

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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LIVING STANDARDS MUST BE IMPROVED TO HASTEN THE COMPLETE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM

Talk to Senior Officials of South Hamgyong Province
August 9, 1991

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We should wage a proactive struggle to hasten the complete victory of socialism.

As Comrade Kim Jong Il stressed in May this year in his work *Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish*, there is no better social system in the world than ours. The head of a delegation from the Uganda National Resistance Movement has also said that our country's socialist system is the best in the world; I have been informed that in his meeting with me today he wants to listen to my opinion on why all the European socialist countries collapsed and what should be done in this situation. This is his third visit to our country.

Now that we have built the best socialist system which is the envy of the world, we can achieve the complete victory of socialism sooner if we further improve the people's living standards. The major goal in the complete victory of socialism can be said to have been achieved if all the people are eating rice with meat soup, dressing in silk clothes and living in a tile-roofed house.

Since olden times Koreans have cherished the dream of eating rice with meat soup, dressing in silk

clothes and living in a tile-roofed house. It is our main goal in socialist construction to realize this centuries-old desire of the people. If this goal is attained, our people's standard of living will reach that of the well-to-do middle-income farmers of the past.

It would be splendid if, by working strenuously, we could manage in our generation to ensure that people eat rice with meat soup, dress in silk clothes and live in a tile-roofed house.

To this end, we must farm well and produce large quantities of cereals. That is why a long ago I put forward the slogan "Fertilizer is rice and rice is socialism." Socialism is nothing unusual. A socialist society is one in which all the people are equally well fed and clad, and are living happily.

South Hamgyong Province should wage a vigorous struggle to ensure that people there are eating rice with meat soup, dressing in silk clothes and living in a tile-roofed house.

The province should produce one million tons of grain by farming effectively. It has been said since olden times that agriculture is the great foundation of a country. Only when sufficient food is being provided can other problems be solved properly.

If South Hamgyong Province is to produce a

million tons of grain, it needs to produce eight to ten tons per hectare. If it produces eight tons of grain per hectare, the total output will be 940 000 tons. If it produces ten tons of grain per hectare through successful farming, the total output will be 1 170 000 tons, which is enough to produce 100 000 tons of meat after putting aside the grain for human consumption.

It is important for the province to cultivate rice, corn and potatoes well. Highlands like Jangjin and Pujon counties in the province should be planted with potatoes. If the soil on the highlands is infertile, humus should be applied. The province should produce eight to nine tons of rice, ten tons of corn and 20 tons of potatoes per hectare.

A decisive solution needs to be found to the problem of fertilizer if grain production is to be increased. Nitrogen, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are major fertilizers that are indispensable for farming.

The problem of nitrogen fertilizer can be solved if the project to introduce large-scale, modern equipment at the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is completed this year. To date, the complex's equipment has been repaired once a year, but it has been done half-heartedly, so that they broke down within a year. As a result, the complex has failed to produce as much

fertilizer as it should, obliging the chairpersons of the provincial rural economy committees to find alternative sources of fertilizer.

The complex should renovate its old equipment, making it larger and more modern, so as to increase fertilizer production. I am currently in Hamhung, guiding this project. It should be completed at an early date. The equipment should not be assembled carelessly on the plea of the need for speed. I have been told that some of the parts being used are rusty. This means the equipment will have to be repaired again before too long. An ideological campaign and ideological education should be launched against the irresponsible work style revealed in the project, with a view to enhancing the sense of responsibility of the workers and technicians.

The problem of potassic fertilizer will be solved once the construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex is completed. But the first stage of the complex, which was due to be completed several years ago, is yet to be finished. For the present, the problem of potassic fertilizer should be solved by exchanging the nitrogen fertilizer produced at the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex with potassic fertilizer from abroad.

The soil needs to be improved if grain production is to be increased.

In several European countries, people have long lived by livestock farming, as they have vast expanses of land, but our people have lived by growing cereals. So, the fertility of the soil has fallen considerably. And we have limited land under cultivation. The size of the arable land in South Hamgyong Province is not large, either, compared to its population.

If the province is to produce one million tons of grain a year, it needs to increase the unit-area yield of grain by improving the soil and increasing its fertility. There is no other way, if we are to farm well under the present conditions. If South Hamgyong Province improves the soil and increases its fertility, it can produce eight to nine tons of rice, ten tons of corn and 20 tons of potatoes, respectively, per hectare.

In order to improve the soil, first of all fresh soil should be spread over the existing fields. The good corn harvest this year is attributable to the application of sufficient manure and effective weeding, but mainly to the carpeting of the fields with fresh soil.

Carbide ash should also be applied to paddy and non-paddy fields in order to improve the soil. In the past, farming in Jongphyong County was successful

because it applied carbide ash in large amounts to its paddy and non-paddy fields. One year I dropped in at the house of the chairman of the Jongphyong County Party Committee on my way to give field guidance at the Kwangpho Duck Farm. I wanted to rest for a while, so I lay down on a bed in a room, but I could not get to sleep because I was worried about the livelihood of the local people. I looked out of the window and saw the chairman squatting at the door. I told him to come in for a chat. He came in, but he could not stop crying. I asked him what was wrong. He replied: I feel sorry for being so ineffective as chairman of the county Party committee; the livelihood of the farmers in my county is still poor because the crop output has still not increased, even after an irrigation project was carried out and some fields were turned into paddies. I told him that the reason for the poor farming was that the soil was too acidified, and that carbide ash should be applied to the fields to improve the soil.

Later, he enlisted the local people to apply carbide ash to the fields, and after two years grain output began to rise. *Rodong Sinmun* at the time gave wide publicity to the county's experience.

