

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG IL

**SELF-RELIANCE
IS THE ONLY WAY TO
SURVIVAL AND VICTORY**

Talk to Commanding Officers of the Korean People's Army
September 8, Juche 87 (1998)

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The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republic has been marked by our scientists and technicians with the building of an artificial satellite, using their own strength and technology and launching it successfully at the first attempt.

This successful launch, our country's first, is an event that demonstrates the national strength of Juche Korea to the whole world.

Our country, which for centuries was plagued by backwardness and poverty, is not only demonstrating its mettle as a politico-ideological power and military giant in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea, but also, as we have seen today, achieving remarkable successes in the development of science and technology, so that it now stands on a par with the world's advanced states. This is, indeed, a source of pride for us.

The domestically-produced satellite that we launched into orbit at the first attempt can be described as the crystallization of the national strength of our Republic, which is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in national defence.

Its successful launch imbues our army and people

with the firm conviction that the road to socialism that they have defended through the Arduous March and forced march is absolutely the correct path, and that when in the future, too, they advance holding high the banner of socialism under the leadership of the Party, they are sure to be victorious.

Over the past few years our army and people have waged an arduous struggle, braving their worst-ever trials and difficulties. Looking back, we can see that they did not endure the difficulties in vain. Through the hardships, they have come to demonstrate their honour as socialist victors.

The news of the successful launch of our first artificial satellite has filled them with confidence in and optimism for the victory of the socialist cause.

The whole world has been struck with admiration, whereas our enemies, overawed by our national strength, are frightened out of their wits.

This miracle is a brilliant achievement born of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Self-reliance is an ennobling ideological spirit that is essential to revolutionaries, and a fundamental principle they must firmly adhere to in their revolutionary struggle and construction work. Their overall revolutionary stand is to assume responsibility

for the revolution in their country and carry it out by their own efforts, however difficult and complex the situation may be.

Revolutionaries, in carrying out the revolution and construction, should believe at all times in the strength of their country's people and rely on them, and should overcome any difficulties by their own efforts. If they turn to others and depend on them instead of believing in their own efforts, they cannot wage the revolution and construction nor successfully overcome the obstacles and difficulties they are faced with.

Self-reliance, a proud tradition of our revolution, has been given full play at all times on the protracted and arduous road of struggle.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung launched the Korean revolution and carried it forward to victory, holding high the revolutionary banner of self-reliance. Having created a fine model of self-reliance in the forests of Paektu, he wisely encouraged the Korean revolutionaries after the country's liberation to give full play to this revolutionary spirit in surmounting all manner of obstacles and difficulties and dynamically promoting socialist construction.

Under his leadership our army and people displayed the revolutionary spirit to the full and

bravely overcame manifold difficulties by their own efforts. Thus they built ours into a socialist country that is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in national defence in a short historical period. Now, as they emerge victorious from the Arduous March and forced march, which are unprecedented in their history, they are bringing about an uninterrupted upsurge in socialist construction. This would also be inconceivable without the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

The fact is that, had we not adhered steadfastly to the principle of self-reliance by inheriting the historic tradition of the Korean revolution, we would not have dared to conceive, at this difficult time, of manufacturing by our own efforts and with our own technology an artificial satellite, which requires the latest science and technology and large sums of money.

This experience clearly proves that self-reliance is the only way to survival and victory.

The US imperialists and their stooges, in order to isolate and stifle our style of socialism, are now stepping up more than ever their economic blockade and political and military pressure. Given the situation, the only way to defend and advance the socialist cause of Juche is on the road of self-reliance.

In the future, too, we should overcome the obstacles and difficulties by our own efforts, holding high the revolutionary banner of self-reliance. In this way we can build an ever-prosperous socialist power on this land for all the world to see.

In order to give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, all our service personnel and people should arm themselves fully with our Party's Juche idea and adhere steadfastly to the view and stand that they will solve all the problems arising in the revolution and construction on their own responsibility and by their own efforts.

This revolutionary spirit is rooted in the Juche-oriented revolutionary outlook on the world and embodies the requirements of the Juche idea. Many people are talking a lot about the idea, but are failing to embrace its requirements in their work and life.

The People's Army should conduct the study of this idea effectively and in close connection with revolutionary practice, so that its officers and soldiers are firmly equipped with the Juche-oriented revolutionary outlook on the world and give fuller play to the attitude of being masters in all their undertakings.

They should learn a positive lesson from the self-

reliant fighting spirit displayed by the anti-Japanese guerrillas.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle was a period when the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance was given its fullest play in our people's history of revolutionary struggle. The anti-Japanese guerrillas fought at all times with an unshakable faith that self-reliance was the only way to liberate their country; they established arsenals in the forests and made swords, spears and even wooden guns and Yongil bombs with their bare hands. If they had worshipped other countries instead of relying on themselves and had not cherished the thoroughgoing belief that relying on themselves was the only way to liberate their country, those arsenals would never have appeared in the forests and such weapons as wooden guns and Yongil bombs would never have been produced by their bare hands.

The fighting spirit of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, who surmounted difficulties and hastened the victory of the revolution while creating new things from nothing in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, should be emulated by our army and people for ever.

The People's Army should step up among its officers and soldiers the study of materials associated

with education in our revolutionary traditions, including the reminiscences of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, and encourage them to learn from the examples of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, so that they can give full play to the revolutionary trait of self-reliance in their work and life.

It is an essential requirement, if we are to display to the full the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, that we completely overcome such outmoded ideas as the worship of big powers and defeatism.

We should never tolerate or connive at even the slightest tendency towards these ideological maladies, and should make sure that all the officers and service personnel, with a conviction in the validity of the socialist cause and the inevitability of the victory of the revolution, carry out every task, however difficult, by their own efforts and fight on, filled with confidence and optimism at all times, without the slightest vacillation and pessimism.

Self-reliance is the lifeblood, and decisive to the destiny, of our revolution. We should achieve the reunification of the country and build a prosperous, powerful socialist country with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Roads should be built to the highest standard.

The quality of its roads is a key criterion showing the level of a country's civilization. In carrying out every project, the People's Army should ensure the quality, so that it becomes a creation of lasting significance.

There are currently too many bridges on the motorways. If war breaks out, the enemy will attempt to bomb the bridges first so as to sever our transport links. When motorways are planned in the future, no bridges should be built if at all possible, but many tunnels should be dug instead.

I have been told that, owing to the current heavy rainfall, a bridge on the road between Anju and Mundok was destroyed; it should be rebuilt as soon as possible.

Appropriate measures need to be taken to provide supply-service materials for visitors to Mt Myohyang. Now that the access road to the mountain from the motorway has been paved well, greater numbers of people will visit the mountain.

Measures should be adopted for supplying the tourists with fish. They will never have imagined that they would be supplied with fish while touring the mountains, so they will be delighted.

It would be a good idea for the People's Army to

conduct a survey of the springs within a 30-kilometre radius of Hyangsan, with a view to establishing a rainbow trout farm. A team should be dispatched first to conduct a field survey for building the fish farm.

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