

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM IL SUNG

**TALK TO THE VICE-DIRECTOR
OF THE US CENTRE
FOR STRATEGIC AND
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AND HIS PARTY**

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I offer you, Mr. Vice-director of the US Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and your family a warm welcome on your visit to my country. I think the fact that you are visiting my country with your family means that you have become an intimate friend of mine.

This is your third visit to Pyongyang, and I am very glad to be meeting you today.

You tell me it is a great honour for you, someone who is not a high-ranking official, to be meeting me. I like to talk to ordinary people, and this has become a habit of mine.

You have expressed your great appreciation for the measures we have adopted recently, including the scaling down of the events held to mark June 25. These measures have been introduced step by step in response to the US policy towards our country. So, this year's events to mark the Day of Anti-US Struggle on June 25 were scaled down.

When I met a group from *The Washington Times* and a delegation from the American Freedom Coalition not long ago, I got a hint from them that the United States is desirous of putting an end to the

mutual slander with the DPRK and reconciling with it, although this was not an official statement of their government's intent. If the United States stops the military exercises for invading our country, is not hostile towards us and refrains from slandering us, why should we oppose and slander it? I said to my officials: The United States says that it will stop the Team Spirit joint war game and that it wants us to say positive things about the United States, so we should see this as an expression of good will and respond accordingly; we should scale down this year's events to mark June 25. They accepted my proposal, and the events were scaled down.

If Americans appreciate our action, we will show due concern for this matter in the future. It is not bad if our two countries are on friendly terms.

Some people in the United States are spreading bad rumours aimed at driving a wedge between our two countries. Billy Graham, the American evangelist, recently visited my country and conveyed to me a verbal message from the US president. He said to me: I had heard negative rumours about the DPRK in my country; some people were against my visit to Pyongyang but I rejected their view; in the DPRK I have found those rumours are not true; I will strive

hard to build friendship between the DPRK and the United States.

Then he added that he would visit my country again, next time with his wife. You visited Pyongyang on your own on the previous two occasions, but it seems that you now have a proper appreciation of my country as you have brought your wife and son. You must have heard people slander my country but realized during your previous visits that it is all fabrication.

I thank you for telling those people who are spreading negative rumours about my country that they contradict the reality since your second visit to Pyongyang.

You can tell them this and contribute an article or two to the mass media, but I do not think they will easily abandon their prejudice. We will not trouble ourselves with correcting their prejudice. Time will teach people what we are really like. We will live our own way no matter what others say.

Socialism has collapsed in the East European countries and also in the Soviet Union which was building socialism for 70 years, but it remains resolute in my country. In other socialist countries such anti-socialist disturbances as anti-government rallies

often broke out, but this has not been the case in my country. There is no reason whatsoever for such anti-government rallies.

I thank you for your remark that you will strive to inform Americans about the measures we have adopted recently towards the United States. I hope you will become a champion of my country.

I will dwell briefly on the situation in my country.

Our economy used to be very backward. During its half-century occupation, Japan built nothing of any note in my country but plundered it of its resources. Under Japanese colonial rule, Korea was not able to produce even something as small as a pencil on its own. The Japanese, rather than building a pencil factory in my country, took timber and graphite from Korea to Japan, produced pencils there and resold them in Korea at a high price.

The lack of pencils was a big problem when we tried to launch a mass anti-illiteracy campaign and educate our students immediately after liberation. That is why I saw to it that pencil production was included on the agenda and discussed at the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea in 1946.

During their occupation of my country, the

Japanese built a small steel works in Songjin to produce steel for their aggressive war; they forced Koreans to work at an electric arc furnace there. This furnace was a primitive one where steel was produced manually, using high-voltage electric current, and many Koreans suffered electric shocks and were killed while working there.

After liberation, though steel was badly needed in building a new country, I saw to it that the furnace was blown up. There was no need to retain a furnace which exchanged Korean lives for steel. Instead, we built a modern furnace on our own and turned out steel.

Today our economy is self-reliant and independent in all aspects. By building it we have ensured that we can live on our own without support from other countries.

To this end, we have encouraged people to display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. By dint of the revolutionary spirit, we successfully conducted postwar reconstruction, raised all sectors of the economy far above pre-war levels and have solved the problems of food, clothing and housing in the main. Since olden times Koreans have dreamed of living in tile-roofed houses, dressing in silk clothes and eating

rice with meat soup. In order to make this dream come true we are putting great efforts into solving the problems of food, clothing and housing more satisfactorily. All students at different levels of education study free of charge, and everybody enjoys the benefit of a free medical care system. We have no tax system. As for housing, we are now striving to provide people living in one- or two-room houses with three- or four-room ones. It is our plan to build 200 000 new flats every year.

