

KIM JONG IL

**COMRADE KIM IL SUNG
IS THE ETERNAL PRESIDENT
OF OUR REPUBLIC**

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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**LET US HOLD THE GREAT LEADER
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PRESIDENT OF OUR REPUBLIC**

**Talks to Senior Officials of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea**

July 11 and 19, 1994

These days as I stand beside the bier of the late Comrade Kim Il Sung, what dominates my mind is the thought of how the late leader can be held in high esteem forever and how his great ideas and immortal exploits can be defended and carried forward.

Come what may, we should make sure that he remains with us forever just as he looked during his lifetime. We should make sure that the great leader is always with us by preserving his benevolent lifetime image.

We acclaimed him as President of our Republic in response to the unanimous will of all the people, and they built this presidential palace with devotion. He worked here until the last days of his life. He himself named the palace the Kumsusan Assembly Hall. Therefore, I have resolved to preserve him forever in this presidential palace and rebuild it as a memorial hall.

Since his death, it has been suggested by many members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and by numerous people that I be elected President of the Republic. I am grateful to my comrades and people for the trust they place in me, but we must decide this matter after due consideration.

The issue of establishing a leadership system for the Party, state and army is vital for the future of the revolution and construction.

In his lifetime, President Kim Il Sung gave important instructions on several occasions concerning what this leadership system should be like. Bearing his instructions in mind, I have thought over and over again about how we should establish the system once he had passed away.

The leadership system for our Party, state and army must be such that it can thoroughly defend the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered and led by the President and carry it forward faithfully. Thus we should develop our Party, state and army into the eternal party, state and army of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was an outstanding leader of our state, whom our nation greeted for the first time in its 5 000-year history, a benevolent father of our people and a great thinker, a great statesman, a great revolutionary and a great man to whom the world looked up.

He was gifted with ideas and theories and a preeminent leadership ability that no one else in the world could possess, and embraced all the people with a noble benevolence that no one else could possess. He was the

greatest of great men, who enjoyed respect and reverence for his outstanding ideas and theories and distinguished leadership ability, and for his benevolent personality and lofty virtue that had never before been recorded in the history of mankind.

His passing is the greatest loss for our Party and revolution and a source of the bitterest sorrow for our people. People across the country have wailed over the sudden death of their great leader, their great father, and unable to suppress their yearning for him people are paying a tribute to his memory in front of statues of him in all parts of the country, including that on Mansu Hill, and at historic sites associated with him even in the pouring rain, day and night. All our fellow countrymen have expressed in deep grief their condolences at his death, and many overseas compatriots have come to their motherland and shed tears of grief before his bier. The whole world is expressing deep condolences at his death as a great loss for mankind, and hundreds of millions of people are sharing our sorrow. Witnessing all this, we have come to realize more keenly what a great man he was for our people and nation and the peace-loving people the world over.

Korea, a small country of no importance in the international arena in the past, is well-known in the world thanks to his leadership and his reputation, and the eyes of the international community are now focused on it. All credit for our country becoming a powerful and dignified country and our people becoming a dignified and proud people goes to him.

We should hand down to history and posterity our

honour and pride in having carried on the revolution under the leadership of such a great leader, and add eternal lustre to them. To record such a prominent great man, such an outstanding leader, in our history is a duty that our Party and people, who fought and lived together with him, are obliged to perform for history and the coming generations.

With ennobling humanity, he bestowed great affection and trust on us and led each of us warmly. We must remain faithful to the moral obligation to the great leader, the great mentor, who brought all of us up to be revolutionaries, to carry through the revolution to the end with an unshakable faith.

He was the first President of our Republic, elected by the unanimous will of all the Korean people and with their absolute support. The President of our country is none other than Comrade Kim Il Sung. Foreign friends also call him President Kim Il Sung out of feelings of respect and intimacy. The word *president* has been deeply engraved on the minds of our people and the entire nation as unthinkable apart from his name, and the words *President Kim Il Sung* are etched on the minds of the world's people.

It is imperative for us to ensure that the great leader always lives in the hearts of our people and the world's progressive people with his intimate honorific title and undying fame. There can be no other president of our country than President Kim Il Sung, who will live forever, and no person can have the title of president other than him.

Although he is gone, I am absolutely determined to hold Comrade Kim Il Sung, who rendered such distinguished service to our country and people, to the world and to

mankind and who enjoyed the highest respect and reverence, as the only President, as the first and eternal President in the history of our country.

We should ensure that his honorific title, that is so familiar and priceless to mankind, is inscribed in the history of our country, and the coming generations extol President Kim Il Sung alone with pride when they say *president*.

