

# The People's Korea

No. 1,881

FEBRUARY 10, 2001

http://www.korea-np.co.jp/pk/ (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可)

## North, South Agree on Third Reunion of Separated Families on Feb. 26-28

3rd Round of Inter-Korean Red Cross Talks Held on Mt. Kumgang



The third round of inter-Korean Red Cross talks was held on Mt. Kumgang on Jan. 31.

PYONGYANG, January 31 (KCNA) — The third round of inter-Korean Red Cross talks, which was held on Mt. Kumgang, ended today. At the talks the two sides had a discussion on the program for the implementation of the already agreed humanitarian issues, including the exchange of the third visiting groups of separated families and relatives, confirmation of their whereabouts and addresses and the exchange of correspondence, and issues of installing and operating meeting places and repatriating the remaining unconverted long-term prisoners who wish to come to the north.

After the discussion they released a joint press statement on the talks.

According to the statement, the exchange of the third visiting groups (100 members each) is to be made simultaneously in Pyongyang and Seoul from February 26 to 28.

And the exchange of correspondence between separated families and relatives (300 persons each) whose whereabouts and addresses have been confirmed will be made through the Red Cross liaison office on March 15.

Both sides agreed to exchange lists of those involved in the project to confirm whereabouts and addresses (100 persons each) on a trial basis on Feb. 9 and inform each side of its results on Feb. 23.

It was also agreed to discuss and decide at the fourth round of the talks the matter of expanding the scope of confirming whereabouts and addresses and exchanging of correspondence and issues related to the installation and operation of meeting places.

The two sides agreed to hold the fourth round of the talks from April 3 to 5 and choose its venue through future consultation.

## DPRK Establishes Diplomatic Relations with Canada, Spain

Diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Canada were established on Feb 6.

Regarding the establishment of the diplomatic relations, the letters were exchanged on February 1, 2001, between Paek Nam Sun, Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and John Manley, Foreign Minister of Canada, the KCNA said.

Both sides agreed to develop the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, and Ottawa formally recognized Pyongyang when the DPRK and Canada held the first ministerial talks between the foreign ministers on Jul. 26 last year when the Seventh ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Canada may appoint its ambassador to China to concurrently serve as envoy to north Korea.

Canada became the latest member of Group of Seven (G-7) to forge diplomatic links with the DPRK.

Canadian Foreign Minister John Manley said the normalization of ties would create formal channels through which the two countries can further enhance communication and cooperation and develop a deeper understanding of each other.

Meanwhile, a joint communique was released Feb. 7 on establishing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Kingdom of Spain after the foreign minister of the two countries exchanged further letters on establishing diplomatic ties with immediate effect.

It was agreed that representation would be at an ambassadorial level, with non-resident ambassadors in Rome and Beijing appointed, respectively.

During January this year, the DPRK established ties with the Netherlands and Belgium. By the establishment of diplomatic relationships with Canada and Spain this time, the DPRK has diplomatic ties with 10 of the 15 EU countries.

## North, South Hold 4th Round of Inter-Korean Military Talks

PANMUNJOM, January 31 (KCNA) — The fourth round of inter-Korean military working-level talks was held in the south side's portion of Panmunjom today. The north side's delegation was represented by senior colonel Yu Yong Chol and the south side's delegation by brigadier general Kim Kyong Dok.

At the talks both sides discussed the draft agreements proposed by each side and reached a consensus on most of the issues discussed.

The head of the north side's delegation said the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration is a declaration of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the three principles of national reunification, and a landmark of reunification in the 21st century. In the new century the armies of the two sides should provide a sure military guarantee for the implementation of the joint declaration, he stressed.

He recalled that all the people in the north and the south are firmly determined to pool their energies and wisdom so as to terminate the nation's distress-torn history of national ruin, division, confrontation and war imposed upon it in the 20th century and make the first year of the new century as a significant year of opening up a radical phase of the nation's independent reunification.

All the fellow countrymen are showing great interest in the current talks because

they are the first talks between the armies of the north and the south in the 21st century, intended to realize the historic cause of rejoining the blood ties of the nation that have remained severed for over half a century, he said, adding: In this sense we have heavy responsibility for the talks.

Then, he clarified the north side's view and stand toward the issues of designating areas to be placed under the control of the north and the south and militarily ensuring the project of relinking railways and road between the two sides.

