

The People's Korea

No. 1,898

OCTOBER 27, 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)

“Bush Lacks Diplomatic Etiquette”: DPRK Spokesman

Bush's renewed "skeptical" remark on the DPRK leadership "cannot but be interpreted as an imprudent statement unbecoming for the president of a 'superpower'," -- "a senseless attitude away even from elementary diplomatic etiquette," said a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the country. The rebuke came in response to U.S. president George W. Bush's statement in Shanghai. Stressing that the Bush administration itself was to blame for a long stalemate both on Pyongyang-Washington relations and on north-south dialogue, the spokesman expressed Pyongyang's readiness for resumed dialogue with Washington if and when the latter takes at least the same position as taken by the Clinton government in its last period. A full text of the spokesman's statement of October 23 is as follows:

Shortly ago, U.S. President Bush once again indiscreetly pulled up the DPRK. At a news conference held prior to the APEC summit he told the lie that the DPRK does not respond to a DPRK-U.S. dialogue though Washington stands for it. He went the length of speaking ill of its supreme leadership, saying it is too doubtful and shrouded in secrecy and it refuses to keep the promise and he is a person quite not understandable.

Putting aside the political motive of his utterance, Bush's remark cannot but be interpreted as an imprudent statement unbecoming for the president of a "superpower."

It is a senseless attitude away even from elementary diplomatic etiquette for the head of state of the U.S. to speak ill of the leader of other country, who is a stranger to him, for no reason.

It is universally known that it was none other than Bush who began casting a string of doubts, saying he felt skeptical about the North Korean leader as soon as he assumed

the presidential office and it was again his administration which put the DPRK-U.S. dialogue which was under way to a stalemate. All this happened not long but a few months ago.

Ignoring his past behavior, he argued that the DPRK is so suspicious and that it should do what it has committed itself to do. This is as ridiculous as the pot calling the kettle black.

Such a reckless deed tells that he presents no image as a politician, to say nothing of that of a head of state. Then, how can we trust the United States though it speaks honeyed words?

A thaw was brought to the frozen DPRK-U.S. relations with much efforts. But they are refrozen now and the bilateral dialogue came to a rupture entirely due to Bush and his administration with deep-rooted hostility towards the DPRK.

In the last period of the Clinton administration, the two countries became brisk in dialogue and published even a joint communiqué that promised an end to the hostile relations between the two sides and even a joint statement against terrorism.

Visits of special envoys and personal letters were exchanged between the leaders of the two countries.

Understanding and confidence were built so deeply that their summit was high on the agenda.

Moreover, included in the itinerary of President Clinton's scheduled visit to Pyongyang as a core was discussion over the DPRK's important decision to solve in the bilateral interests the issue of the DPRK's missiles which were regarded as a "threat" to the U.S.

However, the new U.S. administration broke all those agreements as soon as it took office.

(Continued on page 4)

International Community Launches Humanitarian Aid to Flood Victims in DPRK

The Australian government sent wheat worth five million Australian dollars in humanitarian aid to the DPRK through the UN World Food Programme (WFP), following the recent torrential rains in the eastern coastal areas of the DPRK which caused large-scale damage to crops, homes and infrastructure.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Oct. 16 the humanitarian aid by the Australian government, adding that it provided humanitarian aid to the DPRK on several occasions from 1997 as regards the natural calamities that lasted for several years in the country.

The WFP said that it is rushing emergency aid to tens of thousands of flood victims in the DPRK.

Rick Carsino, the agency's chief in the DPRK, said the rains that hit the east coast on 9-10 October were the worst experienced in the area in living memory.

The UN agency is dispatching 1,850 tons of wheat to Kangwon Province, the worst affected area, according to the announcement of the WFP. The wheat is enough to feed some 145,000 of the worst affected until the end of November, it said.

The WFP and the DPRK government's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee are also working together to launch suit-

able projects for food-for-work assistance. Food-for-work projects are short-term operations aiming at boosting agricultural production or minimizing threat to it. The projects, implemented in food-short areas such as Kangwon Province, include the rebuilding of sea-dikes, river embankment, the deepening of streams and reforestation.

"It was the worst flooding we had had since records began in 1910," Kim Song Hwan, head of the FDRC for the region, was quoted by the BBC as saying.

According to the WFP, 400 mm of rain fell in a 12-hour period on 9-10 October in the worst affected area, and an estimated 50,000 tons of unprocessed rice were destroyed by the floods.

Meanwhile, the European Commission decided to provide 1.275 million euro in humanitarian aid to children in the DPRK. The European Commission has reportedly allocated 1.275 million euro to provide winter clothing to children in the DPRK to enable them to protect themselves from upcoming harsh cold weather in the winter season.

This humanitarian aid targets 74,000 vulnerable infants and primary school children in four provinces of the DPRK, the European Commission said. The aid will be channeled through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

Pyongyang Urges Seoul to Show Sincere Attitude toward Inter-Korean Dialogs

Pyongyang Blamed Seoul for stalled inter-Korean exchanges in a series of statements and messages urging the south side to show sincere attitude toward inter-Korean talks and reconciliation programs.

