

CHRISTIANITY, CONTEMPORARY SYNCRETISTIC SECTS OF.....Elliott #480
MOONISM (THE UNIFICATION CHURCH), a theological report on
the Waldorf-Astoria 17 Sept 74 banquet of

1. My cost-estimate: \$30M. CIA? Yesterday, Pres. Ford admitted, more bluntly than any US president ever had before, our interference in the political affairs of other countries (specifically, Chile). When will a US president admit CIA complicity in the religious affairs of our own country? Of course the money may come mainly from private angels, but none are in public sight. When I asked an Irish priest (in the movement four months) where the money comes from, with irritation he said "The family takes care of itself." Only one of the touches that reminded me of another Christian syncretism, viz. Mormonism.
2. A model of saturation-witnessing (if ya got the price). The organizer of the international team (who's not less than 6'7") said to Loree and me, "I've got 700 workers here from all other the world, and they're working like 7,000!" True. And good, clean kids: another reminder of Mormonism. Real smiles, not airline stewardess paste-ons. And such beautiful innocence in so many I've talked to! I love 'em! The early Christians were crazy about another Messiah, and took over the world....
- 3....or was it the same messiah? These kids seem to confuse my Messiah and Mr. Moon: their hermeneutics are best developed on parousia, for an obvious reason. At his height following the beautiful-slab-of-roast-beef dinner, Moon cried out "In two days there won't be so much as a child in New York who hasn't heard I've come!" Yep, the kids smiles aren't pasted on, but everything else is....So what's next for the kids?
4. The labor-organizing leftist kids (whom I sympathize with for their conviction that being a professional "anti" isn't good enough, you've got to organize)--the International Coalition of Labor Parties---hoisted a brazen-voiced woman on a table to shriek "Rev. Moon is a fascist!"---to which the 1,600 free guests were more polite than I expected. I was glad to note, late that night, that the "fascist" note got on TV. In my mind, no question about its accuracy, at least psychosociodynamically.
5. My evangelical underground tells me that another group of kids, the evangelicals, will loudspeaker and tract the crowds emerging tonight from Rev. Moon's Madison Square Garden. They're disturbed because their own blend of religion and patriotism is blurred by Mr. Moon's mix: a side-benefit of Mr. Moon is the indirect discrediting of the Fred Schwartz and Major Bundy type of religious chauvinism....I had to leave when Uncle Sam came on stage after South Korea's President Park's daughter announced the ballet and the MC said that among the guests was President Thieu's representative from Saigon! Was Jesus' name ever more obscenely called on in stickier mess ('cept maybe Watergate)? Seriously: Some folks across the country may find a questioning wedge driven by Mr. Moon's corny marriage of Uncle Sam and Jesus between their own conservative Christianity and their till-recently mindless patriotism.
6. But of course as theologian I'm writing this thinksheet chiefly to comment on the theological roots/fruits of Moonism, whose eclectic theology brews together his own degenerate Calvinism, his basic Sinic mentality, and his messianic feel for post-WWII US foreign policy. We sent Presbyterianism to Korea, and this is what we deserve back? God's aseity denied: he can't help making and being for us, to give his love and idealism "object" for action; and thus provides us with a pan-model for life-purpose, viz. unselfishness: spouses exist first for each other, then for offspring; family for nation; nation for world; world for God---thus completing the Sinic circle whose inner dynamic is Sinic (yin/yang) polarity or complementarity or "reciprocity." I took wry satisfaction in this Eastern "man-for-others" ethic, for its parallel with Bonhoeffer's banal phrase about the same historical personage, Jesus.
7. Sin, instead of being forgiven by faith through grace, is run over and squashed by the love-circle, "the divine principle," "the principle of God," which the Korean Ballet rise at 5am to read out of (sic) the Bible---the gnostic, mystic, simplistic appeal that gives the movement integrity (in the socio-sense) and power (in the psycho-sense).
8. O Lord, why'd you make me too rational ever to enjoy a comprehensive, pushable angle?