

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**LET US WORK HARD
FOR THE DIGNITY AND
COMPREHENSIVE PROSPERITY
OF THE DPRK, HOLDING ALOFT
THE BANNER OF SOCIALISM**

Speech at the 13th Session of the 14th
Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK
September 21, 2025

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Dear Comrade Deputies,
Esteemed Chairman of the Standing Committee
and Deputy Speakers of the Supreme People's
Assembly,

Dear observers,

The 13th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is successfully conducting its work in accordance with the mission and authority granted to it by the Constitution of the Republic and thanks to the active participation of and discussions by all the Deputies.

I am pleased that our supreme power organ, by pushing forward in a responsible and purposeful manner with the important affairs of state, is providing a legal and institutional guarantee for resolving the pressing problems of great practical significance in further promoting the consolidation and development of our socialist system and the country's overall prosperity.

While expressing my encouragement to the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly who, as representatives of our people's independent rights and

general will, are demonstrating infinite loyalty in the performance of their duties in the fields of socialist construction and playing a major role in the legislative activities for perfecting state policy and government work, and availing myself of this opportunity when numerous officials of Party, government and leading organs in the national defence and security, and socio-economic, sectors are present as observers, I would like to emphasize the successes we have achieved so far this year and focus on a series of important tasks arising in state building and activities in the future.

Comrades,

In 2025, with our Party and the government of the Republic completing their work at the present stage, major, significant undertakings which were planned scientifically and more actively for the comprehensive development of the state have been pushed forward in a powerful and balanced manner, and important successes have been achieved.

The 13th Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Party will convene this December. It will conduct a general review. But in a preliminary review at this meeting, I can say that the five-year plan, including this year's plan, will be successfully

fulfilled. I do not doubt that this will be reported to the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The fervent political enthusiasm demonstrated by citizens since the beginning of the year to glorify the 80th anniversary of the Party with great feats of labour has led to an uninterrupted advance and courageous struggle in the second half of the year, as in the first.

This has convinced us that, in the run-up to its historic Ninth Congress, the five-year plan set by the Party's Eighth Central Committee is sure to be fulfilled in 2025, an important year that marks the 80th anniversary of our Party.

We have recorded significant successes in the nine months of this year, and have been inspired by the overall mettle and climate.

Above all, the metallurgical, chemical, electric power, machine-building and other key industries and major economic sectors are generally fulfilling this year's national economic plan.

Of course, they are not at a level with which we can feel content and satisfied, but it is excellent that most enterprises are eager to attain their production targets and are recording substantial results.

Following on from last year, the agricultural sector has produced a promising harvest this year and

expects to hit the national target for grain production.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the officials and working people in this sector, the production and procurement plans for early-ripening crops this year have been overfulfilled; this unprecedented success proves in reality the validity and vitality of our Party's new policy of encouraging wheat farming.

Yields of second crops are expected to be good as well, so we have clear prospects for attaining the grain production target envisaged for this year.

We have been working to increase the rate of mechanization in farm work, and as a result it has increased by more than 2% over the previous year. As a further strengthening of the foundations of agricultural production, this constitutes a great asset for its steadier advance.

We can say that we have eliminated the deviation of making empty talk: the seed revolution, double cropping, scientific farming and mechanized farming have become part and parcel of bringing about a substantial transformation in agricultural production; everyone's enthusiasm for sincerely assisting the farms is soaring; and the capacity for coping with the natural calamities that impact farming every year has been raised.

It is the construction sector that most clearly and undeniably demonstrates how the nation is progressing.

As for industrial construction first, the projects for building highly modern bases with a huge production capacity in key industries and the light industry sector have been pushed forward through a strenuous effort. Major projects, including the first stage of the Tanchon Power Station and the renovation of the Ryongsong Machine Complex, are nearing completion.

On the banks of the Amnok River, which were cleared of flood damage last year and have witnessed the transformation of the northwestern border area, a large-scale greenhouse farm has appeared, thanks to the vigorous creative struggle of the soldier-builders and other young people.

With the gigantic project of building 50 000 flats in the capital within the five-year plan period being pushed forward more extensively than in the original plan, the fourth stage of construction in the Hwasong area is well underway, in accordance with the plan, and the construction of hundreds of houses in the Komdok area and tens of thousands of houses in rural communities across the country will be completed

within this year.

The Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area has been built to the highest level, and people from various parts of the country have started enjoying a holiday there; the construction of the Samjiyon tourist resort has been dynamically pushed forward; Pyongyang General Hospital is nearing inauguration; and many other structures that are symbolic of our style of new civilization and showcase our state's rapid advance, are springing up. These, too, constitute a remarkable success.

