Minjujuui Inmin Gonghwaguk Choego Jaepanso (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Supreme Court).

It is possible that when Chung married Alice, he already had a wife in his hometown. Thus, Chung's marriage with Alice may not have been recognized by his community, and it would have been difficult for Alice to live in a traditional countryside residence while not being well-received by Chung's family. She would also be isolated from the society to which she had become accustomed.

The March First Movement of 1919 was the key factor that led Alice and Chung to fall in love and get married. When the dust from the turmoil settled, Alice and Chung faced the day-to-day reality of their marriage without political distractions. Alice decided to return to Shanghai shortly after the marriage. Chung Jun went back to Japan in 1924 to finish his studies. He graduated from Kansai College a year after.⁴

Back in Shanghai, Alice participated in the campaign of the radical movement for independence. According to Japanese police reports, Japanese police interrogated Alice at Moji Port, Fukuoka, in May 1923. She was traveling on a Russian steamship, *Simperopol*, from Shanghai to Vladivostok via Moji. Alice used her Korean name, Mi-ok, and asserted that she was going to Vladivostok to marry her fiancé. The Police Department of the Japanese Government-General in Korea speculated that Alice was connected to the Korean Communist Party and that she was carrying out secret liaison missions between Korea, Japan, Shanghai, and Vladivostok.⁵

Thus, Alice was allegedly carrying out secret missions for a radical independence group. Her father, Hyun Soon, participated in the Moscow conference in 1922 and her brother Peter joined the Young Revolutionary Society. All at once, the winds changed in the Korean colony in Shanghai.

4. Kansai University (1925).

5. Rokoku giyu kantai kisen senkyaku senjin ni kan suru ken 露國義勇艦隊汽船船客鮮人ニ關スル件 (Reviews about a Korean Suspect Onboard a Russian Steamship), May 12, 1923, 日本外務省 外交史料館 (Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), Futeidan kankei zakken-chōsenjin no bu-zai shiberia 不逞團關係雜件-朝鮮人ノ部-在西比利亞 (Various Relationships between the Lawless—Department for Koreans in Siberia, vol. 14, no. 4626).

Wellington's Birth and Hyun Family Life in Hawaii (1924-1945)

In 1924, the Hyun family moved to Hawaii and settled down for the following 25 years. Hyun Soon was invited by the Honolulu Korean Methodist Church to be a minister there. He arrived in Honolulu on February 24, 1923, on the S.S. *China*. Alice joined him from Shanghai on January 30, 1924, on *Tenyo Maru*. Hyun Soon moved to Kaua'i Island where Korean settlers cultivated rice fields.

During 1924-1930 Alice took two trips from Hawaii to Shanghai and Korea. According to Peter and David's memories, Alice returned to her husband in Korea, but he had already married another woman (P. Hyun 1995, 170; D. Hyun 2002, 149). After graduating from Kansai College, Chung Jun was appointed a County Office official (1925-1945). That meant that he became an official of the Japanese Government-General Office. Alice could not endure the situation at home and Chung's role during the Japanese occupation. She divorced Chung Jun in 1927 and departed for Honolulu, pregnant with Chung's baby.

Twenty-three years earlier, her mother had crossed the Pacific Ocean to Honolulu, carrying Alice. Now Alice was sailing the same route during her own pregnancy. On Kaua'i Island in Hawaii, Alice gave birth to a boy on October 4, 1927. Hyun Soon named his first grandson Wellington, or Wellie, after the prominent Shanghai-born freedom fighter and diplomat, Wellington Koo. Hyun Soon had once been a diplomat and admired Wellington Koo's political outlook and statesmanship. As soon as Alice recovered from giving birth, she promptly left Hawaii for China. Wellington was left in the care of his grandparents. He was raised as a beloved baby of his aunts and uncles. Actually, he was raised as the last son of Hyun Soon, because Wellington's busy mother was always absent during his childhood. Alice continued her involvement in a radical movement of Korean independence fighters in China. Her travel to China was likely connected with revolutionary activities. Unfortunately, we know nothing about Alice's stays in China and Korea at that time, a missing piece in the mosaic of her life.

According to *New Korea*, Alice returned from China in June 1930. It

was her fourth journey to Hawaii.⁶ Wellington met his mother after a long period of separation, but he had to wait several more years to really reunite with his mother because Alice decided to go back to school in New York City to get a formal degree in the humanities. Alice enrolled in the English Department at Hunter College. Alice would study world literature and creative writing and work as a housemaid to earn a living (P. Hyun 1995, 170). To make it easier for her to study in the U.S., Alice and her sister Elizabeth became naturalized U.S. citizens on September 15, 1931.⁷

Eventually, Alice realized that her problems with English grammar were insurmountable and gave up her studies (P. Hyun 1995, 170). She returned to Hawaii on August 19, 1935, on the S.S. *Malolo*. At last, Wellington reunited with his mother at the age of eight years. They settled down together in Honolulu. In 1939 she bought a house in downtown Honolulu and quickly resold it at a profit. Soon after, she bought a large house above Manoa Valley. There she would sublease rooms to Korean students and progressively oriented army and navy servicemen for short visits, to supplement family income. Their “home became the clearing-house for all servicemen with a liberal bent” (P. Hyun 1995, 171), including members of the American Federation of Labor or the Congress of Industrial Organization.

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Alice and her brother Peter may have officially joined the Hawaiian branch of the United States Communist Party (USCP). According to the research by T. Michael Holmes on communism in Hawaii, Alice and Peter Hyun were members of the Hawaiian Communist Party (Holmes 1994, 75–88). During the Pacific War, Alice Hyun went on to serve in the military information agency of the Department of Army. Peter Hyun joined the U.S. Army in 1943. He graduated

6. “Hyeonyang-i jaecha hawaii bangmun” (Alice Hyun Visited Hawaii Again), *Sinhan minbo* (New Korea), July 3, 1930.

7. [www.ancestry.com](http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-g&gsfn=Alice&gsln=Hyun&cpxt=0&catBucket=rstp&uidh=767&cp=0&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=6819064&recoff=5+6&db=USnatindex_awap&indiv=1&ml_rpos=13), accessed February 18, 2012, http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-g&gsfn=Alice&gsln=Hyun&cpxt=0&catBucket=rstp&uidh=767&cp=0&pcat=ROOT_CATEGORY&h=6819064&recoff=5+6&db=USnatindex_awap&indiv=1&ml_rpos=13.

from the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Fort Snelling and became a Japanese language specialist. His plan was to join the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to support U.S. war efforts as well as to help bring independence to his motherland.

Wellington's Childhood

Wellington was a child of the March First Independence Movement. He was raised by a single mother, a woman of strong will, who left him in the care of his grandparents for her mission in China and for her studies in the U.S. mainland during 1928–1935. Wellington was then raised by his grandparents, and his personality was molded by their experience and history, as well as his grandfather's faith and Christian spirit. The lives of his grandfather, uncles, and mother themselves echoed the voices of the Korean independence movement. Born in Hawaii, Wellington was a Korean American. He was a poster child for the American dream with a unique Korean-Hawaiian identity. In one photograph, he posed as a cowboy in a blue outfit with a cowboy hat, neck-scarf, checkered shirt, and jeans. Only his feet were dressed in "Hawaiian sandals," i.e., barefoot (D. Hyun 2002, 146).

In the early 1930s, Wellington spent several months in New York City with his mother and aunt Elizabeth. Wellington met Korean independence fighters with whom his mother associated, including John Juhn, a newspaper typesetter, who would later travel to Czechoslovakia on his way to North Korea. Alice and Wellington stayed in the basement of John Juhn's house for several months.⁸ These early experiences instilled in him a sense of patriotism and ambition to serve Korean society.

Wellington was fluent in Korean and spoke English with the proficiency of a native.⁹ Since the age of six, he wanted to become a doctor—the first

8. John Tuhn (sic.)—Korejec z Ameriky t.č. v Praze—zpráva (John Juhn: Korean American Present in Prague—Report), June 17, 1958, Archives of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic (ASFRCR), Folder 319-40-15, 12.

