

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM IL SUNG

TALK WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

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I warmly welcome your visit to my country to attend the celebration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of our Party.

Many foreign delegations are coming to our country to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the founding of our Party. Today I receive you as the first guests among the foreign delegations visiting our country.

I am very glad to make your acquaintance, Comrade National Secretary. Although we meet for the first time, we are all comrades-in-arms who have a firm faith in revolution. I am grateful to you for joining hands with us to fight imperialism.

I have received a report on your talk with our officials. I support all the problems that you, Comrade National Secretary, presented in your talk with a secretary of the Central Committee of our Party.

I highly appreciate that your party maintains revolutionary principles and a revolutionary stand. Your stand is right.

The imperialists are now waging a war without bullets in accordance with their strategy of “peaceful transition” and are attacking socialism. Owing to this,

all sorts of things are happening in the socialist movement. Some people have already been ruined, others are retreating and yet others have given up socialism and are surrendering to the enemy. It can be said that the socialist movement is now undergoing trials. However, there is no need to be discouraged because of this.

We have sung the song *The Red Flag* since the time of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. This song reads in part: “Let cowards flinch and traitors sneer; we will keep the Red Flag flying here.” As the words of the song indicate, revolutionaries will firmly unite and continue the revolution to the last, even though cowards may go their way.

I am seventy-eight years old this year and I shall be eighty years old before long. I embarked on the road of revolution when I was 13 years old. I have suffered many trials in the course of the revolution. During our arduous revolutionary struggle many days were more difficult than now. However, we were not discouraged by these difficulties, but marched forward vigorously with firmer conviction.

Let me tell you one thing that happened in the days of our anti-Japanese armed struggle. The hardest period of our anti-Japanese armed struggle was when

we were advancing to the area of Mt Paektu after the Nanhutou meeting. In those days the Japanese imperialists intensified more than ever their “punitive” operations against the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army while persistently attempting to infiltrate subversive elements and saboteurs into our revolutionary ranks to disintegrate them from within. Our revolution underwent great trials owing to these manoeuvres of the Japanese imperialists. When I visited a unit of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army during our advance into the area of Mt Paektu, the unit was in miserable condition; it was on the verge of collapse, owing to the Japanese imperialists’ plot to alienate the men, and the soldiers had no weapons to speak of; they were suffering from a shortage of both bullets and food. They were at a loss, so I inspired and encouraged them with confidence, saying only when they fought against an enemy attack in adversity, could they win victory. I went on: “We have to fight the enemy, but we have no rifles and bullets. What should we do? I want you to organize groups of ten to fifteen men to go to enemy-held areas and wrest weapons and bullets from the enemy.” Afterwards they waged an active struggle to wrest weapons from the enemy and came back to the unit with new guns on

their shoulders and cartridge belts full of bullets. They were in high spirits and looked very well. I organized a new regiment with them as the main force, and that regiment fought very well.

The present situation can be said to be similar to that of those days.

The Americans are now concentrating their attack upon weak-kneed countries. Two superpowers used to exist in the world—the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union, however, has dropped out of the rank of superpower and only the United States remains. The Soviet Union has become a companion of the United States. Therefore Bush pats Gorbachev on the back.

Now that the Soviet Union has dropped out of the rank of superpower, the US imperialists are behaving more and more arrogantly and impertinently. How arrogant the United States has become can be seen clearly by the fact that it invaded Panama as soon as its President returned from the Malta Summit and disarmed Nicaragua in succession. It has recently occupied Saudi Arabia on the plea of the dangerous situation on the Persian Gulf, covetous of the oil resources of that country. That Bush met Gorbachev in Helsinki is not at all because he likes the latter, but

because he wants to prevent the Soviet Union from interfering with the US troops' stationing in Saudi Arabia. Gorbachev has obediently complied with the requests of the United States. The Soviet Union, once called a great communist state, has ended up in this miserable situation.

What is the reason for this? It is because the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has been emasculated. This party was founded by Lenin. Lenin removed the Mensheviks from the Russian Socialist Democratic Workers' Party and founded the Communist Party. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union led the October Socialist Revolution to victory and guided socialist construction in the Soviet Union for over 70 years. However, at its 28th Congress this party adopted a decision to abandon its leadership position over Soviet power. In the final analysis, this was tantamount to a demand that the Communist Party not interfere with Gorbachev in pursuing a policy of "reform" and "restructure" as president. Only when a working-class party seizes power, can it exercise political leadership of the society. Because the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, once called the Bolshevik Party, gave up its leadership position over Soviet power, it immediately became a weak party, in

no position to exercise political leadership of the society.

