

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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OURS IS THE SOCIALISM OF JUCHE

**Talk to the Members of the Pyongyang-Visiting Group
of Former Heads of State and Government
and Other Politicians of Different Countries**
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I warmly welcome you, members of the Pyongyang-visiting group of former heads of state and government and other politicians of different countries. It is very kind of you to visit our country on the occasion of my birthday, coming all this way despite a complicated situation.

I believe that your current visit to Pyongyang will make a great contribution to the reunification of our country and world peace.

Some of you are already acquainted with me and some others I am meeting for the first time; strangers will become familiar to me and friendship with old acquaintances can be deepened by this opportunity.

I thank you, the Executive Director of the Summit Council for World Peace, for kindly introducing to me members of the Pyongyang-visiting group. I am glad to make acquaintance with many people this time. People become friendly being able to meet each other.

I received a letter from you, in which you asked to visit Pyongyang by passing through Panmunjom; I welcomed your suggestion, considering it wonderful. But, owing to the rejection of the south Korean authorities, you could not come by way of Panmunjom.

If you had come via Panmunjom, it would have been beneficial to you in many respects. A nice motorway has been built between Pyongyang and Kaesong, so it does not take long to come to Pyongyang from Panmunjom. If you had passed through Panmunjom, you could have known better about the agony our people are suffering from the national division.

Our nation has suffered from territorial division for about half a century. Since the division into the north and the south in the 1940s, our country has not yet been reunified. The UN flag which was put up in Panmunjom over 40 years ago still remains there. If you had passed through Panmunjom, you could have seen it.

I happened to meet an American on his visit to our country; he said that when he returned home, he would go to south Korea by way of Panmunjom. So I replied: I agree with you; if you go to south Korea by way of Panmunjom, you will be the first American to have passed through since the armistice; passing through Panmunjom would be a good experience for you, in that it would help you, an American, understand the agony the Korean people are suffering from territorial division.

Because you failed to pass Panmunjom when coming to Pyongyang, it would be advisable for you to visit it during your stay in our country.

Some of you are visiting our country for the first time; you can frequently visit it. Our country has never closed the door. We have no secret that we cannot open to you. If we have any, it is a military secret; it is a way of life that different countries do not open their military secrets to the public. We keep military affairs secret, but we make no secret of other things. You can take pictures of anything in our country, looking around as you want.

At present, some people make up false propaganda about our country, but in our country there are no unemployment, no beggars and no homeless people. Apparently there is no country in the world but our country where there are no unemployed people and no beggars. I have never been to the United States, but in this developed country, too, there are many unemployed or homeless people and beggars, I was told. When American evangelist Billy Graham was on a visit to our country, I asked him if there are the unemployed or people who sleep outside in the United States. He replied that there are. I might visit the United States in the future. You said that if I went to New York and attended the UN General Assembly session, it would be a great historic event; I thank you for your compliment, but I have no intention to do so. If I visit the United States, it will be for the friendship between

the peoples of Korea and the United States. Instead of attending the UN session, I will go angling or hunting before coming back.

The reality of our country is as you saw. We do not want to cover up the fact. We cannot say that our people's life is affluent, but they live equally without worry; nobody is particularly well off or badly off. Tax has long been abolished in our country. Recently, our country set forth the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policy; if this policy is put into effect in several years, our people will become better-off.

In our country, if one picks up money or articles by chance, he finds out the owner and returns it, instead of making it his own. Sometime previously, a woman merchant came to our country from Hong Kong and stayed in a hotel; for her carelessness she lost her purse in which there were tens of thousands of dollars. She thought that she would never get the money back. But, a chambermaid found the purse and returned it to her. The merchant was deeply moved and said that such a laudable deed could be found only in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Our country was liberated in 1945 from Japanese colonial rule. When we started building a new society after returning home in triumph, one of the knotty

problems was the shortage of intellectuals who possessed technological knowledge. Before liberation there was no university in north Korea, so there were few university graduates. Those who took part in the anti-Japanese armed struggle were crack-shots, but they were not technically able to draw up a plan or run a factory. We asked around the country for intellectuals, with the result that some medicine or law graduates were available, but there were only 12 engineering graduates. In other words, only one in 700 000 people was a technologist or engineer.

I thought that if we were to build a new society, a primary concern was to train intellectuals and to this end, a university had to be set up. At that time, some people asked how could one establish a university when teachers were not available. They argued that founding a university was impossible. However, I decided to set up a university whatever might happen and found intellectuals who had been scattered here and there, and even called for intellectuals from Seoul. I established Kim Il Sung University first and, afterwards, set up many universities and colleges. While training intellectuals in our institutes of higher learning, we sent young people abroad for study, thereby solving the intellectual problem successfully.

Today, we have 1.7 million university graduates which means one graduate among 11 people. Compared to the army, it means one university graduate in a squad. We have now plenty of graduates.