With the regional development policy in the new era being pursued in an expansive way, regional-industry factories that are more developed than those built in the first year of the policy's enforcement are under construction in 20 cities and counties, and the tremendous undertaking of establishing public health facilities and comprehensive cultural service bases which are essential for radically improving the quality of life of people in the provinces is advancing successfully at the trial stage.

Notably, the Ragwon County Offshore Farm and a modern housing district for its employees, which constitute a substantial target in securing major assets for increasing the development potential of regions

and transforming them, have been built in a little over six months.

The joy and laughter of the people—there is no greater encouragement and inspiration for the ruling party of a socialist state and its government in convincing them of the justness of their policies and the importance of devoting their all for the people by displaying stronger leadership ability.

The people deeply sense the real change in their own regions when they move into modern houses built by the state, and they are encouraged to bring the future goal to the present reality through a courageous effort. This is a powerful motive force that vividly highlights the aspirations and development goals of our economy and injects vitality into our socialist system.

Notable successes have been achieved in the sectors of science, education, public health, the arts and sport. Development is becoming ever-more evident in all the realms of state and social life, and the people are becoming happier and more encouraged.

On several occasions, such as the 80th anniversary of national liberation, the 77th anniversary of the Republic, and V-Day, our state has demonstrated its dignity and prestige once again and our people have

renewed their resolve to maintain their self-respect and achieve prosperity by their own efforts.

Our Party and government are also making steady progress in strengthening the state's defence capabilities.

In accordance with the Party's line of strengthening the naval forces, we have built destroyers capable of carrying out various military missions at sea. Thus we have created a solid strategic axis for defending our maritime sovereignty and taken a crucial first step in building our country into a marine power. Recently, we have set clear targets, ranging from ceaselessly strengthening our strategic forces and expanding their capabilities to improving the combat performance of our conventional military hardware. These constitute a highly significant transformation.

Besides, we now possess new, secret weapons, and have recorded many achievements in defence science, which constitute a significant contribution to a greater, radical boost in our military forces.

We have demonstrated how great and precious are the state assets and people's wealth created over the first nine months of this year, and how expansive is our fighting scope for stepping up the remarkable progress of socialism.

Laying the foundations of prosperity by dint of self-reliance was included in the long-term plan released at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly six years ago; these foundations have been built up decisively in all realms, and the comprehensive development of socialist construction, which was regarded as an ideal back then, has entered the phase of solidification.

The theory is now well established that no one and no adversity can obstruct or delay our state and people in their onward march to increase their strength and advance along the road of development of their own choice.

Neither the wicked obstructive moves by outside forces nor the unprecedented public health crisis and natural disasters could undermine our strength and unity.

This is attributable to the fact that the entire Party, the whole country and all the people, by upholding the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress as their invincible struggle programme, have made strenuous efforts to achieve a leap forward by displaying unprecedented perseverance and practical ability year after year, and overcome the severe challenges and difficulties.

In the course of this, our will and self-confidence in staunchly advancing our cause and opening up our future have become stronger, and the role of all the people and the power of their advance have gained further momentum.

All the people in the country, wherever they live, are witnessing a radical transformation, and they are being united more closely with a high sense of pride in their country and devotion to it.

I am proud of the fact that the people's pride in and love for their country have never been so great as they are today in the near-eight-decade history of the Republic.

For us, economic growth and increased military strength are hugely significant, yet what is more important and powerful is the spiritual strength of the people, the motive force, and their preparedness as a politico-ideological force.

Our Party and the government of the Republic identify reserves and potential first in ideological factors rather than in economic levers, and they solve every problem by dint of ideology and a political offensive. Thanks to this leadership mode, the flames of an emulation drive for increased production and greater economy, which were kindled by the workers

of the Sangwon Cement Complex, have launched a tide of revolutionary zeal and fighting enthusiasm across the whole country. Encouraged by the heroic spirit of the martyrs of the overseas operations units who have sacrificed their lives in defence of the honour and dignity of the country, patriotic enthusiasm and mass heroism are mounting further among the people across the country.

This is more precious and powerful than anything else in the pursuit of future victory, success and development.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to extend my warm, sincere gratitude to all the citizens of the Republic, who have always rendered absolute support for the policies of the Party and the government and upheld them through a vigorous struggle and shining creative achievements.