Proceeding from such a standpoint and attitude I am resolved to hold him in high esteem just as we did in his lifetime and ensure that President Kim Il Sung alone is recorded as the eternal President in the history of our country.

Hence, I propose abolishing the presidential system in our country's Constitution and accordingly, revising the system of state power. In our era there has been no other such great man who was endowed with such a natural disposition as our leader, and therefore, we should enshrine in law that in the future, too, Comrade Kim Il Sung alone will be venerated as the only President of our country and no one else will be vested with the official title of president.

According to the Socialist Constitution drawn up by Comrade Kim Il Sung, there has been the post of president, the head of state, in our country until now. And the Central People's Committee has discharged the function of leadership as the highest state leadership body under the direct guidance of the president, and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly has worked as the permanent body of the Assembly. With the

presidential system soon to be abolished, it is of no significance to preserve the Central People's Committee, which has worked under the guidance of the president. Therefore, I think it is rational that the functions performed by the Central People's Committee and by the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly are merged so as to set up the state mechanism of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly which will perform the functions of the highest power organ when the Assembly is in recess, staffed with a chairman and several vice-chairmen.

As for the suggestion that I assume the role of president, rather than declining it I cannot accept it because it does not conform to my will. As a soldier and devoted follower of Comrade Kim Il Sung who is loyal to his ideas and lines, I cannot accept the honour of the title of president, nor would it be appropriate for me to do so.

I and all other comrades should, as in the past, so in the future, remain loyal and filial to him as his soldiers and devoted followers.

True to his will and to the deep trust placed in me by you and other people, I will focus my attention on strengthening our Party and armed forces while leading the revolution and construction.

Comrade Kim Il Sung said it would never be easy to accomplish our revolutionary cause, and told me over and over again that I should not be too preoccupied with the administrative and economic affairs of the state but channel greater energy into consolidating the Party and the People's Army. In his lifetime he entrusted me with the work of the

Party and the army, and he himself mostly took charge of foreign affairs and economic work.

Our Party is the highest political organization leading the revolution. Strengthening the Party and enhancing its leadership role ceaselessly is a decisive guarantee for consolidating the driving force of the revolution and leading the revolution and construction along the road to victory by rallying the masses of the people closely behind the Party. Only when Party ranks are built up firmly and its leadership guaranteed properly can socialist economic construction as well as the state and cultural construction be successfully promoted.

Strengthening the People's Army is also very important. Regarding army building as the fundamental issue in the revolution, Comrade Kim Il Sung founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army before anything else in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and waged an armed struggle for the liberation of the country; after liberation he directed his primary attention to strengthening the Korean People's Army. Without the military guarantee provided by revolutionary armed forces, peaceful economic and state construction cannot be ensured, nor can the security of the country and people be safeguarded. As the Supreme Commander of the revolutionary armed forces appointed by Comrade Kim Il Sung, I view the building up of the People's Army as the most important revolutionary task devolving on me.

We are currently on the arduous struggle to safeguard the cause of socialism and bring it to completion in a very

complex situation. The victory of our revolution is scarcely thinkable without a strong party and army. We are defending the socialist cause and the country's honour and dignity unperturbed despite the current situation when the imperialists and reactionaries are stepping up their anti-DPRK and anti-socialist schemes; this is attributable entirely to the fact that our Party is strong and our revolutionary armed forces are invincible. Whether our revolution emerges victorious or fails depends, in the final analysis, on how we consolidate our Party, the General Staff of the revolution, and build up the People's Army, the revolutionary armed forces of our Party.

Therefore, I am convinced that it is the correct alternative conducive to the success of the revolution that I make every possible effort to strengthen our Party and the People's Army, true to the lifetime instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

If I assume even the duties of state administration, I may be involved against my will in legislative, administrative and economic affairs and, in the long run, I may be separated from the work of the Party and the army. This would not be good.

I do not think that everything will go better and Party leadership of the administrative and economic affairs of the state will be more effective simply because I take direct responsibility over these affairs. All the organizations in our country, including the legislative and administrative organs of the state, are doing their work in line with the Party's lines and policies under its leadership. When the Party is strengthened and its monolithic leadership is

thoroughly ensured, the overall work of the country will go well.

That is why we should ensure that a legislative measure is taken at the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly to amend the relevant parts of the Constitution by bringing under deliberation the issues of abolishing the presidential system in our country and revising the structural system of power.

I believe that all cadres, Party members and other people will agree with my proposal.