The north side held the south side fully responsible for the cancellation of planned inter-Korean talks and exchanges including separated family reunions, ministerial talks, Mt. Kumgang joint business talks economic promotion talks and the exchange of Taekwon-do exhibition team.

Criticizing that the south side created warlike atmosphere, the north side said that inter-Korean exchanges could resume any time as soon as the south side guaranteed rightful conditions for the inter-Korean reconciliation.

Full texts of statements and messages are as follows:

Telephone Message From North Side To South Side (October 18)

The south side repeated unreasonable assertions unacceptable to anyone while groundlessly taking issue with the sincerity of the north side.

Your side suddenly "discussed measures to cope with the movement of the north army" and put the whole army and police on "emergency alert" one week before the exchange of the fourth visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the Seoul visit of the Taekwon-do exhibition team. This is quite contrary to the fundamental spirit of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and the points agreed upon at the fifth north-south ministerial talks.

Worse still, it is a hostile act toward our side that your side brought more air force from the U.S. under the pretext of filling

up the "military vacuum" with the humanitarian visit just ahead, though your side talks about the importance of the "issue of separated families."

Your side is hell-bent on distorting the fact through media in the wake of the unreasonable moves. This is a perfidy to the dialogue partner. It is designed to evade the responsibility for the present situation.

Our side considers that the present difficulties created by your side should be removed as soon as possible.

Proceeding from this stand, our side demands your side immediately take steps to create circumstances and atmosphere acceptable to the dialogue partner by all forms of efforts if your side has a willingness to respect the spirit of the June 15 joint declaration and make reconciliation and unity with the north.

We assure you that if your side shows a positive response to this just demand of ours, we are ready to exchange the visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the Taekwon-do exhibition teams anytime.

We also consider that talks, agreed upon between the two sides, should be held.

As regards the forthcoming north-south authorities' talks to pep up Mt. Kumgang tourism, your side should no longer obstruct the holding of the talks over the issue of their venue which is not in accord with the agenda.

Out of the stand to provide the progress of dialogue between the north and the south at any cost, our side proposes to hold the authorities' talks to pep up Mt. Kumgang tourism on October 25 because it is impossible to hold as scheduled the talks slated for October 19 on Mt. Kumgang. We also

(Continued on page 3)

Japanese Civic Groups Meet to Support Korean Unity; Calling for Resumed Normalization Talks

On October 20 and 21, Japanese civic groups held a meeting in Saitama, north of Tokyo, in support of an earlier reunification of Korea and in demand of prompt resumption of the long-stalemated intergovernmental normalization talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang. The annual event, co-sponsored by local Japanese grass-roots organizations engaged in a Japan-DPRK friendship movement throughout the country, was participated in by representatives of these groups and Korean residents, some 250 people in all.

Among the guests invited to the meeting were Tanami Taneaki, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan (from the Democratic Party); Himori Fumihiro, Member of the House of Representatives (from the Social Democratic Party); Shimizu Isamu, president of Nagano Prefectural Citizens' Society in Support of Korean Unification; Fukada Hajime, former Member of the House of Councilors (from the SDP); and a vice chairman of Chongryun (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan).

In his address at the meeting on October 20, Makieda Motofumi, representative of the organizing committee, said: "The Korean people, who had long been divided into two parts and confronted with each other, ultimately took a great step forward toward national reconciliation and reuni-



Photo shows a meeting of Japanese civic groups to support of an earlier reunification of Korea held on Oct. 20 and 21 in Saitama Prefecture.

fication, following the announcement of the landmark June 15, 2000 joint declaration between the two leaders of North and South Korea." "Japan should not keep following the U.S.," he stressed, "but make sincere efforts, as an Asian nation, to normalize as soon as possible its relations with North Korea to which it greatly owes (for the past history), and added: "Japan should establish a framework for economic cooperation in Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula as well as a regime of mutual security in the region."

The meeting heard a lecture by Professor Kamakura Takao, rector of the International Relations University. He said: "I am greatly encouraged to see so many

(Continued on page 4)

North-South Relations Will Undergo Great Change in 2001

After a six-month suspension, north and south Korea agreed to hold inter-Korean government-level talks. The situation in the Korean Peninsula has been drawing the world's attention since the agreement was issued, and Korean people in the world are paying attention to the future development of relationships between north and south Korea.

PK correspondent in the DPRK Kang I Ruk reported popular reaction after the agreement was issued. This article was carried by south Korea's monthly magazine "Minjok 21" October issue.

Q. North and south Korea have decided to resume talks that has been postponed since March. What is the reaction of north Korean people to the announcement of resumption of talks?

A. After the announcement, papers in north Korea gave a great deal of space to report the news that inter-Korean governmental talks were going to be resumed in Seoul. They welcome this development in the situation and have a deep interest in inter-Korean governmental talks scheduled for September 15 to 18, which will deal with question of implementing the June 15 joint declaration.