Comrade Deputies,

By boosting our soaring spirit of advance, with which we have brought about unprecedented changes in all the realms of state and social life since the founding of the country, and thus successfully carrying out the heavy tasks of the times and our revolutionary duty, we are going to develop our Republic into a powerful country that no one would

dare to provoke and an ideal society for the people. This is the real aim of our struggle, and we are full of confidence.

At present, when the struggle to bring about the comprehensive prosperity of the state has entered a period of unprecedented upsurge, our Party and people are expecting the government of the Republic to play a more correct and proactive role.

The government should adhere to the principle of further strengthening the people-oriented character in its activities and giving full play to the unity and creativity that are unique to our people.

A number of units have revealed such deviations as, in the blind pursuit of implementing production plans and construction tasks, paying little attention to their employees' working and living conditions.

Under no circumstances should we tarnish the original features of our people-centred socialism, but place people above production and solve, one by one, the basic problems arising in promoting the health and convenience of producers.

With the work of finishing this year's farming in full swing across the country, we should ensure that there are no instances of requisitioning the farmers' share on the pretext of implementing the plan or

trading cereals through illegal channels.

We need the planned quantities of cereals, but more important are the rights and interests of the farmers and more precious is the people's mindset of trusting absolutely in the Party's policies.

In the course of carrying out policies, we must not tolerate even the slightest manifestation of practices that run counter to our state's people-oriented character, including the abuse of power, bureaucratic behaviour and infringement on the people's interests; instead we should orient all state affairs fully to cementing our single-hearted unity.

It is vital to turn the course of arranging and conducting state affairs into that of giving free rein to the inexhaustible strength of the masses.

In other words, when overcoming the subjective and objective obstacles in the way of our advance or implementing pressing, essential tasks in a bold manner, we should push ahead with all state affairs by considering first the unrivalled revolutionary spirit of our people and their patriotic loyalty, and enlisting their great strength.

The Cabinet should steadily enhance its role as organizer and mobilizer.

The Cabinet has under its authority the executive

institutions and forces capable of performing the mission of government organs and can exercise the relevant authority, so it should give sound guidance and exercise proper control over all its affiliated organs so that they perform their functions with credit.

Also, it should work to ensure close ties and cooperation among sectoral executive institutions through collective discussions, enforce regular control and direction over both general affairs and the work of individual sectors, and take pragmatic steps for eliminating negative tendencies that may be revealed among economic guidance officials, such as working in a subjective manner, acting on impulse, self-centredness, fame-seeking, irresponsibility and incompetence.

It should establish strict financial discipline in dealing with overall state affairs so as to allow no room for such negative practices as misappropriation, waste and embezzlement. It should also ensure that funds, once invested, are put to proper and effective use for building up the foundations of the independent economy and promoting the people's wellbeing.

Finding proper solutions for the problems arising in economic management is the most pressing task facing us in putting overall state affairs in order and

achieving the sustained development of our economy by relying on our own forces.

It is imperative to conduct a full analysis of why contradictions and shortcomings are being revealed in economic work and adopt prompt measures for establishing realistic and rational methods of economic management so as to dynamically propel socialist construction.

This year our regional development policy has entered a new stage of expanded implementation, based on last year's success and experience and the long-term demands for putting the regions on the track of diversified and sustained development.

Now that such dynamic progress is being made in carrying out the tasks for regional development, the relevant sectors and units should work with a still higher sense of responsibility, for example in ensuring scientific accuracy and practicality in designing structures under the regional development policy, producing quality equipment, and effecting standardization.

A key factor in regional rejuvenation and rural development is ensuring that provinces, cities and counties discharge their roles properly, as befitting masters.

Coastal provinces should identify and implement in a purposeful way the planned construction of offshore farming bases and other projects that will bring real benefits to the residents by exploiting locally-available economic potentials in conformity with their own characteristics, as well as the tasks for transforming their appearance with the entities of the new regional development policy as the standard.

As I pointed out during my visit to Songchon last year, there is a problem with the low quality of housing construction in the countryside, which is being carried out mainly by city and county construction workforces.

Cities and counties should act decisively to build up their ranks of skilled construction workers, upgrade their construction equipment and strengthen the bases for producing building materials.

If they neglect this, the prospects for the regional development policy could become bleak, which will entail serious consequences.

Provinces, cities and counties should also make substantial and assiduous efforts to systematically train large numbers of personnel who will transform the socialist countryside by implementing the rural revolution programme in the new era as

required by Party policy.