**LET US HOLD THE GREAT LEADER
IN HIGH ESTEEM FOREVER AND
ACCOMPLISH HIS CAUSE
(Excerpts)**

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

October 16, 1994

One hundred days have passed since the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. During these days our people have felt even more keenly how great he was and how much they were blessed by having him as their leader. We admired him for his greatness in his lifetime, and his greatness becomes even more conspicuous in death.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was the great leader whom our people held in high esteem for the first time in their history of thousands of years, and the sun of humankind who was looked up to by the whole world. Having embarked on the road of revolution in his early years, he devoted his all to the people's freedom and welfare, overcoming every manner of hardship. And, with the absolute support and trust of our people and of the progressive people the world over he led the revolution to victory, accomplishing immortal exploits that will shine in history. He led our Party and people for half a century after Korea's liberation,

not to mention the period when he led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Had he lived one year longer, he would have witnessed the celebration of the 50th anniversaries of Korea's liberation and the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. No leader anywhere in the world has led his party, state and people for 50 years and created such shining achievements as Comrade Kim Il Sung did. His immortal exploits in achieving the victory of the cause of the independence of the masses, the cause of socialism, constitute the greatest achievements in the history of humankind and the international communist movement. He was truly a great philosopher, statesman, military strategist and artist of leadership, who glorified modern history with his outstanding ideas and theories and wise leadership. We must feel very proud that we were led by such a great man.

Comrade Kim Il Sung was also an outstanding revolutionary, a great man and the benevolent father of the people. He trained our people into excellent people, established our advantageous socialist system and worked energetically to the last moment of his life to provide our people with still greater happiness. He treasured the people, regarding them as his God, and had everything honourable named after the "people"—the names of the state, of the armed forces, of a palace of culture, of a study house and of hospitals.

He was infinitely gracious and humble. On July 6, he telephoned me and told me about the problems arising in north-south relations, and asked me the Party's opinion. When I answered that the Party would do as he resolved, he

said he would act in the belief that he had the Party's approval. That was the last time he called me.

He completed all his work before his death, as if he had foreseen what was to happen.

Although he was in his eighties, he has in recent years met all the surviving veterans of the anti-Japanese revolution and the orphaned sons and daughters of the martyrs of the south Korean revolution and other martyrs. When writing his memoirs, he recalled everyone who had been associated with his revolutionary struggle, and met not only those in the country but also those who live abroad. Whenever he met the bereaved sons and daughters of revolutionary martyrs and those associated with his career, he would say that he owed his good health to me and asked them to support me loyally. He presented them with wrist watches and showed them every manner of affection and kindness.

He posed for souvenir photographs on numerous occasions. This year alone he posed with the participants in the National Agricultural Conference and the National Conference of Workers in the Coal-Mining Industry, as well as with numerous other working people.

This year he met officials in various sectors and gave them valuable instructions. On April 25, he met commanding officers of the Korean People's Army and gave them instructions for strengthening the armed forces. It was his last behest to the army. That day he said that the army should loyally support its Supreme Commander. This year he presided over several consultative meetings of leading agricultural officials, and on July 5 and 6, just before his death, he convened a consultative meeting of

senior officials in the economic sector and gave them instructions to be strictly followed in socialist economic construction.

This year he conducted energetic activities in the external field, meeting many foreigners; he met former US President Jimmy Carter and created favourable conditions for us in the DPRK-USA talks.

In his lifetime, he brought every problem to a perfect solution, with the exception of that of national reunification. Even so, he laid down solid foundations for the early resolution of the problem of national reunification. He said that the Korean nation, though divided at present, would lead a happy life in a reunified country before long.

Thus he died after completing his work in all spheres and leaving a lingering influence in the hearts of the Korean people and of the revolutionary people the world over. No other leader in the world has ever completed all his work prior to his death.

Comrade Kim Il Sung died of heart disease. He had suffered from heart disease for several years, but we kept the state of his health from the people, lest they should worry about him. This year, he was suffering from eye trouble, so he read the manuscript of his New Year Address with difficulty. He underwent an eye operation. Even a young man must rest for at least a month after such an operation. However, a few days after the operation, he met Son Won Thae, and had a photograph taken with the participants in the Fifth Congress of the Korean Children's Union. Subsequently he met Carter and other foreign dignitaries on their visit to our country. He

was working to a tight schedule, formulating the political and economic issues our side would present at the north-south summit, going over the many documents that were submitted to him and giving on-the-spot guidance to farms in Onchon County and on the outskirts of Pyongyang. Although he had been suffering from heart disease for several years, he never stopped working. Because he worked with such a superhuman effort even at the advanced age of 80-plus, his condition went from bad to worse. There can have been no other leader in the world who worked so dynamically even in his eighties right up until his death, as he did. Since he worked so hard for the benefit of the people right up until his sudden death, our people feel even more heartbroken.

