

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

SPEECH AT THE MILITARY PARADE CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA

October 10, 2020

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All the people and service personnel across the country, who are greeting the auspicious October holiday,

Officers and men of the Public Security Forces and members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards,

Delegates attending the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, and citizens of Pyongyang,

Officers and men of the units participating in the military parade held to celebrate the glorious October holiday,

Dear comrades,

The founding anniversary of our glorious Party has come.

The night of great glory has come.

On this glorious night we are marking the Party's founding anniversary in a year beset with unprecedented difficulties. I don't know why, but I find this extremely moving.

As we mark the 75th founding anniversary of our

great Party, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all those who have made this splendid October holiday such a worthy and proud occasion.

I extend warm thanks and congratulations to all our people.

Comrades,

On the night of this great holiday, the splendid streets of the capital city and this square are seething with pleasure and pride. But we must not forget the numerous Party members, workers and service personnel of our revolutionary armed forces who, through their unassuming and devoted efforts across the country, are making this glorious occasion possible.

There are so many people who have, by displaying tremendous dedication in overcoming the harsh circumstances this year, helped to bring about and secure this glorious event today!

There have been so many challenges we have had to overcome in order to bring us this far!

In particular, in the face of the unexpected

challenges, our service personnel have worked with real devotion this year on the infectious disease prevention and disaster relief fronts. No one could reflect on their patriotic and heroic devotion without shedding tears of gratitude.

They would say that defending their country, people and revolution is the natural duty of the People's Army. But the pains they have gone to, are too great.

The tasks they have undertaken are too many and the pains they have gone to, too great.

Because of this, I feel great remorse, and it pains my heart that they are not all here with us on this glorious night.

At this very moment, many of our service personnel, in defence of the security of our state and the safety of our people, are battling courageously on the infectious disease prevention front and at the rehabilitation project sites far away from this glorious Kim Il Sung Square.

Our army is performing its mission as the motive force of our national defence with great credit in the face of not only the military threat from hostile forces

but also the unforeseen challenges posed by the pandemic and the forces of nature.

I pay the highest tribute to them for their loyal and filial, ardent devotion to our state and people, and extend warm thanks to all service personnel.

I also offer my militant encouragement and thanks to my most dependable combatants who make up the divisions of WPK members dispatched from the capital city as a hardcore force. They are patriots who deserve to be present here. But instead, they volunteered, after completing their tasks at the rehabilitation project sites, to go to other disaster-hit areas, rather than returning to Pyongyang and their beloved families.

My militant greetings and thanks go also to all the other working people across the country.

I hope that those families that have settled in new villages and homes after recovering from the effects of the natural calamities, as well as other families across the country, will experience nothing but happiness and joy.

I hope that our children will always see their happy dreams come true.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt condolences to all those around the world who are still combating the disease caused by the malignant virus. I pray from the bottom of my heart that health, happiness and laughter can be guaranteed for everyone.

I also send my warm wishes to our dear fellow countrymen in the south. I hope that this health crisis will soon be ended and that the day will come when the north and south can take each other's hand again.

Comrades,

Tonight in gathering here in this square for the October celebration, we have brought with us the valuable successes and the fruits of our labour, achieved through an all-out effort.

It has not been easy for us to come this far.

We have had to fight one arduous struggle after another and have overcome countless ordeals.

Although the 75-year history of our Party has been fraught with difficulties, every day and every step since the outset of this year has been particularly arduous and trying, due to the unexpected and grave challenges and obstacles we have faced.

We have come to this meaningful venue with the pride and honour of having braved them all.

This gathering, which the whole world would esteem, demonstrates that we have overcome all the calamities that assailed and impeded us, and that we have attained with success our reasonable fighting goals.

Dear comrades,

Today we are marking the 75th founding anniversary of our Party on a grand scale.

No other country in the world celebrates a party's founding anniversary as a joyous holiday and grand, auspicious event for the entire population, as our country does.

As I stand here on this emotive and delightful night that is brimming over with the great joy of all our people, I am afraid that I do not know how I should start to address them.

I carefully considered what I might say first at this moment, when we are looking back on every page of our Party's glorious 75-year history. But I have only one heartfelt, sincere word for our people: *Thanks*.

First of all, I thank them for being healthy and free from illness.

This is something I surely wanted to say.

I thank them for their good health, without any one of them having fallen victim to the malignant virus.

The fact that we have protected all our people from the harmful pandemic that is sweeping the whole world could be described as the natural duty and a natural success of our Party. Yet I am moved by this success, and seeing how healthy everyone is I can find no word other than *thanks*.

This victory, which is admired by the whole world, is a great victory achieved by our people themselves.