We should never weaken the Party. We intend to continue to further strengthen both the Party and the people's power.

I think your analysis of the reason for the collapse of socialism in the eastern European countries is right. Although those countries claimed to be building socialism, they did not build it in their own way. Few of those countries made revolution by their own efforts. Most did not carry out a revolution on their own. They established power thanks to their liberation by Soviet troops and built socialism in the way the Soviet Union did. As a result, all those countries were ruined following the fall of the Soviet Union.

The course of our revolutionary struggle is fundamentally different from that of the eastern European countries. We liberated our country by our own efforts and have built socialism in our own way. It can be said that in the past we received some assistance from the Soviet Army in wiping out the Japanese "Kwantung Army" stationed in Manchuria. However, we liberated our country by our own efforts. It is true that Soviet troops landed on Chongjin, but their landing was effected in cooperation with the

Korean People's Revolutionary Army. In Party building, too, we trained hard-core elements by our own efforts and founded the Party on that basis. Therefore our Party has been strong since the early days of its founding. Our Party was further tempered in the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War against US imperialism. Forty-five years have passed since the founding of our Party, but our Party has a history of more than sixty years if we date it from the days of the Down-with-Imperialism Union. Our country did not enter the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

We built socialism in our own way from an independent stand, without following others blindly, so the Soviet leaders were reluctant to visit our country. Once I met Khrushchev in Beijing. I proposed that he go to our country with me, but he said he could not do so. I asked him the reason, and he said, "If I go to Korea, I will have to speak ill of the United States, but I cannot do so. During my recent visit to the United States, I exchanged kisses with Eisenhower, so it would not be right for me to speak ill of the United States in Korea." Gorbachev did not visit our country, either. Instead, he went to south Korea to beg for dollars. How hard-up he must be to

have cadged even from the beggarly south Korean puppets. The dollars Gorbachev begged for are US dollars; the money does not belong to south Korea. The money of the south Korean puppets belongs to such countries as the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Germany. Today's issue of the newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* carries a commentary on the exchange of "diplomatic relations" for dollars. It is advisable for you to read it. In the long run, no one who held the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ever visited our country. Looking back today, I think it is fortunate that they did not visit our country.

You say that you will carry in your party's publication the commentary in today's issue of the newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*, titled, "*Diplomatic Relations*" *Sold and Bought for Dollars*. I think it would be a good idea for you to do so. We shall give you the English version of the article.

I think it is a truly good thing that we have carried on the revolution and construction in our own way. If we had blindly followed others in carrying on the revolution and construction, instead of conducting them in our own way, we would not have escaped the lot of the eastern European countries. We intend to

continue to build socialism in our own way in the future, too.

I consider that although the socialist movement is now undergoing trials, it will resume on a new basis different from that of the past and will be further strengthened in the future. You have said that socialism will emerge victorious again in the eastern European countries, and I am of the same opinion.

People in the eastern European countries have now experienced the bitter taste of capitalism for over one year and repent having abandoned socialism. Those who enjoyed a stable life with steady jobs under the socialist system have now become unemployed and homeless beggars, so I think they must be longing for socialism. When a German writer met me this summer during her visit to our country, she said that one million people had already become unemployed in East Germany. I heard that the German Chancellor celebrated last October 3, when West Germany absorbed East Germany to form a unified state, as a victory day, but that day 30 000 people in East Germany held a “funeral” parade, lamenting. Although East Germany conducted the “funeral” of socialism, it is not yet late and new buds will sprout. Germany is the motherland of Marx and produced

such a fine leader of the working class as Thalmann. I think that a new, admirable Thalmann will appear in Germany. In the eastern European countries those who were building socialism are still alive. They will rise up again for the revival of socialism. Therefore, we do not criticize the eastern European people.

We must perseveringly encourage them to take the road of socialism again. I have just told you how I, during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, inspired with confidence and encouraged the men of a unit of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army who were shivering in the dense forests without weapons and bullets. It is necessary to give confidence and courage to the eastern European people as we did in those days. If the revolutionary parties aspiring to socialism inspire them with confidence and courage in unity, they will brace up and rise up again. If they do so, socialism will be revived without doubt. So we need not worry much about the future of those countries.