He further said:

What is most important for the successful talks is to have a correct viewpoint and attitude toward dialogue partner.

From this point of view, it is essential for the south side to renounce the old conception and psychology of confrontation in the 20th century which regards the north as "principal enemy" and have genuine compatriotism which regards the people in the north as fellow countrymen who join hands for reunification and prosperity. On the basis of this conception, it should strive to make the first talks in the 21st century produce good results and thus meet the desire and expectation of the nation.

It was agreed to have the next talks at the Thongil House in the north side's portion of Panmunjom and the north side promised to inform the south side of the date of the talks in the near future.

## DPRK Ready to Cope with New U.S. Administration: FM Spokesman

PYONGYANG, January 25 (KCNA)— The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave on Jan. 25 the following answer to the question put by KCNA as regards the recent provocative remark made by U.S. Secretary of State Powell against our supreme leadership. At a U.S. senate confirmation hearing held on Jan. 18 he dared make such reckless remark going against the elementary common sense as slandering our supreme leadership as "dictator of north Korea."

It cannot but be something surprising that he did not bother to make such a statement debasing the dignity of the DPRK.

This is an anachronistic behaviour diametrically contrary not only to the world peace-loving people's expectation and desire for genuine peace and stability on the Korean peninsula in the new century but

to the present level of the DPRK-U.S. relations.

The DPRK cannot but interpret what he said as a statement reflecting the sinister intention of big war industrial monopolies and other conservative hardliners in the U.S. to keep the U.S.-DPRK relations in the hostile and belligerent relationship forever and thus fish in troubled waters.

The DPRK is fully ready to cope with whatever stand to be taken by the new U.S. administration towards it.

The DPRK appreciates the progress so far made in the bilateral ties through negotiations with U.S. politicians of reason but has no idea of pinning any hope on those forces displeased with this process.

If the U.S. brandishes a sword at us, we will counter it with a sword and if it shows good faith, we will reciprocate it.

## Kim Jong Il Receives Chinese Party Delegation

PYONGYANG, February 9 (KCNA) — General Secretary Kim Jong Il on Feb. 9 received a delegation of the international liaison department of the C.C., the Communist Party of China led by Wang Jiarui on a visit to Korea. This is the first visit to Korea of Wang since he was appointed as deputy head for Korean affairs of the CPC international liaison department. Present on the occasion were secretary of the WPK Central Committee Kim Kuk Thae, direc-

tor of the international department of the C.C., the WPK Kim Yang Gon, generals of the Korean People's Army Hyon Chol Hae and Pak Jae Gyong and Chinese ambassador to the DPRK Wang Guozheng. Leader Kim Jong Il expressed thanks again for the sincere and kind guidance given to him during his recent unofficial china visit, and conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He gave a luncheon for the visitors.

# Top Priority Given to Major Technological Innovation and Quality Improvement

*Interview with Senior Official of Institute of Economic Planning and Management on Prospects and Measures for Economic Construction This Year*

**Kang I Ruk**

*PK Correspondent to Pyongyang*

Quoting a slogan of the party's line, "Glorify this year as a year of a fresh onward march in the building of an economic power in the 21st century," the New Year joint editorial called for a fresh upsurge in the economic construction of the DPRK.

The main problem in the construction of an economically powerful nation is the maintenance of the country's existing economic basis and the technological innovation in each section in accordance with the demand of the present times. Drastic reform of its traditional ideological viewpoint, way of thinking and working style is needed to solve these problems.

"Things are not what they used to be in the 1960s. So no one should follow the way people used to do things in the past." "In order to boost and develop the economy in keeping with rapid changes in our time, we should be bold to provide industrial sectors with up-to-date equipment and techniques."

Carrying the remarks of General Secretary Kim Jong Il on the need to glorify the 21st century as a century of change and creation, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), appealed to the people to reexamine old customs in every field of the construction of socialism and carry on economic construction in Korea's own style.

The following are the transcripts of an interview with associate professor Dr. Min Gyong Chun, 60, director of the Laboratory of Management of Industry in the Institute of the Socialist Economic Management in the National Academy of Socialism, on prospects for the construction of an economically powerful nation and measures to achieve the aim.



