

The People's Korea

No. 1,886

APRIL 28, 2001

http://www.korea-np.co.jp/pk/ (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可 月2回発行)

Korean People Commemorate Late President's 89th Birth Anniversary



Photo shows the platform of the national meeting to commemorate Sun's Day held on Apr. 14 in Pyongyang.

See related articles on page 2, 4

In a nationwide festive mood with various commemorative events, Korean people celebrated the national Sun's Day or the 89th birthday of the late President Kim Il Sung.

A series of commemorative ceremonies and cultural events, including an annual international friendship art festival, art exhibitions, film shows, seminars and an evening gala were held all over the country to commemorate the biggest holiday of the DPRK.

The KCNA and other media, newspapers and TV stations, carried many articles and commemorative editorials and broadcasted memorial programs.

On the occasion of Sun's Day, messages and flowers of leaders were sent to the DPRK by foreign countries, parties and organizations, including the message from Russian President V.V. Putin. Numbers of

foreign guests and foreign delegations also visited Pyongyang to participate in the ceremonies of Sun's Day. Present there were a delegation of the Lao Revolutionary Party, the New Communist Party of Great Britain, parliamentarians from political parties of Brazil, the People's Party of Cambodia, Czechoslovak Communist Party and other foreign figures and delegations from political parties and organizations.

National Meeting Held

A national meeting was held at the April 25 House of Culture on Apr. 14 to commemorate the 89th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung. Senior party, State and military officials and foreign diplomatic envoys and overseas Koreans attended the meeting.

In his report at the meeting, Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the

SPA, said that President Kim Il Sung's immortal exploits were shining more brilliantly with the victorious advance of the cause of Juche under the guidance of Kim Jong Il. Referring to the tasks to carry out the party line, he called on all the people to devote themselves to realizing the desire of the late President, who had worked so hard to enable the entire nation to enjoy happiness and well-being in a reunified powerful country.

International Friendship Concert

The 19th April Spring Friendship Art Festival was held between April 10 to 18 at the 6,000-seat theatre of the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang, with the attendance of government cultural delegations and delegates, artistes from 46 countries and artists from overseas Koreans.

Film Show

Ten-day film shows to commemorate Sun's Day was held in different parts of the country. Documentary and feature films showing the brilliant revolutionary life and immortal exploits of the late President Kim Il Sung were screened. Other documentary films showed that Kim Jong Il was putting into practice the intention of the late president and the Korean people were vigorously advancing under the leadership of Kim Jong Il.

Seminars of Working People's Organizations

The seminars of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Korean Democratic Women's Union and the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea held on Apr. 10 referred to the immortal feats of the late President in the work of working people's organizations.

Speakers called on all the officers and

Kim Jong Il Issues Order On Promoting KPA Officers to Higher Ranks

General Secretary Kim Jong Il visited on Apr. 15 unit No. 2629 of the Korean People's Army (KPA) honored with the title of "Commander O Jung Hup's Seventh Regiment" to congratulate officers on the occasion of Sun's Day.

KPA Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il also inspected an artillery battalion of KPA unit No. 3427 on Apr. 16 and units No. 841 and 998 on Apr. 17.

Meanwhile, Kim Jong Il issued an order on promoting leading officers of the KPA to higher military ranks on April 13.

The order said that he ordered to promote leading officers of the KPA to higher military ranks on the occasion of Sun's Day, the late President Kim Il Sung's birthday, firmly believing that they would as ever firmly guarantee the security of the country and the revolutionary cause with arms and actively contribute to the efforts to open up the way of building a powerful socialist nation, as the core of the KPA, following the army-first policy of the WPK.

According to the order, one leading officer was promoted to colonel general, three were promoted to lieutenant generals and 15 to major generals.

members of the trade unions to take the lead in advancing socialism under the red flag. They underscored the need to bring about a radical turn in agricultural production in response to the program of the WPK for rural construction.

International Marathon Race

The 14th Mangyongdae Cup International Marathon race took place on Apr. 15, participated in by over 500 athletes from 20 countries. Korean runners, Kim Jung Won and Jong Yong Ok won gold medals separately in the men and women races.