During his visit to Pyongyang, evangelist Billy Graham told me that I had built a wonderful country.

The United States where you live is said to be developed and rich, and our country is not as rich as yours. But all our people lead a happy life free from worries about food, clothing and housing. I am told that in America there are homeless people sleeping under the open sky and penniless people begging in the streets. There are no such people in Pyongyang and other parts of my country, and no poorly-dressed ones, no drunkards and no drug addicts.

I think you will have to struggle to find another country in the world where people lead such a happy life, free from any worries. Because we have laid solid foundations for our self-reliant economy, we can

develop further in the future. And because our people have food to eat, clothes to wear and houses to live in, they are not afraid of or affected by the US economic blockade.

In building socialism we are striving to carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural. These three revolutions are the general line of our Party in building socialism. The implementation of these three revolutions is a sure guarantee for building socialism successfully.

The ideological revolution is, in essence, the education of people in our Party's Juche idea. This revolution is proceeding smoothly in our country.

The major task of the technological revolution is to free the working people from hard and backbreaking labour. To this end, the technological revolution aims at making production lines mechanized, and semi- and fully-automated.

There needs to be a technological revolution in order to improve the people's living standards. To raise the people's living standards to a high level, we should develop the economy and increase the production of material wealth by waging the technological revolution.

Although we have already achieved a number of

successes in the technological revolution, we still have a lot to do in order to free all the working people from hard and backbreaking labour and make them better off. Since we started everything from scratch after the war, there are still things that are unavailable and in short supply. Compared with the developed countries, we have a lot to do in the technological aspect. We should further develop our technology in several sectors of the economy including industry and agriculture, and learn from the developed countries.

We are also directing efforts at the cultural revolution.

It is only when we raise the intellectual levels of the working people and nurture a great many technicians and specialists by waging the cultural revolution that we can successfully carry out the technological revolution. The Japanese enforced a national obscurantist policy during their occupation, saying that Koreans would be obedient to them only when they were in a state of backwardness. You cannot imagine how ruthless were the oppression and exploitation Koreans were subjected to by the Japanese imperialists. Among our people only the elderly experienced it; the young people did not. Koreans were only allowed to go to school if they

adopted Japanese names. That was not all. They were prevented from studying natural sciences and technology at university and instead permitted to learn the skills of such jobs as dentist or lawyer. As a result, immediately after the liberation of the country the number of people who had learned natural sciences and technology at university was only 12.

Despite the difficult situation after the country's liberation, I set the task of building a university to nurture intellectuals. There was no university or college in the northern half of Korea immediately after liberation. I took steps to summon those who could work as university lecturers. On realizing my intention, intellectuals in the south came over to the north, and we established a university by relying on this small number of intellectuals. While thus nurturing intellectuals on our own, we also sent students to the USSR and East European socialist countries to study science and technology there. Today we have a large army of intellectuals numbering more than 1 600 000 who are performing their roles and responsibilities in socialist construction.

We will continue to push forward the three revolutions vigorously in the future, too. To us, reform and opening are not something new, since we are

carrying out the three revolutions. Some countries criticize us, saying that we are not pursuing an “opening” policy, but our country has long been open. Anybody can visit our country and make business deals with us, if they wish. If we develop tourism, more people will visit, and journalists from many countries will also come. As for Americans, they cannot visit our country freely because there are no bilateral diplomatic relations. If the relations are improved, they can visit freely. If things go well, we can conduct exchanges in the sectors of the economy and technology.

You have asked me whom I would like to be elected as the next US president. A US president should be whoever Americans prefer.

You have also asked me whether I meet Comrade Kim Jong Il every day or not; we meet if it is needed for our work.

Comrade Kim Jong Il deals with a lot of work. He is now giving guidance to the overall affairs of the revolution and construction, including Party work. I take care of external affairs, and he does this kind of work only when necessary. I think it is reasonable for him not to be engaged in external affairs on an extensive scale. I am satisfied that he is leading the

revolution and construction in a proper way and maintains good relations with his comrades and the people. He always goes among the people, and this is a very good thing.

The leaders of socialist countries should regard it as an iron rule to go among the people. Only then can they hear people's opinions and, on this basis, formulate correct policies. If they formulate policies based on their subjective views and force them on the people, the people will not accept them. Subjectivism ultimately nurtures bureaucracy.

