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Pyongyang Ready to Resume Talks With U.S. Despite Bush's "Axis of Evil" Remarks: UN Envoy

Pyongyang is ready to resume talks with the U.S. at any time despite President George W. Bush's naming North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran, North Korea's U.N. ambassador said. In his interview with The Associated Press and Reuters on February 7 in New York, Ambassador Pak Kil Yon said that if Washington is willing to choose a dialogue with Pyongyang on an equal basis and without preconditions, there will be no problem at all. "As we always say, a nice word will be answered by a nice word," but setting conditions ahead of negotiations "is not acceptable at all," he was quoted as saying.

Pak Kil Yon was appointed as the DPRK's new U.N. envoy in November last year to replace Ri Hyong Chol.

Pak's remarks attracted keen attention as Pyongyang's earlier official statement pointed to Bush administration's "political immaturity" and "moral leprosy," saying that Bush's State of the Union address is "little short of declaring a war on the DPRK."

Meanwhile, pointing out that Bush's remarks had confused governments around the world and alarmed Pyongyang, Pak said that if Washington continues to make "very,

very hostile policy-making statements" and chooses "military options," then "our armed forces and our people would have no other choice but to react on the same basis," according to the Associated Press. "It is entirely up to the United States," he added.

He accused Washington of "throwing away even the mask of 'dialogue' and 'negotiations,'" and of employing a double standard in dealing with missile issues. He referred to the U.S. hypocrisy in criticizing Pyongyang for developing missiles while remaining silent on a recent Japanese missile test.

In the interview, the ambassador criticized the Bush administration for having been placing obstacles in the way of inter-Korean cooperation. Pak indicated that the inter-Korean dialogue would not move forward as long as Seoul's policy is influenced by the United States. The heart of the June 15, 2000 joint declaration was that "reunification should be achieved by the joint efforts of the Korean people without relying on outside forces." "If the U.S. interferes in a hostile way, how could any talk or contact be achieved and realized between the North and South?," Pak was quoted as saying.

Russian Envoy Stresses Russo-DPRK Ties Are Good

In his recent interview with the Russian magazine "Kurs-Forum," Andrei Karlov, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, referred to the prospects for the bilateral relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"There is no need to make something new in the policy and line of Russia. It is important to keep the developing relations between the two countries in all fields because Russia and the DPRK have long cooperated with each other," he was quoted as saying.

Karlov stressed that Kim Jong Il's visit to Moscow last year was of great significance and the agreements reached between the two nations were of practical significance in promoting cooperation between the two neighbors and the two peoples.

He also referred to the issue of Korean reunification. "The Russian stand on the issue is well known. I hope that reunification, the long-cherished desire of the Korean people, will surely be achieved as early as possible," he said.

In the meantime, on February 7, the Russian ambassador gave a press conference at the embassy in Pyongyang on the occasion of the second anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation between the DPRK and the Russian Federation. At the press conference, he emphasized that Moscow-Pyongyang relations are developing on good terms through the mutual visits of Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Il and the exchanges in various fields after the signing of the treaty.

Kim Jong Il met the Russian envoy on January 6 at the Russian embassy on the occasion of the New Year.

On February 1, the State Bureau for Quality Control of the DPRK and the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Standardization and Metrology signed, in Pyongyang, a plan for cooperation in the domain of standardization, metrology and quality for 2002-2003.

side representatives of the Solidarity for Reunification, the People's Council for National Reconciliation and Cooperation, Seven Religious Orders and the Environment Movement Association.

The agreement paid due attention to the tensions and the danger of war escalating on the Korean Peninsula due to foreign forces and set it as the main tasks of the reunification movement for this year to remove tensions and danger of war by the concerted efforts of the Koreans and realize national cooperation in order to implement the June 15 joint declaration.

The joint meeting named, "North-South Joint Meeting to Greet the New Year 2002 for Promoting National Unity and Reunification" will be held at the foot of Mt. Kumgang from February 26 to 28.

North, South to Hold Joint New Year Meeting at Foot of Mt. Kumgang

North and south Korean civic and social organizations agreed to hold a joint meeting to greet the New Year at the foot of scenic Mt. Kumgang on February 20-22.