The emblem of our Party has a brush symbolic of intellectuals, together with a hammer and a sickle which symbolize workers and peasants. Only our Party inscribed a brush in its emblem. The parties of the former Soviet Union and other countries had not included a brush in their emblems. When we were founding the Workers' Party of Korea by strengthening and developing the Communist Party into a mass party, we added a brush to a hammer and a sickle in the Party emblem. Since we strengthened and developed on time our Party into a mass party which included intellectuals as well as workers and peasants and set forth a correct policy on intellectuals, we could gain a brilliant success in building a new society after liberation.

The Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries which had been building socialism all collapsed, but our country is steadily following the socialist road instead of falling down; this is because our Party has carried out the Juche-oriented line and policy. It sets forth all lines and policies to suit our

people's demand for independence and the specific reality of our country and implements them thoroughly. This is immediately Juche and our own style. Our Party has not approached Marxism-Leninism mechanically, but developed and applied it creatively and carried out the revolution and construction in our own way based on the Juche idea. Nowadays, some people say that Korea will fall down because the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist countries all collapsed, but our country is unshakable. Our Party is the party of a new type, the revolutionary party of Juche, unprecedented in the world and socialism of our country is a socialism of Juche. To bring about friendship with us, you need to have a correct understanding of socialism of our style.

The former Costa Rican President, the head of the Pyongyang-visiting group, said that he was deeply impressed by the fact that not even a single inch of land is left idle in Korea. Our country has many mountains and a small area of arable land. At present, the arable land in our country is only 1.3 million hectares; of these, 0.6 million hectares are paddy fields and 0.7 million hectares are non-paddy fields. Last year the crops suffered some damage from cold weather in the east coast area, but it does not cause a

problem in supplying food to the people. We can have a bumper harvest this year.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the publication of my *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country*. In previous February we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the publication of the theses. During 30 years since the publication of the theses, a great change has been brought about in the countryside of our country.

Living on rice and meat soup in tile-roofed houses, wearing silk clothes is the centuries-old desire of our people. Our Party is working to realize this desire of the people.

What is most important in realizing this desire is to ensure that people live on rice. In our country, rice has been called royal rice or Ri's rice because only royal families ate rice under the Ri dynasty. At present, we are working hard in order to supply enough rice to all the people. If the need for food is to be satisfied in our country, we must produce more than 10 million tons of grain.

What is important in increasing agricultural production is to complete irrigation, electrification, mechanization of the rural economy and to make proper use of chemicals. Irrigation is particularly important in this regard.

The Yonbaek Plain and the Jaeryong Plain of South Hwanghae Province are the largest ones in our country. Rice produced in the Jaeryong Plain is so good that royal families of the Ri dynasty ate this rice. These plains are fertile and have a warm climate. However, the water could not be supplied there for farming in the past because a big river was not available around there. Without water, a good harvest would be inconceivable, no matter how large and fertile the land is. After building the West Sea Barrage a gigantic irrigation project was carried out to draw the water from the Taedong River to South Hwanghae Province. As a result, the Yonbaek Plain and the Jaeryong Plain are now provided with enough water.

We have directed particularly great efforts towards irrigation since immediately after liberation, building reservoirs in many places and launching projects to supply water to paddy and non-paddy fields. On the Taedong River alone, many barrages including the West Sea Barrage were built creating a water capacity of billions of tons. The irrigation of the rural economy has been already completed in our country. Electrification of the rural economy and farming using chemicals have also been put into effect.

Farm mechanization, too, has been realized in the

main. For the mechanization of the rural economy, all the fields should be realigned nicely so that machines can work there. But, the realignment of fields must be done in the period following autumn harvesting to the sowing period next year, so it is not an easy job. Machines used in the mechanization of the rural economy are the indigenous production of our country. Now that the mechanization of farms has been realized mostly in plain areas, it can be completed in mountainous areas, too, in the near future.

You said that looking around Pyongyang and many local areas, you recognized that many news reports of Western countries about our country were false. It is very important for mass media to ensure fairness in their activities. At present, newspapers, news services and the broadcasts of Western countries say in public that they maintain objectivity in press activities, but, in fact, they work at the manipulation of the authorities. That is why they give out many false reports, deceiving and ridiculing people.

Recently, the mass media of Western countries are continuously making false reports of our country, keeping pace with the imperialists who are instigating the International Atomic Energy Agency to put unreasonable pressure on us to receive nuclear

inspections. The imperialists ask us to show nuclear weapons, alleging that we produced them, but we have no nuclear weapons. We need not produce them. We cannot produce them to use against fellow countrymen, nor do we have any means for their delivery even if we want to use them against other countries. Because our country has a small territory, we have not even a place to conduct a nuclear test. However, the IAEA demands nuclear inspections alleging that we have nuclear weapons. We stated more than once that we have no intention or ability to produce nuclear weapons. The newspapers, news services and broadcasts of Western countries are clamouring against our country, continuously giving out false reports about the fictitious “nuclear problem,” but we do not read or listen to them.