9. Jiří Vácha, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, September 2, 2013.

doctor in his family. In Hawaii he attended Lihue Elementary School and in February of 1940 he was admitted to Robert Louis Stevenson Intermediate High School in Honolulu. He focused on preparing for further study of medicine. He earned good grades at school.¹⁰ Teachers reported that he showed interest in Latin and advanced shop classes. In June 1942 he graduated with a diploma. From 1942 to 1944, Wellington studied at Roosevelt High School in Honolulu. He transferred credits for the first year from the Intermediate Senior High School and started at Roosevelt during the summer of 1942. He was with his mother in Honolulu during the Pearl Harbor attack (P. Hyun 1995, 181). However, Caucasian students dominated Roosevelt High School, and Wellington felt isolated as one of the minority students (D. Hyun 2002, 146). Nevertheless, he successfully graduated in the summer of 1944 and received his diploma in May 1945.¹¹

Coming from a minority background and from the Hawaiian Territory, Wellington allegedly had trouble getting accepted to a medical school in the continental U.S. because of discriminatory admission policies (D. Hyun 2002, 146). In any case, he successfully enrolled at the University of Hawaii, and later transferred to the University of California at Los Angeles. At the University of Hawaii, he took courses between the fall semester of 1944 and the spring semester of 1945.¹² As a freshman, Wellington participated in the Board of Debate and Forensics at the university.

For the first time in several years, the Board of Debate and Forensics was able to carry out some semblance of pre-war functions. . . . The ASUH oratorical contest held in January was unequivocally clinched by Miles Shishido. . . . Second place went to Wellington Chung.¹³

10. Standard Test Records, R.L. Stevenson Intermediate School, February 26, 1940, Czech Republic Charles University Archive (CUA), 25.

11. Transcript of High School Record, Department of Public Instruction, Territory of Hawaii, December 3, 1947, CUA, 29.

12. College Transcript, University of Hawaii, December 2, 1947, CUA, 27.

13. Associated Students of the University of Hawaii (1946, 36).

Hope for Korea's Liberation (1945–1949)

Alice and Wellington Head for Korea (1945–1946)

As World War II was ending, Wellington was finishing his first year of college. He and Alice separated once again, but they shared the hope of reuniting in liberated Korea. Their paths would be different. Alice went to Seoul as an employee of the Department of the Army, while Wellington tried to reach Korea as a seaman.

On October 23, 1945, the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Forces, Middle Pacific, Office of the Commanding General issued an order for 13 female Nisei linguists from Hawaii to go to Japan as Department of the Army Civilians (DAC), class GS-07. They were assigned to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) in Tokyo.¹⁴ Alice's mission at the ATIS was to censor Japanese mail.

Alice arrived in Tokyo on November 1, 1945, but was transferred to Seoul in mid-December. She was assigned to the Civil Communication Intelligence Group-Korea (CCIG-K) under the supervision of an Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence) in the United States Army Forces in Korea (USAFIK). She was appointed as Assistant Chief of the Civilian Personnel Section, First Detachment (Seoul) of the CCIG-K and put in charge of the activities of all civilian employees within the Detachment.

While in Seoul, Alice met her old friends from the independence movement in Shanghai—Pak Hon-yong, presently head of the Korean Communist Party (KCP), and Lyuh Woon-hyung, head of the Korean People's Party. She met Pak Hon-yong at the headquarters of the KCP on January 11, 1946. Alice also nurtured close relationships with the left-leaning American soldiers stationed in Korea. Their group collected materials on missteps of the USAFIK for future press releases and tried to strengthen

14. Travel Orders, October 23, 1945, U.S. National Archives, Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Middle Pacific, Office of the Commanding General, Record Group (RG) 494; Dorothea 'Dee' Buckingham, "Hawaii's Nisei Women Deployed to Tokyo in WWII to Help America," *Hawaii Reporter*, June 4, 2009.

the connection between the Korean and U.S. Communist Parties by carrying Pak Hon-yong's correspondence to the USCP. On March 2, 1946, Alice met several American communist soldiers—including Harold Zepelin, Norman Frisch, and Robert Klonsky—and Pak Hon-yong at the KCP headquarters to discuss their upcoming missions. Meanwhile Alice's brother, Peter, who had come to Korea as a civilian interpreter the year before, also met Pak Hon-yong several times.

In the spring of 1946, the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) of the USAFIK put Alice and Peter under close surveillance. Implicated in plots against the U.S. military, the Hyun siblings were expelled from Korea. Their visit to Korea lasted barely half a year. Colonel Nist, who was in charge of G-2 (Intelligence), claimed that the mission of CCIG-K was seriously compromised because Alice recruited a number of her acquaintances who worked against the interests of the USAFIK. He described Alice as “the devil who ruined our mission.”¹⁵

In the meantime, Wellington, on the other side of the Pacific, withdrew from college in 1945 to become a merchant marine and try to reunite with his mother in Korea. He joined the S.S. *Robert Lowry*, a commercial vessel, departing from Staten Island Pier 19 in New York for Dansig, Poland, on January 12, 1946. Wellington was one of 39 ordinary seamen on the ferry. All in all, he would spend eight months at sea. Besides Poland, he visited Denmark, Panama, Canada, and China. He planned to enter Korea from China but could not disembark because of the civil war in China.¹⁶ On June 7, he returned on the S.S. *Houston Volunteers* from Shanghai to Honolulu.

Despite their efforts, both Alice and Wellington failed in effectively returning to Korea. They hoped to settle down in a Korea truly liberated from all foreign influence, but the peninsula had become divided by the great world powers. The fog of the Cold War started enveloping Korea. That influenced Wellington's and Alice's subsequent steps and fate.

15. Colonel C.W. Nist, “The Purpose of the CCIG-K” and “Staff Conference Lecture on CCIG-K,” August 2, 1946, U.S. National Archives, XXIV Corps Historical File RG 332, Box 79.

16. Wellington Chung—podání zprávy (Wellington Chung—Filing of a Report), February 27, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 34, File Sv-1895/50-56.

Alice and Korean Independence Newspaper in Los Angeles (1946–1948)

Alice was deported to Hawaii. From there, she moved to Los Angeles in August 1946 to settle down. Los Angeles was the center of the Korean community in the U.S. mainland and the base of the most dedicated supporters of KOPOGO and the independence movement. The *Korean Independence*, a weekly newspaper established in 1943 in Los Angeles as an organ of support for the Korean independence campaign in China, was the core of the so-called progressive Korean group.

Alice's family, including Wellington, joined her there within months. The Hyun family became the nucleus of the *Korean Independence* newspaper as well as the Korean Democratic Front in North America (KDF), a leftwing organ supporting the cause of the KCP and North Korea. Alice was appointed as secretary of the board, member of the standing committee, and member of the editorial staff of the *Korean Independence*. Peter was elected a board member, member of the standing committee, and part of the editorial staff. Hyun Soon was elected as secretary of the Hawaiian branch. The Hyun family also joined the KDF with Hyun Soon taking charge as Chairman, Alice as Secretary, and Peter as General Manager in 1948.

Wellington joined his mother in Los Angeles in the fall of 1946, contemplating at the time whether to join the U.S. Army. As the U.S. military became engaged in postwar Korea in a role of which Alice's circle disapproved, Wellington lost his aspiration to serve in the U.S. Army. He chose instead to become affiliated with the Communist Party of America, probably becoming a formal member.¹⁷ According to FBI records, Wellington was a member of the students' Quinn Club of the Communist Party in Los Angeles.¹⁸

In February 1947, Wellington was admitted to University of California at Los Angeles. He majored in pre-medicine. For the next year, including the 1947 summer session, he immersed himself in his studies. Nevertheless, his tenure at UCLA was not meant to last long. In the fall of 1947, Wel-

17. Protokol o výslechu (Record of Cross-examination), February 24, 1952, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 32.

18. Survey of Korean Activities in the Honolulu Field Division, August 4, 1950, U.S. National Archives, Military Intelligence Division, RG 319, Decimal File, 1949–1950, Box 1.

lington and his mother Alice made a decision that he would continue his studies at Charles University in Prague. Why did Wellington choose to go to Czechoslovakia at that particular moment? He had no relationship with Czechoslovakia, and had no friends or relatives there. To explain why the Hawaii-born Korean American decided to study medicine in Czechoslovakia in the 1940s, we need to account for the track record of Korean radicals in Los Angeles communicating with North Korea via Eastern Europe.