He worked with vigour for the Party and the revolution, the country and his fellow people until he died in his office. He died at his post. He is the only leader in the world who completed his work through energetic activities right up until the last moment of his life. In view of this, he was the greatest of great men. He was a great leader, a great revolutionary and a great man beyond comparison with all other great men.

His great traits and great image, characterized by his brilliant ideas and theories, his unexcelled leadership, his noble virtues, his outstanding personality, his informal manner and his frugal life, have moved the world's people and presented to them the image of the most outstanding man in history. As the days go by, we feel more keenly that he was inherently a great man.

We must have many books about his greatness written to inform our contemporaries and posterity about it.

Our people's boundless loyalty to and reverence for him

has been more evident since his death. They have, by displaying their noble spiritual and moral traits to the full, conveyed the feeling that they will not forget the gratitude they owe him for providing them with genuine happiness.

In bitter grief over his death and with an earnest longing for him, our people have visited statues of him by day and at night. They have all mourned him and paid great tribute to his memory with full honour. A few days after his death, while I was touring Pyongyang, I drove to his statue on Mansu Hill. There I saw numerous citizens, in spite of the rain, extending their condolences to the deceased in the concourse in front of the statue, and many others awaiting their turn at the foot of the steps leading up to the concourse. Among them were five university students who were waiting their turn to lay a wreath of flowers; although they were soaked to the skin, they were covering the wreath with their shirts to keep it from getting wet. I gazed at them for a while, and shed tears; all I could think was, these are the students of the new generation.

Today on my way back from the meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee after the national memorial service on the occasion of the 100th day following Comrade Kim Il Sung's death, I saw some housewives who had attended the ceremony, requesting to be allowed into the Kumsusan Assembly Hall. They apparently were doing so out of their unquenchable desire to see the late leader. Last night when I went to Mansu Hill during my tour of Pyongyang, I saw endless crowds of people visiting the leader's statue, in spite of the rain. I was so sorry to see them exposed to the cold rain that I called an

official and told him to dissuade the people from doing so. During the mourning period, our people demonstrated their high moral standards to the world.

I was greatly moved by the noble morality of our people in holding their deceased leader in such high esteem. Our people are truly a noble people who are incomparable to any other people in the world with regard to the ideological, spiritual and moral qualities with which they support their leader. They are highly laudable. The world will never know another people as excellent as ours.

Our people are our blessing. It is because we have these excellent people that we can defend socialism in confrontation with the allied forces of imperialism. Even our enemy, not to mention the progressive people of the world, express admiration at the loyalty and filial devotion with which our people follow their leader. Some businessmen and specialists from a capitalist country, who had been in our country during the mourning period, were interviewed by journalists upon their return home. In the interview, they said that all the Korean people cherished unqualified reverence for the late President Kim Il Sung and wailed with bitterest grief over his death, and that they had never seen such people anywhere else. CNN International and NHK broadcast the scenes of the Korean people expressing their heartfelt regret and indescribable grief over the President's death. Now, the world is speaking highly of our people's spiritual and moral qualities.

The enemy, when they see the noble ideological and spiritual qualities of our people who are unfailingly faithful to the Party and the leader, are afraid of us because we have

such excellent people. In the documentary film *The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Is Immortal*, the enemy can see not only images of Korean people in their grief but also the might of their single-hearted unity. The might of the single-hearted unity of our people is greater than that of an atomic bomb. No enemy, however formidable, and no weaponry, however advanced, will prevail over such people as ours who are infinitely loyal to the Party and the leader. Our people are a great people. We should use the adjective *great* in describing our people. I am very grateful to our people for expressing their condolences over the passing of the late leader with such bitter grief.

That we are blessed with such people is thanks to Comrade Kim Il Sung. He placed great political trust in us and appointed us to important posts of the Party and the state. He edified our people and brought them up to be an excellent people with a proper attitude towards their leader and Party. Always mindful of his achievements in this, and with a sense of great pride and honour in having such an excellent people, we should serve them more faithfully.

We should conduct education among cadres, Party members and other working people so that they accomplish the revolutionary cause of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in the belief that he is always with us.