The agreement to hold a north-south joint meeting was made in a working contact between the representatives of organizations of north and south Korea in Pyongyang from January 30 to February 2.

Present at the contact from the north side were representatives of the Council for National Reconciliation and from the south

DPRK Denounces Bush's Charges: Statement of FM Spokesman on Bush's State of Union Address

PYONGYANG, January 31 (KCNA)- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK released a statement today denouncing U.S. President Bush for revealing a reckless attempt to stifle the DPRK by force of arms. The full text of the statement read:

U.S. President Bush in "State of the Union address" made at the joint session of Congress on Jan. 30 groundlessly linked those countries that go against the grain with the U.S. with terrorism, openly revealing his dangerous attempt to stifle them by force of arms.

Groundlessly pulling up the DPRK over the development and possession of weapons of mass destruction, Bush let loose a string of such vituperation as terming the DPRK and some other countries as "countries threatening the U.S. and world peace" and an "axis of evil."

And he blustered that "the United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten the U.S. with the world's most destructive weapons."

He has been free to make anti-DPRK remarks since he came to power. But his recent remarks explicitly seek an ulterior political aim.

It is well known that since he came to power, U.S. friction with other countries has become frequent and international relations have got more turbulent than ever before.

The U.S. is in the grip of a serious economic recession that could hardly be seen in the days of the Democratic Party administration, there were large-scale attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the U.S. Department of Defense building in Washington and large scandals related to the administration have been brought to light.

This is entirely attributable to the unilateral and self-opinionated foreign policy, political immaturity and moral leprosy of the Bush administration. Herein lie answers to questions as to why the modern terrorism is focused on the U.S. alone and why it has become serious while Bush is in office.

The reality goes to clearly prove that the

root cause of all misfortune is the reckless strong-arm policy of the Bush administration.

Such being a hard fact, Bush, making a profound confusing of right and wrong, foolishly attempts to ascribe all accusations made against it at home and abroad due to his reactionary and chauvinist policy to "terrorism."

What merits a serious attention is that Bush disclosed his reckless attempt to stifle the DPRK by force of arms.

There has been no precedent in the modern history of DRPK-U.S. relations that in his policy speech the U.S. president made undisguised threatening remarks on aggression and threat against the DPRK, an independent and sovereign state.

This is, in fact, little short of declaring a war against the DPRK.

Nice words for nice words.

We cannot but take a serious view of the dangerous remarks made by Bush from the outset of the year.

His remarks clearly show what a real aim the U.S. sought when it proposed to resume the talks with the DPRK recently and why did the present U.S. administration rule out even the possibility of seeking a negotiated settlement of the nuclear and missile issues created in the period of the preceding administration.

The prevailing situation where the U.S. openly disclosed its intention to stifle the DPRK by force of arms makes us keenly realize once again what a just stand the DPRK took when it has followed the U.S. with vigilance and what a far-sighted policy it has pursued to equip itself with powerful offensive and defensive means, tightening its belt.

We are sharply watching the disturbing moves of the United States that has pushed the situation to the brink of war after throwing away even the mask of "dialogue" and "negotiations."

The option to "strike" impudently advocated by the U.S. is not its monopoly.

The heroic Korean People's Army and people will never tolerate the U.S. reckless attempt to stifle the DPRK by force of arms but mercilessly wipe out the aggressors.

Former U.S. Ambassadors' Visit To Pyongyang Called Off

Pyongyang called off a visit of a delegation of four former U.S. ambassadors to South Korea, apparently because of George Bush's harsh words about the country, the Associated Press reported by quoting the members of the delegation as saying.

The trip had been arranged at the invitation of Pyongyang "as a way to expand informal dialogue between the two countries in a hostile relationship. But North Korean officials told the ex-diplomats on February 8 not to come," it said. The cancellation was conveyed through North Korea's permanent mission at the United Nations.

The delegation originally intended to meet with North Korean leaders in Pyongyang on February 19-22, but the trip was postponed at the request of the Bush administration out of concern that "the North would try to exploit the visit as leverage during the South Korea-U.S. summit," scheduled for February 19-21,

JoongAng Ilbo reported. And the trip had been rescheduled for February 23-26, the South Korean daily said on February 8. One of the four ambassadors partially attributed the delay to the South Korean media blowing the trip out of proportion before it was confirmed, the paper added. The delegation said they did not know if the trip would be rescheduled.