"Cold War Way of Thinking and Action Will Bring U.S. to Nowhere": KCNA Commentary

The Korean Central News Agency on Apr. 18 released a commentary entitled "Cold War Way of Thinking and Action Will Bring U.S. to Nowhere."

The following is the summary of the commentary.

The movement to revive the Cold War contrary to the requirements of the times and history is being intensified in the United States where an ill-omened outburst declaring the Cold War between the East and the West was officially made for the first time in the last century.

Such moves are motivated by the noteworthy set-up of the Bush administration that emerged after the advent of the new century, and its belligerent foreign policy plan.

Bush was reported to have referred to this plan at a swearing-in ceremony as the 43rd U.S. President as follows:

The enemy of freedom, the enemy of the U.S., should never be mistaken. We will continue to engage the world because this

is required by history and that is our option.

This means that the U.S. will continue to pursue as in the past the policy of high-handedly interfering in internal affairs of all other countries and putting pressure upon them for its hegemony.

The first proposal made by the hawkish group of the Cold War-minded Bush administration to put into practice the plan calls for a hard-line policy intended to isolate and stifle anti-imperialist independent countries, especially the DPRK which does not allow any U.S. highhanded practice and intervention but defends its sovereignty.

What further irritated the U.S. hardliners was the publication of the historic North-South Joint Declaration on the Korean Peninsula and the subsequent positive developments there favorable for the independent reunification of the Korean nation. They consider the Korean Peninsula as a strategic vantage point in the Asia-Pacific region for which they have given eye-teeth in a bid to expand the sphere of the U.S.

political and military influence because of its huge economic potentials and geopolitical importance.

If the U.S. truly wants peace and stability of the world, it should unconditionally pull its troops out of south Korea. This is a prerequisite to the reunification of the Korean Peninsula, peace and stability and sustained economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

There is no ground for the U.S. to refuse to do so now that the Cold War ended and the historic phase has been brought about for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

However, the hawkish group of the Bush administration is trying to derail the peace process and aggravate the situation on the Korean Peninsula in a bid to invent a new pretext for the permanent U.S. military occupation and domination over south Korea and trigger off a war on the peninsula at any cost.

This is the main purpose of the U.S. hardliners to resume the Cold War while spreading the rumor about "threat" from the DPRK.

Their another aim is to establish the "National Missile Defense" system at any cost and thus render other nations' nuclear and missile deterrent defunct, realize the U.S. strategy for world supremacy and bring huge profits to its munition monopolies.

The Bush administration's moves to establish "NMD" are aimed to restart the

Cold War by sparking a new global arms race.

It is needless to say that given the present stockpiling of nuclear and strategic weapons in the world, such moves of the U.S. will upset the world military strategic balance and stability and push other nations vitally interested in it to a large-scale arms race worldwide.

The demise of the Cold War deprived the U.S. of any justification to designate nuclear weapons states as strategic enemies or objects posing "threat." So, it is citing the DPRK as a state posing "a threat" in a bid to sow seeds of distrust and dissension among nations and thus meet its strategic interests.

The U.S. is still vociferating about "tough counteraction" to stifle a sovereign state, pursuant to the "strong-arm policy," the outdated policy of the cold war. This, however, will not work on anyone.

The DPRK is not indebted to the U.S. nor it is a country which will yield to the U.S. arrogant demand based on "strength" and give up its sovereignty. We are ready for either war or dialogue.

The U.S. administration is well advised to realize, though belatedly, that it will be the only and right choice for the global peace and for the U.S. itself to renounce the Cold War way of thinking and action and make a switchover in its hostile policy towards the DPRK in keeping with the demand of the new century.

Artists' Groups of World Gather in Pyongyang



Artists from many countries participated in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival, held to celebrate the birthday of the late President Kim Il Sung and to deepen friendship among artists. They displayed their national sentiments and artistic talents in the festival. The Pyongyang Art Festival was held from Apr. 10 to 18 as the 19th in the series since the first in 1982 which was held on the occasion of the 70th birthday of the late President Kim Il Sung. This time, more than 1,300 artistic groups from 46 countries showed their colorful performances in theaters in Pyongyang.