**Dr. Min Gyong Chun**

**"We Are Ready"**

Due to the shortage of materials and electricity, not a few factories and plants of the country have not been operating regularly in recent years. It seriously hinders our efforts to equip our national economy with modern technologies. In not a few factories and plants, the conditions of their equipment and facilities are below today's standard for advanced technologies. We failed to realize actual benefits in production and construction, because of wasted materials, fuel and electricity, which caused the quality of products to deteriorate.

But the economic basis we have built up is by no means fragile.

It is a practical and effective way for us to normalize our production activities by maintaining existing economic basis and facilities. We will promote this year's economic construction in this way in every field of our economy.

In addition to repairing and mainte-

nance, we have to satisfy the demand of our party's policy of upgrading technical innovation to a higher level.

In fact, it is not an easy target for us under the present circumstances to entirely equip our national economy with modern technology.

But, as we know from the successful launch of our first artificial satellite "Kwangmyongson 1," our country's technological foundation is firm and powerful. I think that it has a potential which will enable our country to produce everything it wants. Under the wise guidance of General Secretary Kim Jong Il who maps out strategies from an innovative point of view, looking far ahead to the future of the fatherland even in a difficult situation, our own computer industry has been developed, and we have invented over one hundred items of world-level high-technologies related to electronics, biotechnology and thermo engineering in the past five years. I can say that the DPRK is ready to become an economically powerful nation.

## On Electricity, Coal, Metal, Railway

The most important sections of our socialist economic construction this year are electric power industry, coal industry, metal industry and railway transportation.

We have various measures to solve the problems of electric power supply. We will have more generators installed in the Anbyon Youth Power Station. The Taechon No.3 Power Station, Nyongwon Power Station and Hungju Power Station will go into operation within this year. We will also start the construction of the River Kumya Power Station, the River Orang Power Station and the Huichon Power Station. To make the best use of the existing hydro-electric power stations, we will improve the efficiency of waterwheels and give priority to the maintenance and repair of equipment and to water control.

As for thermal power stations, we will take steps to repair and maintain boilers and turbines and secure coal and fuel oil supply. In addition, we will install high-tech boilers in each thermal power station and realize a remote control system for electric supplies and the computerization of the operating system of power supply.

On the other hand, we will renew power transmission facilities.

Regarding the coal industry, we will concentrate on developing new coal resources and introduce advanced coal-mining methods.

As far as the metal industry is concerned, in the Hwanghae Iron Complex, we will

develop the existing oxygen-heat blast furnace into a bigger one and intend to increase such large-scale blast furnaces in the factory in the future. We will also improve steel-producing and rolling systems at the Chollima Steel Complex by introducing most advanced steel manufacturing facilities.

In the railway transport section, we plan to repair and maintain facilities and produce and introduce new-model electric locomotives and freight trains to improve our transport capacity.

## On Light Industry

We intend to increase the production of primary consumer goods and basic foods, which are the necessities of the people's daily life. The primary consumer goods are the daily necessities, such as cloth, underwear, towels, shoes, soaps, dentifrice, and kitchen utensils. Basic foods are soy sauce, bean paste, cooking oil, chemical seasoning, and so on.

As for the production of the daily necessities, we will maintain light industrial factories and complexes for the purpose of enabling them to specialize its production of goods and to advance technical innovations. We started to operate the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory with a newly introduced manufacturing system. High quality soap, dentifrice and cosmetics will be produced in the factory and the goods made in the factory will have a big share in the production of these goods.

Recently, computerized basic foods factories were newly built in every province of the DPRK. We plan to modernize all other food-processing factories in the country after these models.

What we plan to do does not follow old methods, but is based on complete technological renewal. Introducing high technology suitable for the 21st century in all sections, we will make products which can match with the products of other countries. We will give priority to the improvement of the quality of products.

The socialist market no longer exists. Foreign currency is an urgent need for us to trade with capitalist countries. Unless we improve the quality of manufactured products, we will not be able to promote economic transactions with capitalist countries as satisfactorily as we want to do. Business with the western countries enables us to introduce raw materials and high technologies, which we do not have, and then, it will also help improve people's life.

## New Relics of River Taedong Civilization Found in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG, February 1 (KCNA) — More relics have been recently discovered in different parts of Pyongyang. Earthen walls dating back to ancient Korea were unearthed in Kwangdok-ri, Samsok district in the northern suburbs of Pyongyang.