Although his heart has stopped beating, he is with our people as ever. As the brain of the unity of the leader, the Party and the masses and as the sun of the nation, he is immortal. It can be said that his history will continue as the country grows prosperous, as he wished in his lifetime.

We should hold him in high esteem through the ages

and undertake all work as he did. The founder of our nation was Tangun, and the founder of socialist Korea was Comrade Kim Il Sung. Without him, we could not conceive of Korea today, shining over the world, or of the great dignity, honour and pride of the Korean nation. He is the great father of the nation; under his leadership the Korean nation has become the most dignified and happiest nation in the world. Overseas Koreans call their nation Kim Il Sung's nation. We should work with greater devotion to enhance the dignity of the nation that is named after him. Without this national dignity, we may repeat the history of worshipping big countries and suffering humiliation. We should ensure that all cadres, Party members and other working people give fuller play to the Korean-nation-first spirit, taking pride in having built the most advantageous people-centred, Korean-style socialism under his leadership.

We should add eternal glory to Comrade Kim Il Sung's great ideology, cause and undying exploits by displaying a noble moral outlook.

The moral quality of communists finds concentrated expression in holding their leader in high regard. Some people are of the opinion that new Party and state leadership bodies should be formed right away, now that the President has passed away, but this cannot and need not be done.

In view of the noble moral outlook with which we hold him in high esteem, we cannot rush such a reorganization. As you can see in the documentary *The Great Life in 1994*, Comrade Kim Il Sung vigorously conducted his last

revolutionary activities in 1994, refusing to rest even for a moment. In view of this, we should make the rest of the year a mourning period. In olden times, our ancestors mourned a death for a period of 100 days or a year or three years. We should form the new leadership after the work has been completed of preserving his body. It is not appropriate for new Party and state leadership bodies to be formed and hailed while the people are still in grief, remembering the days when they lamented at his bier.

Since our political system is based on the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, it will never waver. The People's Army is boundlessly loyal to its Supreme Commander, and the people are also demonstrating undivided loyalty to their leader. Our people, who are more solidly rallied behind the Party without the slightest vacillation since Comrade Kim Il Sung's death, are persevering to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche that he pioneered. In the mourning period the solid single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses fully demonstrated its solidity; the creation of this unity is one of the great achievements of Comrade Kim Il Sung. If he had not built up the driving force of the revolution and constructed socialism of the Korean style by realizing this unity, we would not have been able to surmount the current difficulties. Because the People's Army is boundlessly loyal to its Supreme Commander, the Party maintains a harmonious whole with the masses and the leadership system of the Party is firm, we need not hurry over forming new leadership bodies.

Instead of concerning ourselves with the formation of a new leadership, we should think about how to safeguard the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by Comrade Kim Il Sung and carry it forward successfully. We must follow only the road of revolution that he travelled and concentrate all our efforts on carrying out his cause.

A communist should seek satisfaction in waging the revolution regardless of his post. Comrade Kim Il Sung did not have in mind the posts of party general secretary and head of state after Korea's liberation when he was leading the anti-Japanese revolution in his early years at the head of the Korean revolution. He waged the bloody anti-Japanese revolution for some 20 years simply to liberate the country and provide the people with freedom and happiness.

I have always considered myself to be one of his men. I will carry forward his revolutionary cause as his loyal man as I did in his lifetime. Our pledge after his demise cannot differ from the one we made in his lifetime; we must remain true to our noble moral obligations as his revolutionary fighters.

As the days go by, our people are longing for him more eagerly, visiting his statues to lay wreaths and flowers and to pay tribute to him. I ensured that the mourning period was prolonged in line with the people's wishes, so that they could continue to extend their condolences. In the mourning period our people have nurtured the conviction that Comrade Kim Il Sung is always with them. We must ensure that they hold him in high esteem forever and remain faithful to his will.

If we undertake the work of holding him in high esteem

for eternity, we can exert a significant influence on establishing a true communist moral outlook in the international communist movement. Communist morality is pure, noble and genuine. The core of communist morality is loyalty to the leader. In the past revisionists such as Khrushchev who appeared in the international communist movement, seriously undermined communist morality. Khrushchev, by slandering Stalin, gave the negative impression to the world that communists were ignorant of their forerunners in the revolution and fought one another. Lenin, the founder of the first socialist state, is today slandered by the renegade socialists, seventy years after his death. Similar phenomena have been witnessed in other parties in the international communist movement. As a result, the communists lost the people's trust and support, and this ended with the collapse of socialism in several countries. By holding Comrade Kim Il Sung in high esteem forever, even more so than we did in his lifetime, we should demonstrate to the world the outlook on morality with which communists support their leaders. Thus we can actively contribute to safeguarding and adding glory to the noblest communist morality and to its worldwide rehabilitation, after it was marred by the revisionists and renegades of socialism.

