

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KLL-01-18

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and has the honour to inform the latter of the Government of the Republic of Korea's intention to provide Korean War Service Medals to New Zealand veterans who took part in the Korean War, from the outbreak of hostilities on June 25, 1950 to the signing of the armistice agreement on July 27, 1953. The Government of the Republic of Korea seeks the support of the New Zealand Government for the distribution of these medals in New Zealand.

The purpose of the issue of the medal is to pay tribute to Korean War veterans, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, for their historic endeavours to preserve the freedom of the Republic of Korea. The medal was originally offered to the United Nations Forces in Korea and adjacent waters in 1951 but many were unable to receive the medal due to the laws of their countries at that time. However, last year the medal was awarded to veterans from the United States of America through the cooperation of the United States Ministry of Defence.

The medal is to be awarded on Korean War veterans from New Zealand and other members of the British Commonwealth such as Australia, Canada and South Africa. The medal will principally be awarded to living veterans. If there are a significant number of requests for posthumous awards, however, the Korean Government will consider the matter.

The Korean War Service medal is to be worn as an official medallion recognition of the significant contribution and bravery of New Zealand veterans.

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand the assurances of its highest consideration.

WELLINGTON 21 March 2001

PRD/HA/2

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and has the honour to refer to the Embassy's Note KLL-01- 18 of 21 March 2001 concerning the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Korea to award Korean War Service Medals to those surviving New Zealanders who took part in the Korean War of 1950-53.

The Ministry has been advised through the Cabinet Office that Her Majesty the Queen of New Zealand has been pleased to grant full and unrestricted permission to all those surviving New Zealanders who served in Korea to accept and wear the Korean War Service Medal which the Government of the Republic of Korea wishes to confer on them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

WELLINGTON

23 April 2001