As the augury of the Cold War gradually unfolded, Korean radicals in the U.S. who had pursued Korean unification as well as progressive democracy after liberation lost their foothold in the Korean community. Their sole remaining option was to align themselves with North Korea and the socialist/communist ideological line. Their ultimate hope, now, became resettling in Pyongyang, the ideological Shangri-La of their movement.

At that time, Han Hung-su, a renowned archeologist living in Prague, identified a route through which North Korean exiles could communicate with Pyongyang (Lowensteinová and Olša 2014). From November 1946 to February 1948 he penned numerous articles on the situation in democratic Czechoslovakia, on Marxism-Leninism, on his contacts with North Korean representatives in Prague, and on developments within North Korea. These appeared in the *Korean Independence* of which Han was one of the most prolific correspondents.

Korean radicals in the U.S. wrote several letters to North Korean leaders during these years. The most famous one was discovered during U.S. occupation of Pyongyang. It was written by Lee Sa Min and Sunwoo Hakwon (Harold W. Sunwoo) on November 15, 1948, to Comrades Kim Il-sung and Pak Hon-yong. Alice Hyun was named as one of 26 Korean members of the USCP who tried to get in touch with North Korea. According to this letter, the radical group in the U.S. saw return to North Korea as their only hope, and the only way to Korea was by way of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.¹⁹ Han Hung-su himself demonstrated the

19. Lee Sa Min Seonu Hagwon-i Kim Il-seong, Bak Heon-yeong-ege bonaen pyeonji (Letter from Lee Sa Min and Sunwoo Hakwon to Kim Il-sung and Pak Hon-yong), November 15, 1948, U.S. National Archives, Captured Korean Records, RG 242, Box no. 8, Document no. 200710.

viability of this channel by his spring 1948 journey to North Korea. He became chairman of the Preservation Committee for Korean Material Culture and Cultural Relics, and published several articles in North Korean history magazines.

This was Wellington's inspiration for a trip to Prague in 1947. Czechoslovakia was then a paragon country for Korean independence fighters. Based on the example of Han Hung-su, several waves of Koreans in the U.S. began to travel to Prague on their way to Pyongyang. Wellington, Alice, Lee Sa Min, and Sunwoo Hakwon undertook the journey between 1948–1950. John Juhn, Kwak Chung Soon (Carl Kwak), and Kim Kang (Diamond Kimm), accompanied by their wives, followed their tracks between 1956–1962 after their deportation from the U.S.

Wellington's Beginnings in Czechoslovakia

In December 1947 Wellington sent his academic transcripts to Charles University. The student admission committee at the College of General Medicine at Charles University ruled that it had no objections to Wellington's admission. The committee informed Wellington that one of the preconditions for acceptance was proficiency in the language of instruction—Czech.²⁰

To prepare for his study at Charles University, Wellington left Los Angeles for Prague on September 29, 1948. He traveled to Prague ahead of his mother. After settling all her affairs in the U.S. for her permanent relocation to North Korea, Alice would follow him three months later. Wellington's grandmother hosted his farewell party as well as a celebration of his upcoming 21 birthday.²¹ On his way to Prague, Wellington carried a letter written by a group of four Koreans in California to the North Korean leader Kim Il-sung.²² He arrived in Paris on October 16 and reached Cze-

20. Wellington Chung—Žádost o přijetí na lékařskou fakultu University Karlovy v Praze (Wellington Chung—Application for Admission to the Medical College at Charles University in Prague), January 26, 1948, CUA, 39.

21. "Insa sosik: Lee Gyeongseon, Jeong Wellington" (News: Lee Kyung Sun and Wellington Chung), *Korean Independence*, September 29, 1948.

22. "Testimony of Harold W. Sunoo, Johsel Namkung," *Investigation of Communist Activities in*

vakia through the border crossing at Cheb on October 20.

In Prague, Wellington's initial residence was the Masaryk dormitory at the western edge of the city. He stayed at this dormitory for several months until he settled down in Prague and found a suitable sublease. At first, Wellington did not attend university classes. He was adjusting himself to day-to-day life in a socialist society, meeting the expatriate community, and learning Czech. He quickly mastered the basics of medical jargon as well as day-to-day vocabulary.

From the start, Wellington was not completely alone in Prague. He followed in the footsteps of Professor Han Hung-su, who left Prague only a few months earlier and had been well-connected in the community of Asian scholars (Olša and Schirmer 2012). Wellington thus met some of the faculty of the Oriental Institute and the Institute for Modern Languages in Prague. He was also introduced to George Wheeler and his family. George and Eleanor Wheeler were the best known of the U.S. expatriate community in Prague. They invited many expatriates to their residence right after the newcomers arrived in the country. Wellington would later organize a Korean evening party at their house and would even reside there for over a year in 1954–1955.

Rose (Růžena) Lavcott, a family friend and a State Security informant, would report that the Wheelers “have dinner parties going all the time and there are always 4 or 5 guests, mostly foreigners. Everyone coming to Prague turns up at their house. They have had many, many friends all over the world.”²³

Through the international community that gathered at the Wheelers' home, Wellington met a circle of friends. He became close friends with Benjamin Wainfeld, a fellow American medical student at Charles University and head of the Medical Faculty Bureau of the International Union of Students, Paul Terry, a socialite residing at the Wheelers' house around that

the Pacific Northwest Area—Part 8 (Seattle), June 19, 1954, U.S. House of Representatives, Hearing Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, 83th Cong., 2nd sess., 6497.

23. Report by Rose Lavcott, “George and Eleanor Wheeler,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 9-1 to 12-1 and 41-1.

time, and the Wheelers themselves. He also got to know several senior students at his university, including Ms. B. Spitzer, Rose Lavoott, and Joy Moss, who would share with him insights about the expatriate community, and John Baker, another one-time boarder at the Wheelers’.

Through gatherings at the Wheelers’ residence, Wellington also found his new lodging, a room in a shared apartment at Kouřimská Street, just one block from the Wheelers’ own house. Wellington would stay in this sublease for the following three years.

Years of Hope: Wellington’s Study in Prague and Alice’s Transit to Pyongyang (1949–1954)

The Year 1949 in Wellington’s Life

In February 1949, Wellington traveled to Germany and possibly even as far as France to meet his mother on her arrival. Alice traveled through New York and Germany, and arrived in Prague on February 27, 1949. She briefly stayed with Wellington in his subleased room until she moved in with a colleague from the Oriental Institute, Huberta Kimová, in Prague’s Old Town. Huberta was the wife of Han Hung-su’s friend, architect and former Oriental Institute instructor, Kim Kyeong Han.

That same month in February 1949, Wellington applied again for admission to Charles University College of General Medicine to start attending lectures in the spring semester. Wellington’s mother surely helped him with his application as it reflected her entrepreneurial wit. In his letter to the admission committee, Wellington stressed that he had spent the past five months studying the Czech language in Prague. He also embellished and slightly exaggerated his academic record from the U.S. He claimed that unfortunately he did not have all the academic transcripts in his possession at the time but that he would be hopefully receiving them soon. He ended up never providing them to the university afterward. Finally, to assure himself of success in his application, he told the committee that in case of failure he would be drafted into the U.S. Army. In view of the “new

circumstances” in the U.S., he did not want to return, not only because of personal reasons, but also because of his political beliefs.²⁴

The admission committee initially rejected his application on procedural grounds, as it was against university rules for students to enroll in the spring semester. Nevertheless, his admission was granted in May, with the understanding that he would repeat the first semester in the fall of 1949. This agreement was later scrapped again in Wellington’s favor, and the reform committee at the College recommended Wellington for promotion to the second semester as he had completed the majority of first-year courses in the U.S. By October, he was promoted yet again to the sophomore year as he had passed all his mandatory examinations and with consideration to his “great language difficulties.”²⁵ Wellington also managed to end his spring 1949 semester early, to spend the summer with his mother. The reform committee allowed him to sit for his examinations and conduct laboratory exercises before the end of June.

In the meantime, Alice was preoccupied with promoting the question of Korean independence and reunification to the Czechoslovak public. In April, Alice and Wellington participated in the World Peace Congress—the Prague Section.²⁶ In August, Alice attended the Second World Festival of Youth and Students and the Youth Congress held in Budapest.²⁷ Alice and Lee Sa Min were nominated as official delegates of the KDF to the Youth Congress.