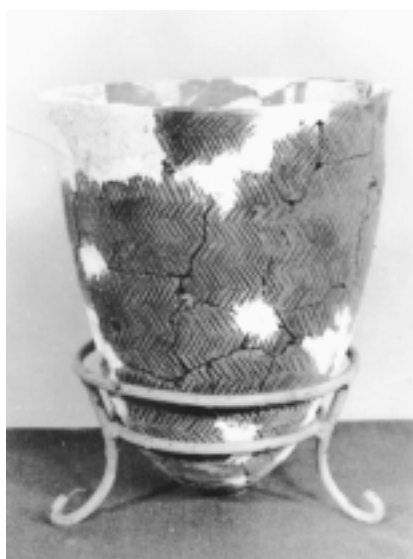
It is believed that there may be only earthen walls dating back to Koryo dynasty. But this time, stratum of walls dating back to ancient Korea has been discovered there.

Pieces of the mouth and body of a top vessel and stone ax, relics of ancient Korea, were unearthed in the 1,053 metre-long lower stratum of the walls belonging to Koryo dynasty.

Also unearthed inside the walls were sites of two houses 50 cm below the surface of the earth.

Stone ax, stone arrowhead, stone dagger as well as at least 50 pieces of top vessels were found in the site of an oval semi-dugout 6.8 metres long on its eastern-western side and 3.4 metres wide on its northern-southern side and in the site of a house which was so badly destroyed that only its eastern part remains.

A site of a village covering some 50,000 square metres was discovered in Richon-ri, Sungho district, the eastern part of Pyongyang.



**Photo shows an earthenware vessel of the period from the Neolithic era to ancient Korea, unearthed in the newly discovered site of the ancient village (right side photo).**

Included there are at least ten house sites believed to belong to the period from the



**Photo shows a site of a village (the period from the Neolithic era to ancient Korea) discovered in Richon-ri, Sungho district, Pyongyang.**

neolithic era to ancient Korea and earthenware vessels, top vessels, gourd-style jars, a stone ax and a scimitar, which bear witness to the cultural development in that period.

A survey of relics is going on.

The newly discovered relics will greatly help study ancient civilization along the Taedong River.

### \*Note:

The Korea History Society had made intensive researches in the primitive civi-

lization and remains of the period of Tangun and ancient Korea, discovered along the Taedong basin and scientifically and theoretically systematized the results of the researches. In 1998, the KHS named these cultural relics the "Taedong Civilization."

According to the KHS, it began to flourish in the latter half of B.C. 4000. The KHS also said that the civilization originated and developed an ancient country at the earliest date in the Orient.

MATERIAL

## “Alleged Abduction of Japanese” Needs Reexamination: Japanese Monthly

“Stories about ‘abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea’ require a thorough verification”; critical articles on the above issue appeared in a Japanese monthly magazine. In the Jan., Feb., and Mar. issues of the monthly “Sekai(world),” professor emeritus at Tokyo Univ. **Haruki Wada** and journalist **Mineo Noda** raise grave doubts about the “kidnapping suspicion” after its re-examinations case by case, and say that each of the cases lacks factual evidence to support Tokyo’s claim. Pyongyang categorically denies the allegation and portrays it as an excuse to justify Tokyo’s long-protracted neglect to make an official apology and reparations for Japan’s harsh colonial rule of Korea. PK introduces excerpts from two Japanese Korea watchers’ stories carried by the prestigious journal and Noda’s previous relevant accounts. This is the first installment of a three-part series—Ed.

### Re-examining “Alleged Abduction of Japanese”(1)

From “Sekai”, Jan. & Feb. Issues  
by Haruki Wada

An earlier solution to the issue of the “suspicion of abduction of Japanese” by North Korea, as in any case of this kind, must be preceded by a thorough investigation of the origins of the matter as well as a serious consideration of its heart and structure.

#### Content of the Suspicion

At present the Japanese authorities hold: “We have determined that the number of abduction cases in which North Korea is suspected of having been involved, amounts to 7 with a total of 10 Japanese involved.” “Moreover, there is one more case in which two people were nearly kidnapped.”

\*Out of the seven, six cases of disappearance occurred in a concentrated way between 1977 and 1978 and the remaining one in 1980.

The police, however, have not yet disclosed what led them to this conclusion “for reason of being classified information affecting their investigation.”