I am citing the example of Jongphyong County in order to encourage you to follow its example of

applying carbide ash to your fields to improve the soil.

As there is a considerable source of carbide ash in South Hamgyong Province, the soil can be improved easily if it is applied to the fields. There is no reason why carbide ash cannot be applied to the fields when a large amount of it is available in the province.

I have been told that the province applies 150 000-160 000 tons of carbide ash every year. It should apply 200 000 tons from now on. Officials in the province should conduct an experiment to confirm how much carbide ash is enough per hectare a year.

The point is how the province's stockpiles of carbide ash are transported. A vigorous struggle should be waged to transport it. The province should make scrupulous arrangements to transport carbide ash by train, truck and even by oxcart. In this way, it can ensure that all the cities and counties, from Tanchon to Kowon, apply carbide ash to their fields.

Silicon fertilizer should also be applied to the fields extensively. In the past, a lot of silicon fertilizer was applied in Hamju County, which increased the unit-area yield of grain, but it seems this is not the case now. I have been told that silicon fertilizer from the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex is not being applied to the fields because of the difficulty of

transporting it. If it is difficult to transport the fertilizer by train, then steps should be taken to transport it by sea. If fertilizer is unloaded at the ports of Tanchon, Sinpho and Hungnam, it will be easy to transport it to the cities and counties in the province.

South Hamgyong Province should raise ducks and geese in large numbers.

Raising pigs requires a lot of grain, so it is better for the province to build duck farms than to build pig farms. Individual farmers should raise plenty of pigs.

Sunchon is exemplary in raising ducks. The city raises ducks in its paddy fields. The ducks eat grass, which means they are weeding. In this way, the city is producing meat.

I recently received a gift of five brown and five black ducks. I was told that they grow fast on less feed. So I have given them to an institution to raise them.

It is also good to raise geese. A few days ago I read a document which said that geese, as herbivorous creatures, can be raised on grass alone. Ducks and geese can be raised by feeding them fresh grass or ensilage.

Raising grass-eating domestic animals like ducks and geese in large numbers demands that conditions for developing livestock farming, like pasture, are provided.

South Hamgyong Province should ensure that superior breeds of ducks and geese are raised collectively and individually. If the province raises them well, it will be able to provide the people with meat.

The province should plant pumpkins in its pine groves.

During my current visit to Jongphyong County, I have seen many pine groves. So I instructed that the local people should be shown a scientific film on planting pumpkins in pine groves.

South Hamgyong Province should also raise silkworms on a large scale.

Effective silkworm raising will help us to earn foreign currency and produce silk clothes for the people.

Once I told some women soldiers in Ryanggang Province to raise willow silkworms. Now they are producing cocoons in fairly large quantities. Silkworms can also be raised on white birch leaves. I am going to emphasize that Ryanggang Province should raise willow silkworms.

It is better for the mountainous regions like Jangjin and Pujon counties in South Hamgyong Province, where mulberry trees do not grow well, to

raise willow silkworms. Willows thrive in those counties, so they can raise willow silkworms without difficulty, I think.

The newly-appointed secretary for agriculture of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee and the chairwoman of the province's Rural Economy Committee should pool their efforts in carrying out the tasks facing the province's rural economy sector, such as that of producing one million tons of grain.

Recently several chairpersons of provincial rural economy committees have been replaced by women. The chairpersons of the rural economy committees of South and North Hwanghae provinces are women. The chairperson of the Rural Economy Committee of North Phyongan Province is also a woman, who worked for many years as the management board chairperson of the Unha Cooperative Farm in Unjon County. The chairpersons of the rural economy committees of Pyongyang Municipality and Kangwon and North Hamgyong provinces are also women. The chairperson of the rural economy committee of South Hamgyong Province was a man until some months ago, and the Party has replaced him with a woman and appointed a new secretary of agriculture of the provincial Party committee.

In South Hamgyong Province the secretary of agriculture of the provincial Party committee should give Party-oriented guidance over farming, and the chairperson of the provincial rural economy committee, as the commander of farming in the province, should give administrative guidance over farming so that they can produce one million tons of grain every year.

The chairperson of the provincial rural economy committee has said that she will prove herself worthy of my expectation by farming well. Her pledge is good.

If we are to solve the problem of clothing for the people, the February 8 Vinalon Complex should maintain regular operation.

When we say that we should ensure that the people wear silk clothes, it does not mean that we should clothe them only in silk by raising silkworms. It also means that we should produce vinalon cloth and other kinds of cloth in large amounts so as to ensure that the people do not feel any inconvenience with regard to their clothing.

Recently, however, the February 8 Vinalon Complex has been failing to put its production on a regular footing, resulting in the failure to provide the people even with enough underwear. If officials fail to

produce enough underwear for the people, they may face censure.

The reason why factories and enterprises such as the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex are not maintaining regular operation is due mainly to the shortage of electricity.

While giving on-site guidance at South Hamgyong Province on this occasion, I have decided to ensure that enough electricity is supplied to the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex so that the people's living standards can be raised, and have adopted appropriate measures. These complexes, though essential in improving the people's living standards, are not producing vinalon, caustic soda and fertilizer as planned because they are not being supplied with enough electricity. Only when we supply enough electricity to the February 8 Vinalon Complex can it produce 50 000 tons of vinalon, as well as the caustic soda needed for producing staple fibre. Even though we may not operate other factories properly, we should supply enough electricity and coal to the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex so that they can operate at full capacity. If separate electric transmission cables are laid to those complexes, electricity can be supplied to

them regularly without any decrease in voltage. On this occasion, I have instructed the officials concerned to lay separate electric transmission cables to these complexes without fail. They must carry out my instructions. Availing myself of my current visit, I will have this problem solved, come what may.

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