For our Party, nothing is more precious than the life of every one of our people. Their good health is essential to the very existence of our Party, our state, and everything on this land.

However, in the world today, there are too many unstable elements threatening and attempting to harm the priceless lives of our people.

In fact, at the beginning of this year I was very worried, even fearful, owing to the onset of the global health crisis and the unfavourable situation surrounding us.

Yet our people rose up and, in a display of great

commitment, expressed absolute support for and trust in the measures adopted by the Party and state. In this way, they not only resolutely safeguarded their destiny, but also bravely and with great vigour overcame the severe hardships and trials.

Were it not for such excellent people who worry about, care for and protect one another, and were it not for our socialist society in which these people work together in a spirit of patriotism and self-awareness, we would not have prevented the dreadful catastrophe.

All our people turned out as one in the struggle to defend their state, themselves and their children, voluntarily becoming the motive force in the infectious disease prevention effort. In this way the country's infectious disease prevention sector, which had been backward and lacking in everything, could be revitalized, and stability in the face of the pandemic could be maintained that would be inconceivable to others.

I find it very gratifying and encouraging that everybody is living as part of a large, harmonious family, although they are not yet well-off, and that

everybody is healthy, without a single person having fallen victim to the evil virus.

Of all the world's people, ours alone recognize and truly understand that when their state faces a difficult situation, they themselves should handle it by regarding it as a domestic matter.

On this planet, ours is the only country that is currently facing such huge challenges and difficulties, including dealing with the pandemic emergency and recovering from the catastrophic natural disasters, while everything is in short supply owing to the harsh and prolonged sanctions.

All these hardships are, without doubt, a heavy burden and a source of pain for every family and every citizen in our country.

However, our people are true patriots who place the affairs of the nation ahead of those of their families, who share with the state every difficulty it experiences, and who firmly support their country with their honest sweat and effort.

This is why our Party, in facing up to every manner of national hardship, believes in and relies on the people, since they always respond as one if it

unburdens itself of a situation.

Our people have always been grateful to our Party. But it is our great people themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude.

Over the past 75 years, our people have supported the Party with a single heart and defended our sacred revolutionary cause by shedding their sweat, and even their blood, unsparingly and without hesitation.

The secret of how our Party, in following a revolutionary road that is particularly arduous and beset with trials, has adorned this bloody road with victory and glory, is that our people have sincerely trusted and supported it and defended its cause.

It is impossible to conceive of even a moment of our Party's glorious 75-year history without our great people, the all-powerful creators of history. They have always offered it the wisdom and resourcefulness of a wise mentor, infused it with inexhaustible strength and courage, defended it at the cost of their lives, supported it sincerely, and turned its plans and lines into reality.

When it called on them to bring about a great upsurge, our great people responded with the mettle

of Chollima; when it mapped out an operation for grand construction, they responded with a speed campaign. In this way, by going through fire and water, they unfailingly carried out the Party's decisions. With such great people as a constant companion, our Party has always been resolute and able to record miracles in the annals of this nation, whatever the adversity.

In achieving the victory of the great October holiday, our people have overcome every manner of hardship by displaying boundless, loyal and filial devotion, an indomitable fighting spirit, and sincere efforts. In their faces I see, with great pride, the overwhelming strength to follow and defend the Party for another 75 years, nay, 750 years, and even 7 500 years.

Comrades,

The trust our people have placed in me is as high as the sky and as deep as the ocean. But I have failed at times to live up to it satisfactorily. For this, I am truly sorry.

Thanks to the trust of all the people, I have been handed the important responsibility of leading this

country, upholding the cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Yet my efforts and sincerity have fallen short of ridding our people of all the hardships they face.

Our people, however, have always believed in and fully trusted me, and supported every one of my plans and decisions.

Even though more suffering may lie ahead, our people's trust in me and our Party remains absolute and steadfast.

Their ardent, sincere trust and encouragement are my most valuable asset, which cannot be bartered for fame or millions of tons of gold; they are also a source of inexhaustible strength which motivates me to have no fear and recognize no impossibility.

Because I enjoy greater trust than anyone else in the world could even imagine, I have been able to confront without hesitation every challenge; in doing so, I have been conscious of my duty and will to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, throwing myself into do-or-die battles that could even lead to war, and acting uncompromisingly in dealing with disasters on a scale unprecedented in history.

I will cherish it as the highest honour to have, serve and struggle for such excellent people.

Here tonight, I solemnly swear once again that I will live up to the people's trust without fail, even if my body is torn and crushed to pieces in the course of defending their great trust, and that I will remain faithful to it.

Dear guests, and all other people across the country,

Thank you, indeed.