#### How the matter came to the fore

It was an article in a daily paper in 1980 that this matter became an issue for the first time in Japan. In its Jan. 7, 1980 issue, the Japanese daily “Sankei Shimbun” front-paged a story titled “Three couples missing—Kidnapping by foreign intelligence agents suspected.” It referred to the disappearance of three couples in Fukui, Niigata, and Kagoshima prefectures and an attempted kidnapping case in Toyama Prefecture, which took place during the summer of 1978, by quoting a police statement of Jan. 6 which said, “we have reached a conclusion that all these cases were committed by the same suspects.”

A second news report on the issue came on June 28, 1985, which was released by South Korea’s National Security Planning Agency(former KCIA). It was about an attempted abduction which occurred on June 20, 1980.

\*The South Korean intelligence agency stated that it had arrested a “North Korean spy” Shin Gwang Soo on the charge of having kidnapped Tadaaki Hara, a Japanese cook at a Chinese restaurant in Osaka, from an eastern coast of Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan; and that Shin was carrying Hara’s forged passport and driver’s license.

\*North Korea flatly denies its involvement.

The KAL jetliner bombing incident of Nov. 29, 1987 and the ensuing developments resulted in a great change in this matter. The arrested suspect Kim Hyun Hee was reported to have possessed a forged passport of a Japanese woman.

\*The NSPA made it public that her teacher of Japanese was “Lee Eun Hye” who had been allegedly abducted from Japan to North Korea. On May 15, 1991, Saitama Pref. Police identified “Lee” as Yaeko Taguchi, a missing citizen of Saitama.

According to an article which appeared in a Japanese weekly magazine “Sunday Mainichi”(Nov. 12, 2000 issue), however, Taguchi’s relatives revealed that her date of birth released by the South Korean intelligence agency based on Kim Hyun Hee’s “confession” was not identical with that in her family register.

This was broached at the intergovernmental talks for normalization between Japan and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea which started in 1991. During the 3rd round of the talks held in May of the same year, the Japanese side asked the North Korean side to see about collecting information on “Lee Eun Hye”(Yaeko Taguchi). Tokyo raised the same request at the 4th and 8th meetings, which provoked the North Korean counterparts to leave the conference room in a rage, and led to 7 and a half years of suspension of the bilateral negotiation after that.

On June 30, 1995 Kim’s memoir—“Twenty months with the unforgettable woman Lee Eun Hye”—was printed in Japan. In the last part of the book, she referred to different stories of abduction including “a senior high school girl,” of whom, she claimed, she was told by “a woman working at a guest house.” The stories also include one about “a Japanese couple who had been kidnapped as they were dating on a beach, and held a wedding in North Korea.” This tale, however, seems to be a fabrication concocted by piecing together the cases already raised in those days, given the fact that the first memoir she wrote in Seoul had not mentioned that sort of story.

#### Emergence of Megumi Yokota Story

It was the emergence of an abduction story about Megumi Yokota in early 1997 that the issue of “abduction suspicion” drew national attention as a grave social problem in Japan.

\*(Note): In November 1977 a junior high school girl Megumi Yokota, aged 13, disappeared from a coast in Niigata Pref. In the wake of a “testimony” by a North Korean “agent,” An Myung Jin, who defected to South Korea in 1993, the story of the Japanese girl began being referred to as an illustrative case in question in a bid to justify Tokyo’s insistent allegations against North Korea.

In September 1996, Kenji Ishidaka, an Asahi TV director, published a book titled “Kim Jong Il’s Orders for Abduction.” In the following month, he contributed an article to the Oct. issue of “Gendai(modern) Korea,” the monthly organ of the “Gendai Korea Institute,” to introduce a “testimony” about an allegedly abducted young school girl made by a North Korean “agent”—not by An Myung Jin—who reportedly defected to the South in 1994. The story was based on what he heard from South Korean intelligence agents.

\*Ishidaka interviewed An Myung Jin twice in June and November 1995. Strange enough, however, he did not ask An about the kidnapping case of the Japanese girl. Taken together, his is a thrice-baked story—1)It first came from a South Korean

intelligence man and another agent based in Tokyo; 2)The two heard it from a North Korean defector, who was reportedly said to have got the abduction story from a “kidnapper” in North Korea; 3)The original source, therefore, is the defector’s “teacher” who was said to have done the kidnapping himself.

