

KIM JONG IL

**LET US FURTHER STRENGTHEN
OUR SINGLE-HEARTED UNITY
AND GIVE FULL PLAY TO THE
KOREAN-NATION-FIRST SPIRIT**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Talk to the Senior Officials of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea

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In recent years a grave situation has been created in some countries that were advancing to socialism: Socialism was frustrated and capitalism was revived by the anti-socialist manoeuvres of the imperialists and modern social democrats. Last year, the Soviet Union, having been in existence for 69 years, was broken up.

The modern social democrats, enthralled by the imperialists' strategy of "peaceful transition," vilified socialism as a bureaucratic society and eulogized capitalism as a society in which freedom and democracy are granted to the people. At present, however, there is no sign of genuine freedom and democracy in the countries that have been restoring capitalism. If there is any freedom in the former Soviet Union and other European countries in which capitalism has been revived, it is only the "freedom" of the rich eating and dressing well and getting richer while the poor are wandering in search of a job to earn the money they need for food, clothing and housing. In these countries the ranks of the unemployed are increasing and the prices of goods skyrocketing, phenomena that were unthinkable in the days of socialism, with the result that the living standards of the people are worse than ever. The people of these countries, ever mindful of their life during socialist times, are demonstrating in the streets against the policies of their present governments.

The Communist and Workers' parties in capitalist countries are legally entitled to exist and conduct activities, whereas their counterparts in the countries that have abandoned socialism and switched to capitalism are subjected to harsh suppression. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which had a history of 90 years, had its assets confiscated by the renegades of socialism,

and collapsed overnight. The Soviet Union, which boasted of being a superpower in the past, has become insignificant as a country, and the East European socialist countries that followed the Soviet Union blindly, have all collapsed, too.

These events prove that one must never abandon the idea and revolutionary principles of socialism. Nevertheless, the imperialists and renegades of socialism are slandering the socialist ideal and rejecting the revolutionary principles of socialism, blustering that building socialism had itself been a mistake. This is reactionary sophistry that disregards the law-governed nature of social and historical development.

In order to deal a blow to the imperialists and modern social democrats and inspire the world's revolutionary people with confidence in socialism, I wrote, on January 3 this year, a work titled, *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party*. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, having read this work, described it as perfect and said that it should be published.

In the work I conducted an analysis of the fundamental causes of the collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and some European countries, and proved the justness of the general line maintained by our Party in building socialism and communism. In socialist society the masses are its masters and it develops by dint of their single-hearted unity. Nevertheless, some countries that were building socialism, dogmatically adhered to outdated theories without paying due attention to the work of strengthening the motive force of socialist society and enhancing its role.

As I have already mentioned, the motive force of the revolution is the integral whole of the leader, the Party and the masses, and its might lies in their single-hearted unity. In guiding the revolution and construction, our Party has always regarded it as fundamental to consolidate the motive force of the revolution

and enhance its role, and has built socialism by dint of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses. In the future, too, we must carry out our Party's general line by relying on this unity, and add glory to our style of socialism. That is why I emphasized the key issues in further glorifying our style of socialism by dint of single-hearted unity in the work, *Let Us Improve Party Work and Brighten Korean Style Socialism*, which I published last January, as well as in the speech I delivered at a meeting of senior officials of the Organizational Leadership Department and the Information Department of the Party Central Committee. As I emphasized in these works and in *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party*, the two departments of the Party Central Committee must keep up the work of further glorifying our style of socialism by dint of single-hearted unity.

An important aspect of consolidating the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses is to rally the main class, the working class, closely behind the Party and the leader. The working class, the main force of our revolution, is resolved to overcome every hardship together with the Party. Our people's standard of living is not so high at present; however, the working class does not complain. Not long ago, so I am told, a senior official from a department of the Party Central Committee, who was working with the workers at the Chollima Steel Complex, asked them if there was anything they needed. They unanimously replied that there was nothing more they needed because they were living under the best socialist system in the world, the system that the great leader had established and our Party was adding brilliance to. Our working class will never vacillate from defending and glorifying socialism. Everything is fine with our working class. But we must not rest content with the preparedness of the working class; we must give them proper

political and ideological leadership so that they fulfil their duty as the leading class.

We must continue to channel a major effort into strengthening the work with intellectuals. Intellectuals have little opportunity to train themselves through labour in a revolutionary way, so they are likely to hesitate or vacillate in the face of hardship. If we work effectively with them, we can encourage them to play a major role in the revolution and construction; if not, they may become disruptive. The work with intellectuals is so important that I have taken every available opportunity to emphasize on directing a great deal of effort to it, and I have placed great trust in our intellectuals by calling them our Party's eternal companions, faithful assistants and excellent advisers. Since we have directed so much effort to this work, our intellectuals are now in a good ideological and mental state. In the future, too, we must give effective education to intellectuals working in the fields of the mass media, the arts, literature, science and education, so that they work faithfully for the Party and the leader, for the country and the people.