While in Prague, Alice lived off her savings from the U.S. To engage with the community of Korean scholars and supplement her funds, she gave Korean language lessons in the School of Oriental Languages, a program

24. Wellington Chung—Žádost o přijetí k zápisu (Wellington Chung—Application for Admission to Enrollment), February 16, 1949, CUA, 36–37.

25. Wellington Chung—Žádost o přijetí k zápisu do letního semestru (Wellington Chung—Application for Admission to Spring Semester Enrollment), February 28, 1949, CUA, 38; Note no. 4323/49, May 28, 1949, amended on May 31 and June 13, 1949, 46.

26. Ri Gyeong-seon, “Segye cheongnyeon daehoe-e uri daepyo 55 in” (Fifty-five Delegates of the North Korea Participated at the 2nd World Youth Festival in Budapest), *Korean Independence*, September 7, 1949.

27. “Ri gyeong-seon, Hyeon Aeliseu yangin-ege daepyo immyeong” (Alice Hyun and Sa Min Lee Were Appointed as Representatives), *Korean Independence*, September 7, 1949.

organized by the Oriental Institute. Wellington also taught English at the Institute for Modern Languages. At the Oriental Institute, Alice worked with Alois Pultr, a fellow instructor of Korean, and Huberta Kimová, an administrative staff member. Alois Pultr acknowledged Alice's help in the foreword to his Ph.D. dissertation entitled, "Korean Language Textbook: Conversations." He wrote that "Conversation materials contained in this textbook had been collected in collaboration with Dr. Han Hung-su, now a professor of archeology at Kim Il-sung University in Pyongyang, with Mr. Kim Kyeong Han and with Mrs. Alice Hyun, who all collaborated at teaching Korean language at the School of Oriental Languages in Prague" (Pultr 1949).

Alice's work at the Oriental Institute also kept her politically engaged. She participated in meetings of the informal group "Friends of Korea," organized by the Oriental Institute. The group strove to set up an action committee for the founding of a Korean branch of the Association for Cultural and Economic Relations with the Orient, and planned to organize a public lecture on a topic, such as "South and North Korea." The group also asked Alice to prepare a public presentation regarding the up-to-date situation in Korea.²⁸

Beside her activities at the Oriental Institute, Alice also corresponded with her colleagues in Los Angeles and the *Korean Independence*. She penned several articles about the life and status of women in Czechoslovakia for the paper. In the fall, she welcomed her former colleague Sunwoo Hakwon to Prague. He came on Han Hung-su's recommendation to complete his Ph.D. studies, attend a Human Rights Conference as a delegate of U.S. communists, and observe the functioning of a socialist society. When Alice left for Pyongyang, he took her place in teaching Korean at the Oriental Institute.²⁹

28. Zápís o schůzce Přátel Koreje 5.4.1949 (Minutes of the Meeting of the Friends of Korea, April 5, 1949), April 6, 1949, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (MI&AASCR), RG 013/22, Folder 1 Materiály ze schůzí řídicích orgánů 1949 (Materials from the Meetings of Executive Bodies 1949).

29. Zpráva o poradě lektorů SOJ 21.1.1950 (Report on the Meeting of School of Oriental Languages Lecturers), January 21, 1950, MI&AASCR, Schůze lektorů (Lecturer Meetings), Folder 41, 28.

On November 18, 1949, Alice left Prague for Budapest, Moscow, Beijing, and finally, Pyongyang. Overall, 1949 was a fulfilling year in Wellington's life when he spent precious time with his mother and made meaningful progress in his studies. Wellington would cherish for the rest of his life memories of her stay and the few things that Alice left behind in Prague.³⁰

Wellington's Studies

After Alice departed, Wellington encountered existential, academic, as well as social problems. He attracted the attention of the State Security of Czechoslovakia. At the same time, his U.S. passport expired, and he had to renew his long-term residence permit in Czechoslovakia. In his state of extreme existential vulnerability, under the threat of deportation or bureaucratic hassles, State Security coerced him to serve as a secret collaborator and an agent. He was officially recruited on June 8, 1951, on the grounds of his "positive attitude toward social-democratic establishment." Wellington consented to provide information to State Security regarding U.S. affairs.³¹

State Security did not cause him trouble but kept him on a short leash. The long-term residence permit that was granted to him, as a stateless person in September 1950, was to expire in January 1954 and could be revoked at any time. In the following years, he would have to renew his residence permit every year or two and would be forced to collaborate with State Security for the rest of his life.

Between February and October of 1950, Wellington also struggled with the majority of his examinations. He passed his tests in anatomy, histology, physiology, chemistry, and civic education only on the second, third, or even fourth attempt. Finally, by the end of October he successfully completed his first set of major examinations. Whether State Security was behind the academic troubles prior to Wellington's signing up with them, or whether they intervened on his behalf afterwards, is difficult to tell.

30. Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

31. Wellington Chung—zpráva (Wellington Chung—Report), Krajská správa Ministerstva vnitra—Karlovy Vary (Regional Administration of the Ministry of the Interior—Karlovy Vary), June 3, 1958, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 15, Document no. A/3-0054/361-58.

Ever since this period, Wellington sensed mistrust within his surroundings and was aware he was monitored. He was reserved in sharing his private affairs with others. Beside his friendships in the Wheeler community, he “didn’t like to show who he associated with.”³² In summer 1950, he attended the Communist Party’s Train of Peace—a journey across Czechoslovakia for 200 students from 30 countries. Wellington may have hoped to learn something about fellow expats. Rose Lavoott wrote about their encounter on the train:

He invited me for a walk. Then I realized that he tried to extract information from me about various people. I didn’t want to talk, so he got a bit angry and said that we were both comrades, and that I should tell him some information. When he realized that he wouldn’t get anything from me, he left, and we have been greeting each other coldly since.³³

Short of suspecting him of being a foreign spy, she nevertheless deplored his non-comrade-like manners:

Even if he is a Communist, he doesn’t act the way a Communist should act. His attitude toward people is bad. He is arrogant, talks down to people, doesn’t accept criticism, and is eager to hurt people. Sometimes he has such a mean expression in his face when he says something hurtful.³⁴

In August 1950 Wellington participated as an outside observer at the Second World Student Congress. He tried to get in touch with the North Korean delegation, but, having no affiliation with a formal political organization, and as a U.S. citizen, he failed. It is possible that the delegation suspected him of being an enemy or an informant. “The delegation was rather reserved in dealing with him. He was unhappy about that . . . he felt badly

32. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

33. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

34. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 4-2.

at their attitude. He offered one of them his fountain pen, but the other refused it, very politely.”³⁵ Korean students studying in Prague were also instructed by the North Korean embassy not to associate with him.³⁶

Wellington continued interacting with the small international community that kept meeting at George Wheeler’s house. He met Peggy Lash, a Slovak-Canadian receptionist and media correspondent two years his senior, whom he would date shortly.³⁷ She reported to the State Security about her acquaintances, and it is plausible that she was instructed to check his background. Wellington also became close friends with several older political refugees, including an American academic, George Standard, and his wife Phoebe; Herbert Lass, a former U.S. executive, and his wife Hilda; and Ina Evans, a British teacher of English. These friends would later help Wellington organize pro-Korean events. He organized two Korean evening events to inform the Czech and expatriate community about the developments in North Korea and collect donations for North Korean reconstruction efforts. These evenings were held at George Wheeler’s and Herbert Lass’ residences, respectively. He managed to collect 5,000 Czechoslovak crowns at the first event and 10,000 crowns at the second.³⁸

Besides uncertainty about his legal status in the country and difficulty with his schoolwork, Wellington also had to worry about his finances. He was not on a scholarship and had to pay all the expenses from his own pocket.³⁹ After his mother left for Pyongyang and stopped corresponding with him, he could not be certain about his financial situation going forward.

