

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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**TALK TO THE DELEGATION
OF THE SUMMIT COUNCIL
FOR WORLD PEACE**

April 19, 1992

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
Juche 103 (2014)**

I feel grateful for the delegation of the Summit Council for World Peace for visiting my country and participating in the celebrations for my birthday.

I arranged for you to stay in my country for two more days so that I could meet you once more to exchange opinions with you and become close friends. How could I part from you, former presidents and heads of state, after shaking hands with you just once when you have come all the way to celebrate my birthday? I ought to find the time to meet you. I think it would be good for me to get to know you better.

Your current visit to my country must have been a good opportunity for you to gain a correct understanding of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

I thank you for your warm and friendly remarks about my country and its cause.

I am deeply impressed with the fact that you have shown such deep interest in the development of my country and its cause of national reunification. You say that you all wish my country to be reunified at an early date and that you will, in the future, strive for the reunification of and peace in Korea; I am grateful for this. The cause of national reunification will surely be accomplished.

As you know, Koreans form a homogeneous nation; unlike some African and other countries, Korea consists of one nation, not of many ethnic groups. Koreans have lived as a homogeneous nation for over 5 000 years on this land with one spoken and written language and one history. Looking back on the history of my country, there were times when Koreans founded strong countries and prospered and when they suffered losses at the hands of foreign aggressors, but they have consistently maintained their national identity. They have made great

contributions throughout history to enriching the cultural wealth of mankind by making many outstanding inventions, world firsts. It is heartbreaking that a country and nation with such a long history and excellent cultural traditions should have been divided by foreign forces and is yet to be reunified. My country where a homogeneous nation lives must not remain divided into two and must be reunified without fail.

You say you will work strenuously for Korea's reunification; your enthusiastic support is a great inspiration to me.

I thank you for conveying to me the warm regards from Sun Myung Moon on the occasion of my birthday. It was a pleasure to meet him and make friends with him. Last year he called on me after the line of great national unity I advanced was made public in my talk *Let Us Achieve the Great Unity of Our Nation*. That is how I met him. At that time he told me: You, Mr. President, pointed out that Koreans should unite with one another transcending differences in religious beliefs and political systems. If we are rallied, those left alone will be traitors to the nation. The whole nation is calling for unity, so those who are not willing to unite will only be traitors to the nation. He also published a joint statement together with our official concerned, which referred to the need to strive together to realize, first of all, meetings at Panmunjom of families and relatives separated in the north and the south.

During his stay he also visited his birthplace not far from Pyongyang. In the past he had believed the south Korean authorities' misleading propaganda that all his family members and relatives in the north had been killed. In his home village he found that they were all living well and his old house remained intact. The south Korean authorities' propaganda was instantly proved to be false. At his birthplace he had an emotional meeting with them, and he and his wife had photographs taken with them.

He said he would take the photographs with him and show them to people in south Korea. He said he would strive for national unity and reunification; this is very good.

The idea of achieving great national unity is not something I have proposed for the first time now. In the past we also maintained that the great unity of the entire nation should be achieved.

In view of the justness of our advocacy of great national unity, Rev. Mun Ik Hwan, a democrat in south Korea, came all the way to the north to see me. He came to Pyongyang via another country as the south Korean authorities did not allow him to visit the north.

When he met me, Rev. Mun asked what would happen to the capitalists in south Korea, once the whole nation was rallied, if the country was reunified. I answered that shortly after the liberation of the country I made a speech at a mass rally of Pyongyang citizens to welcome me on my triumphant return home, in which I stressed that those with strength should give their strength, those with knowledge give their knowledge and those with money give their money and make a positive contribution to nation building, and that everyone should unite closely to build a democratic, independent and sovereign state. I added that we will, in the future, too, maintain that stand. Rev. Mun asked me if I really meant it and said he would read the speech. Afterwards, he went to the Arch of Triumph and read the speech, which is carved on a monument in the concourse there. He expressed his support for our proposal to achieve reunification in the form of a federation.

Proceeding from the idea of achieving great national unity, in 1948 we put forward a proposal for convening a north-south joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations in north and south to discuss the question of

preventing the division of the country and establishing a unified democratic government. Kim Ku, Kim Kyu Sik, Jo So Ang and many other leading members of south Korean society attended the north-south joint conference. Kim Ku had once been president of the Provisional Government in Shanghai. During his stints in important positions in the government, he had many communists murdered. Before coming to Pyongyang, he sent his secretary to me to ask what I thought of the crimes he had committed in the past. I gave the answer that I would wipe the slate clean in the interests of aligning myself with him.