Those who took the floor at today's national memorial service pledged to carry forward as ever the revolutionary cause of Juche that was pioneered by Comrade Kim Il Sung. The armed forces and the people should struggle vigorously in pursuance of this pledge. We should safeguard and glorify his great revolutionary

exploits as we did in his lifetime and carry out the revolution and construction at all times as he intended and as he did. By faithfully carrying forward the socialist cause, the revolutionary cause of Juche that he hewed out, we will demonstrate the Korean communists' noble moral outlook.

...

In order to safeguard Comrade Kim Il Sung's revolutionary cause and accomplish it, we must strengthen the Party and consolidate the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses.

The Party is the destiny of the country, the nation and the people. The decisive guarantee of victory in the revolution lies in strengthening the Party and enhancing its leadership role. We should continue to direct great efforts to building up the Party organizationally and ideologically and thus make it invincible.

We should, first of all, build up the Party ranks and cement its unity and cohesion centred on the leader by conducting effective organizational work. We should prevent any alien element from infiltrating our Party ranks and any negative factor, however negligible, from undermining its unity and cohesion.

Along with organizational work, Party ideological work should be conducted in a substantial manner. Education in the Juche idea constitutes the essence of ideological education among Party members and other working people. The Juche idea is the only ideology guiding our revolution and construction, and it is the lifeline of the Korean people. If our people are truly to exist, they must firmly equip

themselves with the Juche idea and follow the road indicated by it. By conducting education in the Juche idea in a more effective manner, we can ensure that all Party members and other working people arm themselves firmly with the idea, accept it as their unshakeable conviction and make positive efforts to apply it in practice.

It is important in strengthening the Party and enhancing its leadership role to establish the leadership system of the Party. The development of the Party and the victorious advance of the revolution and construction are inconceivable apart from the system in which the entire Party, all the people and the whole army move as one under the unified guidance of the Party Central Committee. We should consolidate the monolithic leadership system of the Party and create in the entire Party and the whole society a revolutionary habit of accepting and carrying out the Party's lines and policies unreservedly.

We should continue to develop the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, a weapon with which we will emerge victorious in the confrontation with the enemy. This unity will make us a match for any enemy, however formidable, and enable us to surmount any trial and emerge victorious. We should continue to develop this unity in depth, so as to rally all the people more firmly around the Party and the leader and by dint of this unity overcome the trials on the road of revolution.

We should channel great efforts into economic work.

...

Comrade Kim Il Sung worried about economic work until the last moment of his life. We should implement the

Party's economic strategy by any means and put his lifetime wish into reality. We should, by strictly adhering to this strategy, carry out the agriculture-first policy, light-industry-first policy and foreign-trade-first policy and thus rapidly improve the people's standard of living. The commissions and ministries of the Administration Council and the departments of the Party Central Committee should orient their work to carrying out these tasks and, in particular, focus their efforts on agriculture and light industry.

The Administration Council and the State Planning Commission should reexamine the overall national economic plan and amend it to facilitate the implementation of the economic strategy. The plan should be mapped out along the line of concentrating all our efforts on agriculture and light industry in reflection of the main targets and requirements of the economic strategy, so as to improve the people's standard of living radically. Without focusing on agriculture and light industry, we can neither improve the people's standard of living quickly nor maintain our existence. In order to support agriculture and light industry, we should also direct efforts to the vanguard sectors in the national economy, principally the power industry. Without electricity, we can neither produce fertilizer nor farm well nor run our light-industry factories at full capacity. And, based on a feasibility study of the projects that are now under construction, we should suspend the infeasible ones and divert the equipment, materials and funds to agriculture and light industry.

In order to implement the revolutionary economic

strategy of the Party, the Administration Council should enhance its role. The Administration Council is the economic headquarters that organizes and commands the overall economic work of the country in a unified manner; it is answerable to the Party on economic matters. Success in economic work depends on how the Administration Council works. The Party has established a system by which the Administration Council assumes full responsibility for economic affairs and performs the central role in the economic sphere, and has created favourable conditions for it to do its work so that it can undertake economic work as the economic headquarters of the country. The Administration Council, fully aware of the Party's intention, must apply the system thoroughly and organize and command the country's economic work with a high sense of responsibility. All economic bodies, including the commissions and ministries of the Administration Council, should bring any problems that arise in economic work to the attention of the Administration Council and solve them under its unified command.