If we are to become prosperous and more powerful, it will not be by lucky chance, but on the strength of our self-sustenance and self-determination. So, we have no choice other than to rely on science and technology, and the prospects of our state's development depend on the extent to which we strengthen its scientific and technological forces.

The state should establish a well-regulated system and order whereby talented personnel are mobilized and their skills used to good effect, and whereby a guarantee is provided for the sustainable development of science and technology. Also, all sectors and all units should build up their own scientific and technological forces with a view to finding solutions to the technological problems arising in the course of actual work.

The education sector should, with the implementation of the second universal 12-year compulsory education programme as the momentum, make full preparations for educating students up to the advanced international level. It should also ensure that universities and colleges implement the new discipline-specific teaching plans properly so as to produce the greater numbers of talented personnel

the situation demands.

What it must never neglect in this regard is the improvement of the qualifications and abilities of teachers and their level of specialization.

Solving the problem of teachers is the key to developing education. So it is necessary to raise the standard of teacher training and improve the continuous education system for them. It is particularly important to give teachers in the regions and the countryside ready access to advanced teaching materials.

We should work hard to renovate treatment and prevention institutions at all levels, fundamentally improve the quality of medical services, and solidify the material and technical foundations of the public health sector, the pharmaceutical industry in particular, as demanded in the historic era of a healthcare revolution.

We should update the socialist legal system and improve the functions and role of the law in the realms of state and social life.

The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly should regularly revise and supplement sector-specific laws so as to provide a legal guarantee for implementing new Party policies, and it should

work effectively to perfect the legal and institutional mechanisms for ensuring the more efficient and smoother operation of all sectors and placing them under strict control.

With the development of our exchanges with other countries in recent years, law-enforcement organs should draw up a better strategy for, and adopt an aggressive, comprehensive and rigorous approach towards, frustrating the enemy's moves to undermine our system and degenerate our citizens, as well as combatting the various crimes that disturb social and political stability.

They should strengthen their legal supervision and control over instances of obstructing or neglecting the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Party and the state, violating the state's economic order and discipline in implementing the national economic plan and thus infringing on the people's interests, and impeding the development of the state's defence capabilities. Should they uncover any such criminal acts, they must not hesitate to wield the sword of revolutionary dictatorship.

Our Republic is an independent socialist state that will never tolerate any form of subjugation or domination. So, the most important of its state affairs

is to strengthen its self-defensive capabilities. This is something we must bolster without a moment's hesitation and never compromise over.

By relying on the powerful war deterrent we have now built up, we can work responsibly to defend our state's sovereignty and security, and can make constant efforts to increase our ability to counter the various military threats.

We should make proactive efforts to ensure that our paramilitary forces maintain full readiness, as required by the nature of modern warfare. This will further consolidate the might of the nationwide, all-people defence system. We should also see to it that the national trait of everyone regarding national defence as the highest expression of patriotism and rendering wholehearted support to the People's Army is brought into fuller play.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity today to focus on our people's admirable deeds.

Since we went public with the heroic exploits performed by the combatants in our overseas military operations units in liberating the Kursk region of the Russian Federation, a climate of mass heroism has been evident throughout our society, and the enthusiasm of our young and middle-aged people for

volunteering to join the army is greater than ever. These are part of an increasing, positive tendency to turn out in the patriotic struggle to highlight the dignity of Koreans and the reputation of Korea.

There have been countless instances of people rendering genuine assistance to the participants in the recent overseas operations and to the bereaved families of the martyrs, and donating money to help them meet their needs.

In less than a month, from August 22 to this day, tens of thousands of people—officials, employees and residents—have donated a vast sum for building a memorial museum and monument to honour the memory of the heroes, for constructing Saeppyl Street and for helping the bereaved families of the martyrs.

Among them are honoured disabled ex-soldiers, farmers, scientists and housewives.

Concerning the continuation of this laudable trend, a problem arose regarding the use of the money donated for the participants in the overseas operations and the bereaved families of the martyrs. As the Party and the state should take full responsibility for their care, I have instructed officials to return the money to the donors without fail, thank them sincerely on behalf of the government of the Republic, and give wide

publicity to their deeds.

These deeds are clear testimony to the virtue and ennobling moral character unique to our people, the stability of our society and its genuine unity and might.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express thanks on behalf of the government of the Republic to all the admirable people who, with a noble mind, offered assistance to and donated money for our heroic combatants and the bereaved families of the martyrs.

Comrades,

The crucial, key variable in continuing along the historic course of the comprehensive development of our country is how we defend the security of our state amid the volatile political trends worldwide and the changing circumstances of the times.