The idea of achieving great national unity is included in the July 4 North-South Joint Statement that the north and the south made public in 1972. The keynote of the July 4 Joint Statement is the independent and peaceful reunification of the country on the principle of great national unity. When he was "president" of south Korea, Park Chung Hee sent to Pyongyang the director of the Central Intelligence Agency of south Korea. In a meeting with him, I advanced the three principles for national reunification—*independent and peaceful reunification and great national unity.*

Achieving great national unity was necessary in the past, yet now it is even more urgent. Although there exist different political systems in the north and the south, it is essential that we achieve great national unity. To this end, the differences in the political system between the north and the south should be transcended. Of course we will encounter obstacles and difficulties if we are to achieve great national unity. But there can be no reason for those who are possessed of even an iota of national conscience not to be united. Whoever cares about his or her country and nation should align himself or herself with the entire nation, despite the differences in ideology, religious belief and political system and despite his or her past career.

We will, as in the past so in the future, too, make constant efforts to achieve national reunification.

It is imperative, if national reunification is to be achieved, to demolish the concrete wall the south has built along the MDL (Military Demarcation Line). As you must have seen at Panmunjom, the south Korean authorities had this several-hundred-*ri*-long concrete wall built along the southern side of the MDL. The south Korean authorities claim that it is an anti-tank barricade. But an anti-tank barricade is totally different from a concrete wall.

The Americans keep silent about the fact that there exists a concrete wall in Korea. The US president welcomed the pulling down of the Berlin Wall, but does not support the pulling down of the concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL in Korea. Just as the Berlin Wall was pulled down, so should be the concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL in Korea.

Of course, if national reunification is to be achieved, there should be meetings and visits by family members and their relatives who are separated in the north and the south. We are striving positively to realize such meetings and visits. As mentioned in the joint statement published by Sun Myung Moon and our official, we can begin the work to allow the separated family members and their relatives to meet as the first step towards free visits and all-round opening between the north and the south. Discussion on this issue is now under way between the north and the south.

Notwithstanding this, I think it would be better first to pull down the concrete wall before the realization of the visits. This is a key demand for national reunification.

We will make every effort to lead the relations between the north and the south in a direction favourable for national reunification. The Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression

and Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula were adopted at the fifth north-south high-level talks held in December last year and during the meeting between representatives of north and south, respectively. And specific meetings are in session as a follow-up to the sixth north-south high-level talks held in February this year, and the seventh north-south high-level talks are scheduled for May.

We are willing to establish good relations with the United States, too. My country and the United States have long been antagonistic to each other; there is no need for this. I think that if the United States puts to rights its hostile policy towards Korea, it will be possible to improve DPRK-US relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, and the two countries can get along well on the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. I mentioned this matter in my answers to the questions raised by a group from *The Washington Times*. I hope you will play a proactive role in encouraging DPRK-US relations to develop positively.

You say that you have visited the West Sea Barrage on your current visit to my country and were very impressed by it; I think highly of it. We built the barrage to protect Pyongyang from floods, irrigate farmland and the tideland that will be reclaimed, and supply water to factories and other enterprises.

Pyongyang suffered severe damage from flooding in the basin of the Taedong River in 1967. That year, the upper stream of the Taedong rose suddenly during heavy rain while the high tide came up into the river from the West Sea, and both met, causing the water level of the Taedong to rise, with the result that several districts of Pyongyang were inundated. Machine-building factories, a thermal power station and many other factories and enterprises in Pyongyang were submerged under muddy water.

After the floodwater subsided, we experienced a great deal of trouble cleaning up the mud stuck to the floors of the factories and enterprises and to machines and other equipment. We suffered a great deal, and could not restart production fully for quite a while.

In the summer of the year when we commissioned the West Sea Barrage it rained more heavily in the area of South Phyongan Province than in the summer of 1967. But Pyongyang did not experience any floods or suffer any damage. What we saved from not sustaining flood damage that year alone easily covered the construction funds for the West Sea Barrage.