PK Interview with Kim Ryon Ja

Here is an interview of Kim Ryon Ja by our correspondent in Pyongyang.

Q. How did you feel when you were received by north Korean leader Kim Jong Il?

A. When the inter-Korean summit was held last year, I firstly saw him having a conversation with President Kim Dae Jung. I felt he was a humorous person and had a very good talk with him.

The talk gave me a fresh impression which I had not had of him before. But when I met him this time, he impressed me more.

He was really beneficent and of freer and easier character than I had imaged before.

He received me so gently that I was really happy though I was very nervous. I had sang a song for him but I don't remember what song I sang.

I presented a gift to him, which included a collection of world classic music and an album of my songs.

I heard he had a profound knowledge of art including music and is the founder of the April Spring Friendship Art Festival. It was a honorable thing for a musician to sing before a person who knew much about music.

He must have understood my songs without my explanation and I was sure he would continue to support the improvement of art.

Q. I know you had hoped to hold a recital in Pyongyang since long time ago.

A. I had planned to sing an old song which was created before the division of the Korean Peninsula. I wanted to confirm on the stage that we were of the same nation and had the same feelings.

I didn't know why, but I shed tears when I sang "Living in an Another Country."

I had lot of opportunities to sing songs for Korans in Japan. They had suffered from much bitterness and sorrow since Japan's colonial rule. Singing "Living in an Another Country" requires to understand that feelings about their hometowns.

Fourteen years have passed since I started my career as a singer after leaving my hometown.

Since I began to continue my activities as a singer in foreign countries, I have really wanted the reunification all the more. I pour my sentiments into my songs.



As I participated in the festival this time, I was able to make my long-cherished dream come true.

Q. You are the first south Korean to take part in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival. How was the festival?

A. I knew a little about the festival through TV news. But I was surprised to see Pyongyang citizens welcoming artists so warmly who came from other countries. I came to understand that the festival was held under the ideas of independence, peace and friendship.

I am sure the performance in Pyongyang this time was of special meaning for my life in the future.

When I return to my lodging after my solo recital was over, a man who drove for me said, "As you smiled on the stage, the audience smiled and you shed tears, they did at the same time as you did."

Hearing that words, I was really happy and came to think it was worthwhile visiting Pyongyang. I was thankful to them for kindly welcoming me.

Q. What activity are you planning after you return to your home?

A. I wish the reunification of Korea would be realized as soon as possible.

Since I am a pop singer, I want my songs to be a bridge between north, south and overseas Koreans, contributing to the reunification of Korea.

Before I came here, Chongryun and Mindan people jointly decided to hold a stage for me as an encouragement event to me. In such a way, I want to contribute to the national reconciliation by singing songs.

I regard visit to Pyongyang this time as the first step.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il kindly invited me to visit Pyongyang again whenever I want.

I would like to participate in the 20th festival next year.

DPRK Runners Win Golds in Pyongyang International Marathon

Western Companies Support Race



Kim Jung Won (left) waves to spectators after winning the race.

The 14th "Mangyongdae" Cup International Marathon race took place in Pyongyang on Apr. 15, participated in by over 500 runners from over 20 countries.

The race has been an annual event since 1981 to commemorate Sun' Day, the birth anniversary of the late President Kim Il Sung, though it was temporarily suspended for years.

Organized by the DPRK Athletic Association, the race brought together over 500 men and women athletes from over twenty countries including China, Russia, Kenya, the United States and the DPRK, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The standings of the marathon race were as follows:

Men

1. Kim Jung Won (DPRK)
Time: 2 hours 11 minutes 48 seconds
2. Song Yong Ho (DPRK)

- Time: 2 hours 12 minutes 23 seconds
3. Eshetu Bekelle (Ethiopia)
Time: 2 hours 13 minutes 52 seconds

Women

1. Jong Yong Ok (DPRK)
Time: 2 hours 28 minutes 32 seconds
2. Ham Bong Sil (DPRK)
Time: 2 hours 29 minutes 44 seconds
3. Jo Pun Hui (DPRK)
Time: 2 hours 30 minutes 46 seconds

The event also drew considerable attention because of its sponsorship by Western companies. Coordinated by ISL, a Swiss-based sports marketing firm, the race was supported by various multinational corporations, such as Fila, Italy's sports goods maker; Heineken, Dutch beer maker; DatActivity.com, a Swiss data processing company; and British Financial Times newspaper.

