

KIM IL SUNG

**TALK TO A DELEGATION
FROM THE BRITISH
COMMITTEE FOR
SUPPORTING KOREA'S
REUNIFICATION**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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I would like to bid you a warm welcome to our country.

I thank you for the efforts you are making in Britain to give active support and encouragement to our people's cause of national reunification, their cherished desire, and for your powerful campaign to strengthen solidarity with our people.

We are very pleased to have such good friends as you in Britain.

I am glad to learn that you have gained a good impression of our country, and I am deeply grateful to you for the words of encouragement for me and our people you have just expressed.

We will make strenuous efforts to prove ourselves worthy of your deep trust and your words of encouragement and will strengthen solidarity with you.

As you yourselves have seen on this occasion, ours is a developing country. Our country was under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism for 36 years. After liberation we fought the Fatherland Liberation War against the invasion of the US imperialists for three years. As a result, our country was in a state of underdevelopment. What is worse, it still remains divided.

In these difficult circumstances we are building up the national economy. It is true that our country has made rapid progress since the end of the war, but we still have a great deal of work to do, for we started with nothing.

The industrial revolution took place in England more than two centuries ago, but our country has only just become able to stand on its own feet. Our country has now laid the groundwork for its rapid development.

While reconstructing the country on the debris after the war, we gave priority to education over other work. By directing great

efforts towards education our country has trained well-qualified cadres for itself.

During the years of Japanese imperialist colonial rule, there was only one university in Korea, in Seoul. So there were not many university graduates in the northern half of Korea immediately after liberation. Now, however, there are 162 universities in our country, and we have an army of one million intellectuals.

The cadres trained by our country are now working in all fields of industry, agriculture, transport, education, culture and so on. We consider them to be our great asset. We can say that we have built up a solid asset for the rapid development of the country.

Our country is very rich in mineral resources, so we can develop industry quickly.

We are making the best possible use of our farmland, although it is small area, and developing our rich mineral resources in every possible way, and are thus solving the problems of food, clothing and housing for our people satisfactorily for ourselves. Certainly, it will take some time for us to overtake the developed countries in terms of the standard of living of the people, but the prospects for our development are very bright, and I think that from now onwards our country will develop more quickly.

I am grateful to you for having spoken highly of the successful building of socialism in our country. We intend to speed up the revolution and construction so that our country can reach the level of the developed countries as soon as possible.

The division of our country is a great handicap to its development. If it was reunified, it could become much more developed than it is now.

We are bearing a heavy military burden. South Korea is

receiving a lot of “aid” from the United States, but we are doing everything at our own expense. But for the heavy military burden which is being imposed upon us, we could have developed our national economy more rapidly, and our people could have been more prosperous.

The most pressing task facing us at present is to reunify our country.

All our people desire the reunification of their country. Our country is a homogeneous nation, not a multi-racial state as is the case with other countries. Occupying south Korea, the US imperialists are inciting the reactionary rulers to put down the south Korean people who are fighting for national reunification. But they will not be able to keep our nation, a homogeneous nation with one language and culture and a long history, divided for ever.

We hope that you will give our people greater assistance in their struggle to reunify their country. If international pressure is brought to bear upon the US imperialists so that they are compelled to withdraw their troops from south Korea and to desist from supporting the puppet regime, the Korean people will be fully able to reunify their country by their own efforts.

We are going to reunify the country through the formation of a confederal state, leaving the socialist system in the northern half of Korea and the present system in south Korea as they are.

Our neighbours are large countries, China, the Soviet Union and Japan, and there is the United States across the Pacific Ocean. As you can see, our country is surrounded by these major powers, so the people of the world are interested in the course of action Korea will take in the future once she is reunified.

Capital from the United States, Japan, West Germany and France has made inroads into south Korea. A lot of capital from other developed countries has found its way there, too.

Of course, no foreign capital has infiltrated into the northern half of Korea.

Not only the United States, but also the other countries which have made capital investment in south Korea, are obstructing the reunification of our country because they are afraid that, when Korea is reunified, their capital will be encroached upon.

Our proposal to reunify the country, leaving the present system in south Korea as it is, implies that the interests of the foreign capitalists who have invested in south Korea will not be encroached upon. Therefore, those countries which have capital invested in south Korea need not fear the reunification of our country.

When it is reunified, our country will not become a satellite of any other country; it will become a fully independent, sovereign and neutral state.

We will reunify the country independently, peacefully, democratically and on the principle of great national unity, in spite of the differences in systems and religious beliefs. There are some obstacles to the reunification of the country, the greatest desire of our nation, but if we continue to adhere to this principle, our country will, without doubt, be reunified at some time in the future.

I once again bid you a warm welcome to our country.

I hope that in the future, too, you will continue to give active support and encouragement to our people's cause of national reunification, just as you have made great efforts to realize the reunification of Korea and to strengthen solidarity with our people in the past.

Please visit our country again with your families for a holiday. Today we have just become acquaintances, but when you visit here next time we shall meet each other as old friends.

In conclusion, I wish you good health.