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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
RAISED BY A DELEGATION
OF JOURNALISTS OF
WASHINGTON TIMES
FROM THE UNITED STATES**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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April 12, 1992

I welcome you to my country.

I express my thanks to you for your congratulations upon my birthday.

I shall briefly answer your questions.

Question: I see that efforts have been made recently to improve the relations between north Korea and the United States.

Mr. President, what is your view of the present relations between the two countries, and what do you hope will be done to improve the relations between your Republic and the United States?

Answer: Moves have recently begun to improve the relations between Korea and the United States, and this is attracting the attention of the world. The abnormal relations that have continued until now can be considered, in short, to be related to the cold war between East and West. It is natural that the matter of improving the abnormal relations has come to the fore with the end of the cold war.

Some people suggest that the end of the cold war represents the victory of one side over the other. This can be considered to be a superficial view of a historic change. Since the cold war was a misguided competition to gain the position of superior power, now that the cold war itself has been nullified, there can be no question of the victory of one side over the other.

From the point of view of the development of world history, the end of the cold war means the nullity of power politics, and this can be viewed as a major precondition for

independence to prevail in the world. If one side assumes that it has a monopoly of world power because it has defeated the other side and attempts to maintain and expand the outmoded order of domination and subjugation by means of power politics, it will not only meet the resistance of the peace-loving people of the world but also be deserted by its partners and ultimately invite its own collapse. On the other hand, if the United States, the only superpower, abandons power politics of its own accord now that the cold war has ended, and respects and implements the principles of international justice and equality, it will enjoy popular support, and the democratic progress of the international community and the cause of worldwide independence will be speeded up accordingly.

If the statesmen who are responsible for the destiny of the United States take a far-sighted view and amend their Korea policy in accordance with the trend of the present times towards independence, a smooth solution will be found to the question of improving Korea-US relations. We hope that the United States will amend its Korea policy without hesitation, make a due contribution to the peaceful reunification of Korea and, moreover, join the historic trend towards worldwide independence.

Question: The whole world is now very nervous about nuclear development in north Korea.

The US Government is talking about north Korea's nuclear development as if it had authentic information on it.

Your Government has made public its nuclear policy on many occasions. In addition, the recent Supreme People's Assembly session has considered the matter of ratifying the Accord between

your Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Application of Safeguards according to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has approved the accord.

Mr. President, can you as the leader of north Korea give the United States and the whole world a positive guarantee that an inspection that can be trusted by the world will be made?

Answer: The recent third session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considered and approved the Accord on the Application of Safeguards according to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It can be considered, therefore, that the question of the legal procedures concerning nuclear inspection has been resolved. The matter of nuclear inspection will be dealt with smoothly, so I think there is no need to talk about it any further.

Question: The remains of two soldiers believed to have died in the Korean war have been returned to the United States via Panmunjom during the last two years. This has given the United States a very good humanitarian impression.

I wish to learn whether there are still more remains of American war dead to be returned. The returning of their remains will be a very good sign in improving Korea-US relations.

Mr. President, would you tell me your opinion about this?

Answer: The Government of our Republic has, from a humanitarian stand, continued its efforts to discover such remains after returning remains in compliance with the Armistice Agreement concluded between the DPRK and the US, and in recent years it has returned several bodies.

As DPRK-US relations improve, so this matter will be dealt with more satisfactorily.

Question: Many people in the world now have the view that the DPRK is gradually establishing economic relations with the outside world and intending to open itself economically.

Would you, Mr. President, please tell me the prospects for north Korea's economic opening and your opinion on foreign investment and foreign trade?

Answer: Our policy of building an independent national economy is contrary to economic subjugation by others, not to economic exchange and cooperation with other countries. The consistent policy of the Government of our Republic is to develop economic cooperation with other countries on the principles of independence, equality and reciprocity.

In recent years we have been developing economic cooperation and exchange with other countries more energetically. It is natural in the light of the world trend that, since the end of the cold war, economic and technical exchange and cooperation between countries have been increasing. Our broadening of economic ties with other countries does not mean any change in our principled stand of maintaining economic independence. We will continue independently to develop economic and technical exchange and cooperation with all other countries which are friendly towards our country.

Question: Generally there is a tendency to regard China as a model of socialist economic development.

Also, so far as I know, the leaders of your Republic have inspected a special economic zone in China.

Would you, Mr. President, please tell me your view on China's model of economic opening and what bearing this has on the economic development, the open-door policy, of north Korea?

Answer: China is our close neighbour and a country of veteran comrades-in-arms of ours. Our people and the fraternal Chinese people shed their blood together in the past in their common struggle against imperialism and are now actively supporting each other and closely cooperating with each other in their struggle to build socialism.

We sincerely wish that everything goes well in China. We are very pleased with the great success which the fraternal Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, have achieved in recent years in the building of socialism.

So far as the specific method of building socialism is concerned, it is impossible to take the method of one country as an immutable example because there are differences in the size of countries and in the level of their development, and also because the situation differs from country to country. Each country should seek a way to build socialism which suits its own situation. We actively support China's policy of economic construction, regarding it as suited to her situation.

Question: Mr. President, could you kindly tell me about the prospects for the north-south dialogue following the signing of the North-South Agreement, the prospects and possibility for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, as well as about the

feasibility of a US embassy being established in Pyongyang?

Answer: The adoption of the North-South Agreement represents great progress in the struggle of our nation for the reunification of the country. Dialogue is being held in many fields between the north and the south to implement the agreement. It is necessary to develop the dialogue in conformity with the desire of all our compatriots who wish the satisfactory fulfilment of the North-South Agreement so that it will lead to national reunification.