Wellington was not entirely sure how long he would stay in Czecho-

35. Report by Rose Lavooft, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2, 39-2.

36. Jaroslav Bařinka, interview by V. Hlászny, Prague, October 20, 2014.

37. Report by Rose Lavooft, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

38. Report by Rose Lavooft, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

39. Report by Rose Lavooft, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

slovakia. His unwavering plan, however, was to eventually reunite with his mother in North Korea. He confessed to friends that he planned to travel there “shortly,”⁴⁰ that “He would stay in Prague one more year after his graduation, interning at a hospital. Then he would leave for Korea.”⁴¹

In 1951 Wellington temporarily withdrew from the university, blaming financial difficulties. This was probably true only in part. He did spend the fall semester working for a salary—he joined his friend Ben Wainfeld in the press department of the International Union of Students—but he had other reasons to spend time away from school. Work at the Union afforded him time to pursue new personal and professional endeavors. He would briefly date “a presently Canadian, former Yugoslav national, Yvonne.”⁴² With the help of Ina Evans, he organized another fund-raising Korean evening. He worked as secretary of an Association of American Refugees in Czechoslovakia. Members of this organization respected him for his quiet personality, broad education, and good command of Czech.

Wellington also embarked on a writing career. He translated a book by Lubor Hájek, *Chinese Art in Czechoslovakia*, into English. It was published in 1954 by Artia. A follow-up book by the same author, *Exotic Art*, translated by Wellington and Helen Watney, was published in 1956 by Spring Books, London. Besides translating, Wellington also did his own investigative reporting on “Students in the Struggle for *Korean Independence*,” a 40-page pamphlet for the International Union of Students, also possibly publishing an excerpt in a Czech newspaper.⁴³ Finally, Wellington gave a passionate public presentation about U.S. atrocities in the Korean War during a pre-movie screening of weekly news in a movie theatre.⁴⁴

Following his time off from school, Wellington once again immersed

40. Letter by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ambassador of North Korea in Czechoslovakia Jan Jen Sun (Yang Yeong Soon), April 7, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 43.

41. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 39-2.

42. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

43. Report by Rose Lavoott, “Wellington Chung,” ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 3-1 to 4-2.

44. Jaroslav Bařinka, interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, October 20, 2014.

himself in studies in the spring of 1952. His performance improved. He received “excellent” and “very good” marks on most examinations. In October 1952, perhaps as his financial situation improved, Wellington moved out of a cramped sublease to a small corner house in Hládkov, a quiet neighborhood just under the Prague Castle. In December 1953, he moved just a few blocks over to Na Dračkách Street, and in April 1954, he moved in with George Wheeler’s family in Šrobárova Street. Wheeler subleased a room to him out of friendship. Wellington did not have to pay rent but contributed for utilities and helped with chores. He would stay at this house for over a year until the end of his studies. During that year, he studied intensively for his degree, but also spent time relaxing in the back garden, listening to classical music, and smoking his pipe. He did not play any sports but kept in shape by eating modestly. He commuted to school by tram since the family had no car.

Wellington’s stay at the Wheelers’ residence afforded him some relief. He was treated as a family member. The Wheeler children remember Wellington as polite and modest. He was quiet and reserved with everyone. He gave an impression of a withdrawn “humble ascetic.” Only with the Wheelers did he open up and talk more freely. But even then he seldom discussed his private worries and never got angry. He developed a close brother-like relationship with Eleanor Wheeler Jr., who was nearly his age and who allegedly reminded him of his mother. In fact, he gave her a bathrobe that had belonged to his mother.⁴⁵

During the Korean War, his mother stopped communicating with him from Pyongyang. Wellington told his friends that he worried for his mother’s life. He confessed that his mother used to associate with people in high ranks of the state apparatus in Korea, who were persecuted once the Korean War ended. He explained that Alice had known them even before she came to Korea in 1949, and probably resumed her contacts with them when she arrived there.⁴⁶

45. Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

46. Letter by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ambassador of North Korea in Czechoslovakia Jan Jen Sun (Yang Yeong Soon), April 7, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 43.

The Beginning of Wellington's Professional Life

In the final year of his studies, Wellington undertook several residencies to prepare for professional service. In the fall of 1954, Wellington interned at the Fourth Children's Clinic in Prague. Wellington fell ill with viral hepatitis there and had to be treated at the Motol Hospital. To make up for missed residency hours, he interned at a district center for national health in Martin, Slovakia.⁴⁷

In February 1955, Wellington received a certification for his successful completion of the State Final Examinations in surgical diseases, obstetrics, and gynecology, internal diseases, and principles of Marxism-Leninism. He was certified as a physician. Following his graduation, Wellington was automatically recruited by the Ministry of Health. Its distribution committee assigned him to work in the Žilina region in Slovakia in the district center for national health in Ružomberok.⁴⁸ Wellington ended up serving as a surgeon there for over a year. He stayed at the Lenin Embankment by the river Vah.

Having stayed in Czechoslovakia for seven years, Wellington achieved his goal of becoming a doctor and obtaining training in his profession. He was then ready to depart for North Korea, a plan that he had made clear to friends and authorities. However, a course of events, some known and some unknown to him, interfered.

Years of Desperation: Wellington's Entrapment and Demise in Czechoslovakia (1955–1963)

The Witch Hunts in Pyongyang and Los Angeles: The Tragedy of the Hyun Family

Alice Hyun left Prague on November 18, 1949, and arrived in Pyongyang

47. Wellington Chung, March 5–October 1, 1955, CUA, Folder 6-11, Document no. I/31-7.208/1955.

48. Evidence obyvateľstva—přihlašovací lístek, Dr. Wellington Chung (Population Census—Registration Card, Dr. Wellington Chung), 1960, State Regional Archives of Karlovy Vary (SRAKV).

late in the year.⁴⁹ No records exist that could be used to trace her life in Pyongyang directly from that point on. Peter Hyun claimed that Alice was appointed as personal secretary of Pak Hon-yong, the Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time (P. Hyun 1995, 273).

Alice was probably arrested by the North Korean establishment in March 1953 when widespread arrests of South Korean communist leaders started in Pyongyang. It was the beginning of political persecution and purging of South Korean communists accused of being U.S. spies. Trials of South Korean Labor Party leaders commenced in July–August 1953, including those of Lee Sung-yop, Lee Kang Kook, the poet laureate, Lim Wha, and nine others. Alice Hyun was accused of serving as a connection between Lee Kang Kook and U.S. intelligence agencies. According to indictment documents of the North Korean prosecutor, “Alice, her brother Peter, and William Lee came into contact with Lee Kang Kook four times between 1935 and 1950.” William Lee (Lee Deuk Whan) was a strong supporter of the Korean National Revolutionary Party and the *Korean Independence* in the U.S. He may have been a communist member as well as the first Korean who returned to Pyongyang from the U.S. after Korean liberation. Ironically, the radical Koreans who viewed Pyongyang as their Shangri-La were all brought down as U.S. spies during or after the Korean War. Alice may have been kept in prison as early as March 1953 until her death in 1955–1956.

In December 1955, the trial of Pak Hon-yong began. Alice was identified as the critical figure facilitating contact between Pak and U.S. intelligence authorities. Rather than William Lee, who had had no military career in the U.S., Reverend Lee Sa Min was accused alongside Alice. According to the North Korean indictment record, “Alice Hyun and her brother Peter, a Major of the U.S. Army, were under the direction of Mr. Noble, a missionary and a spy-ring coordinator in South Korea. The Hyun siblings met Pak Hon-yong several times during 1945–1946. Alice allegedly returned to the

49. Krajské velitelství NB—cizinecké odd. V/5 (Regional Directorate of the National Security, Immigration Department), February 16, 1951, National Archive of Czech Republic (NACR), Folder H-352, internal note 3.

U.S., owing to a maneuver by U.S. intelligence agencies, and then went on to Czechoslovakia to request that Pak Hon-yong grant her entry to North Korea. Pak then found employment for her at the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”⁵⁰

Alice was apparently never summoned in front of a proper court. Pak Hon-yong’s indictment record offers the last testimony about her life. She may have been summarily sentenced in December 1955⁵¹ and executed around the time of the infamous August Factionalist Incident of 1956 when Pak was put to death without due judicial process.