We shall continue to advance, holding up the red banner of the revolution in Asia. You need not worry about this. If Cuba continues to hold aloft the red banner of the revolution in Latin America, socialism can be defended and advanced. I believe that all the Communist Parties in the Latin American countries

are alive. The Communist Parties in the Latin American countries are now standing up actively in the struggle to fulfil their responsibility. This is gratifying. I am sure that the struggle for socialism will become fiercer in Asia and Latin America in the future. The struggle for socialism will be resumed in Europe, too. Africa, too, should not discard but defend the red banner of the revolution.

It would be a good idea for you to attend all the commemorative functions, including the celebration meeting, of the 45th anniversary of the founding of our Party. If you do so, you will personally see how firmly our Party is united. Our country's socialism is unshakable, because our Party is strong and our people are firmly united around the Party.

The United States is now stubbornly attempting to isolate and stifle our socialism. It is slandering our Republic, claiming that we are following a "blockade policy", but this is a whopping lie. If we were carrying out a "blockade policy," as the Americans claim, how could we host the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students last year, and how could a large number of young people and students from many countries attend this festival? The participants in the festival supported us.

It is true that at that time some people came to our country to frustrate the festival, bribed by US dollars. Representatives from some Western European countries wove a plot to hold a demonstration against China and even drew up various plans to foil the festival. Until that time no delegation of Chinese youth and students had ever participated in the World Festival of Youth and Students, but we invited them to the festival. We told them, “The World Festival of Youth and Students is to be held in your neighbouring country. Would it be right if Chinese youth and students did not participate in it?” This is how the delegation of Chinese young people and students came to our country. It was immediately after the Tiananmen incident in Beijing, so the youth and student representatives from some Western European countries hatched a plot to hold a demonstration against China. Although some people came to our country to frustrate the festival, bribed by US dollars, they failed to do evil acts, moved by the united might of our people. They said, “Reactionaries told us that there were only bad things in Korea, but we have actually found only good things here. Why should we speak disparagingly about good things?” Some young people and students from a certain country even

frankly confessed that they had come to our country to frustrate the festival, bribed by dollars. They swore not to do such despicable things again. We intend to demonstrate once more the might of our Party, which is united single-heartedly, through the forthcoming functions to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of our Party.

You say that during your stay in Pyongyang you wondered how this city, reduced to ashes owing to the war, could have been built so splendidly. Your wonder is reasonable. In fact, the US imperialists reduced our country to ashes during the war, and after the war they said that Korea would not be able to rise again in a hundred years. They did not know how strong people are who have become the masters of their own destiny. They cannot ever know how great the strength of our people is. Although the US imperialists prattled that Korea would not be able to rise even in a hundred years, our people splendidly built all our cities and rural villages in a short time after the war. This Kumsusan Assembly Hall is also a new building. It was finished in 1976. Our people are really a great people. I take great pride in having such an admirable people.

It is said that the US imperialists are now giving

false publicity to our country to prevent people from visiting our country. They claim that there are many beggars and nothing worth seeing in our country and that visitors to Korea will go hungry. When our compatriots residing in America pay a visit to their homeland, they tell me about this. Whenever I hear this, I tell them that the socialism we are building is the best in the world.

There are neither beggars nor homeless people in our country. Moreover, there are no loafers, swindlers, drug addicts or robber gangs in our country. The United States is called a great power and a rich country, but there are many homeless people, drug addicts and robber gangs there. A Korean scholar who had once lived in Europe went to the United States and lived there for about a year before he came to our country. When I met him, I asked him about his impression of America. He said, "Mr. President, don't say any more about it, please. America is a terrible country." Then he added that one must have approximately 500 dollars in one's pocket to go outside in America. One can save one's skin only if one quickly produces this amount of money when someone pokes one in the ribs with a pistol; otherwise one will die. I am not sure but he

exaggerated the true situation a little, but anyhow it seems to be true that there are many robber gangs in America.