If a fresh upsurge is to be achieved in economic work, officials must give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. It is true that there are some difficulties in economic work, but they can be surmounted if officials work hard in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. One thing Comrade Kim Il Sung used to emphasize in his lifetime was the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. I ensured that, during the mourning period, officials inspected the

cooperative farms on the Yonbaek Plain, the Jonchon County Commercial Management Agency and Maengsan County as a way of encouraging them to implement the Party's revolutionary economic strategy thoroughly and perform the work of their own units well by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. The Jonchon County Commercial Management Agency and Maengsan County are model units; they have been working well, in the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. The provinces should strive to emulate the example of Maengsan County, and in the commercial field the Jong Chun Sil movement, which aims at following the example of the Jonchon County Commercial Management Agency, should be conducted more vigorously. In view of the great importance of officials displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, I emphasized it at today's meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee. Leading economic officials in every sector and at every unit should, based on a clear understanding of the Party's intention, fulfil the economic tasks assigned to them by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

We should strengthen the People's Army and create a climate in which prominence is given to military affairs throughout society.

We are waging a revolution in direct confrontation with the US imperialists, the chieftain of the world's reactionaries, and have yet to accomplish national reunification. The road of our revolution is beset with many trials and obstacles, and the US imperialists and

reactionaries are intensifying their moves of aggression and war against our country. In these circumstances, if we are to overcome all the trials and hardships facing us and safeguard and advance the socialist cause, we must resolutely strengthen the army as well as the Party. Without strengthening the army, we cannot defend the gains of the revolution, step up socialist construction or accomplish the reunification of the country.

What is important in strengthening the army at present is to make it boundlessly loyal to the cause of the Party. Our People's Army is the army of the Party. The People's Army as the army of the Party must hold high the red flag, the flag of the Workers' Party of Korea. That it fights bravely and in defiance of death for the cause of the Party constitutes the essential feature and is the source of the invincibility of the People's Army. The army must remain loyal to the cause of the Party, whatever the adversity, and establish the revolutionary trait of sharing destiny with the Party.

For the sake of victory in the revolutionary struggle, the Party and the army should form an integral whole. Both are inseparably linked to each other; a party that fails to command the army cannot display its might, and an army that does not enjoy the party's leadership cannot be a strong combat force. An army that is separated from the leadership of a party cannot win a revolutionary war. The military command system can bring the army into action but it cannot mobilize the civilian masses. It is the party that mobilizes the broad sections of the masses. Only when the party and the army form an integral whole can the entire party, all the

people and the whole army move as one. The revolutionary party, when the army defends it by force of arms, remains invincible; and the revolutionary army, when the revolutionary party guides it and enlists the masses, can display its formidable might. If the party and the army pool their strength they can defeat any enemy and emerge victorious in the revolutionary struggle. In this sense, it can be said that in our country today the Party is the army and the army is the Party. The People's Army should create a revolutionary climate within itself, based on the climate within the Party. The People's Army should staunchly defend the Party, be loyal to its leadership and defend its cause by force of arms.

We should ensure that relations between the army and the people are good, since they are a key link in the preparedness for combat. Unless they are united in one mind and one will, they cannot defeat the enemy. We must give free rein to the traditional traits of unity between the army and the people so that in times of emergency they will defeat the aggressors and defend the socialist homeland, united in one mind and one will.

We should create a climate in which prominence is given to military affairs throughout society. By doing so, we can ensure that all the people love and support the army and make the country a "porcupine" by placing all the people under arms and fortifying the whole country.

Combat sports should be developed. As our country is in direct confrontation with the enemy, we must develop such sports as shooting and boxing.

Achieving national reunification is of great importance

in accomplishing Comrade Kim Il Sung's cause and implementing his last will. He, more than anyone else, grieved over the nation's division, and he directed unremitting efforts to the cause of national reunification. He wished for reunification with such fervour, but he died before its realization. One of his last wishes was national reunification; he wanted to see the whole nation enjoying a harmonious life in a reunified country. We should achieve, at any cost, the historic cause of national reunification for which he wished so fervently, and thus fulfil his desire.

...

In order to safeguard and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we should hold fast to the principle of independence. Political independence is a major hallmark of a sovereign state, and adhering to the principle of independence is the main guarantee for winning victory in the revolution. It is because we have firmly adhered to our independence that we have been able to defend socialism without the slightest vacillation under the difficult and complex situation created by the continuing vicious moves by the imperialists and reactionaries. Lack of independence leads a country to ruin. The Eastern European socialist countries imploded because, lacking political independence, they acted according to the dictates of big countries. Just as we did in the past, so in the future, too, we should strictly adhere to independence in all spheres of Party and state activities.