The members of the delegation are William H. Gleysteen, envoy to South Korea during the Carter administration; Donald Gregg from the first Bush administration; Richard Walker from the Reagan administration and Stephen Bosworth from the Clinton administration; and Robert A. Scalapino, professor emeritus at the University of California, who helped organize the trip and planned to go himself, according to AP. Media in Pyongyang neither confirmed nor denied the story.

Kim Jong Il Makes Successive Inspections of KPA Units

In a growing tense situation in Korea brought about by the U.S.'s hard-line policy toward the DPRK, General Secretary Kim Jong Il inspected units of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and encouraged KPA officers and soldiers to firmly protect the security of the country and people.

KPA Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il inspected KPA unit No. 1200 on February 1, Nos. 179 and 779 on Feb. 2 and No. 138 on Feb. 5. Kim Jong Il's successive inspections of the KPA units came few days after U.S. President George W. Bush labeled the DPRK, together with Iran and Iraq, as an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address.

He said that no force on earth can overpower the KPA officers and soldiers firmly determined not to allow any aggressors to dare invade the inviolable territory of the country but to wipe them out at the risk of their lives.

Accompanying Kim Jong Il were KPA generals Ri Myong Su, Hyon Chol Hae and Pak Jae Gyong and Ri Yong Chol, member of the Central Military Commission of the WPK and first vice department director of

the central committee of the WPK.

Meanwhile, the DPRK's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on February 8 a fact that Kim Jong Il visited 11,326 places throughout the country and traveled a total of 423,307 kilometers from 1945 to 2001 for his on-spot guidance. Kim Jong Il had spent 5,781 days in his on-spot guidance, the report added.

According to the KCNA, from 1945 to 1964, Kim Jong Il visited 2,870 places across the country and traveled 64,719 kilometers while he accompanied late President Kim Il Sung's journeys for on-spot guidance. Since he took office in the Central Committee of the WPK in 1964, he has spent 4,214 days in giving on-spot guidance and visited a total of 8,456 places across the country. The total distance of his journeys is 358,588 kilometers. Kim Jong Il gave on-spot guidance in 1,300 places from 1995 to 2001, of which 814 were military units. In this period, he had traveled a total of 116,694 kilometers, spending 577 days.

establishing friendly ties between the two cities. The agreement was inked by Ryang Man Gil, chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee, and Yuri Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow.

Meanwhile, the DPRK and Russia signed on January 31 an agreement on the implementation of a plan for medical and science cooperation between the Academy of Medical Sciences of the DPRK and its Russian counterpart for the years 2002-2004.

DPRK and Russia Ink Various Agreements On Mutual Cooperation

The capital cities of the DPRK and Russia signed an agreement on January 25 on

Japan Concealed Document on Wartime Forced Laborers to Reject Seoul's Reparation Claim in S. Korea-Japan Normalization Talks

A Korean historian found a document which proved the fact that the Japanese government hid documents concerning its wartime forced labor imposed on Koreans and concluded a mutual treaty on normalization of diplomatic ties with the south Korean authorities, rejecting Seoul's demand that these documents be made public.

The document was found in Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, by Hong Sang Jin, 51, secretary-general of the Investigation Team on the Truth about Forced Korean Laborers in Japan.

According to the newly discovered document, "On the number of Korean laborers transported to Japan," made on February 19, 1962 by the Bureau for Northeast Asia of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the Bureau of Guard and Security of the Home Ministry preserved related documents, including lists of laborers who were forcibly taken to Japan. The then Japanese Foreign Minister Shiina Etsusaburo made a false testimony in the 50th extraordinary session of the Diet that the government had no materials related to forced Korean laborers.

The Tokyo authorities prepared this document to be used for the discussion inside Japan's negotiation team, as its south Korean counterpart claimed in the negotiations on the normalization of bilateral ties that a total of 667,000 conscripted laborers had been forcibly taken to Japan. On this claim by south Korea, Japan asserted that because the national labor conscription order was put into force in September 1944, the number of Korean laborers who were forced to be taken to Japan were just about 200,000. It also said that the term "conscripted Koreans" was inappropriate, and that "mobilized Korean laborers" or "Korean laborers who were sent to Japan" were proper terms.