In the years before the West Sea Barrage was built, it was difficult to use the water of the Taedong for drinking, irrigation and industry because the river water used to recede during droughts and salty water flowed up from the West Sea. But the construction of the West Sea Barrage settled the problems of both drinking water and water for irrigation and industrial use for the areas along the river. The water in the river behind the West Sea Barrage amounts to several billion tons and is used for irrigation in the provinces along the West Sea. For several years our country has been working on an irrigation project to draw water collected behind the barrage into the plain areas along the West Sea, and the construction of a 2 000-ri waterway to this end has already been completed. Within one or two more years, we will have mainly completed the project of drawing water from the Taedong into the plain areas in South Hwanghae Province and the tidal flats that are currently being reclaimed. Newly-reclaimed tidal flats require a lot of water.

You say that if a large barrage like the West Sea Barrage were to be built in a Western country it would cost a huge sum of money and take a long time; I agree with you. Other foreign visitors to my country have said the same to our people. After we

built the West Sea Barrage, a leading businessman from a certain country visited our country. When he saw the barrage he asked an official how much it had cost and which country's designers had worked out the blueprint for it. Our official answered: It cost around 4 billion US dollars; our scientists and technicians designed it; the materials and equipment used in constructing it were all our own products; building operations were done by our own efforts. The businessman found this unbelievable at first. But after visiting several factories and other enterprises in my country, he said he could believe that it was quite possible for the Koreans to have built it by their efforts.

You ask if we changed the salty water collected behind the barrage into fresh water after the construction of the barrage; we desalinated all the water there in less than a year after it was built. The sluices are opened at ebb tide; then, the water behind the barrage escapes.

When the barrage was being built, the problem arose of what to do with the mud. I saw to it that the Hydraulic Engineering Institute built various miniatures and conducted research and experiments to solve the problem, so that the mud could be removed in a rational way.

We have built not only the West Sea Barrage but also the Mirim, Ponghwa, Songchon and Sunchon barrages along the course of the Taedong River and a hydropower station on it.

You ask if there are more sites where hydropower stations can be built; there are still a lot. Our country abounds with places suitable for large, medium-size and small hydropower stations.

If we build many small and medium-size hydropower stations, we can secure additional generating capacity of several million kW of electricity. While continuing to push ahead with the construction of hydropower stations, we are making preparations to build an atomic power plant. We signed a contract to import the

equipment for an atomic power plant with the former USSR. The Soviet technicians came to our country and began the preparations for the project. But after the sudden collapse of the USSR, the project was suspended.

We will continue the construction of atomic power plants in future. The industrial sector takes the lion's share of our country's economy, and the demand for electricity is increasing daily. The construction of atomic power plants will satisfy the increasing demand for electric power in our country.

You say that Canada's atomic power plants are good; I know. But since my country has no diplomatic relations with Canada, we cannot do a deal for an atomic power plant project.

I think it will be very good if the relations between my country and Canada improve and Canada aids us in building atomic power plants. The former governor-general of Canada, who is present here, says he will help us in this regard; I am grateful for the offer.

You say my country is endowed with enormous potential for developing tourism; there are many scenic spots in my country. Sun Myung Moon suggested to me that he would try to develop the Kungang Mountains. In fact, developing the mountains is not a hard job. We have already built hotels and other service facilities there. It will be enough if in the future we build only a fashionable hotel, add a few more amusement facilities and lay cableways in steep places for the comfort of people climbing the mountains.

As we lack arable land, our country does not leave even a square inch of land idle. The area under cultivation in our country is two million hectares; if orchards, mulberry fields and steep sloping fields are excluded, only 1.5 million hectares are left for proper crop cultivation. Half of this area is paddy fields while the other half is corn fields. Our agricultural working people are

working hard to increase unit-area yields. We have become self-sufficient in food by increasing unit-area yields despite the small area under cultivation.

Fruits are also produced in large quantities in our country.

Our country has a limited area under cultivation, but abounds in mountains and natural resources. Therefore, we are developing promising ore and coal mines in large numbers.

One of you has just said that he heard that considerable improvements have been made in the relations between my country and Mexico; he is right. My country long ago established diplomatic relations with Mexico. Now our country and Mexico have agreed on establishing embassies. You say that you will help our country in establishing diplomatic relations with Uruguay and Costa Rica; I thank you.

You say that at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly we may have many contacts with delegates from other countries; our delegate will surely work with them during the Assembly session.

You say that it would be of great significance if I were present at the session of the UN General Assembly and made a keynote speech, but I prefer not to attend the UN General Assembly and the like and make speeches.

I am grateful for your wishes for my good health.

It is a great pleasure to have met and talked with you today. If we meet again we will become old friends.

I wish all of you good health.

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 483055