PK Report from Pyognyang

Aiming at Top Level Technology



"Technology study" is opened for factory workers to improve their production techniques and skills to reach the world's top level.

The following story titled "Pyongyang as it is" was written by Kim Ji Yong, a PK correspondent in Pyongyang, exclusive to the PK.

Fighting against an economically difficult situation has continued for a long time in north Korea and people have been organizing a technological revolution to raise its technology to the world's top level.

"Technology study," which is opened as

an evening course on Thursdays in the Pyongyang Spinning Mill Machine Plant, is attended by factory workers to improve their production techniques and skills. Engineers in the factory also attend it as lecturers for them. When the time to start the study comes, factory workers stream into a study room with a notebook in their hands.

(Continued on page 4)

Bush's Policy: Will "Realism" Work?

By Choe Kwan Ik, Editor

The most cynical irony found in what the Bush administration has conducted since its inauguration may be construed otherwise than that this self-styled world's police nation has been driving itself to a tight corner as a "super pariah-rogue state" rather than as a "bull in a china shop."

Ironies

Setting aside the lack of his foreign policy background, George Bush, Jr. has surrounded himself with an "unusually experienced and accomplished team." U.S. diplomatic experts and observers, however, call the new president's conduct "one of the most serious diplomatic blunders of the postwar era," "a diplomatic train wreck," a "fiasco" and even a "catastrophe." The would-be Texas sheriff's concept and conduct look quixotic, paradoxical, and dangerous.

First, the Bush administration's paranoiac adherence to the ballistic missile defense (BMD) program is bordering on the ridiculous and insane. To the eyes of everyone in the world the following are very clear: (1) A national missile defense (NMD) and its younger brother a theater missile defense (TMD)—obviously a breach of the AMD Treaty—are most likely to revive the Cold War regime and unleash global arms race without enhancing America's national security at all. (2) Bush and his aides are oblivious to the problems the project has—its inherent technical inadequacies and its prohibitively high cost. It only serves to enrich the domestic military-industrial complex at the cost of their fellow Americans' welfare and living. (3) It poses greater threats to world peace and challenges the global village.

Thus, the first irony is that the Bush team's pursuit of nuclear and missile supremacy runs counter to America's national interest in the real meaning of the term, let alone those of other nations.

Second, gratuitous brutality in the Bush administration's approach to the rest of the world has fostered a process of de-Americanization, if not anti-Americanism, among its traditional allies in West Europe. To say nothing of its harshness in dealing with Russia and China and the Korean Peninsula, the Bush regime's penchant for going it alone on world issues without the advice and consent of its allies as well as its recent backing away from the Kyoto protocol to reduce global warming plus its inclination to kill the ABM accord have caused a growing skepticism and outrage among European nations in particular. Media news in the region blatantly describe Washington's behavior as a "brutal form of unilateralism" and that "The planet unites in anger against the polluter George Bush."

The second irony, therefore, may be that the Bush White House is paralyzing and estranging the relations with its close allies it needs to work with for the sake of its global strategy, as well as facilitating to create an international coalition against Washington.

Third, one of the most serious blunders and follies the Bush team has committed in dealing with foreign affairs may well concern their Korean Peninsula policy.