In December the same year, Katsumi Sato, publisher of the “Gendai Korea,” used Ishidaka’s article to start spreading a rumor in Niigata indicating that the kidnapped girl must have been Megumi Yokota. He managed to hide the fact that he was the very initiator of the anti-Pyongyang campaign.

On Jan. 8, 1997, the first libel appeared on the Internet website of “Gendai Korea”’s homepage. It also carried the full text of a local paper’s article printed in November 1977 which reported the girl’s disappearance.

Two weeks later, Sato faxed copies of Ishidaka’s account and the paper’s article to Tatsukichi Hamamoto, secretary of a Communist Diet man, adding his comment saying, “Please read through these accounts attached. The abducted junior high girl turned out to be none other than Megumi Yokota.” Then, Hamamoto contacted Megumi’s father Shigeru Yokota (living in Kanagawa Pref.), telling him: “I have got information about your daughter. She is not dead but is living in North Korea. Please come to the Diet Members’ Office Building soon.” He appointed the Parliamentarians’ office as the place for a meeting, trying to lend credence to the information. Nonetheless, he never told Yokota that Katsumi Sato had been involved in this action from the beginning.

In the meantime, Sato had already persuaded his old friend Shingo Nishimura, member of the House of Representatives, into joining in his maneuver. Nishimura responded to Sato’s request by submitting to the government “a gist of questions on the abduction by the North Korean agents” on Jan. 23.

After Hamamoto met Yokota, the TV director Ishidaka visited Shigeru Yokota and his wife on Jan. 23 and 25 when a weekly “AERA” reporter also interviewed them. January 25 was the day when Katsumi Sato’s account—“The kidnapped girl identified”—found its way into print in “Gendai Korea”’s Jan./Feb. issue. Obviously, Sato’s story linking Ishidaka’s with the girl was elaborately set to come out only after things started having their course as he had expected.

On Jan. 28, follow-up interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Yokota were carried by “Newsweek” and “Sankei Shimbun”—indicating the effect of on-the-web propa-

ganda by Sato’s institute and his account.

Then came reports on the “abduction suspicion” by “Sankei Shimbun” and “AERA” on Feb. 3 when Shingo Nishimura raised this issue at a budget committee session of the House of Representatives. He quoted Kim Hyun Hee’s memoir and jumped to the conclusion that what Kim called a “senior high school student” meant Megumi Yokota.(Note: she was in a junior high school when she disappeared.) By so doing he put together all information leaked by the South Korean intelligence agency in June 1996. But he avoided quoting the authority at all for Sato’s account printed in the October 1996 issue of “Gendai Korea.”

Thus the story was brought to the Parliament. From the very day of Feb. 3, 1997 on, the Megumi Yokota abduction case was to create a national sensation without its nature and origin being questioned.

#### Emergence of An Myung Jin’s Testimonies

Feb. 4, 1997 witnessed Jin Takase, director of “Nihon Dempa News” production, interview An Myung Jin in Seoul. Showing to the North Korean defector copies of the accounts which appeared in the previous day’s issues of “Sankei Shimbun” and “AERA,” Takase asked him whether he recognized her and knew anything about her case.

An took a look at the photos of Megumi Yokota(taken when she was in a junior high) and said that he had found her among the Japanese staff of a college in Pyongyang at some memorial ceremony. An was told by his instructor, he said, that he himself had kidnapped the Japanese girl from Niigata, Japan. And after the ceremony he “bombarded the instructor with questions to get the details of his story,” he added.

This was a surprise. An Myung Jin who defected to the South in 1993 could not be the one who defected in the following year and became the source of the same story Kenji Ishidaka got from South Korean intelligence agents. Then, the instructor who allegedly told An his abduction story, however, should be identified as the same man who Ishidaka believed was the provider of the first information. Moreover, An’s “testimony,” if it is true, should be called first-rate information based on his own experience because he had seen the girl more than once.

Nevertheless, there arises the most serious doubt here. What An said to Ishidaka about an abduction issue during an interview held in November 1995 was widely different from what he told Takase this time. During the interview in 1995 he had no memory of an impressive content like this, while during that in 1997 he all of a sudden did remember at the sight of her picture (taken when she was much younger than when he “saw” her). This is unconvincing because he must have already given the South Korean intelligence agency every important piece of information and his memory regarding the abduction soon after he came to Seoul in 1993.