According to our compatriots residing in America who visit their homeland, more than one million Korean compatriots are now living in America. Many of our fellow countrymen lived in Japan in the past, but now more compatriots seem to be living in America than in Japan. Nevertheless, 700 000 Korean compatriots are still living in Japan. Only a few of the Korean compatriots in America went there from north Korea immediately after liberation. Most went there from south Korea. A large number of Korean compatriots in America have recently visited their homeland. This year many attended the Pan-National Rally.

Many are striving for national reunification. However, the Korean compatriots in America are not yet so firmly united as those in Japan. Most of our compatriots in Japan are united around Chongryon (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan). Chongryon has a university as well as primary schools, junior high schools and senior high schools in the prefectures for the education of the children of our fellow countrymen. It manages schools with the help

of educational aid funds and scholarships sent by the homeland.

You say that tomorrow you intend to take many photographs of the concrete wall built south of the Military Demarcation Line; it would be a good idea to do so. However, it may be difficult for you to take photographs of the concrete wall, because it is situated a bit far from our side of the Military Demarcation Line. You can see it very clearly through binoculars.

The south Korean authorities do not show the concrete wall to foreigners. They insist there is no concrete wall south of the Military Demarcation Line and have set up anti-tank barriers to conceal it. Showing these barriers to foreigners, they claim we call them a concrete wall. This is a completely unreasonable contention. The concrete wall might be hidden if it were as small as a needle, but how can such a large wall be concealed? Because the south Korean authorities and Americans obstinately denied the existence of the concrete wall, we convened a session of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom and proposed that a joint investigation of the concrete wall be undertaken by members of the press from both sides, saying that we would get a helicopter ready. They said that they could not go to the area.

Americans are apt to behave in an unreasonable way. When they are at a loss for words during a session of the Military Armistice Commission, they insist on not having understood us because of poor interpretation. The south Korean authorities behave more unreasonably than Americans. Americans may possibly insist on not having understood us because of poor interpretation, since they do not know Korean. However, there is no excuse for the south Korean authorities to behave in an unreasonable way, because they cannot say that they do not understand Korean. Nevertheless, they continue to behave in an unreasonable way.

You have said that the American press has got into the habit of telling lies instead of the truth. I am not sure whether the US journalists who once visited our country told a lie upon returning home. An American correspondent once visited our country to have an interview with me. During his stay in our country he visited many local areas to cover the true situation of our country. He visited Hamhung, too. There are a large number of workers in Hamhung, because it is an industrial city. During his visit to a factory in the city he introduced himself as an American. A worker took a few steps toward him and said, "Are you an

American? Well met! My father and mother were killed by Americans. Now that I have met you today, I'll call you to account." Our official accompanying the American said to the worker, "This man is an American journalist. He did not fight against us during the Fatherland Liberation War, so you do not need to call this man to account." Then the worker said, "All right then. Look at the poster hanging over there, which reads: US troops, get out! You have nothing to talk about with us. That poster reflects the will of our working class." The American was so frightened that he said he would not visit any other places. Therefore our official warned him not to introduce himself as an American when visiting other factories. I think from this story you can see clearly how strong the anti-US sentiment of the Korean people is.

I was informed that the American correspondent had been given a hard time in Hamhung, and during my talk with him I asked him about his impression of the local areas. He said, "During my current visit to Korea I have seen that the Korean people have very bad feelings towards the United States. Why should they not have such feelings? I think it is natural. America reduced everything in Korea to ashes in the past; still occupying south Korea, it is obstructing the

reunification of Korea.” He went on: “Pointing to a poster reading ‘US troops, get out!’ a worker said to me, ‘Look at that. You are a journalist. You must see clearly that the poster reflects our will and write about it in your newspaper on your return to America.’ I could not say anything to the worker.” He said that he was indeed frightened out of his wits in Korea and that he would not visit Korea again until relations between Korea and the United States improved. I told him that it would be easy to improve relations between Korea and the US. All that was needed was for the Americans to get out of south Korea and not obstruct the reunification of our country. Then our country would be able to establish good relations with the United States. Hearing me, he said that he understood what I said. However, back home he probably did not truly write in the newspaper what he had seen and heard in our country.

You say that the weather here is very fine these days. Rice harvesting is now at its height in our rural areas. The weather these days is very good for rice harvesting.

We have had much rain this year, but this has not affected farming. The amount of rainfall does not

matter, because our country has established good irrigation systems.