The Bush team's anachronism and absurdity are graphically illustrated by the following conducts: (1) The malicious rhetoric used to abuse the North Korean leader and government such as "skepticism," "dictator," "totalitarian," "rogue," "No.1 enemy"; (2) an emphasis on an "overall review" of the 1994 Agreed Framework and a "verification" of North Korean compliance with it; (3) the rejection of resumed talks on the missile issue and improved relations between the two countries; (4) the practice of U.S.-South Korea joint war games against the North such as "Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration" (RSOI) that

started on April 20; (5) the naked diplomatic pressure on Kim Dae Jung not to go ahead with his "engagement policy" toward North Korea, and not to use even the term "sunshine policy" any longer.

As a matter of common knowledge, these outrageous gestures on the part of the Bush administration have angered the Korean people, north and south, and aroused increasing apprehensions and warnings not only among the former high-ranking officials and diplomatic and arms control experts under Clinton including William Perry famous for his "Perry report," Madelein Albright, Wendy Sherman, Robert Gallucci, Morton Halperin, let alone Democrats in Congress, but also in the international society.

Herein lies another irony that the gravest menace is actually coming from within the Bush team who stresses North Korea's "threats."

Bush's "Get Tough" Policy Will Backfire

Sophism, arrogance, swaggering, bullying, belligerence, "go-it-alone" behavior, etc.—these terms have now become synonymous with the Bush team's foreign policy. When it comes to its "get tough" stance toward North Korea, it is characterized by "fault-finding" with the agreements reached between Pyongyang and the Clinton administration as well as by its pressing of unreasonable—and impossible—demands on the adversary with malice aforethought.

For instance, they have raised some "premises" before resuming talks with Pyongyang such as "verification," arms cut on conventional weapons, the pulling back of North Korean forces from the front line along the demarcation line, an assurance of unilateral abandonment of production, deployment and export of missiles by North Korea, and an additional "inspection" of a nuclear site.

This is nothing more than a confession that his government is not willing to "pick up where the previous government left off" as Colin Powell once said but was repudiated two days after by his boss George W. Bush; otherwise it is so much ignorant of international practice and a common sense in dealing with foreign affairs in general. As a matter of course, these provocative arguments and behavior on the part of the U.S. have encountered escalating censures by Pyongyang, which include the scathing expressions like "a pine dream," "balderdash," "warmongers," "imperialist aggressor," "Yankee"; "This is like a thief crying 'stop thief!';" "The prevailing situation requires the DPRK to make the withdrawal of the U.S. forces the foremost tasks of its policy toward the U.S."

Critics inside and outside the U.S. point out that the Bush administration's present hawkish Korea policy—and, of course, its global policy—may well have been conducted against the following backdrops:

(1) The U.S. global strategy to seek world domination based on military supremacy and unilateralism; (2) The Pentagon's inclination to find new "primary enemies and threats" in place of the defunct Soviet Union; (3) The interests of and demands by the U.S. military-industrial complex; (4) The coming back of traditional conservatism and expansionism inherent in U.S. politics.

Some noteworthy facts and elements must be taken into account to examine the workability and possibility of what the Bush team is trying to achieve in Korea.

First, the "Perry Process" still remains at least as the only alternative for the U.S. Because it is a product of the long process of the Republicans—and the Democrats—under Bill Clinton—"engagement policy" toward North Korea which was started by Ronald Reagan in 1988. The report was born as a result of an ultimate compromise hammered out after the persistent and intermittently emerging frictions and ten-

sions between Pyongyang and Washington, between advocates of engagement and those of containment in the U.S., between war and peaceful coexistence policies, and between the alternatives—standoff and a negotiated solution to the Korean and internationally concerned issues. In fact, this stick-and-carrot formula came into being as part of U.S. efforts to appease the hardliners and hawkish groups in the Republican-dominant Congress, the Pentagon, the CIA, and military industries who were critical of the 1994 agreed framework—a child of American readjustment of the historic bilateral accord for the sake of American interest.

The subsequent developments witnessed remarkable and substantial progress. Kim Jong Il's special envoy Deputy Marshal Jo Myong Rok's visit to the U.S. to meet Bill Clinton led to a historic joint communique which advocated an end to the hostile relations between the two adversaries and to Madelein Albright's return visit to prepare for a possible visit to Pyongyang by a U.S. president.