I extend my thanks to you with humble reverence from my own heart, and from the hearts of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Comrades,

It is our Party's and my own duty and steadfast resolve, first and foremost, to firmly defend our people, hold them in higher regard, and ensure that they lead a happy life with nothing to envy.

Our Party has already built up a powerful military capability for safeguarding peace. With it, we can firmly defend socialism, which is the lifeblood of our people and the source of their dignity, and ensure that they enjoy the benefits of prosperity, from one

generation to the next, on a land that is free from war for ever.

The massed ranks of today's military parade will clearly demonstrate how the Workers' Party of Korea has trained its revolutionary army, and how powerful this army is.

As everyone will bear witness today, by comparison with the military parade held here to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the WPK just five years ago, our military forces have been radically modernized; the speed of their development is evident for all to see.

We have a large, powerful contingent of loyal and able defence science and technology personnel and munitions industry workers, who are all firmly equipped with our Party's revolutionary ideology and truly serve the interests of our revolution.

Our military capability has developed and been transformed to such an extent that no one can now belittle it or keep up with it.

We have built a deterrent with which we can adequately contain and manage any military threat that we are facing or may face.

Our military capability, in terms of its rate of growth and its quality and scale, is being transformed in our own style and in accordance with our own demands and timetable.

Our Party has concluded that the most assured and strongest national defence capability is the military capability to respond pre-emptively and overpower any force that may dare to threaten or infringe on the rights of our people and state to independence and existence. Having made every effort to develop military forces that are able to achieve this purpose, it is now working steadily to attain its upgraded targets.

Our war deterrent is a reasonable self-defence means, and we will continue to strengthen it so as to contain and manage any dangerous attempt and act of intimidation by the hostile forces, including their sustained and aggressive nuclear threat.

Our war deterrent, which is intended to defend our state's right to independence and existence and to safeguard regional peace, will never be misused or employed in a preemptive strike. But if, and only if, some power infringes upon the security of our state and resorts to military force against us, I will punish

them by taking pre-emptive action to enlist our most powerful offensive strength.

I never want our military strength to be aimed at someone else.

We stress that our war deterrent is being developed, not for targeting others.

We are developing it in order to defend ourselves.

Without our own independent strength, we could do nothing other than use our clenched fists to wipe away the streaming tears and blood.

Our Party, with our powerful military strength, will guarantee the sovereignty of the country and the security of its territory, and safeguard for ever the safety, peace and future of our state and people.

Comrades,

Thanks to our revolutionary armed forces, which are equipped with the revolutionary ideology of the WPK, unbounded loyalty and filial piety to the country and people, and with powerful state-of-the-art weaponry embodying the strength and spirit of our people, no forces of aggression will ever be able to belittle our sacred country or dare to check the advance of the Korean people.

What remains to be done now, is to ensure that our people enjoy to the full a sufficient and civilized life, no longer plagued by difficulties.

Our Party will invariably implement and constantly expand the advantageous policies and measures aimed at improving the people's wellbeing and providing them with greater benefits, and will create as soon as possible the ideal prosperous society our people are dreaming of.

Our Party, in sharing its destiny with the people in the face of severe trials and experiencing their united strength, has become fully aware of what it needs to do in the future.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will advance plans and detailed targets to this end, and our Party's struggle for our people's wellbeing will develop onto a new stage.

The further we develop, the more aggressive the reactionary forces of all hues may become, and the greater may be the scale of the unexpected trials we face. However, they will be nothing compared with what we have experienced in the past, and we have the strength and confidence with which to overcome them all.

The single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses of the people, consolidated in the long course of our struggle, and the skilled personnel and assets for attaining self-reliance developed under our socialist system—these will surely become a powerful force that propels and accelerates our advance.

Our Party and people, who have achieved things that others would not have dared to attempt by overcoming immeasurable trials and hardships that others have never experienced, will embark on their advance towards fresh development and prosperity with greater courage and confidence, and uncommon passion and preparedness.

I will ensure that every Party organization, the entire government, and all power and military organs make increasingly strict demands on themselves, devote strenuous efforts, and work with sincerity for our people and for bringing them a better tomorrow.

Our people's aspirations are great, and the day when they are realized will surely come.

I will direct every effort to realizing these great aspirations in order to ensure that innovations, development and substantial changes that everyone

can feel are made in the struggle for attaining higher goals in socialist construction.

Comrades, we have become strong and are becoming stronger in the midst of trials.

Time is on our side.

Let us all advance vigorously towards a bright future of socialism, towards fresh victory!

Finally, I once again extend thanks to all the people for being in good health, free from any disease.

And I also extend my heartfelt thanks to them for invariably trusting in our Party.

Long live our great people!

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