(To Be Continued)

## Rodong Sinmun Calls for Preventing Nuclear War

PYONGYANG, February 8 (KCNA) — Rodong Sinmun, in a signed article, said that nuclear weapons are offensive means for war and weapons of mass destruction threatening human existence. A firm guarantee for preventing the nuclear war is to totally eliminate nuclear weapons, the article said, and continued:

What humankind urgently require in averting this war is to check the deployment of the U.S. “National Missile Defense” system (NMD).

The NMD is a very dangerous nuclear war scenario aimed to militarize the space, threaten and attack other countries and overpower other big countries with a nuclear edge and establish military domination over the world. The deployment of the “Theater Missile Defense” system

(TMD) should also be checked.

The TMD is a reckless nuclear war scenario jointly pushed by the united states and Japan to mount nuclear and missile attacks on the DPRK, China, Russia and other east Asian countries.

It is important for averting a nuclear war to bind Japan hand and foot so as to bar it from going ahead with nuclear weaponization and war preparations and deploying the TMD in particular.

What is also important for preventing this war is to ban the use of nukes and nuclear tests and create nuclear-free and peace zones in various parts of the world.

The Korean people will intensify the anti-nuke struggle to build a world without nukes.

## Korean Folk Tale Accelerates North-South Cultural Exchange



Photo shows a scene that Chunhyang reunites with Mongryong performed by the north Korean Troupe.

In a friendly mood of cultural exchange produced by north and south Korean artists, artistic groups of both side jointly held their performance of "Chunhyang-jon," which is one of favorite folk tales of Korea, staging it for the first time the same story brought by them.

The joint performance was realized at the Ponghwa Art Theatre in Pyongyang on Feb. 1 and 2 after a negotiation between the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee (north Korean side) and the Chunhyang Culture Enhancement Association. They decided at the negotiation in Beijing that the joint performance be staged by north and south Korean artistic troupes, that is, the State National Art Troupe (north) and the Chunhyang Culture Enhancement Association. It was agreed then that the two artistic groups should jointly hold "Chunhyang-jon" for two days in Pyongyang. The south Korean artistic troupe visited on Jan. 31 at the invitation of the Council of National Reconciliation.

The State National Art Troupe is one of major artistic troupes of the DPRK that has a lot of People's Artists and People's Actors or Actresses among its members, and the Chunhyang Culture Enhancement Association basically consists of members of the Namwon Art Troupe, which is based at Namwon, North Chonra Province in south Korea, which is said to be the place where the folk tale of Chunhyang unfolded as the setting of the story.

"Chunhyang-jon" jointly performed by the two artistic troupes this time consisted of eight acts of all. The south side performed the first half, and the north side the second half.

"Chunhyang-jon" was performed by the two troupes in different ways, - the north Korean troupe staged it with songs, Pangchang (off-stage songs) and talk. On the other hand, the south side produced it with talk and Pansori. Although the styles of expression were different, the story itself was not different at all. (Pansori is a combination of songs and narration in which a tale is told to the accompaniment of a single drum.)

Present there were Song Sok Hwan, Vice-Minister of Culture, Kim Ryong Song, Vice-Chairman of Council of National Reconciliation, Ryu Jong Gun, North Chonra Provincial Governor and Choi Jin Yong, Mayor of Namwon. Many Pyongyang people also enjoyed the performance and the artists of north and south, who were performers of "Chunhyang-jon," saw each other's show while they were off the stage.

A big applause arose from the audience just after heroine Chunhyang, who had been separated from Mongryong, came to meet the hero again.

"I now realize how much effort south Korean artists have exerted to maintain Korean cultural heritage and their constant efforts to develop it," said Kim Ryong Song and Ryu Jong Gun said, "I am happy to visit Pyongyang for the first time in the first year of 21st century and hold this event which we were able to express our national sentiment. I hope a chance will come someday to invite north Korean artists to Namwon."

The south Korean artists left Pyongyang on Feb. 3 after they visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and the International



A scene staged by the south Korean troupe. Chunhyang is sentenced to death.

Friendship Exhibition.

The Tale of Chunhyang was basically about a young woman who made a promise to her young husband who had to leave her for several years.