As for statistics related to forced Korean

laborers, the documents mentioned that lists of Korean forced laborers were preserved in each labor site.

"Statistics regarding Korean forced laborers--the number of transported and transferred foreign laborers, the number of returnees, fugitives, the deceased and the wounded--were prepared in each work site."

"The government has only statistical lists of forced Korean laborers. These lists are not preserved in the Ministry of Health and Welfare." But this obviously proved the fact that the government had surely kept the lists, as it made it clear that the government "has lists of 137,406 forced Korean laborers compiled on the basis of reports from 17 prefectures on order of the Allied General Headquarters in June 1946."

"The Ministry of Interior also gathered statistics based on the lists," it said.

"It was clearly revealed that Tokyo's statement that it had no related documents was false," Hong Sang Jin said.

"The Japanese government should make public all related materials and documents in order to promote inquiry into the truth of Japan's past history," he added.

Japanese government's concealment of documents

The latest revelation of hidden official archives of Japan concerning its war crimes shows Japan's consistent policy of evading its war responsibility and of refusing to make a sincere apology and reparation to victims.

1) Right after the end of Asia-Pacific War

1. The Japanese Military Police Headquarters ordered on August 14, 15 and 20, 1945 the "destruction of secret documents."

DPRK Denounces Japan's Launch of H2-A Rocket

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK, in a statement released on February 5, assailed Japan for launching large carrier rocket H-2A No. 2 on February 4.

The DPRK also accused the U.S. of its double standards in condemning missile development of the DPRK but saying nothing about Japan's arms buildup. "The U.S. has kept mum about the danger of Japan's missiles while zealously encouraging its development behind the scene," the statement said.

Saying that Japan's launch of an H-2A rocket sought "to revive militarism," a Foreign Ministry spokesman warned that this situation "compelled the DPRK to further increase its independent defense capabilities."

Follows the full text of the statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry.

Defying the apprehensions and warnings of the international community Japan is persistently stepping up rocket development. This shows that the moves to revive militarism which is getting pronounced as never before these days have reached a dangerous phase.

As is well known to the world, some time ago Japan adjusted its "emergency legislation" to openly change the basic duty of the "Self-Defense Forces" into one for an offensive mission, such as from "defensive one" to "overseas advance" on the plea of "combating terrorism." Japan had not dared to do so, afraid of the watchful eyes of and pressure from people at home and abroad for half a century.

Japan worked out a plan for developing medium-range missiles and has long pushed ahead with it in secrecy. And it has high-

technology and huge amounts of plutonium enough to produce nuclear bombs anytime, if necessary. This is an established fact.

Moreover, in recent years it has developed its own spy satellite under U.S. protection and support and is rushing headlong toward establishing its own independent space espionage system in the near future.

After all, it has rounded off all preparations for overseas expansion. Therefore, it is not hard to guess where Japan will go if it has long-range delivery vehicles.

What cannot be overlooked is the stand of the U.S. so loudly clamoring about the "missile threat" and "mass destruction weapons" of the DPRK. The U.S. has kept mum about the danger of Japan's missiles while zealously encouraging its development behind the scene.

The U.S. calls for non-proliferation of missiles, but its real position is that only missiles of its enemy states, not of its allies, pose problems.

This shows that it is not because of the DPRK's missiles but because of its hostile attitude towards it that the U.S. is pulling up Pyongyang over the issue. In the long run, the U.S. uses this issue for its political and military purpose to stifle countries going against the grain with it.

The U.S. is unprecedentedly escalating its aggression moves to stifle the DPRK by force of arms, bringing the latter's missile issue into question, and Japan is developing its substantial missile capabilities in line with such moves.

This situation compels the DPRK to further increase its independent defense capabilities.

The U.S. and Japan will have no right to say about this.