At present the mass media of Western countries are making a fuss calling us “war maniacs,” quoting what our representative said against the south Korean representative blaming us, at the working-level contact for the exchange of the special envoys for the north-south summit. If we turn Seoul into a “lake of fire,” our fellow countrymen would die. We do not like doing it. We have built a lot up to date and are now making efforts to build more three- or four-room flats

and provide people with better living conditions. We do not want what we have built being destroyed by war. Bellicose people are insane.

I was told that CNN International and a Japanese television service broadcast the April 15 holiday celebration held last evening. We are grateful to them. I hope that you will visit our country frequently and widely introduce the reality of our country and our stand.

There is no nuclear weapon in our country and there will be no nuclear weapons, in the future, too. We do not want to be a military power. After reunification our country will not become a satellite of any other nation. Our country neighbours such big countries as Russia, China and Japan, but she will be an independent, sovereign and neutral state which is not a satellite of any other nation. When the former chancellor of Austria paid a visit to our country, I told him: After the reunification of the country, we will make her a neutral country as Austria; she will not be a pawn of any big countries nor shall she be controlled by them. She will become an independent, sovereign and non-aligned state.

You asked me how I can lead a long life in good health. Living optimistically is the key to my good health. And I am healthy because Comrade Kim Jong Il

takes good care of me. He made sure that documents are recorded on tape before being sent to me, for fear that my eyesight might fall if I read too many papers. So I listen to the recorded documents, staying in the room, taking a walk, riding in the car or angling. Listening while fishing does not cause any trouble. If I miss a passage while catching a fish, I review the tape and listen again. Because I listen to the recorded documents, I know inside out not only the internal situation but also the world situation, while protecting my eyesight.

If there is any sign that an influenza prevails, Comrade Kim Jong Il advises me to go to a safe place, for fear that I catch cold. If I do not leave immediately, he urges the officials concerned to do so. Indeed, I have a good son. Thanks to his careful concern, I enjoy good health even at the age of 82. I enjoy walking and take exercises of different kinds. I might work ten years more. My hand is not yet tremulous when writing. When a Chinese doctor visited our country sometime previously, he asked me to sign my name. He had gotten my autograph in the past, but I granted his request, though I had some doubts why he was asking for my signature again. He went to the Chinese Embassy in our country and told the ambassador that people over 80 years often have

shaky handwriting, but President Kim Il Sung is not tremulous.

Nowadays, too, I give personal guidance to factories and rural communities. To lead all affairs of the country, I must go out among the people from all strata of society including workers, peasants and youth and students and talk much with them. Only then, can I avoid committing errors in my work. If one decides matters only after reading documents in the office, he will lapse into subjectivity and exercise bureaucracy. We can find a correct solution to any problem when we go among the people and take their opinions into consideration, instead of dealing with it only by resorting to papers.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist countries resulted from the fact that bureaucracy was rampant and worship of powers prevailed. The parties and governments of these countries paid no attention to the people's opinion and exercised bureaucracy, thereby breaking away from the masses of the people. As a result, they lost the support of the people and at last perished. The leader of a country must accept the people's opinion and their demands and work relying on them. Some of you were presidents, governors-general and prime ministers in

the past, so you know this truth well. The Eastern European socialist countries had a strong sense of worship towards the Soviet Union. These countries followed the Soviet Union blindly. Even a saying went about that when it was raining in Moscow, East German people took umbrellas, though it was not raining in Berlin. The Eastern European socialist countries had imitated the Soviet Union blindly like this, so they collapsed when the latter perished.

Though I say it myself, I do not behave bureaucratically or work out of any subjective desire. Comrade Kim Jong Il, too, follows my example, never being ridden by bureaucracy or subjectivism. He always goes among the people and listens to them to solve every problem fairly. His successful leadership over the revolution and construction is related to his extraordinary leadership ability and noble personality. Comrade Kim Jong Il is the excellent people's leader who has both literary and military knowledge combined with a loyal and filial mind. So I wrote a poem of eulogy to him on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

You asked me if we have any intention to open doors as other countries do. We have already opened doors. It is not that only the declaration of an open-door policy

means opening the country. In the economic field, we encourage joint ventures and collaboration with other countries, allow foreign investment and create free economic and trade zones. Opening doors is not any special measure. If foreigners can enter our country freely for economic activities, it means opening doors.

I consider our open-door policy as the best policy. We open doors in our own way. I hate imitating other countries. I would persuade our officials that if there is something to learn from other countries, they could learn, but they should not swallow it whole, that they should chew it first and if it suits their taste, they can swallow it, but if not, they should spit it out and that if they swallow what does not suit their taste, they may suffer indigestion.

In order to gain a success in the revolution and construction, one must use one's brain to solve all problems in keeping with the interests of one's country and people. If one follows this principle, there will be nothing impossible.

This morning I received the questionnaire from the journalist delegations of CNN International and NHK. I will answer their questions by letter.

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