"Although there were still critical details to be worked out, it appeared that an agreement was within reach," said the then senior policy coordinator on North Korea Wendy Sherman, who succeeded William Perry. The DPRK-U.S. relations were taking a due course of history to a dramatic stage in accordance with the "Perry Process" on the American part. But a historic chance was wrecked. "Of the various places in the world where there is a chance to change the dynamic, this was it," regretted Albright later on.

Is Clinton's successor absurd enough to spoil this best ever diplomatic leverage and reverse the most reasonable process?

Second, an ironical paradox suggests: The more hawkish stance Washington assumes toward Pyongyang, the more substantial progress Pyongyang-Washington relations will mark in the long run. The Geneva agreement of 1994, for instance, was produced by Washington's failure to threaten to attack North Korea by force. And the "Perry Process" of 1999, as was seen before, came up as hardliners' pressure on the Clinton government mounted. The same equation may apply to the case of Bush Jr.'s administration surrounded by noted conservatives with Cold War thinking and experiences who had served Reagan and Bush Sr.

Third, the long-drawn dilemma for the U.S. "empire" will persist unless it abandons an ambition to accomplish its overwhelming global military supremacy in terms of nuclear, missile and conventional weaponry as well. The \$60-100 billion business of Ballistic Missile Defense initiative plus the U.S. lust for world domination indispensably need "rogue states" and "threats of missiles reaching its mainland."

A sophism is also needed for the leading U.S. arsenals to keep exporting their costly weapons—substantially as part of their regular clearances—to South Korea which is the second best buyer after Japan in East Asia and the Pacific.

Not surprisingly, the worn-out and childish anti-Pyongyang propaganda has been launched again by the Bush regime to support the U.S. logic. Some of its typical cases are the U.S. commanding officer, USFK, General Schwartz's exaggeration of the "threats" of allegedly reinforced armed forces in North Korea, Powell's statement on the "threat of North Korean missiles against an American ally South Korea," as well as the CIA deputy director's propaganda as regards a "suspicion of North Korea's having possessed one or two nuclear weapons."

A real and grave concern is being aroused in the wake of a recent U.S. strategic shift of U.S. military forces from the EU to the Pacific region. Indications are that the Pentagon and its conservative think tanks are pushing ahead with a new strategy based on a concept that concentrates efforts on the development of hyper

high-tech weaponry such as more sophisticated precision-guided weapons and on the reinforcement of the Air Force and the Navy while downgrading the status of the ground forces as a whole, in South Korea, in particular.

This is obviously aimed to enhance and ensure the destructive capability of the U.S. armed forces to a maximum, and at the same time, to minimize the cost of American soldiers' lives. Together with the notorious USFK OpPlan 5027, the ongoing U.S.-South Korea joint war game, RSOI, which is meant for a "complete victory" over the North is just the case in point. Another implicit purpose of the U.S. in continuing reinforcing armed forces in South Korea and military provocations against North Korea seems to keep North Korea exhausting its resources and energy for military expenditure, rather than for a deterrence.

Bush and his men seem to have given a priority to such U.S. "national interests" and unilateralism. It is little wonder that Bush should be "skeptical" about the North Korean leader and even about Kim Dae Jung's "engagement policy" with the North.

It is a fact the U.S. remains a No.1 global superpower and may be able to undercut Korean efforts. But the truth is that all cards are in Kim Jong Il's hands so far as the bilateral relations are concerned. If, for example, a Pyongyang-proposed formula about the launching of commercial satellites for North Korea by any other country proves rational and acceptable in return for its restraint on a long-range missile development program, then the American justification of an attempt to scrap the ABM regime and to promote the grand BMD program in general will not be tenable any longer. Kim Jong Il's unification strategy that envisages achieving a national reconciliation and an ultimate reunification without fail will baffle American intervention in the Korean affairs after all. His return visit to Seoul will be one of the cards he has. A new formula is underway in Pyongyang to deprive the U.S. of its *raison d'être* in South Korea.