Historically the question of Korea's reunification is largely related to external factors. But, the motive force of reunification has always been our nation. If all our compatriots in the north, the south and abroad fight in firm unity on the principle of great national unity, they will be able to accomplish the cause of national reunification without fail, overcoming the interference of foreign forces and all obstacles.

With regard to the possibility of a US embassy being established in Pyongyang, this is a matter which depends on how Korea-US relations improve in the future.

Question: Many people say that for economic reasons the US must withdraw from Asia and south Korea. Then Japan will have to be responsible for her national defence and to rearm herself.

What can you, Mr. President, tell me about this?

Answer: We must wait and see when the US forces will withdraw from Asia. But I think there is no need for Japan to rearm herself and become a military power, simply because US forces withdraw from Asia.

Several countries today want to develop economic cooperation with Japan, an economic power. But there are neither countries which threaten her militarily nor countries which welcome her becoming a military power.

If Japan, having failed to learn a serious historical lesson from the past, becomes a military power, she will be going counter to the tide of the present age and will end in self-destruction. Therefore, the Japanese people and progressive politicians must not tolerate the revival of Japanese militarism.

Question: People say that the 21st century will be the Pacific era, and that the main force of the future world economy will be in Asia.

Do you think that your Republic will be one of the economically advanced countries in the Pacific era, or will she have to concede the leadership of the Asian economy to China or Japan? Would you please describe to me the appearance of the Korean peninsula in the Pacific era?

Answer: When people say that the 21st century will be the Pacific era, and that the main force of the future world economy will be in Asia, I think that they have understood the fact that this region has great potential for economic development and that the people in this region have entered a new stage of development.

If Asian countries are to mobilize and use Asia's potential for development fully and make Asia the main force of the world economy, they must cooperate selflessly with one another on the principles of independence, equality and mutual benefit. We cannot tolerate the

economic subjugation of countries through the assumption of economic leadership, to say nothing of the political and military domination of other countries. If the countries of Asia cooperate selflessly with one another for their common prosperity, the differences in their levels of development will disappear and they will all achieve fresh development and progress.

Our people shall not only strive for national prosperity but also struggle shoulder to shoulder with all the Asian people for the prosperity of Asia.

When national reunification, the earnest desire of our nation, is realized, our country, as a proud country in Asia, will, with its developed culture and strong economy, make a greater contribution to the prosperity of Asia.

Question: Many people see the collapse of the Soviet Union and East European countries as the failure of socialism. But in a recent speech you said that their collapse does not mean the declaration of the failure of socialism.

How would you like to analyze and view the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and East Europe? And I shall be much obliged if you would tell me about the character and specific features of Korean-style socialism.

Answer: Although there may be temporary twists and turns in the course of the development of socialism, the ideal of socialism can never change as it embodies the social nature of man which requires the end of exploitation and oppression of man by man and an equitable, independent and happy life for all people. As society advances, the social nature of man for socialism develops

further and, accordingly, it is an inviolable law that people choose the road of socialism.

There are several reasons for the frustration of socialism in some countries, but it was caused above all by the fact that these countries failed to adhere to the basic principle of socialism. In socialist society the people are the masters of the country and society and this society is developed by the people's creative role. The basic principle to be adhered to in the building of socialism is to ensure that the people hold the position of masters of the country and society and play their role as such. In order to implement this principle, it is necessary to educate the people in socialist ideas, unite them in a socialist collective and develop socialist democracy in state management along the mass line and under the Party's guidance. Otherwise the infiltration of anti-socialist ideas cannot be prevented and bureaucracy will emerge, with the result that the people cannot play their role as masters of the country and society and socialism will not display its advantages. In some countries no particular attention was paid to the basic question which should be tackled first in socialist construction, with the result that socialism became invalid and the cause of socialism was frustrated.

The people are the masters of the world and the makers of history. We have always paid primary attention to strengthening the driving force and increasing its role in socialist construction and conducted the transformations of nature and society to meet its requirements.

The socialism we have built is anthropocentric socialism under which the Party and the people have been integrated into a solid social and political organism and

everything serves the people. In our country the political, economic, cultural and other domains are being developed harmoniously to meet the people's desire for independence, and all the members of society enjoy a stable material life, a rich cultural life and a noble political life. This is the basic characteristic and the advantage of our country's socialism which is developing vigorously without wavering, whatever the adversity.

Question: This century ends in eight years.

Would you like to say something, looking forward to the 21st century?

Who is the historical or living leader you respect most, and what is the reason?

Answer: Independence, peace and friendship are the common ideals of the progressive people of the world. The cold war has ended and the democratic and independent development of the international community will be accelerated still faster. The 21st century will be a new historic century in which the people of all countries will enjoy welfare and prosperity in a free and peaceful new world.

In history there have been many renowned leaders who have devoted their lives to the freedom and liberation of the people. They have worked at different times and in different socio-historical conditions and had different personalities. So I find it difficult to say that I respect any particular leader most.

I respect all the leaders who have fought with devotion for the independence of the people.

Question: I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your 80th birthday. Many say that you are as healthy as a man in his fifties. What is the secret of this?

Would you like to say how you feel on your 80th birthday and as the senior head of state in the world?

What is your hobby? Will you tell me of the amusement and sports, if any, that you enjoy?

Answer: When people ask what the secret of my health is, I answer that I am healthy because I am optimistic.

Since I set out on the road of the revolution I have believed in the people, shared good times and bad with them and felt the value of life and happiness in that. Nothing is impossible if one relies on the inexhaustible strength of the people and there is nothing that is nobler than devoting oneself to the people. This belief is the source of my optimism.

I am truly happy that I have lived in the love and trust of the people for 80 years and I will continue to do my best to meet the people's expectations and prove myself worthy of their trust.

I have no particular hobby or amusement of my own. I am fond of reading and I like mixing with the people and sharing their company.

I wish you success in your work.