Today, at this meeting, I am going to clarify the state and incompatibility of our relations with the United States and the Republic of Korea, which have a decisive bearing on the security of our state and the situation in the region, as well as the principled stand which we should maintain in our external activities.

At present, global unrest and the universal crisis are mounting due to the unreasonable ambitions of, and

excessive use of force by, the United States-led camp that is attempting to maintain its rapidly declining hegemony. As a result, the security structure surrounding the DPRK continues to face serious challenges.

In particular, the objective security situation around the Korean peninsula is literally going from one worse-case scenario to the next.

The United States and its vassal states, disregarding the DPRK's security concerns, have regularly committed provocative actions to exacerbate the tension, the danger of which has now increased to a level far removed from that of even a few years ago.

According to the United States' hegemony-oriented Indo-Pacific strategy and the scenario for its implementation, the US-ROK and US-Japan military alliances and the US-Japan-ROK tripartite military cooperation system are mutating into increasingly more offensive and aggressive entities. The direct target of this is none other than our state's security.

The reality facing us today is that various kinds of bilateral and multilateral war games against the DPRK are taking place simultaneously. They are continuing without any gap in time or space, and involve more and more nuclear elements.

Formerly, the tension in the situation around the Korean peninsula used to peak every March and August, like a seasonal wind, when the United States and the ROK held their frantic, large-scale joint war exercises. Presently, however, chronic tension persists all year round, caused by a series of bilateral and multinational joint military exercises and the frequent deployment of strategic assets.

This is clearly evidenced by the fact that last month, in launching the large-scale joint Ulji Freedom Shield military exercise, the United States and the ROK drove the situation to the extreme. Now in September, the enemy is continuing to bring increasing military pressure to bear on our state.

Even more serious is the fact that the operations guidelines presupposing the use of nuclear weapons against our state, which were formulated by the previous regimes in the United States and the ROK, have been inherited in their entirety by their replacements and, accordingly, their nuclear war plan has entered the stage of more practical and concrete implementation.

Several days ago, the United States and the ROK launched Iron Mace, another undisguised nuclear war rehearsal aimed at building familiarity with the

procedures and mode for attacking our state with nuclear weapons, according to the guidelines I just mentioned. At the same time, they conducted a multi-realm joint military exercise involving Japan.

This is an extension of and succession to the anti-DPRK policy the enemy states have handed down through the generations, irrespective of their regime change. It is also a stark revelation of the intrinsic confrontational nature of their present ruling circles.

At the same time, for the first time in its history the Japanese mainland witnessed the blitz deployment of the US forces' ground-based medium-range missile system. As a result, the territorial depths of the regional nuclear powers including our state have become constant, direct targets of the US military, meaning they are exposed to an unprecedented security risk.

Owing to the adventurous, ostentatious military actions of the enemy states, an unpredictable and dangerous situation has been created in all realms of the ground, sea and air, and the confrontation between nuclear states has become more severe than ever. This is the prevailing military and political situation we are in.

And so, the present situation has reached a level of

unprecedented severity.

Although the present security situation is worse than it has ever been, the level of security of our state, or the security coefficient, has never been so high.

The security index for preventing war has risen higher than it was in the past, even though the tension is worsening with the passage of time and the fuse is burning—this fact hints at something very important.

It is that our nuclear forces are fully and perfectly performing their function of deterring and overwhelming all the external security challenges.

In other words, our state's ever-strengthening physical deterrent, which is in direct proportion to the increasing use of military force by the United States and its allies, has completely sapped the will of its enemy states to unleash a war, and is ensuring the balance of power in the region.

I am sure of this fact. I think it will be hard for the enemy to deny it.

No matter how harsh the objective situation may be, war can be prevented if the subjective factor, that is, the internal force, grows strong enough to control and manage it.

Through its uninterrupted, rapid development and threatening demonstration, our nuclear deterrent has

proved its capability for, and reliability in, defending our national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the lives and safety of our people from the foreign military threat, aggression and attack. It has steadily raised the security coefficient on the Korean peninsula and in the region, and caused the enemy states to dread the possible fatal consequences of an emergency.

Today's reality proves that our painstaking efforts to speed up the building of our physical strength without interruption are entirely justifiable.

As I have already stated, maintaining security and defending peace by overwhelming strength is our unalterable choice.

The enemy states have no means or way of stopping the increase of our absolute strength, nor will they acquire them even in the distant future.

We are prepared to cope with anything.