While Alice was suffering in a North Korean prison as an accused U.S.-retained spy, her brothers Peter and David were summoned to a hearing by the U.S. Congressional House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) in Los Angeles on December 6–7, 1956. This hearing was based on the 1950 McCarran-Walter Act, also known as the Internal Security Act or the Subversive Activities Control Act, targeting communists and foreign-born activists for prosecution or deportation.⁵² Peter and his younger brother David participated in the American Peace Crusade that started in Chicago in 1951. Peter organized the Southern California Peace Crusade in Los Angeles and devoted himself to demonstrations and public education until the end of the Korean War. The FBI and intelligence agencies monitored his activities in Southern California. The FBI enlisted a female informer who had worked with Peter in the Peace Crusade. She testified at a HUAC hearing that Peter had been the number one agent of Mao Zedong’s Chinese Communist Party, and that the Peace Crusade was

50. On the Recent Exposed Case of the Anti-party and Anti-state Spies Clique, Lee Sung-yop, Bae Chul, Park Seung Won, Yoon Soon Dal, Jo Il Myung, and Lee Kang Kook, U.S. National Archives, RG 242, Document no. 207866, 38–39.

51. Wellington Chung—pobyt v ČSR (Wellington Chung—Residence in Czechoslovakia), ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 29, Ministry of the Interior Document no. 09268/56-A0-1.

52. “Testimony of David Hyun,” *Communist Political Subversion, Part 1*, December 6, 1956, U.S. House of Representatives, Hearing Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, 84th Cong., 2nd sess., 6711–6733; “Testimony of Peter Hyun,” *Communist Political Subversion, Part 1*, December 7, 1956, U.S. House of Representatives, Hearing Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 84th Cong., 2nd sess., 6838–6847.

a front for the communist movement. David himself testified at the HUAC on December 6, 1956, and Peter testified the following day. Peter refused to answer most questions using the protection of the First and the Fifth Amendments to the Constitution (P. Hyun 1995, 268–271).

Korean radicals accused of being members of the U.S. Communist Party were all summoned to the hearing. The Immigration and Naturalization Service then initiated the deportation process against them. Likewise, the deportation process of Diamond Kimm and Shin Doo Shik commenced shortly after the hearings. John Juhn, Kwak Chung Soon, and their wives were sentenced to deportation soon after. Peter Hyun and Sunwoo Hakwon, as long-time U.S. citizens, avoided deportation. David Hyun, on the other hand, had not been granted U.S. citizenship, and so he was detained at Ellis Island for years while his deportation was in progress.

A Turning Point in Wellington's Life (1955–1956)

Wellington had spent seven years in Czechoslovakia without direct contact with his family or old friends. He had suffered from differences in culture, language difficulties, and a lack of sympathy due to his Western nationality. But he finally became a qualified physician. At this point Wellington dreamt of reuniting with his family in Pyongyang or Los Angeles and serving as a physician to fellow Koreans.

There was no place, however, to which Wellington could return. Both Pyongyang and Los Angeles were in turmoil due to witch-hunting. Wellington was explicitly not welcome in North Korea, and he feared harassment in the U.S. Pyongyang authorities denied him entry and reported that they had no objections to anything that the Czechoslovak authorities did to him.⁵³ Czechoslovak authorities strengthened their surveillance over his activities, practically banishing him to the mountainous countryside, northern Slovakia, and then the western-most spa resort Karlovy Vary. The U.S. accepted Wellington's forfeiture of his citizenship, depriving him

53. Wellington John—sdělení odpovědi na notu USA (Response to a Note by the United States), June 30, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 25, Document no. Sv-7805/50–56.

of a return path.

His mother in Pyongyang and his uncles Peter and David in Los Angeles were brought to ruin by the witch hunts provoked by Cold War paranoia. These witch hunts affected Wellington personally. He was mentioned by name at the HUAC hearings in 1954. During his testimony, Sunwoo Hakwon told the committee that Wellington had carried a communist letter addressed to Kim Il-sung on the way to Prague, and that Wellington and Sunwoo met frequently in Prague in 1949–1950. Sunwoo testified that he thought Wellington a communist.⁵⁴

Both the United States and North Korea were wary of Wellington's family connections in the other country. They were concerned that Wellington might himself collaborate with their nemesis. This mistrust came to a head in the beginning of 1956 at the height of the countries' proceedings against his relatives. At that time Wellington was applying for an entry visa to North Korea and possibly for a renewal of his U.S. passport. Embassies of both countries in turn contacted the Czechoslovak authorities seeking information about his status. On February 8, 1956, the U.S. mission in Prague sent a note to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting information about his residence status and whether and when he had sworn the oath of Czechoslovak citizenship.⁵⁵ Two days later, the North Korean embassy in Prague also asked the Ministry for information, citing the fact that Wellington's mother had been found guilty of crimes against the state the year before. North Korea asked about any contacts that Wellington had made with people in North Korea or in the U.S.⁵⁶

The Ministry of the Interior and State Security conducted an investigation into Wellington's affairs, and State Security conducted an interview

54. "Testimony of Harold W. Sunoo, Johsel Namkung," *Investigation of Communist Activities in the Pacific Northwest Area—Part 8 (Seattle)*, June 19, 1954, U.S. House of Representatives, Hearing Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, 83rd Cong., 2nd sess., 6489–6509.

55. Neoficiální překlad (Unofficial Translation), February 8 and February 29, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 21-23, Document no. 301.

56. Neoficiální překlad (Unofficial Translation), February 8 and February 29, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 21-23, Document no. 301.

with him on February 23, 1956. State Security wrote that “At his place of residence and at his workplace, he associates with people who generally have a negative attitude toward our national democratic establishment.”⁵⁷ They were referring to his association with the expatriate community and with Czech colleagues curious about the situation abroad. The Czechoslovak Minister of the Interior, Rudolf Barák, forwarded all the information to the North Korean ambassador in Prague, Yang Yeong Soon, sealing Wellington’s fate. As a consequence, the North Korean embassy rejected Wellington’s application to enter North Korea. That was the final blow that Wellington’s fatherland dealt him. His hope of reuniting with his mother or finding out what had happened to her vanished. Likewise, his prospect of returning to his relatives in Los Angeles died out on account of his open allegiance to the communist movement and his planned voyage to North Korea.

The 1953 trials of South Korean communists and the 1955 trial of Pak Hon-yong were well-known to Czechoslovak authorities, but Wellington presumably did not know details of the trials, including the fact that Alice figured as one of the accused. Sometime during the year 1956, Wellington probably learned that his mother had been executed, possibly from someone who had arrived from abroad.⁵⁸ The Czechoslovak authorities, who interviewed Wellington in February 1956, may also have informed him that his mother had been punished as an enemy of the North Korean state.

The attitude of the Czechoslovak regime toward Wellington changed markedly. When the Ministry of Health applied on Wellington’s behalf for an extension of his residence permit, the permit was cautiously extended by a single year and could be revoked at any time. State Security started paying more attention to his life.

Knowing that his stay in Czechoslovakia would get extended, Wellington searched for a new position closer to Prague. He kept in touch with his old friends from Prague by mail. His friend, Rose Lavoott, reported that “He

57. Letter By Rudolf Barák to Ambassador Jan Jen Sun, April 7, 1956, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 43.

58. Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

was a close friend of Ben Wainfeld's and still writes to him," even though Ben had gone to Switzerland two years prior.⁵⁹ Wellington would also keep in touch by mail with the Wheelers, even several years after he left Prague.

On September 1, 1956, Wellington was hired at the county center for national health in Karlovy Vary. He would work as a secondary physician in the central laboratory for almost two years. The position in the laboratory was not at the center of Wellington's professional interests—he sought to become a pathologist or a surgeon—but he was limited in his choice. Compared to Ružomberok, however, Karlovy Vary afforded Wellington better access to visit the expatriate community in Prague. In Prague he met John Juhn, the Korean American who was also under the suspicion of the Czechoslovak regime after he arrived in Prague in September 1957. Juhn and his wife received a temporary residence permit in Czechoslovakia while they were seeking travel visas to their final destination, Pyongyang.⁶⁰

In May of 1958, possibly in connection to Wellington's contacts with Korean Americans in Prague, the North Korean embassy again contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting information about him. State Security started intercepting Wellington's correspondence and put him under the surveillance of an informant, "Mr. Ruda," at his workplace.⁶¹ State Security reported that Wellington kept "suspicious contacts with Koreans studying in Czechoslovakia. He also keeps a very close contact with Dr. Edvin Bořivoj Ziegler, who himself meets Korean students frequently."⁶² Ziegler had been an alleged German sympathizer during WWII

59. Report by Rose Lavoott, "Wellington Chung," ca. summer 1952, ASFCR, Folder 44581-020-1-2, 39-2.

60. Záznam o návštěvě u vedoucího I. odboru MZV KLDK Pak Il Jon-a (Record of a Visit by the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs First Division Chief, Park Il Youn), August 12, 1957, Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AMFA), Folder Group John Juhn, 155/117 (7-8), Document no. 0437/57.