Moreover, all the "preconditions" the U.S. has imposed on North Korea have been removed as was shown in the decade-long tug-of-the war negotiations between the two opponents. Pyongyang detects the Bush team's intentions and maneuvers and knows how to "contain or engage" the self-centered superpower across the Pacific.

Conclusion

The Bush administration is reportedly going to make public a "revised" North Korea policy soon. Whatever change or revision might they come up with, however, it should not be the one "beating around the wrong bush." With no sophism or bluff can they change Pyongyang as they wish it to be.

The best option for them would be a prompt resumption of the suspended missile talks with North Korea and a visit to Pyongyang by a highest-ranking new presidential envoy—Colin Powell or Condoleezza Rice, for instance. A personal rapport between leaders would be a shortcut to a rapprochement and peaceful coexistence however hostile their relations may be. Distrust and skepticism is derived from misunderstanding and ignorance of the other side. What Powell called "monitoring and verification" agreements can be negotiated if only Bush and his people abandon their malicious intention and instead show goodwill and sincerity in implementing the agreed framework, which includes the U.S. provision of two light water reactors to North Korea. No revision to it would be tolerated and practically possible.

The worst option would be a protracted standoff without dialogue. If what the Bush team calls "realism" and strict "reciprocity" means a shift from an engagement to containment policy toward Pyongyang, it will cause backlash and blowback not only from North Korea but also from South Korea and the rest of the world. U.S. unilateralism would provoke a halt to

(Continued on page 4)

DPRK Criticizes Japan's Approval of Distorted History Textbook in UN

PYONGYANG, April 22 (KCNA) — The DPRK representative, addressing the discussion of article 13 "Children's Rights" at the 57th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva on April 11, said that it is the top priority of all States to provide sound social environment for existence, development and protection of children. Calling attention to the fact that recently the Japanese government approved history textbooks with twisted contents related to crimes committed by Japanese imperialists in the past against humanity, he continued:

This is only a tip of an iceberg of Japan's prearranged distortion of history. Immense

is the negative effects on Japan's younger generation and the international community.

The distortion can not be construed otherwise than a premeditated and sinister act of Japanese government designed to conceal Japan's past and imbue the younger generation of Japan with the idea of revival of militarism and reinvasion of other nations.

The Japanese government should immediately stop criminal distortion of history, make an official apology for it, admit legal responsibility for the past crimes and take strict measures to prevent the repetition of those crimes without delay.

Pyongyang Report

(Continued from page 2)

"Recently, young colleagues in my office have become keen on their study," said Chong Ho Yong, who works in the tools section of the factory.

"Until now, production technology was focused on how much building materials we could save, and on how to improve production efficiency. But now, we are concentrating our effort on how to reach the world's top level in production technology," said Chong Chol Hwan, head of the tools section of the factory.

Following the slogan stressed in this year's Joint Editorial, "Let's open up and advance the road to an economically powerful nation," the plant set up a plan for engineers in the plant to achieve a breakthrough to bring about a technological innovation in the plant.

"Technology study" is part of the measures proposed by the engineers of the plant.

The plant had been concentrating on the production of components for wool looms on its own, for whose supply the country depended on foreign countries.

Since the plant came to be able to produce the components on its own, the main task for the plant has been changed to that of solving the problem how to enable the workers to raise their technical ability.

That day, Kim Chol Ho, 38, of the technology section, made a presentation on the research results he had undertaken since November last year.

In his research report, he said damage to the components was related to heat treatment. He set forth a measure to resolve this problem.

"I would like to introduce this method, starting next month. Please see whether my method will be effective."

In an hour-long presentation, other factory workers actively asked him many questions.

After it was over, he went directly to the building where he was doing research.

"I should work harder than young workers to attain a breakthrough so that we may catch up with the trend of the times," said Son Sun Jin, a lecturer for the "Technology study."

The factory workers will continue their earnest studies aiming at top level technology in the world.

Bush's Policy

(Continued from page 3)

Pyongyang's moratorium on long-range missile test-firing. That would be the last thing that everyone wants to see.