We must give full play to the principle of the Korean nation first, the Koryo nation first.

We are a diligent and intelligent nation, and our country is a beautiful land of 3 000 *ri* where it is good to live. We are a homogeneous nation of one blood that has lived from ancient times on the same territory with the same language and culture, and an intelligent nation with a time-honoured history and tradition of 5 000 years. The intelligence of our nation and the beauty of our country have been further glorified since the great leader won back the lost country and established the socialist system on this land. There are no other people in this world like our people who, blessed with the great leader and led by the great Party, are living under the people-centred socialist system that

regards the people as the most precious beings and makes everything serve them. Only when the Korean-nation-first idea, the Koryo-nation-first idea, is given full play among our people will they take great national pride in our leader, our Party and our style of socialism being the best, and demonstrate due dignity.

The Koryo-nation-first spirit is necessary for achieving the country's reunification through the great unity of the nation. We must achieve national reunification not with outside help but through a united effort of our nation. Whether they live in the north, in the south or abroad, Korean people can be united because they cherish the soul of the Koryo nation. In recent years, many overseas compatriots have come to the socialist motherland, into the embrace of the leader. Heartbroken at the nation's division, they are all resolved to devote the rest of their lives to the sacred cause of reunification. This means that, although they may have lived abroad for a long time, the blood of the Koryo nation runs through their veins. The spirit of national independence and the desire for the country's reunification are running high among the south Korean people, too. The south Korean authorities claim that our national character has become heterogeneous because our nation has lived divided into the north and the south for more than 40 years; however, the national character of our people has not become heterogeneous either in their blood relations, or in their behaviour and customs. Today is New Year's Day by the lunar calendar, and many people dressed in traditional Korean clothing can be seen in the streets of Seoul, I am told. Whether they live in the north, in the south or abroad, Korean people who have the soul of the Koryo nation and the desire for national reunification, must unite under the banner of national reunification and devote themselves to the cause of the country's reunification, those with strength giving their strength, those with knowledge dedicating their knowledge and those with

money donating their money. When the country is reunified our nation will become a more dignified and powerful nation, and our country will shine in the world as an independent sovereign state with a population of 70 million, a glorious national culture and a powerful economy. By giving full play to the Koryo-nation-first spirit, we must achieve the great unity of the whole nation in the north, in the south and abroad, and realize the country's reunification, the supreme desire of the Korean nation, at the earliest possible date.

We must intensify education in the principle of the Korean nation first, the Koryo nation first, among Party members and other working people, so that they take great national pride and dignity in our leader, our Party and our style of socialism being the best, and value and preserve the excellent behaviour and customs of our nation.

We must encourage our people to dress in traditional Korean clothing. They cannot always wear Korean dress, but they can do so on public holidays and rest days. If the women are dressed in fine Korean clothes, they look very gracious and elegant, and brighten up the streets. The Light Industry Department of the Party Central Committee reported to me that it would provide a set of traditional Korean clothing to every person. If people wear them only on public holidays and rest days, they will last a long time.

At the height of summer it is best to wear hemp jackets. Nylon or polyester jackets do not feel cool, but those made of hemp do.

Women should be encouraged to wear white rubber shoes with toe caps. This kind of shoes is not produced anywhere now, and no one wears them. Young people do not even know what they look like. So I assigned the task of producing them to the officials concerned. Once they are being produced, I will encourage our artistes to wear them.

Traditional national food should be promoted, too. Since ancient times our people have enjoyed *kimchi* pickle, and on holidays have made various kinds of rice-cake to eat. Still today, our people are very fond of *kimchi* and take pride in pickling tasty *kimchi*. Women are very pleased when guests praise them for their *kimchi*. Still today our people feel they have really enjoyed a holiday if they have eaten rice-cakes, and they are also delighted to see *kimchi* on the meal table. We must promote *kimchi*, rice-cake and various other national foods, and see to it that people have the means to prepare such foods easily and to their taste.

We must encourage and sustain our nation's traditional style of greeting, instead of adopting other styles. Making a bow is our nation's traditional way of offering a greeting. Since ancient times, our people have made a courteous bow when they meet. On New Year's Day younger people would call on their elders and bow to them as a way of paying their respects. As our nation has such a fine style of greeting, it makes no sense to follow anyone else's. We must actively encourage our nation's traditional style of greeting.