61. Wellington Chung—zpráva (Wellington Chung—Report), Krajská správa Ministerstva vnitra—Karlovy Vary (Regional Administration of the Ministry of the Interior—Karlovy Vary), June 3, 1958, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 15, Document no. A/3-0054/361-58.

62. Wellington Chung—vyžádání poznatků a obstarání korespondence (Wellington Chung—Request for Information and Mail Censoring), May 28, 1958, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 16.

and an Asian studies enthusiast. Since he had been on the State Security's list of politically unreliable people, friendship with him could only hurt Wellington.

Settling Down, Marriage, and Naturalization (1957–1963)

In February 1958, Wellington resigned from his job to apply for a post of a physician at a corporate center for national health in Ostrov, a town near Karlovy Vary. Škoda Corporation had a bus-manufacturing factory there. Because of the mistrust of health officials toward Wellington's political background and without intervention by the Ministry of the Interior on his behalf, he was not hired.⁶³ Wellington returned to his laboratory job in Karlovy Vary. In April 1958, however, he succeeded at transferring to the department of anatomical pathology in the same rank of secondary physician.⁶⁴ Wellington came under the supervision of Dr. Josef Vojík, the head physician of pathology, and they became friends.⁶⁵

Wellington appeared content with his life. He lived in a decent apartment building and earned standard public servant salary. He smoked his pipe, ate standard fare in the hospital canteen, and gave the impression that he enjoyed working with his colleagues.⁶⁶ They in turn respected him as a diligent worker and regarded him highly. Wellington would develop close relationships with several of his colleagues and enter collaboration

63. Wellington Chung—zpráva (Wellington Chung—Report), Krajská správa Ministerstva vnitra—Karlovy Vary (Regional Administration of the Ministry of the Interior—Karlovy Vary), June 3, 1958, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 15, Document no. A/3-0054/361-58.

64. Wellington Chung, 1958, Archives of the Karlovy Vary Hospital (AKVH), Karlovy Vary Hospital personnel files.

65. "Dr. Vojík was an old, kind bachelor, but extremely disorganized and poor at managing his workplace. His department was in a state of chaos. The hospital directorate frequently reprimanded him and asked him to make amends. These never came. At the height of the problem, Dr. Vojík would sometimes leave work before 9:00 am. This happened on a number of Saturdays. Wellington would time-stamp his card one or even two hours later to cover up for him." Otakar Bořík and Jana Boříková, email interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, September 2, 2013.

66. Jiřina Kunešová, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, October 7, 2013.

with them on their research. He had settled down.

In the fall of 1957, Wellington started dating Anna Šafránková (née Šoltýsová), a certified medic in his laboratory. Anna was a few months older than Wellington and had been married previously. She had an eight-year-old son, Jan, from her first marriage. Originally from Budyně nad Ohří, central Bohemia, she had started in Karlovy Vary more than five years before as an assistant laboratory medic. In 1952 she became certified as a biochemical laboratory medic.

In 1958 Wellington moved in with Anna. Her apartment was next to a ceramic arts high school in downtown Karlovy Vary. Anna had inherited the school staff apartment from her ex-husband, a graphic artist, director of the regional art gallery, and a former teacher at the school. Anna became pregnant with Wellington's baby. Their daughter was born on September 8, 1958. Wellington named her Tabitha, meaning "gazelle" in Aramaic, the biblical name of a woman raised from the dead by Saint Peter. Her parents called her affectionately Tabilka or Tabi. Anna did not approve of the name much and did not explain it to her friends but accepted Wellington's wish.⁶⁷

With his daughter born, Wellington wrote to his grandparents in Los Angeles. Hyun Soon was surprised and happy to get his grandson's letter. He replied during the 1958 Christmas holidays in a tearful letter that he dreamt of coming over to see Wellington as soon as the political situation permitted. He decorated his letter sentimentally with sketches of orchids and a bamboo tree.⁶⁸ Wellington was skeptical, replying "For us to see each other, the situation would have to change radically."⁶⁹

Soon after Tabitha's birth, on October 29, Wellington informed the U.S. embassy that he was forfeiting his U.S. citizenship as a first step to obtaining Czechoslovak citizenship. He explained that he wished to bring his family into a legal and safe status. He did not expect any trouble with

67. Jiřina Kunešová, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, October 7, 2013.

68. Letter by Hyun Soon to Wellington Chung, December 24, 1958, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 1.

69. Wellington Chung—sdělení poznatků (Wellington Chung—Conveying of Information), February 9, 1959, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 6, Document no. A/3-0836/361-58.

the processing of the forfeiture as he possessed certification of his entry into Czechoslovakia. He also submitted an official request for Czechoslovak citizenship as the father of a Czechoslovak woman's baby. Wellington's Czechoslovak citizenship was granted on February 19, 1959, and he took his citizenship oath on April 9.⁷⁰ At this point, State Security finally suspended their surveillance over him and stopped intercepting his mail.⁷¹

Wellington married Anna sometime during 1959, probably because he felt that the moral thing for him to do was to become a legal father to Tabitha.⁷² Their wedding in Karlovy Vary was a small, private affair, particularly because it was already Anna's second marriage, and neither of them had any family members to invite. Anna's parents had passed away, and her brother served as a priest abroad.⁷³

At the hospital, Wellington also finally received recognition for his work. Even though Wellington's application for the post of head physician of anatomical pathology was rejected in 1960, he was promoted to the post of deputy head physician in that department on December 1 of that year. In that position, Wellington had more freedom to organize his schedule, start his own research, and have more leverage in research collaboration.

Wellington also became busy building professional relationships. One of his closest colleagues at the hospital was Dr. Jiri Vácha, the head physician of internal medicine. One fact that linked them was their relationship to the City Hospital in Cheb—Vácha had served there prior to coming to Karlovy Vary, and Wellington was applying for the post of the head physician of pathology there. Dr. Vácha and Wellington met regularly on hospital grounds to discuss medical matters as well as to converse in English. Wellington was said to have a “perfect American accent.”⁷⁴ Vácha remem-

70. Evidence obyvatelstva—přihlašovací lístek Dr. Wellington Chung (Population—Census—Registration Card, Dr. Wellington Chung), 1960, State Regional Archives of Karlovy Vary (SRAKV).

71. Wellington Chung—zrušení požadavku o PK (Wellington Chung—Cancellation of the Request for Mail Censoring), February 9, 1959, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 7.

72. Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

73. Jiřina Kunešová, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, October 7, 2013.

74. Jiří Vácha, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, September 2, 2013.

bers that they addressed each other informally, as was the custom in the hospital, but never discussed their political beliefs or personal affairs. Wellington was always respectful and a bit reserved.

Wellington also developed a close relationship with the head physician of ophthalmology, Blahoslav Rejchrt. Wellington translated Rejchrt's medical study "Léčení poleptání očí tzv. novosibiřskou metodou" (A Novosibirsk Method Cure for Chemical Burns of Eyes) into English. They sent the translation to Sir James William Tudor Thomas, a renowned ophthalmic surgeon at Cardiff Royal Infirmary and United Cardiff Hospitals, who shared the study with the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.⁷⁵

Between 1961 and 1963, two of Wellington's coauthored research articles were published in renowned international journals, and one more was published posthumously in a Czech journal. During the hospital's Otolaryngology Night on April 1, 1961, Otakar Bořík, the head physician of otolaryngology, presented joint research with Miloš Vítěz and Wellington. At a similar event two years later, on April 3, 1963, Wellington presented his own research on "Mucous Cysts of the Maxillary Sinuses," and "Histochemistry in Applied Anatomical Pathology."⁷⁶

The Final Years of Wellington's Life

In the summer of 1962, the post of head physician of anatomical pathology opened in the City Hospital of Cheb, near the German border. Wellington was accepted for the position. He spent several months preparing for his new appointment, and on November 15, 1962, he officially started in the position. Along with being the head physician of pathology, he was appointed chief of the hospital's central laboratory.⁷⁷ His family moved to an apartment adjacent to the Cheb Hospital on Ernst Thalmann Street.