It is a sad thing for the north Koreans, who regard the June 15 joint declaration as a new milestone for the reunification of Korea, that inter-Korean governmental talks have been suspended.

North Korean negotiators said that north Koreans should not alternate hope and sadness whenever the situation changes. The problem is not easy to carry out the declaration but a period of suspension has not been short for both north and south Koreans.

I heard south Korean people feel that an opportunity to develop bilateral relations come suddenly when north and south Korea agreed to hold a dialogue. On the contrary, north Koreans feel a favorable situation has been finally created.

They think conditions for a dialogue are ripe.

For example, DPRK President of the Presidium of the SPA Kim Yong Nam stressed in his speech at a national meeting held in Sept. 8 that Korean people should unite together under the banner of the June 15 joint declaration.

North Korean people feel a major obstacle to dialogue has been removed.

Q. North-south dialogue has been suspended for five months. What do north Korean people think of that?

A. Just after the suspension of the talks, they stressed the interference and obstruction by the U.S. was cause of the suspension. They thought that the main cause was the inauguration of the Bush administration, which reversed its former diplomatic policy toward the DPRK.

Newspapers in north Korea started a large-scale anti-U.S. campaign in March, carrying articles on the hard-line policy of the Bush administration against the DPRK, and criticizing the U.S. for its hard-line policy became widespread among north Korean people.

Rodong Sinmun carried an article regarding this matter, saying that people should expect an unfavorable reaction from the U.S. to the implementation of the June 15 joint declaration, adding, "the U.S. will never contribute to our peace or Korea's reunification."

It is an impressive thing that north Koreans expect south Koreans very much to confirm to carry out the joint declaration.

Q. What is the background to the dialogue resumption?

A. I think that the north Korean government has concluded that the present situation should not allow an obstacle to stand in the way of implementing the June 15 joint declaration.



Women representatives carry reunification flag to the platform in the opening ceremony of the Ground Festival for National Reunification held in June 15 to 16.

The Grand Festival for National Reunification held in Pyongyang provided a changed situation in Korea.

About 220 representatives from south Korea visited Pyongyang after they received permission to go to the north. Although south Korean newspaper gave a large space to report it as a big problem that south Korean representatives participated in the opening and closing ceremonies of the reunification event, I think that the major point of the reunification event was in the reconciliation and the solidarity of the Korean nation.

President of the DPRK SPA Kim Yong Nam and other high-ranking officials participated in the event. This showed there was no wall between politicians and ordinary people in tackling the task for reunification.

Kim Yong Nam said in his speech at the banquet given to honor the south Korean representatives that the reunification movements have entered a new phase.

He said it is of great meaning that north and south Korea showed their unchanged position to the world that they will carry out their reunification movement independently and peacefully under the banner of the June 15 joint declaration.

His speech showed north Korea's appraisal of the present situation.

World support for the independent reunification of Korea and for implementation of the June 15 joint declaration was confirmed when Jiang Zemin visited the DPRK early in September.

Q. How do you assess future north-south dialogue?

A. I think there is a possibility that north and south Korea will not simply end in resuming intergovernmental talks but will implement the June 15 joint declaration and upgrade it.

Compared with the situation around Korea six months ago, there are more favorable conditions for holding a north-south dialogue.

There emerge favorable and unfavorable factors to promote north south dialogue and exchanges.

North and south Korean officials, who are concerned with dialogue, are required to make a better decision on the basis of an objective analysis of the present situation.

If the two sides keep in steps to promote dialogue, striving to promote favorable factors for north-south dialogue, their dialogue will bear fruit.

We need a new viewpoint that exchanges between ordinary people and between officials will create a new form of reconciliation and cooperation between north and south Korea.

For example, the Grand Festival for National Reunification will provide an occasion to promote exchanges in every field in society.

Exchanges led by ordinary people will

create useful subjects for the officials of both sides to discuss a variety of question and upgrade the level of discussions.

If a favorable situation is created in Korea, a return visit of Kim Jong Il will be realized. The DPRK stresses its unchanged position on his return visit through various communication media. It is needed to

Pyongyang Report

Korean People Show Deep Interest in U.S. Attack on Afghan

Unexpected Incident

Since the news about the U.S. retaliation attack against Afghanistan was reported in Pyongyang in detail, people have been paying deep attention to a series of related news.

The DPRK's state news agency KCNA on Oct. 8 carried an article entitled "U.S. launches military operation against Afghanistan," reporting on the situation of U.S. military operations, the positions of the two sides and damage to Afghanistan.

The news about the start of U.S. military attacks drew much attention from Pyongyang people on Sep. 11.

As generally known, the DPRK has made it clear that the U.S. should not trigger a vicious circle of terrorism. Pyongyang people keep an eye on the future situation, sharing the recognition of the situation discussed in the article.

One said, "I don't know what situation will be caused by the U.S. retaliation attack."