There may be different ways and principles of counteracting, and we are prepared to cope with anything.

Four years ago I stressed the need to prepare for both dialogue and confrontation, and especially to be fully ready for the latter, in order to protect the dignity of our state and its independent development interests,

and to reliably guarantee a peaceful environment and security for it.

The administrations of the United States and the ROK that were formed this year are talking about their willingness to hold dialogue and improve relations with us. But their long-term aim of sapping our strength and bringing down our social system can never change.

Recently they came up with the idea of “phased denuclearization,” which in fact means destroying with their own hands the justification for and foundation of negotiation with us.

I do not think the United States and the ROK have any sound logic for persuading the international community to acknowledge the need for them to negotiate with us.

The concept of “denuclearization” has lost any meaning.

We have become a nuclear state; this was the inevitable choice we made at the crossroads of our rise or fall.

That is why we enshrined the possession of a nuclear deterrent in the supreme law of our Republic as something sacred and absolute, which cannot be affected or amended, whatever the circumstances.

Asking us to accept “denuclearization” now is as good as asking us to act against our Constitution.

Yet there are still many people who are joining the United States in clamouring for our “denuclearization.”

They should understand that they are committing an act of openly disregarding and grossly violating the sovereignty of the DPRK.

Could we go against our Constitution?

For what reason should we consider “denuclearization”?

To avoid sanctions?

Never. Never, ever.

I tell you, “denuclearization” is the last, last thing to expect from us.

The DPRK’s possession of nuclear weapons will remain a permanent fact, whether the United States and its allies like it or not, and however ardently they call in chorus for “denuclearization” for 10, 20 or 50, nay, 100 years.

Our possession of nuclear weapons is enshrined in a national law, and we have a legal duty to defend our nation’s laws without fail.

The enemy states’ crafty lecture about us only being well off once we have given up our nuclear

weapons has already lost its power of persuasion, considering the tragedies of bloodshed we see all around the world, which are of their own making.

The world knows well what the United States does after having countries give up their nuclear weapons and disarming them.

We will never lay down our nuclear weapons.

The sanctions imposed on us by the hostile forces have taught us a lesson in how to get stronger, and have fomented tolerance and resistance in us so that we will not yield to any pressure.

We will never be so obsessed with freeing ourselves from sanctions that we negotiate with our enemy about an exchange deal.

If the hegemony-seeking Western forces led by the United States, still harbouring the delusion that they can win by inflicting a strategic defeat on the DPRK, a nuclear state, think that they can put pressure on us and bring us to our knees through sanctions or sabre-rattling, they are sadly mistaken.

The options are on their table.

If they want to continue with such foolish behaviour as imposing sanctions and pressure, while continuing to clamour about “denuclearization” without facing up to the changed reality, let them carry on.

To be frank, that will provide us with a greater advantage.

Because we will have more time to do what we intend to do.

Time is on our side.

As befitting a great political power, we will shore up our economy as we have planned; we will steadily update our position of being a world-class military power by stepping up the strengthening of our military capabilities, and this is our unmistakable strategic aim.

Our Party and government will invariably, firmly and without the slightest deviation defend the Constitution of the DPRK and the basic law on the nuclear force policy, which has permanently codified our possession of nuclear weapons, and thoroughly safeguard the supreme interests of our state.

Unless the external nuclear threat against us is ended and as long as there exist the imperialist forces that use nuclear weapons to perpetuate their tyranny, we will never be interrupted on our march to bolstering our military capabilities for safeguarding the security of our state and the wellbeing of our people both at present and in the future. Rather, we will continue to move forward to maintain the edge of our overwhelming strength.

The hostile forces are well advised to be fully aware of the fact that if they keep boasting of their strength recklessly and without limit in our neighbourhood, they might cause us to lose patience.

We are now exercising our war deterrent, and I do not want the primary mission of this deterrent to become invalid.

If invalid, its secondary mission will be put into operation.

I have already mentioned this.

If the secondary mission of the deterrent is put into operation, the military organizations and infrastructures of the ROK and its allies in the vicinity will collapse in a moment, and this means annihilation.

I would never seek to encourage such a dangerous scenario.

If the United States rids itself of its absurd pursuit of other's denuclearization and, recognizing the reality, wants genuine peaceful coexistence with us, there is no reason for us not to meet face to face.

Personally, I still have good memories of the current US president, Trump.

I will now use this opportunity to make our stand on relations with the ROK clearer.

We have no reason to sit together, and will do nothing together, with it.