We must hold fast to the independent foreign policy of our Party.

In the whole course of leading the revolution and construction, Comrade Kim Il Sung always followed an independent foreign policy. In the past, big-power chauvinists tried to pressure our country into joining the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). Comrade Kim Il Sung, however, did not bow to the pressure, and instead adhered to independence. Our country was absolutely right to have refused to join the Warsaw Pact and the CMEA. If we had joined these organizations, there is no knowing what disaster might have befallen us. Comrade Kim Il Sung was, indeed, a remarkably far-sighted leader of the revolution and construction. We should, in the future, too, adhere to an independent and principled foreign policy, true to his will, and thus defend our national dignity and consolidate international solidarity with our revolution.

...

THE GREAT LEADER COMRADE KIM IL SUNG WILL ALWAYS BE WITH OUR PEOPLE

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

February 11, 1996

This coming July 8 marks the second anniversary of the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. This is the third year since he left us. According to traditional custom, this July 8 can be called the third anniversary, the end of the mourning period. But we cannot calculate the mourning period for him in this way.

For him, the great leader, the mourning period should be counted by full years. So, July 8 next year, the third anniversary of his death, will be the actual end of the mourning period.

The two-year period of mourning is a traditional custom of our nation and some other Eastern nations, by which the mourning period for the deceased is extended and the date the mourning period ends is fixed. We cannot fix the mourning period for our leader, a great man unprecedented in history, according to traditional custom.

President Kim Il Sung was a peerless great man, whom our people acknowledged for the first time in their

thousands-year-long history; he was not only the father of our nation but also was recognized worldwide as the sun of mankind.

He was the greatest of great men, in that he embarked on the road of revolution in his early years, dedicated his all to the freedom and happiness of the people, surmounting all manner of trials and hardships, and wound up his brilliant career as a communist revolutionary having striven to the utmost throughout his life.

The imperishable revolutionary achievements he recorded for the cause of the people's independence, the socialist cause, shine brilliantly and occupy a leading place in the long history of mankind and of the communist movement.

The unprecedented image of his greatness—his great ideas and theories, outstanding leadership, noble humanity, unrivalled personality, unassuming character and simple way of life—moves the world.

As the days go by, we feel more keenly that he was a man born with the endowments of a great man. It does not stand to reason to observe convention or traditional custom, in ending the mourning period for the President, a veteran statesman of world politics and the eternal sun of Juche, who opened the new era of independence for the first time in human history.

Even though his heart has stopped beating, he is still with his people. He will live for ever as the top brain of the integral whole of the leader, the Party and the masses and as the founder of socialist Korea, which is emulating him. His history continues in our thriving country, where his

instructions are being implemented to the letter.

If we attempt to draw a line under the mourning of the death of the President, who still lives with his people, this will run counter to the moral conscience of the Korean communists who intend to honour him throughout the ages as the sun of Juche. Our people, who are enjoying a happy life thanks to the great achievements he performed for the country, are missing their fatherly leader all the more as the days go by. Indeed, our people are the eternal members of his family; they cannot live for even a moment outside his embrace.

Our people remember the President both in joy and in sorrow and their yearning for him grows stronger on each anniversary of his death; so it would not be right to specify the end of the mourning period for him according to traditional custom. Ever since his sudden death, we have cherished his memory in an original way without regard to stereotyped convention. Therefore, there is no need to subject ourselves to ancestral custom. It is natural that we should look back on his memory with the noblest moral obligation of the Korean communists to their leader, the supreme representative of the revolutionary seniors, on this year's July 8, the second anniversary of his death. In particular, we should cherish his memory with greater reverence on July 8 next year, the third anniversary of his death.

When the anniversary of his death comes round, the people will look back on his brilliant career and imperishable revolutionary history that was filled with devotion to the country and people, and renew their

determination, recalling what he wished them to do and what they have done in order to carry it out. As there is no limit to their longing for him, our people will cherish his memory of their own accord with the noblest moral obligation when July 8 comes round every year.

We should make it an immutable tradition to mark July 8 as a day of condolences for the whole nation. This is the noblest moral obligation of our people and the progressive peoples of the world, who honour him as the eternal great leader of the revolutionary cause of Juche and the father of all peoples, and also our firm will.

KIM JONG IL
COMRADE KIM IL SUNG
IS THE ETERNAL PRESIDENT
OF OUR REPUBLIC

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