"The DPRK will strive for self-defense" -- this was the title of a comment carried by Rodong Sinmun on Oct. 21. The DPRK continued to stress the same basic stand as that of the comment.

A remarkable point of the comment is that the DPRK has made it clear that it conveyed to the U.S. its principled stand of opposing all forms of terrorism and any support to it and that its basic stand that the DPRK has been consistently opposed to terrorism.

The principled attitude was already conveyed to the U.S. by a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Officials concerned are calling for strong caution to the fact that the U.S. is boosting its military reinforcements in the Korean Peninsula under the pretext of "filling the military vacuum."

Disappointed of South Korea's Stance

The DPRK has decided to postpone the scheduled exchange of the 4th visiting groups of separated families and the scheduled visit of its Taekwon-do team to Seoul for the time being. This news drew the attention of Pyongyang people.

know more about north Korea's intention which insists there are no difference between officials and ordinary people in its decision to carry out the June 15 joint declaration.

Inter-Korean governmental talks should provide a platform to discuss the problems related to effective measures to carry out the June 15 joint declaration.

North Korea has already taken a measure for that. The Council of National Reunification made a proposal to hold a workers' level event, just after the north and the south decided to hold inter governmental talks.

Q. Tell me the reaction of north Korean people who participated in north-south exchange meetings?

A. They say they were glad to meet south Korean people and felt Korea was one.

It was a thing so impressive for them to confirm south Korean's wish for reunification.

Through a series of north-south exchange meetings, they become more firmly aware that they could play a role in carrying out the June 15 joint declaration.

They are convinced that their active participation in the reunification problem will be a shortcut to the reunification of Korea.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland on Oct. 12 made public a statement as regards the fact that south Korea put the country on "emergency alert" tooting on the same day when the U.S. started its military operation in Afghanistan.

People have been showing their dissatisfaction with south Korea's action to follow the U.S. because the "emergency alert" was issued on the grounds of south Korea's concern over north Korea's "military threat."

South Korea's claim is not convincing at all that the emergency alert was issued not to increase north-south tension but to "support for the U.S."

It is quite incomprehensible for north Korean people how a U.S. military attack on Afghanistan is related to north Korea's military activities.

When the U.S. started its military operation in Afghanistan, north Korean officials had no apprehensions about progress in north-south exchanges and dialogue.

South Korea's official announcement on issuing "emergency alert" irritated them, who thought the U.S. attack should have no direct influence on north-south relations.

There have always been two attitudes in south Korea to the problem of north-south relationships, one is the positive attitude of promoting reconciliation policy toward north Korea and the other is the attitude of fomenting tension and obstructing reconciliation, an attitude taken mostly by conservative right-wingers. Moreover, the Bush administration has followed a positive policy of sabotaging the reconciliation moves in the north and south Korea.

These moves show the DPRK's claim is reasonable that the U.S. is committing a dangerous act of going against the spirit of the June 15 joint declaration, which calls for a need to pool the efforts of the nation, and an act of going on the nerves of the north, a dialogue partner.

The DPRK is trying hard to ease tension through dialogue, taking effective measures to remove obstacles placed in the way of promoting reconciliation by the U.S. and conservative right-wingers in south Korea.

MATERIAL**CIA Pressure -- To Rip Off Seoul in Name of War: S. Korean Weekly**

"The U.S. ripped off \$500 million from the Seoul government for the Gulf War and appropriated the unused money for the U.S. forces in South Korea. This time, it is likely to ask for \$1.5 billion." "Washington is pressuring Seoul through the CIA." The weekly magazine in South Korea "Shisa Journal" in its October 25 issue revealed U.S. maneuvers related to the U.S.-led "anti-terrorism war." PK introduces excerpts from the article as follows:

South Korea is being pressured into covering a large amount of U.S. spending on its retaliation war against Afghanistan. Washington's announcement that the war may drag on, can be interpreted to mean it will fight harder to root out international terrorist organizations. However, it may also mean that South Korea may have to be prepared to contribute more money for the campaign.

The situation being such, the National Defense Research Institute of Korea under the Defense Ministry of South Korea estimated in its recent report that South Korea's share of expenses for the anti-terrorism war would be three times the amount it paid during the Gulf War. For the last war, South Korea contributed \$500 million. Therefore, it may have to offer \$1.5 billion this time.

Is this amount reasonable? In fact, South Korea was exorbitantly "ripped off" (by the U.S.) at the time of the last war. Washington extracted from Seoul a promise to provide \$500 million through bilateral negotiations on the latter's burden sharing. The financial support by Seoul consisted of \$380 million in cash and \$120 million in

War Ended Earlier Than Expected, Leaving \$140 Million Unused

The Gulf War ended in 47 days. At that

point, South Korea was yet to pay \$140 million out of the promised money. From a commonsense point of view, it did not need to pay the remainder. Nevertheless, Washington persisted in asking for its payment from Seoul. After a bilateral negotiation, Seoul and Washington came to an agreement that the money still to be paid was to be appropriated for the upkeep of U.S. forces in South Korea, whose detailed allocations were left to the Defense Ministry of Korea. Thus, Seoul had to pay it separately in addition to its \$300 million annual payment for the U.S. military presence as part of host nation support.