To be clear, we will not deal with it at all.

In fact, we and the ROK have existed in the international community as two states for dozens of years.

It is the stark reality that the two most hostile states on Earth, two belligerent states, have been in acute confrontation on the Korean peninsula.

It was Syngman Rhee, the first president of the ROK, and his clique that rigged up a separate government on one half of the Korean peninsula, in stubborn opposition to the aspirations of all the fellow countrymen to get rid of the tragedy of division imposed by foreign forces and live and develop independently on one territory.

In the first Constitution of the ROK fabricated and promulgated in July 1948, Syngman Rhee stipulated that “The territory of the ROK covers the Korean peninsula and its attached islands.” Thus he codified its inherent nature of utmost hostility to our state.

The Korean Armistice Agreement, concluded in 1953 after the three-year war, officially confirmed before the international community that, without a complete end to the war, two belligerent states

undeniably exist on the Korean peninsula. And in 1991 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea joined the United Nations separately, and thereby they came to be internationally recognized as two distinct states.

That we have defined the ROK as a foreign country and the most hostile state is not based on a judgment formed abruptly in recent years.

This is nothing new.

We have simply accepted what is a fact.

We call the ROK the most hostile state, because they have a history of committing the most hostile acts against the DPRK.

Starting with Focus Lens after the war, they have staged frenzied anti-DPRK war games almost every day, constantly changing the names to include Freedom Bolt, Ulji Focus Lens, Team Spirit, Key Resolve and Ulji Freedom Guardian. Now these drills have developed into more vicious, all-out nuclear war rehearsals such as Ulji Freedom Shield and Freedom Edge.

The ROK has turned its whole territory into a nuclear outpost and depot, the largest of their kind in the Far East, by introducing more than 1 000 nuclear weapons of all types into the Korean peninsula for the

first time in history. It is now conducting even more frenzied war games by frequently introducing into the peninsula vast quantities of advanced military hardware, including the three strategic assets of the United States and even the NATO-led Western forces.

The reckless anti-DPRK military moves conducted by the ROK in collusion with foreign forces have turned the Korean peninsula into a constant war danger zone where it would not be a surprise if war were to break out right now.

Though the government has changed more than ten times and the Constitution has been revised nine times in the ROK to date, nothing has changed in the article of the Constitution relating to territory, which is still aimed at invading and annexing the DPRK. And although the National Security Law has been revised several times, the article reflecting absolute hostility towards the DPRK has not undergone even the slightest revision.

We have detestably witnessed what the successive rulers of the ROK have pursued.

The history of fierce confrontation between the DPRK and the ROK spanning nearly eight decades and the present reality clearly show that the inherent wild ambition of the ROK to make our system and

government collapse, whether they advocate “democracy” or put on the mask of “conservatism,” has never changed and will never change, and that our enemy remains our enemy.

Furthermore, in view of our national interests, we have no intention of reuniting with a country that has entrusted its politics and defence to foreign forces.

The ROK is a deformed entity suffering from paralysis, and a colonial tributary where every field is Americanized; in other words, it is a foreign country that has become thoroughly heterogeneous.

It is a matter of course that, just as water and fire can never fuse into one, so independent politics and sycophantic and treacherous politics cannot coexist, independent defence and subordinate defence cannot merge, a self-reliant economy and colonial contract economy cannot combine, and socialist culture and Yankee culture cannot go together.

The reunification of two entities that have become completely heterogeneous and mutually exclusive can never be achieved, unless one of them ceases to exist.

Reunification is no longer necessary.

The recently formed Lee Jae Myung government in the ROK is advocating a “line of compromise” with us, talking about “improvement of relations” and “peace”

in a bid to make a distinction between it and preceding governments. But nothing has changed substantially.

In pursuit of its wild ambition for “unification by absorption,” it is ignoring the previous vicious “conservative” regimes which set the anti-DPRK policy as a state policy.

In public they say they will “assiduously build a tower of confidence with patience” for “restoring the south-north relations without fail.” But behind the scenes they are building higher the wall of confrontation by expanding and strengthening their rehearsals for a war of aggression, including nuclear drills and multi-realm joint military exercises aimed at a preemptive nuclear strike on the other party.

The fact is that, in the draft budget bill for next year, which the Lee Jae Myung government passed after coming to power, military expenditure is anticipated to increase by 8.2 percent, far surpassing that of the Yoon Suk Yeol regime that earned notoriety for its confrontational fanaticism against the DPRK.

