Interview Questions with Mr.Roiko

• Where were you living during the Cold War? Did this have any influence on your experiences

with the Cold War?

Answer: He was living in South America for the first 7 years of his life. He mostly remembers his parents talking about all these different life crisis issues that were going on during the time span of the Cold War but he didn’t fully know the details behind each and every issue. He said that he most vividly remembers all the news reports about the Berlin Wall and that both he and his family were both huge Olympic Game fanatics. He remembers watching the Olympics and remembered how strong of a team and country Eastern Germany was and that all the men looked like woman due to all the steroids they took in order to compete at their best. Mr. Roiko told us that during the time, East Germany was the enemy to the U.S during the Olympic Games even though they cheated their way through victory, they were still our biggest enemy. Another major issue he remembers is when there was a massive oil shortage and he remembers waiting in line for 30 minutes up to an hour just to fill his car up with gas at the local gas stations. During the late 70’s was also when a lot of the major car companies started converting back to smaller vehicles because of the better gas mileage. This issue actually effected Mr. Roikos family immensely because they downsized their family vehicle into a “Pinto” which eventually got recalled due to issues from the location of the cars gas tank. Mr. Roiko also shared with us that he was a sophomore in high school at the time of the Olympic boycott. The high school he attended had a state winning marching band and a video of the band playing the official Olympic ‘theme song’ was about to be aired on NBC news but had to be cancelled due to the boycott. Both he and the rest of the team were disappointed because they wanted the rest of the world to see their true talent, but he knew there was nothing they could’ve done. Lastly, he vividly remembers the Berlin wall coming down during the late 80’s, the nuclear weapon issues, as well as a little bit of recollection from all the spy cases that occurred.

• What fears did you have during the Cold War?

Answer: He didn’t have many fears because he was so young at the time. His fears started coming out more and more once all the movies started releasing that described what would happen after a nuclear war. “War Games” caused fear in Mr. Roiko because the movie depicted the thoughts about computers eventually controlling the world. Also a movie called, “The Day After which caused fear in his thoughts because it revolved around what would happen the day after a nuclear bomb. Also, major fears started approaching more in modern times such as after 9/11 and the terrorist attack. Today, he is afraid that other countries will develop weapons that could cause major disaster for our society that could eventually lead to the start of a nuclear war. He believes that fewer countries who have nuclear weapons, the better. It’s important that we, as the United States, have them just in case we need to tell other countries we have them in order to scare them away and to stop them from attacking.

• What do you remember thinking or hearing about communism?

Answer: He mostly just remembers being taught that communism was evil and bad and that capitalism was when we got freedom and the decision to control our own lifestyles as human beings. He was taught that communist nations are more controlling and that the government controls your entire life and decides everything that you will do in your future. Freedom is very restricted in communist nations and that if there is any freedom at all, it is very restricted. The major difference between the two is being able to have the choice or not. Communists want everyone to be equal and they believe that there won’t be any unfairness between the poor and the wealthy if their controlling the entire system, which ended up not working in their favor.

• What were your experiences with civil defense efforts?

Answer: He didn’t really have any besides when the sirens would go off to warn them about the typhoons and the “duck and cover” drill which he never personally did but he remembers being told about other people having to practice the drill in school in case of a nuclear bomb. Also, just following fire drills during school just like modern times.

• What actions or people made you feel the nation was secure or insecure?

Answer: President Reagan made him feel extremely secure in our country. He always took the strong position with every decision he made and always did what was best for our country. He meant business and his leadership was always very strong thus developing a sense of security in Mr. Roiko and his family. He also stated that he felt more secure back then than now a days because of how strong and confident Reagan was as the President of the United States.

• What do you remember about the bomb, nuclear testing, or radiation?

Answer: Everything that occurred in high school such as watching documentaries about the political stances towards only one side and one argument. His classes always only focused on one position no matter what. This eventually started to change in the 80’s when he entered college when his college professor from China helped to show both sides and arguments. The movies was where a lot of his recollection is.

• What historic events or people do you remember? (Berlin Wall , Cuba , U-2 Incident,

Khruschev , Korea , domino theory, McCarthy, Kennedy)

How did you react to these events or how did your parents react to them?

Answer: The space race when his family was still in Brazil, when he was around the age of 6 or 7. The boycott of the Olympics occurred when he was still in high school. The Berlin Wall coming down was another one of the historic events he remembers. Also when Reagan and the Soviet Union leader tryed to work out their problems between countries and become civil was another major event he has a pretty good recollection of. And the development of the satellite which was built to protect everyone from nuclear attack or at least warn everyone of a nuclear attack in order to keep us all a little more safe. Lastly, all of the James Bond movies that came out during that time period referred to the spy invasions which helped him understand the issues more as a young teenager.

• What is your position today on nuclear arms race? How should we protect our national

security? Do you think a nuclear war is still possible? Why or why not?

Answer: He believes that we need the weapons from higher authority. By everyone knowing we have weapons, it protects our safety and we most definitely don’t need to develop any more weapons. We also shouldn’t allow other nations to have them besides the major power countries who already have weapons so that they can help keep everyone in check before using their weapons, in order to make for a safer world. He also shared with us that he was pretty afraid that there might be a nuclear weapon being used during our time period which is why we should continue to develop the satellite system incase weapons are used against us.

• What is one lesson that we should learn from the Cold War era? Answer: One lesson we could learn is that while we are building our strength we need to put as much effort into negotiations with other countries. We made everyone look bad who was a communist. Instead of continuing to cause more tension with communism, we need to try and figure out a way to keep communications open between other nations even though it is very difficult. Our negotiation skills could’ve been better throughout the cold war era and it is something that we need to take into consideration. Be careful with our actions, use common sense and just be cautious. There’s always someone with evil intentions so we need to have strong defense with negotiation. Prove our relations with countries while still remaining higher power.