Heroine Chunhyang was a woman of the lowest Kisaeng class in the Ri Dynasty Korea. Because of that, the moral sense of the time did not require a female of this class to keep constant love for or chastity to her husband. By keeping high marital fidelity at the risk of her life, Chunhyang asserted her natural right as a human on

behalf of Kisaeng people.

The class system under the Ri Dynasty made it impossible for people, even though they were of the same Korean nation, to get married overriding class differences. But Chunhyang and Mongryong were united in marriage in spite of their class differences and the gap between rich and poor.

The story asserts human dignity and restoration of human rights while it criticizes the irrational system of the feudalistic society under the Ri Dynasty.

### The Tale Of Chunhyang

In the late 18th Century of Korea under the Ri Dynasty, Mongryong, the son of the Governor of Namwon falls headlong in love with Chunhyang. Though she was the daughter of the lowest Kisaeng class, she was a decent woman with dignity.

In spite of their difference in social status, Mongryong's love for Chunhyang becomes deeper and deeper. Unfortunately, Mongryong must leave for Seoul one morning because his father is given a promotion to an office in Seoul, and the entire family must move.

He promises to take her to Seoul as a legal wife when he passes a state exam and becomes a court official.

The next mayor who comes to the town, is an evil man, named Byon. He typifies the evil and corrupt official who tortures and exploits the commoners.

When he calls all the village Kisaeng, he finds one beautiful Kisaeng named Chunhyang among the villagers. Byon orders her to become his courtesan.

But Chunhyang refuses, exclaiming her love for Mongryong and her right as a human.

The infuriated governor Byon orders the guard to beat her with a club and throw her into prison.

She is scheduled to be executed.

In the meantime, Mongryong finishes his studies and passes the state exam with the highest accolade. He is given free choice of his job. Mongryong chooses to become the Secret Royal Inspector who must travel around the countryside incognito to expose corrupt governors and officials and comes to Namwon as a Royal emissary. Finally he saves his beloved Chunhyang and punishes Governor Byon for his injustice. They live happily thereafter.

### KCNA on Tokyo Governor's Provocative Remarks at Davos Forum

PYONGYANG, January 30 (KCNA) — A crow can not be whiter for often washing. Tokyo metropolitan governor Ishihara, ultra right-wing fascist fanatic, at an open seminar of the Davos meeting held in Switzerland on Jan. 26 did not bother to attack other countries.

He laid bare before the world Japan's unchangeable true nature by overstating the issue of suspected "kidnapping of Japanese" and letting loose the provocative outburst that "it is necessary to sink operation ships by missile attacks." This was part of his renewed anti-DPRK diatribe.

He is a political libertine who can be seen only in the Japanese political arena as he is a figure typical of the Japanese ultra right-wing reactionary group characterized by its militarist and ultra-nationalist way of thinking.

It was shortly ago that he took the world by surprise by threatening to "destroy" or "suppress" someone.

He whipped up war hysteria in the international arena again this time. This can not be construed otherwise than a deep-

seated desperate effort to challenge the times and history to the last.

Ishihara's hooliganism at the international meeting was by no means limited to his personal conduct but reflects the Japanese right-wing reactionary forces' wild ambition to revive militarism and ultra-nationalism.

What is serious is that such a guy as Ishihara is still allowed to strut as an official politician and his provocative utterances and behaviours are overlooked in Japan and a political environment is created for him to expand the theatre of his activities to the international arena though the world has entered the new century. All these go to clearly prove that Japan is not likely to be a member of the international community in the new century, either.

Those wild remarks of Ishihara swimming against the trend of history only increase the international community's awareness of the Japanese reactionaries' moves to revive militarism and heighten its vigilance against Japan keen on overseas expansion.

## Roundup of Major Events on DPRK

January 2001

### January

15 - 20 — General Secretary Kim Jong Il paid an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China.

15 — The DPRK established diplomatic relations with Netherlands.

23 — The DPRK established diplomatic relations with Belgium.

23 — A delegation of the British For-

eign Ministry led by Rosalind Marsden, Director of Asia-Pacific Command, visited the DPRK.

29 - 31 — The third round of inter-Korean Red Cross talks was held on Mt. Kumgang. Both sides agreed on the third exchange of separated families and relatives from February 26 to 28.

31 — The fourth round of inter-Korean military working-level talks was held in the south side's area of Panmunjom.