These days, they say that they will recognize our system and will not pursue “unification by absorption” but coexist with us peacefully. Yet the chief of the state security office offered a detailed explanation of the new ruler’s true intention some days ago.

At a round-table meeting on September 17, he made a remark that totally negated our system and Constitution, saying, “The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the ultimate goal traditionally pursued by the ROK and the United States, and it remains unchanged, whether anyone likes it or not.”

The enemy is openly clamouring for an early resumption of dialogue, saying that the longer it remains suspended “the more the nuclear and missile capabilities of the north will be boosted.”

The “three-stage denuclearization theory” of the current ruler, the so-called “suspension-reduction-denuclearization,” is simply copied from the “workbook” of his predecessors, who dreamed of disarming us.

It will be only an expression of deep attachment and obsession to discuss reunification with such an enemy state, and such persistence cannot change anything in reality.

How can we and the ROK be reunified?

Has world history ever recorded a case of unification between such two sworn enemy states?

Why should we pursue reunification, since it cannot be achieved unless one of us ceases to exist?

We will enshrine in a national law that we and the

ROK are two states sharing a border, which are heterogeneous from each other and which can by no means become one.

The government of the DPRK will, in the future, too, reliably defend the sovereignty, security and fundamental interests of our state and strongly promote peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the surrounding region in a most responsible manner.

Comrade Deputies,

In carrying out all the tasks facing the government of the Republic, the rights and authority of our Deputies are by no means light, and the honour of participating in the discussion of state affairs in person is an expression of the great expectations the Party and the people have of your responsible role.

Having been elected by the people and entrusted with the administration of the state, and having pledged to serve the people, you should cherish the people's trust, fully ensure the implementation of state policies through more proactive and devoted efforts, and have your work reviewed by the state and the people after producing results from sincere state political activities.

To this end, you should, above all, have a correct

understanding of state policies. On this basis, you should explain them to the residents in your regions and to the people at your units, and set an example for them to follow in implementing the policies.

It is important for you to unfailingly and perfectly carry out all the policies advanced by the Party and the state for your respective sectors and units through meticulous planning, effective arrangement and stubborn persistence.

A Deputy needs to have an insight and traits befitting a political activist of the state, know how to lead public sentiments and encourage the collective to maintain an atmosphere of unity and struggle, acquire the habit of discovering and doing anything that is good for the people, strictly observe state laws and regulations, and lead a frugal life so that you do not lose the respect and trust of the masses.

All of you, by making redoubled, devoted efforts, should achieve a succession of excellent results you can be proud of before the Party, the state and the people. Then your image and achievements will leave a notable imprint on the record of our sacred advance to the Ninth Party Congress.

Our Party and the government of the Republic will cherish ennobling ideals and wage an unyielding

struggle to bolster the people's firm trust. They will continually build up the confidence and strength, with which to translate the people's cherished desires into reality, and thus fulfil the heavy tasks facing them at every stage.

Comrades,

For the Workers' Party of Korea, the government of the Republic and our people, their lifeblood is invariable fidelity to the socialist line and to holding higher the banner of socialism.

This is because the advantages and vitality of the socialism of our own choice, which we have defended and glorified by unsparingly shedding our sweat, even our blood, have been proved by history and reality.

In the course of experiencing a dramatic change in their destiny and braving every manner of difficulty, our people have accepted socialism as a living requirement rather than an ideal or political mode; while enjoying one substantial benefit after another, leading a collectivist life in which they help and lead one another forward and share weal and woe with one another, and witnessing the reality of their ever-prospering country, they have keenly realized that socialism and their destiny are

inseparably linked.

Our Party and government do not have the right to abandon socialism, which our people have chosen, trust and are advancing for themselves and which they regard as a truth more precious than their own lives. They are duty-bound to develop it in our own way and lead it to attain one great victory after another.

There will be no change or deviation in our Party's and government's political platform. We will surely defend and advance socialism, which embodies our people's aspirations and ideals, and thus promote the great prosperity of our state and ensure the eternal wellbeing of our people.

Our cause is invincible, as it advances by relying on the extraordinary patriotic enthusiasm and inexhaustible creativity of a heroic people who remain faithful to the ennobling ideals, and our socialist state's history of development and prosperity will continue forever.

Comrade Deputies,

Let us accomplish the cause of socialism, which represents our great history, our honour and our bright future.

Let us work hard for the dignity and comprehensive

prosperity of our Republic, holding aloft the banner of socialism symbolizing our ennobling ideals and beautiful dreams.

Long live our great country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!

KIM JONG UN

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