Pyongyang is ready for both war and negotiation. In the final analysis, Washington is advised to come up with a constructive and forward-looking formula which may put into practice all the agreements already reached between the two countries—one reasonable and acceptable to both. That would be "Promoting the National Interest" of America on the right track. Their "realism" is going to be tested as to whether it will actually work or not.

Third Home Visit Made by Chongryun Group



So Won Su, 76, a member of third hometown visit, visits his ancestral grave for the first time after he left his birthplace.

A delegation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) visited their hometowns in south Korea from April 6 to 11 to meet with their long-lost kin.

An 80-member delegation of Chongryun, comprised of 72 elderly members and their other supporting staff, made a six-day visit to south Korea for the first time in 55 years.

During the schedule prepared by the Red Cross society of south Korea, they visited their hometowns and family members they had not seen for more than half a century.

Of the visitors, 62 were in their 70s and 80s.

The delegation was led by Chae Hong Yol, 80, head of the Chongryun teachers group.

Among the visitors were Ryo Song Gun, 73, vice-president of the Chongryun Chamber of Commerce Federation who has been conducting economic cooperation projects with north Korea and Han Sul Ryong, 78, advisor to the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Miyagi Prefecture.

In the past, Chongryun members were refused to visit south Korea due to ideological differences, although most of them came from south Korea.

Since last year, members of Chongryun, pro-Pyongyang ethnic Korean organization in Japan, have been officially allowed to visit their homes in south Korea without a need to change their nationality to south Korea.

It was the third hometown visit for Chongryun members, while the two earlier home visits were made in September and November last year.

Dressed in a Turumagi, an overcoat of

Korean national costume, So Won Su, 76, proudly stepped out from a plane at the Incheon airport, attracting the attention of south Korean people.

An extraordinary love for his hometown was seen in his face filled with Korean national sentiment and national pride. He was visiting his hometown after 68 years' absence.

"I had this costume made in Pyongyang in commemoration of my 60th birthday. So this costume is of special meaning to me," said So.

He visited his ancestral graves in South Kyongsang Province.

In front of a photograph of his ancestors that he had been given by his father, he bewailed the misfortunes that had befallen his family and apologized to his ancestors for not having supported them well while they were alive.

There had been no news to Ri Chan Gan, 77, from his long-lost sisters before he departed for his hometown.

More than 30 years had passed since they had exchanged news about their circumstances. Since he visited north Korea in 1974 as a member of an artistic group, letter exchange, which was the only means of communication, had stopped.

But he finally contacted them on the evening of the day previous to his south Korean visit.

When he found his name on a placard held by his sisters, he run to them and hugged them close.

"It is like a dream that we meet again for the first time in 54 years!"

Ri smiled happily after the passionate hug, making sure that that was not a dream.

Roundup of Major Events on DPRK

March

1 — The DPRK established diplomatic relations with Germany.

1 — North and south Korean scholars held a joint symposium on the illegality of the Japanese occupation of Korea at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang under the co-sponsorship of the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences of north Korea and the Saun Institute of south Korea to mark the 82nd anniversary of the March 1 Popular Uprising, a nationwide anti-Japanese resistance.

They also held a joint exhibition of data on the illegality of the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea.

2 — Hans Dahlgren, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs as special envoy of the Swedish Prime Minister, and his party visited the DPRK.

5 — The DPRK established diplomatic relations with Luxembourg.

8 — The DPRK established diplomatic relations with Greece.

9 — The DPRK established diplomatic

relations with Brazil.

10 - 11 — A working consultation between the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the South Korean Confederation of Trade Unions and the Federation of South Korean Trade Unions was held on Mt. Kumgang. Working-level talks between the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and the National Federation of Peasants Associations of South Korea were also held on Mt. Kumgang.

10 - 13 — A delegation of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) visited the DPRK to participate in high-level negotiation between the DPRK and KEDO for the implementation of the agreement on the provision of light water reactors to the DPRK.

10 - 13 — John Kerr, permanent under-secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, and his party visited the DPRK.

10 - 14 — Kim Han Gil, Minister of Culture and Tourism of south Korea, and his party visited the DPRK.