On the surface, Wellington achieved professional success and status as

75. Otakar Bořík and Jana Boříková, email interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, September 2, 2013; Blahoslav Rejchrt, email interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, February 3, 2014.

76. Boříková and Bořík (1996, 83, 85, 149, 153, 214).

77. Wellington Chung, 1958, AKVH, Karlovy Vary Hospital personnel files.

a regular member of Czech society. Inside, however, he felt trapped and cut off from the world and life he had imagined for himself. Exactly one year after coming to Cheb, on October 28, 1963, the 45th anniversary of Czechoslovak statehood, Wellington committed suicide. He ingested medication in the dissecting room of Cheb Hospital. The circumstances under which this event occurred are unclear. We are left to speculate about Wellington's motives for the desperate measure and his state of mind. He had never talked to his colleagues about his personal troubles, and Anna would never discuss the episode with her friends thereafter.⁷⁸ Wellington's colleagues were shocked. In his reserved dealings with his colleagues, he had never dropped any hint that something was amiss. The only possible hints come from his correspondence with his uncle David. Wellington may have suppressed a multitude of frustrations that suddenly boiled over and caused him to snap. There were causes for frustration in many facets of his life—existential uncertainty and dependence on the state, the prospect of never seeing his relatives and old friends, a lack of professional opportunities, constant financial pressures, and perhaps even family struggles.

In the summer of 1963, Wellington's old-time friend, Ben Wainfeld, made plans to visit Czechoslovakia. Wellington must have looked forward to meeting him. Wainfeld's application for a visa, however, was rejected. It was granted only in November, following a lengthy appeal process, but Wellington and Ben would not be able to meet. Of the friends he had in Karlovy Vary, Wellington must have suspected some of reporting on him to State Security. Moreover, Wellington all but gave up hope of ever seeing his relatives again. He already knew that his mother had perished.

Wellington also lacked financial resources and a network of collaborators to effectively advance his research. His correspondence with Western researchers was hampered by mail interception and by the political risk it carried for both parties. Wellington's desperation with his isolation and lack of personal freedom and professional opportunities was exacerbated by hearing of his family's own existential plights. Uncle David wrote: "I am awaiting a verdict regarding an appeal in my [deportation] case. I don't

78. Jiřina Kunešová, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, October 7, 2013.

expect any positive results, but I don't want to be ignored or overlooked, since everybody who's been born abroad has got himself into something" that can be used as cause for deportation.⁷⁹ Wellington surely felt the same way himself.

Wellington's home environment did not provide the relief that he needed. For an introvert and reserved man like Wellington, who was used to his independence, marriage with its full-time commitment was also a difficult undertaking. Anna's personality was exactly the opposite: she was curious, cheerful, talkative and emotional.⁸⁰ Her bold personality may have been disconcerting to Wellington.⁸¹ Anna's ex-husband and Jan's biological father may also have accosted Wellington or denied him permission to take Jan abroad.⁸² Thus, Wellington voiced some vexation with his "family situation" to his uncle David.

In October 1963, Wellington sent a letter to his uncle David, voicing desperation and asking him to take care of Wellington's children. By the time the letter reached David, Wellington had passed away. Cheb, the border crossing that had welcomed Wellington and Alice to Czechoslovakia 15 years before now also became his final destination. It had been exactly five years since he forfeited his U.S. citizenship. He had just turned 36 years of age. Isolation from his family, friends, and homeland, and the lack of prospects for being reunited with them in the coming years apparently boiled over into Wellington's decision to end his life. Retrospectively, David understood Wellington's message to be a farewell letter.

Epilogue

A farewell for Wellington was held on November 1 at the Karlovy Vary

79. Wellington Chung—sdělení poznatků (Wellington Chung—Conveying of Information), February 9, 1959, ASFCR, Folder 319-40-15, 6, Document no. A/3-0836/361-58.

80. Jiřina Kunešová, telephone interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, October 7, 2013; Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

81. Eleanor Wheeler Jr., telephone and email interview by V. Hlásny, Prague, August 5, 2013.

82. Blahoslav Rejchrt, email interview by V. Hlásny, Karlovy Vary, February 3, 2014.

Crematorium. On the following day, he was cremated.⁸³ Wellington's relatives in Los Angeles were unable to travel to the funeral. They found out about his death only months later in 1964. His death was a traumatic experience for his grandparents and uncles. The FBI wrote in an internal briefing that "Another member of the family [most likely grandfather Soon Hyun] intends to commit suicide." Following Wellington's death, the family member was "hospitalized with a nervous breakdown."⁸⁴ The family appealed to the USCP to find the complete truth about Wellington's fate. The USCP in turn offered to contact the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, no more information about the circumstances of Wellington's death would ever come out.

In May 1964, Wellington's file with the Karlovy Vary unit of the State Security was destroyed. Thus ended the attention that State Security had paid to Wellington throughout his life in Czechoslovakia. Other State Security documents about Wellington were destroyed following the Velvet Revolution.

Wellington's tragedy was the last of his family's struggles in the Cold War. Three generations of his family had suffered because ultimately they fought the shackling and cordoning off of their motherland from the world by the great powers. His grandfather, Hyun Soon, was one of the leading figures in the March First Independence Movement. At one time he was a strong advocate for Korea's alliance with Western powers, but then realigned himself to running radical activities backed by the Soviet Union. In the end, he settled down on the Hawaiian Islands and served as a minister. Wellington's mother, on the other hand, was born in Hawaii and educated in Seoul, Shanghai, Osaka, and New York. She was a well-educated, westernized, modern woman. She was influenced by the tide of the Korean independence and socialist movements that prevailed in Shanghai during the 1920s. She participated in the radical movement in the Korean community after Korean liberation. Eventually she found a path to her

83. Cremation and Burial Records, October 1963, Karlovy Vary Crematorium.

84. Dorothy Healey's oral report, April 21, 1964, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Vault, File 1164178-000-100-HQ-428091, Section 52, 1 and 12.

ideological motherland, North Korea. But at the height of the country's Cold War paranoia, she was executed as a U.S. spy. Wellington's uncles in the U.S. were summoned to the HUAC hearings as suspected communists, and one of them was detained for several years to await deportation.

Wellington was born as a Korean American. His parents' marriage was the product of the turbulence and aftermath of the March First Movement. He was a true son of the Korean independence movement. He was raised as a Hawaiian American, but his family tradition guided his life toward serving the cause of Korean independence. After the liberation and division of the Korean peninsula, circumstances became entangled and Wellington's life turned upside down.

He arrived in Prague to study medicine in 1948 and hoped to transit to North Korea after becoming a qualified physician. He struggled to advance in the 1950s when the turmoil of the Cold War engulfed the whole world, and the Czechoslovak state exerted pressure on him. At last, he became a physician in 1955. But he had nowhere to return. North Korea denied him entry to reunite with his mother several times. The United States revoked his passport and citizenship. His temporary host, Czechoslovakia, kept him on a short leash under constant surveillance. Wellington was kept in a permanent state of dependence on the authorities for his residence permit, academic progress, and career opportunities. His mail was intercepted, and he must have suspected his acquaintances of reporting on him. He faced political as well as financial restrictions on travel to medical symposia and on his efforts to network with scientists abroad.

Wellington was entirely trapped in the fate that the authorities had schemed for him. Yet, he strove to keep on living after he learned of his mother and uncles' tribulations, and he fought to succeed as a doctor and a scientist. He married a Czech woman and brought up a child with her. He obtained his Czechoslovak citizenship as a sign of his loyalty to the social-democratic establishment. He honed his skills as a surgeon, anatomist, and researcher. In the end, however, the burden of his constrained existence and prospect of it only becoming more desperate overwhelmed him. The only way out for him was to bid farewell to his family and take his own life.

As if he knew that the Cold War regimes wanted to claim one more soul before they left his family in peace, Wellington succumbed to the pressure and committed suicide. But his demise was not in vain. He was the last one in his family to go down. After Wellington died, his wife and children immigrated to Los Angeles, reunited with his uncles, and finally attained the freedom and peace that Wellington, his mother, his grandfather, and his uncles had paid for so dearly.

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