We have raised good crops this year. Yonan County in Yonbaek Plain has produced 7.9 tons of rice per hectare this year. Yonbaek Plain has never before had such a high per-hectare rice yield. In the past this plain could not raise a rice crop properly owing to the shortage of water. Raising a proper rice crop requires frequent changes of water in the rice fields in the heat of summer, but the farmers in this plain could not do so because of the shortage of water. However, the water problem was solved this year and they have frequently changed the water in the rice fields, with the result that they have gathered a good rice harvest. Many counties have produced 8 or 10 tons of rice per hectare in our country this year. According to the report of agricultural officials, Yonan County applied some 600 kg of fertilizer per hectare of the rice fields. If this county had applied 800 kg of fertilizer, it would also have produced more than 10 tons of rice per hectare.

The most important things in rice farming are seeds, fertilizer and water. If we plant good seeds, apply sufficient fertilizer and supply enough water, we shall be fully able to raise a good rice crop.

I once stopped in Wuhan, China, on my way to visit Vietnam in 1958. At that time Zhou Enlai, Premier of China, accompanied me from Beijing to Wuhan by air to see me off. Premier Zhou Enlai said that the provincial Party secretary was the best at rice farming in China, so I met the Party secretary and found him to be an old acquaintance of mine. During the Korean war he came to our country and fought as a corps commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers. He returned home after the war. Before going back to China, he called on me to say goodbye to me. He said that he would be demobilized back home and work in a local area. He went on that he would then like to make himself famous all over the country by raising good crops and asked me to give him good rice seed, so I gave him a knapsack full of *Haebangjo* rice seed. He was beside himself with joy when he saw me again. I asked him about the secret of his great success in rice farming. He said that his province was more successful than other provinces in rice farming because Comrade Kim Il Sung had given him good rice seed. He said that while he was in Korea he had frequently met our peasants and learned Korean farming methods from them. According to the provincial Party secretary, the farming method applied

by his province was different from the method followed by other provinces. Other provinces of China cultivated rice three times a year, but his province raised it twice a year. When they did not grow rice, they grew green manure crops. He said that he introduced this method of rice farming when he started to work as the provincial Party secretary and that all the peasants of his province liked this method, because it made their work easier and increased the per-hectare yield compared to when they grew rice three times a year. Green manure crops contain many plant nutrients. Therefore, if they are grown in the rice fields, they make the land fertile. If the rice fields are then ploughed without harvesting these crops, the soil fertility will be increased. Green manure crops can be used for human consumption as vegetables or as animal feed. This province made the land fertile by growing green manure crops in the paddy fields every year. Therefore, although this province raised rice crops twice a year, the per-hectare yield was higher than that of the provinces that grew rice crops three times a year. The provinces that raised rice crops three times a year cultivated them throughout the year without applying sufficient amounts of fertilizer to the paddy fields, so they could not increase the

per-hectare yield, because the fields grew lean.

If we are to farm successfully, we must develop agriculture as a collective economy. Although socialism has been frustrated in Czechoslovakia now, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of that country once visited our country in the period of socialism. He asked me which would be better, to maintain the cooperative economy or to switch over to an individual economy. At that time he was vacillating as to whether to follow the Soviet Union, which was enforcing a policy of restructuring, or to maintain the principle of socialism. I told him that his country would not achieve great success in agriculture if it engaged in individual farming, since individual farming would make it impossible to introduce proper irrigation, mechanization and electrification, and that it should not eliminate cooperative farms, but develop them into all-people farms. Hearing me, he said that I was quite right and that he would keep the cooperative economy. Afterwards, he was ousted from the post of General Secretary of the Party and Czechoslovakia was ruined. The United States is also applying a large farm system. According to information I read long ago, one agricultural worker tills dozens of hectares of land in the United States by introducing electrification,

irrigation and mechanization and applying chemicals in agriculture. At a time when even capitalist countries are increasing effectiveness in agricultural production by applying a large-scale farm system, it is unnecessary for socialist countries to turn the collective economy back to an individual economy.

You mentioned Che Guevara. He loved Korea. He visited our country after the victory of the Cuban revolution. Che Guevara was an admirable internationalist fighter.

You say that upon your return you will inform the American working class of the true situation in Korea, so that it will give active support to the just cause of our people. I am grateful to you for this.

I hope that your party will firmly adhere to the revolutionary principles, holding aloft the red banner of the revolution in the future, too.

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