The \$140 million was reportedly used for the construction of a wharf for the U.S. Navy's ammunition at Jinhae Port, for a U.S. air force base in Osan, for the purchase of freight cars for U.S. war supplies transportation in South Korea, and so on. The largest portion amounting to \$40 million went to the construction of the wharf in Jinhae Port.

The U.S. "sucking" of South Korea did not end here. The U.S. armed forces did not estimate possible environmental contamination in the project of building its Jinhae ammunition pier, which inflicted damage to the residents engaged in fish culture there to an estimated amount of 70 billion won (approximately \$58 million). They staged repeated demonstrations in protest against both the U.S. forces and the Defense Ministry of South Korea. Alarmed by the fishermen's anger, the Defense Ministry pestered the U.S. military authorities for a compensation. The latter, however, flatly rejected whatsoever negotiation, saying that the South Korean government should compensate for any damage caused to its people by construction work on a U.S. military installation in South Korea in accordance with the "ROK-U.S. Administration Agreement." The government paid 24 billion won to the victims by including a

compensatory payment in the budget for fiscal 1991 after all.

Military experts are concerned that the government may fail to fully cope with the situation and a large amount of money may be ripped off again in the name of financial support for the current war, given the Gulf War precedent. This apprehension expressed by a researcher of national defense is based on the fact that the forces directly committed to the on-going combat are different from those in the last war. During the last war, the United States itself covered only \$8 billion which accounted for less than 10% out of the total war expenditures--\$61 billion--by asking its allies to donate the remaining 90%. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates paid \$35 billion, all told, because they were called the "countries concerned."

The National Defense Research Institute of Korea estimates the total cost needed for the current war at some \$60 billion at least, a similar amount used during the Gulf War. The U.S. has already decided to spend \$40 billion on rehabilitation and military operations to fight terrorism, and foresees that an additional \$20 billion may be needed if it ends in a short, limited war. If and when the war is to be expanded to a long, all-out one, for instance, requiring commitment of ground forces, the situation will change. If the war continues for two to three years, as Vice President Cheney put it, military experts see that the total war expenditures will reach some \$100 billion.

U.S. Pressures S. Korea, Using CIA & Other Organs As Its Foremost Agents

The current anti-terror warfare is quite different from the Gulf War in character. Even U.S. allies in the Middle East are trying to receive war expenditures from the U.S., instead of spending their own money on the on-going war. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are asking the U.S. to pay prices for the use of bases provided to its forces, and Pakistan is supporting the U.S. in return for several billion dollars in economic aid. Accordingly, the U.S. seems to be placing its burden sharing on its traditional allies like European nations, Japan and South

Korea.

Pressure is already being put on them behind the scenes. An intelligence official in Korea says: "Recently, we have often seen American CIA agents coming in and going out. They have spread malignant, and unconfirmable, information to make the Korean intelligence nervous and strained." Part of the unconfirmed malignant information suggests that the next targets of terrorist attacks may be major U.S. bases in Paju and Osan, according to the information that the CIA allegedly extracted from the arrested terrorists. Another piece of information indicates that what they call a result of U.S. follow-up of terrorist groups' financial connections necessitates South Korean cooperation in checking their accounts in Korean banks. Furthermore, U.S. intelligence agents gave Seoul information indicating that terrorist groups in the Middle East are linked to anti-American movement groups in South Korea, and demanded that the South Korean intelligence system strengthen investigation of such anti-U.S. elements inside the country.

It goes without saying, however, that their "pressure-putting operation" is intended to coax as much money as possible from South Korea in the name of a share of war expenses. In its recent report on anti-terror warfare, the National Defense Research Institute of Korea foresees that the U.S. will ask for increased financial support for the strengthening of U.S. bases in South Korea: Indications are that the U.S. will request South Korea to build walls around over 100 U.S. bases to cope with possible terrorist attacks on them, and to have Korea take a share in building air defense facilities in the Osan base, too.

The report also predicts that Washington will demand that Seoul pay a due amount of money directly or via an international organization, in view of the fact that Washington is required to provide economic support to such Islamic nations and Afghanistan's neighbors as Pakistan, Indonesia, Russia, Uzbekistan, and India, in return for their cooperation in the war.

Given these circumstances, a South Korean share of U.S. war spending will be estimated at \$1.5 billion. In conclusion, the longer the current anti-terrorist warfare drags on, the more unfavorable the situation will become for South Korea.

North-South Relations

(Continued from page 1)

proposes to hold on Mt. Kumgang the 2nd meeting of the north-south committee for the promotion of economic cooperation on November 5 and the 6th north-south ministerial talks on October 28 as scheduled.