The leaders of the former East European socialist countries forced on their subordinates policies formulated subjectively by them. When the subordinates did not obey them, they would remove them from their posts. This is bureaucracy. The collapse of socialism in these countries is attributable to this bureaucracy entertained by their leaders. Another cause is the big-country worship. Worshipping the USSR, they accepted without any consideration whatever the USSR forced on them. They said, "A" if the USSR said, "A," and "B" when it said, "B." Worship of the USSR was so prevalent that it was said that when it was raining in Moscow, East Germans took umbrellas with them even though

it was not raining in Berlin. This is a manifestation of how prevalent was the worship of the USSR in the East European socialist countries. These countries ultimately imploded due to bureaucracy and the worship of a big country.

Once Khrushchev advised me that the DPRK should join the CMEA (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance), but I rejected his proposal. He said that if we joined it, he would make sure that electricity generated by the large Bratsk Hydropower Station near Lake Baikal was supplied to our country. It would have cost us a lot of money to transmit electricity from the USSR to our country as it was far away; and even if we got electricity from the USSR, the switch would be in that country, and if it was turned off, we could have found ourselves in a pretty fix. So, I told Khrushchev that the money we would spend on getting electricity from the USSR would be more than enough to build a power station in our country.

Having built socialism in our own way without joining the CMEA, we have remained undisturbed even though socialism collapsed in other countries. When eating, Europeans use a fork, but Koreans use a spoon. There is no reason for us Koreans to use a fork.

We are accustomed to using a spoon, and we like eating food with it. Why should we use a fork? Likewise, we are building socialism in our own way.

I often tell our officials: Do not think of achieving a huge leap at one go on the excuse that others have attained a high standard; suppose you are going up a 50-storey building, if you try to go up at one go you may feel dizzy and fall; if you go up floor by floor, you will not feel dizzy and will not worry about falling.

Because our Party and the government of our Republic are opposed to subjectivism, bureaucracy and the worship of big countries and are building socialism in our own way, our people trust in and follow them.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army a torch-lit procession of youth and students was held in Pyongyang on April 25. Many foreign guests, among them heads of state including Norodom Sihanouk, and high-level military delegations saw the procession; they said that such a procession could only be organized in the DPRK, and that if other countries organized one, it might develop into an anti-government demonstration.

You have asked me how we are going to solve the problem of the lack of foreign currency following the collapse of the USSR and the East European socialist countries which had been our foreign trade partners; it is true that we are short of foreign currency because our trade relations with them have been broken.

In the past we conducted many transactions with socialist countries including the USSR, East Germany and Czechoslovakia in the form of barter trade. Trade with them accounted for an overwhelming proportion of our foreign trade. In those days we imported crude oil and coking coal from the USSR and other raw materials from the East European socialist countries. As trade relations with those countries have been disrupted, we are failing to satisfy the increasing demand for raw materials and fuel. It is true that we are faced with difficulties in our foreign trade, but we are taking steps to tackle them. We are readjusting our trade policy and developing trade with such countries as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh by increasing the production of exports; in particular, we are taking the road of expanding the scope of our foreign trade to the Southeast Asian countries, like Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. The Southeast Asian countries need such products as fertilizers, agricultural

chemicals and cement in large amounts, so we are exporting those products to them. We are also conducting barter trade with several other countries. As we have built a self-reliant national economy, we can solve the problem of foreign currency if we undertake economic construction properly and develop foreign trade.

You have asked me whether I could give you a copy of our report to the International Atomic Energy Agency; I think our officials in the relevant sectors will help you if you discuss the matter with them. I will make sure that all your requests are dealt with. We are determined to do whatever we can to improve relations with the United States.

In order to improve the relations between the DPRK and the United States, I think it would be a good idea to hold bilateral talks and also three-party talks involving the two countries and south Korea. It is our principle to solve the problems between us and south Korea, including those now under discussion at the north-south high-level talks, by Koreans themselves. But I think it would be a good idea to hold three-party talks, as the United States is deeply involved in solving the problems of Korea. However, the United States is yet to respond to our proposal for three-party talks.

In order to improve the DPRK-US relations, there should be frequent contacts between the two countries.

On your current visit you have exchanged opinions with our officials concerned on the possibilities for developing economic relations between the two countries; it is good that you have done so.

I welcome the establishing of economic relations between the two countries. It would be good if you visit our country frequently and hold consultations with our economic officials. I think officials in the relevant sectors from the two countries should work well in conformity with the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

You say that you visited Mt Myohyang on your first visit and looked round the International Friendship Exhibition House. In the mountain there are not only the exhibition house but also a large temple called Pohyon. The temple houses a complete collection of Buddhist scriptures. Eighty thousand wooden blocks were used in printing this collection of scriptures, and the scriptures form several large volumes. Those wooden blocks are well preserved in the temple. We have had a hall built for storing this collection so that it can be preserved as a national treasure.

