

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**APOLOGIZE TO
NORTH KOREA?
YOU MUST BE KIDDING!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 27, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

The author of a recent article unloaded a large dose of "disgust with the United States." He bemoaned the anti-North-Korean sentiment in the press and actually criticizes our government for speaking out against the apparent retaliatory cyber attack and other threats by the North Korean government. His theme was that the production by Sony of the film "The Interview" reinforces the "ugly American" stereotype. He even suggested that the U.S. apologize to North Korea to assuage their hurt feelings!

Here's my response:

Apologize to North Korea? You must be kidding!

In the 12-26 Opinion Exchange, Brad Cook unloads a large dose of "disgust with the United States." His opinion in "Still the Ugly Americans," bemoans the anti-North-Korean sentiment in the press and alleges the production by Sony of the film "The Interview" reinforces the "ugly American" stereotype. He actually criticizes our government for speaking out against the apparent retaliatory cyber attack and other threats by the North Korean government. **He has such concern for the feelings of the North Koreans that he wants the U.S. to apologize!**

Mr. Cook acknowledges freedom of speech, but feels the excesses of this production, (satirical disrespect of another country) cancels out constitutional rights. I wonder if he was equally offended by "Death of a President," a 2006 British film that portrayed the assassination of George W. Bush. And his selective outrage takes no exception of the Korean penchant for referring to our President as a "monkey" or as having "the shape of the monkey"! That's OK speech I guess!

Our individual rights insist that while someone might have disdain for a movie like "The Interview," it nevertheless is protected by the umbrella of "freedom of speech." But Cook somehow considers a slightly "edgy" expression of opinion or satire contradictory to living in a free society.

While Cook feels the U.S. is the culprit here, he is the one who is threatening freedom. Until he understands what true freedom is, he will never enjoy it.