We expect that your side will affirmatively respond to our reasonable proposal.

Message from Chief Delegate of North Side to South Side (October 25)

With a view to seeking a smooth solution of the issue related to the inter-Korean relations even under the present prevailing situation the north side has repeatedly put forward reasonable proposals concerning the talks already agreed upon and the schedule of visits and, in particular, has made sincere efforts to hold the sixth inter-Korean ministerial talks on the date agreed upon.

The north side's proposal for holding the talks in Mt Kumgang area has already been presented to the fifth ministerial talks in Seoul and such position has so far been consistently maintained.

The north side is, therefore, of the view that the proposal is an entirely just and reasonable proposal acceptable to anyone.

As for the venue of the ministerial talks which have hitherto been held between the two sides, the two sides had two rounds of talks in Pyongyang and Seoul respectively and one round in Jeju Island of your side as the north side had reminded the south side of it. So, it is quite natural to have the talks in Mt. Kumgang area of the north side.

As the south side is well aware of it, the north side unconditionally agreed to the south side's proposal to have the third inter-Korean ministerial talks in Jeju Island and the issue of holding the talks in Mt.

Kumgang was already discussed at that time.

Judging from this fact, the south side has no reason to oppose the north side's proposal for holding the sixth talks on Mt. Kumgang.

The south side cannot deny the fact that it has been inter-Korean practice that when the side which hosts talks proposes the venue of the talks, the other side respects and agrees to it.

The south side has been opposed to fixing as the venue of the talks famous Mt. Kumgang of the nation where multifaceted contacts and talks between the two sides and their events have taken place with success and proposed to have the talks on Mt. Myohyang where the two sides have never had talks. The misbehavior of the south side is quite incomprehensible. After all, this only goes to prove that the south side has no will for holding the talks nor position to save the prevailing situation as soon as possible and implement what has been agreed upon as regards the schedule.

The north side will always keep Mt. Kumgang area open for an early holding of the sixth ministerial talks and wait for the south side to come out to the talks in response to the reasonable proposal of the north side.

Statement of DPRK Red Cross Society (October 21)

Since the publication of the June 15 joint declaration, the DPRK advanced a series of reasonable proposals to alleviate the misfortune and sufferings of the separated families and relatives and has made every possible sincere effort for their realization.

However, the south side has not yet taken understandable steps but is hell-bent on the move to evade and shift the blame for the matter.

This is very regretful. The reality elo-

quently shows who is truly interested in the solution of the humanitarian issue and who is opposed to its solution.

National reconciliation and unity are a precondition for the solution of the humanitarian issue and mistrust and confrontation are an obstacle to it.

When efforts are made to solve the reunification problem, the issue of the nation, by the efforts of the fellow countrymen in the spirit of the joint declaration, the south side is creating a horrifying atmosphere of mistrust and confrontation among members of the nation, with the happenings outside the country as an occasion. Under this situation nobody believes any call of the south side for the solution of the humanitarian issue.

"Guiltless Afghan Civilians Should Not Be Killed": Rodong Sinmun

With escalation of U.S. bombings on military strategic positions and establishments, cities and public buildings of Afghanistan in retaliation for the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Pyongyang has voiced opposition to U.S. killings of many civilians. In its October 23 signed commentary, "Rodong Sinmun," organ of the Workers' Party of Korea, warned the U.S. by saying, "The use of armed forces and the method of war murdering guiltless people and disturbing regional peace and stability cannot be justified under any circumstances."

Reiterating Pyongyang's opposition to all forms of terrorism and any support for them, the paper stressed that Pyongyang was distancing itself from the way the U.S. is "retaliating" against terrorism: "It is a few elements who committed terrorism. The absolute majority of people have noth-

ing to do with it. Accordingly, guiltless civilians should not fall victim to the anti-terrorist operations. Extending the military action to other countries to eradicate the root cause of terrorism, as is asserted, is contrary to the purpose of anti-terrorist struggle and it may rather cause grave consequences."

Earlier this month, Pyongyang warned the U.S. that its attacks on Afghanistan might trigger a "vicious cycle of terrorism and retaliation and plunge the world into a holocaust."

Respecting sovereignty is the best way of preventing terrorism, the paper said. It also demanded that the Bush administration stop at once threatening the sovereignty and security of the DPRK and remove the country from a U.S. list of "sponsors of terrorism."

Words should correspond with action.

The south side should show in action rather than word that its desire for the solution of the humanitarian issue is true.

We think that such opportunity for it to do so has already been given by us.

As clarified in the October 18 telephone message of the north side, the south side should, above all, show in practice its willingness to remove the gruesome circumstances and atmosphere prevailing in south Korea for the reunion of separated families and relatives.

If circumstances and conditions favorable for such reunion are created in south Korea, our side will exchange visiting groups of separated families and relatives anytime.