Gifts presented to us by people from other countries are on display at the International Friendship Exhibition House, which we had built so that those gifts could be handed down from generation to generation as national treasures.

When they look round the exhibition house and Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang, our people, including the historians, keenly feel a sense of national pride and self-respect.

This time you have done well to visit the Kuryong Falls in Mt Kumgang. If you had climbed up farther from the falls, you would have seen the Upper Eight Pools. Mt Kumgang is well known throughout the world for its scenic beauty.

Mt Kumgang has many queer rocks and legends. When I visited the area a long time ago, an old monk told me a lot of legends about the mountain. He lived in the Singye Temple located beneath the Kumgang Gate, and he was the oldest monk in the mountain. I toured the mountain without getting tired while listening to his tales. It is a shame that I could not record those stories, as no tape-recorder was available at that time. Not many young people know the numerous legends about the mountain. After the monk died, I sent people there to gather the legends about

the mountain, but what the young monks told them was less than a tenth of what I had heard from the old monk.

On your visit to Lagoon Samil you heard that a red sign in the middle of the lake marks the spot where a wild duck was when it was shot by Kim Jong Suk and myself. Kim Jong Suk was a crack shot. She fought in battles with a pistol in each hand during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and she never missed her target.

You drank spring water which is said to make one ten years younger, but you say you still do not feel you are growing younger. How can you become younger after one glass of spring water? But I think it will gradually prove efficacious if you come again and drink it.

Not long ago I was told that some American businesspeople had proposed on several occasions setting up the necessary facilities and collaborating in tourism in Mt Kungang. They expressed their intention to invest in tourism in the mountain, saying that although there are scenic spots in the United States they have never before seen such a place, where so much beautiful natural scenery, like sea, beach, mountain and lake, are concentrated. As I have never

been to America I cannot be sure, but I think they are right to speak highly of the scenery of Mt Kumgang.

In Korea there are five famous mountains: Paektu, Kumgang, Myohyang, Kuwol and Jiri. The first four are all located in the northern half of Korea.

You say that the 1 000-*ri* Journey for Learning I undertook during my childhood came into your thoughts when you were climbing up to the Kuryong Falls in Mt Kumgang. I thank you for it.

My father was at one time a teacher and was very demanding with regard to his sons.

When I was eight years old, I moved to Northeast China, following my father who was conducting revolutionary activities there. I attended a Chinese primary school in Badaogou for four years. After school my father taught me several subjects at home, including Korean history, Korean geography and the Korean language. I am good at Chinese as I started learning it when I was eight years old.

When I was 11, after finishing primary school I was told by my father that I should continue to study in Korea to build up my knowledge of it. Although it was March, it was still cold in Northeast China and the northern areas of Korea. My mother asked my father if it would not be better to send me after the weather got

warmer, but he did not agree. True to my father's wish, I left Badaogou without delay and travelled to Mangyongdae, my native place, 1 000 *ri* away.

When I was attending Changdok School, staying at my mother's maiden home in Chilgol, my father was arrested by the Japanese imperialists again. On hearing the news I left Mangyongdae and crossed the Amnok River, firmly determined not to return home before Korea became independent. At that time I was 13 years old.

You say that you feel relaxed and invigorated in my country as you are breathing clean air. Pyongyang is free from air pollution as we have not built any factories that may cause it.

The hottest period of the summer will set in soon in my country.

During this period it is very hot. From olden times the hottest period has been said to have three peaks; first, middle and last, and one is supposed to lie on one's belly three times during this period. It is ten days between the first and middle peaks, and it is also ten days, or sometimes 20 days, between the middle and last peaks. To lie on one's belly means one should rest in the shade, and this instruction is contained in the old books of my country. Resting in the shade was

something only the rich could do in the past. The poor could not afford to rest during this period. Now our people go to the riverside or seashore to rest in this period which falls in July and August, and catch fish.

You ask me whether I go hunting; when I have leisure time in summer and winter I go fishing or hunting. When I am fishing, I only keep the big ones and set the small ones free. I share my catch with other officials. I also like hunting pheasants and wild ducks. I have never caught a tiger or bear, but have hunted many wild boars. Last winter I caught many wild boars in the northern area. The biggest one weighed 250kg. I once hunted a wild boar weighing 280kg. When I hunt such a big one, I have it stuffed and sent to a university so that it can be used for educational and scientific research purposes.

You have brought your wife and son with you this time; it seems to me that you are staying for a short time. When you come again in the future, please stay longer. We welcome your next visit. I hope to make many friends with people like you. Though this is our first meeting, we will become old friends when we meet next time. If we meet frequently, we will understand each other more deeply and good things will result.

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