Meeting of Japanese Civic Group**(Continued from page 1)**

people gather in this meeting. In Saitama Prefecture in which I am living, I would like to make further efforts to contribute to strengthening the grass-roots solidarity movement with the Korean people by holding more often study meetings on the Korean question and developing our ties with Korean residents in Japan and their ethnic schools."

He stressed the significance of the annual meeting of Ohmiya citizens by saying: "The annual 'Japan-DPRK Festival' has been successfully conducted, gaining growing popular support from among the citizens of Ohmiya City, Saitama Prefecture. This kind of movement should be developed in the future because it has actively contributed to increasing Japanese understanding of the Korean residents in Japan" "Speaking of the issue of Korean unification," he concluded, "it is imperative that the present Armistice Agreement be replaced with a peace system, which will bring peace to Japan, too."

Appeal Adopted

To conclude the two-day session, an appeal was adopted. A gist of the appeal is as follows:

Sixteen months have already passed since the historic and moving inter-Korean summit meeting. The summit meeting exploited a path to an independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. Since the inauguration of the Bush administration in the United States, however, the north-south dialogue has been reportedly almost suspended.

But it is not the truth. In actuality, in May, June and July, exchange of people of the north and the south continued at the foot of Mt. Kumgang with workers, farmers, in particular, as main players. And on August 15, National Liberation Day, a grand festival for national reunification was held in Pyongyang with the participation of 311 people from south Korea.

It was such a continuation of people-to-people exchanges that led to the ultimate resumption of government-to-government dialogue between the two sides. From September 16, the fifth ministerial-level talks were held in Seoul in which both sides came to an agreement on expanded economic cooperation and on mutual visits of separated families. A September 18 joint communique adopted at the end of the talks announced that the sixth round of ministerial-level talks would be held from Octo-

ber 28. We express our warm welcome and support to the mounting sentiments among the people for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

A peaceful reunification of Korea is a prerequisite to eradicating the Cold War legacy in Northeast Asia once and for all. The Japanese government, however, sticks to Cold War thinking still now.

The Tokyo government endorsed the "screened" controversial history and civics textbooks prepared by the "Society for Making New History Textbooks" which justified Japan's aggressive wars against and colonial rule of Asian nations. Moreover, it refused twice to grant entry visas to former "comfort women" for the Imperial Army of Japan who were supposed to visit Japan to participate in meetings to reveal what Japan had done to them.

In the meantime, Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro paid an official visit to Yasukuni Shrine where class-A war criminals are enshrined in spite of opposition voiced by north and south Korea and China and other countries of Asia. Furthermore, the Public Security Investigation Agency of Japan dared to collect copies of the originals of the Aliens Registration papers of Korean residents from local government offices in Kyoto and many other cities throughout Japan on the strength of the notorious "Anti-Subversive Activities Act." Herein lie the Cold War thinking, deep-rooted chauvinism and racial discrimination against Korea, of the Tokyo government.

We, participants in the 20th National Meeting in Support of Korean Unification, discussed and reconfirmed the value of friendship among nations, peace and human rights. At the same time, we pointed to the fact that the Tokyo government still lacks understanding of this truth.

What the Japanese government should do now to build peace is not to send the Self-Defense Forces as far as the Middle East, but to build friendly relationships with its neighboring nations and to become a country trusted by the countries in Asia.

To this end, Japan must seriously address the issue of solving the problems related to its past history, and, among other things, normalize its relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We hereby strongly demand that the Japanese government immediately scrap its hostile policy toward the DPRK; that it accelerate a process of normalized relations with the country based on an official apology and compensation; and that it resume as soon as possible the normalization talks with the DPRK government.

Chongryun Urges Police to Arrest Suspects of Murder-Arson Case Of Chongryun Official

A memorial ceremony was held in a cemetery in Chiba Prefecture to mark the third anniversary of the murder-arson case of an official of Chongryun's Chiba Branch Office (The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) which occurred on Oct. 15, 1998.

The victim, named Ra Hun, was tortured and burnt to death by a couple of burglars on the night of the incident, when he was on night duty alone in the building of the Chongryun's regional headquarters of Chiba Prefecture, according to police. The suspects are still unidentified and at large, despite a continued search by police.

This brutal incident followed a series of anti-DPRK and anti-Chongryun campaigns by Japanese right-wingers against the DPRK's artificial satellite launch in August 1998.

On Oct. 19, the representatives of

DPRK-U.S. Relations**(Continued from page 1)**

An early solution of our missile issue was uncomfortable to this administration which attaches priority to the establishment of a "Missile Defense" system intended for world supremacy. It felt a more urgent need

Chongryun Chiba Headquarters urged Chiba Prefectural Police to arrest the suspects as soon as possible. The latest formal request to the authorities of Chiba prefectural police was its fifth since the occurrence of the incident.

Accompanied by members of the Chiba prefectural assembly, an eight-member delegation of Chongryun officials presented to the chief police officer a formal request to immediately solve the murder-arson case, make a thorough investigation, make public the background of the case and prevent the harassment of, violence to and intimidation to Korean residents in the prefecture.

Saying that it is a matter for regret that there are few clues to help solve the case, despite their repeated request for the arrest of the suspects, the Chongryun representatives asked police officials about the activities of investigation headquarters and progress in investigations, and strongly demanded that police devote all its energy to arresting the murderers, taking the feelings of Koreans and the bereaved into consideration.

to make an enemy called "rogue state."

As seen above, the present administration has not an iota of will to continuity. Therefore, this administration can not be trusted. Such a view of ours has been more clearly proved by Bush's recent remark.

The Bush administration proposed last June to "resume" the suspended dialogue

Korean Ethnic Education in Japan Greeted 55th Birthday; Commemorative Events Held in Tokyo

Photo shows a meeting to mark the 55th anniversary of the enforcement of the secondary education of Koreans held in Tokyo on Oct. 20.

Following Korea's liberation from the 36 years of Japanese colonial rule, the Koreans in Japan started their own education system in 1946 to regain the deprived native language and ethnic identities. The primary education for Korean children was inaugurated in April and the secondary education in October in the year. Since then, the independent ethnic education system has not only survived repressive and discriminative policies imposed upon the Korean community in Japan by the U.S. Occupation Forces and the Japanese successive governments, but it has established as well its own complete system starting from kindergartens to a university.

On October 20, a meeting was held in central Tokyo to mark the 55th anniversary of the enforcement of the secondary education of Koreans. Participating in the event were full-time workers for, and ordinary members of Chongryun (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and members of its affiliated organizations, school teachers and clerks, and students.

In his report Chairman So Man Sul reviewed the history of Korean ethnic education and called upon the participants there to defend the education without fail by leading the Korean community in Japan to exert its combined efforts with the younger generation as the driving force. He

said that special efforts should be made to enroll more Korean children in the Chongryun schools, and create favorable circumstances for the ethnic education so that it may gain active support and better understanding from among broad sections of Koreans who are members of Mindan (South Korean Residents Union in Japan), and those Koreans who are unaffiliated to any major Korean ethnic organizations, and even naturalized Japanese.

Read out at the meeting was a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on awarding honorary titles and medals to educationists in Chongryun who contributed to firmly building up Chongryun organizations and strengthening and developing its democratic and national education, and the titles and medals were awarded to the officials concerned.

Commendations were also awarded by the Ministry of Education of the country to patriotic businessmen, compatriots and organizations supporting schools that contributed to the Korean education in Japan. The meeting heard speeches delivered by six representatives.

A cultural performance was given in commemoration of the anniversary after the meeting.

with the DPRK. This proposal, too, is, in essence, a brigandish demand intended to unilaterally disarm the DPRK.

Without removal of the hostile relations, it urges the DPRK, which is technically at war with the U.S., to reduce its conventional armed forces unilaterally. The proposal is nothing but a noose as it did not clear a dialogue partner of its apprehension but raised the matter unacceptable to it in a bid to torpedo the dialogue itself.

The U.S. administration has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. forces would be kept in south Korea for an indefinite period. In particular, it is radically beefing up its armed forces in south Korea under the pretext of the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, it urges the DPRK to withdraw its conventional armed forces unilaterally as an expression of its will to peace. Such a demand is a height of ignorance and shamelessness as well as of impudence.

This hostile policy of the Bush administration toward the DPRK cooled at once the atmosphere of relaxation in north-south relations which had been achieved with much effort by the historic north-south summit meeting and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The U.S. has bound south Korea with iron chains of "allied country" and "cooperation," subordinating the north-south relations to its hostile policy toward the DPRK and established a complicated procedure whereby south Korea should get U.S. prior approval as regards the internal affairs of the nation to be consulted between the north and the south, thus exerting a serious negative influence on the implementation of the joint declaration.

Under the pretext of the U.S. "anti-terrorist" war, new arms and equipment are now being massively shipped into south Korea and "emergency alert" declared throughout it, creating a warlike situation.

Because of danger to personal safety under the dangerous situation in south Korea which has joined the U.S. in the Afghan war, the Seoul visits of heads of state of other countries were cancelled and the projected exchange of home visits of separated families between the north and the south had to be put off for the time being.

In a word, the obtaining situation caused by the Bush administration is making it impossible to implement the agreed points between the north and the south.

As already clarified, we do not oppose dialogue itself with the U.S. But our position is to develop relations with the U.S.

It is common sense that continuity and consistency should be preserved to a certain extent in the U.S. diplomatic policy, too. But it is a problem that the Bush administration is different from it.

It is a foolish calculation if the U.S. thinks its demands for conventional arms cut will be accepted by a country pursuing the policy of independence.

It would be normal and rational only when the DPRK-U.S. dialogue should discuss, to begin with, practical problems related to the implementation of the Agreed Framework and the joint communique signed between the two governments.

We consider the resumption of the DPRK-U.S. dialogue to be a matter that may be discussed only when the Bush administration takes at least the same position as taken by the Clinton administration in its last period.