Germany's Second Food Aid



The government of Germany sent humanitarian aid materials, thousands of tons of frozen beef, to the DPRK on February 4. This is the second after the initial six thousand tons of frozen beef was delivered to the country by the Bonn government in mid November last. According to the Korean Central News Agency, a ceremony was held on February 4 at Nampo Port, 40 km west of the capital city of Pyongyang, with the participation of Ri Yong Sok, vice-chairman of the DPRK Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee, officials concerned, Doris Hertrampf, German ambassador to the DPRK, embassy officials and members of the German aid delegation led by Christoph Burk, advisor to the German Association for Technical Aid, on the visit to North Korea.

At the ceremony, speeches were made and relevant documents were exchanged, the news agency reported. The German aid will encourage the Korean people who are working hard to recover from the damage done by years of natural disasters, it added.

(Stenographic Notes of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East No. 148)

2. The Japanese authorities on September 1 made an official notice.

3. In June 1946, the Japanese authorities gathered lists of forced laborers following the instructions of the U.S. occupation forces, as former Korean and Chinese forced laborers began to struggle actively for the truth of forced labors.

2) South Korea-Japan Treaty

Then Japanese Foreign Minister Shiina Etsusaburo testified in the 50th extraordinary session of the Diet that there were no official documents concerning Korean forced laborers.

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Bush's Rhetoric Arouses Anger in S. Korea

Reactions to "N. Korea Is Evil" Remark

U.S. President George W. Bush's labeling North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran incurred growing anger and protest among broad segments of South Korean society, let alone the North, including politicians, trade unions, civil organizations, students, religiousists, and media.

Trade Unions

"His recent rhetoric clearly shows the U.S. intention to fan tensions on the Korean Peninsula," said, on February 8, Sohn Nag Koo, spokesman for the **Korean Federation of Trade Unions**, the second largest labor union organization with 500,000 members. "It may be nothing for Bush to lash out his anger. But as a result of such reckless comments, we have to suffer a lot." "Bush is coming here to sell weapons." He said Bush's first visit to Seoul scheduled for February 19 and 20 was aimed at promoting U.S. arms sales to South Korea, including a \$4 billion fighter jet deal for which Boeing Co's F-15 is competing with three other international bids. The KCTU is planning protests against Bush's hostile policy toward Pyongyang during his upcoming visit to Seoul, Sohn added.

Civic Groups

The **Joint Association for Achieving Peace against War**, consisting of over 600 civic groups, gave a press conference on January 31 in front of the U.S. embassy in Seoul at which its representatives handed over an open letter to it. The letter demanded that the U.S. refrain from seeking unjust interference in Korea's internal affairs and pressure and fanning up the inter-Korean confrontation. It also noted that Bush is going to impose upon the Seoul government "neo-liberal policy" including conclusion of an "investment agreement" and privatization of the state-run enterprises, while using the hard-line policy toward North Korea. The coalition civic organization was inaugurated in November last.

The **Civic and Social Organizations Conference**, comprising 297 civic groups in South Korea, gave a press conference on the morning of February 8. "We express our deep concern about the Bush government's repeated unreasonable hard-line statements on North Korea," Ji Ha Eun, a co-representative of the coalition, said. He stressed that Washington should actively promote dialogue and negotiations with Pyongyang based on mutual understanding and trust.

The **Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice** and nine other groups, including the **Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation**, held a press conference in front of the U.S. embassy on February 6. The groups presented a document signed by more than 600 organizations, criticizing George W. Bush as a threat to inter-Korean reconciliation. They said they rejected Bush's visit to Seoul, pointing to Washington's pressure on Seoul to purchase costly American fighter jets and the Bush team's intention to "start a war on the Korean Peninsula."

In a statement on February 6, the **Korea Conference for National Literature Writers** said: "The U.S. should recognize the efforts for peace being made by the people in the Korean Peninsula and pay due attention to the fact that those who are directly responsible for the fate of Korea are no other than the Korean people." "We will stoutly oppose the U.S. President's visit to South Korea unless the U.S. takes cognizance of this hard fact by basing itself on a broader point of view," it said. At a press conference held on the same day, leaders of the writers' group including Han Gee Young, board chairman, said: "We, men of letters of Korea, will be in the vanguard of

a movement to defend Korean peace and dignity by staging various events including an "Evening of anti-U.S. Literature" and an anti-American demonstration. This campaign will continue until we admit that U.S. efforts for peace reach a satisfactory level."

Religious Groups

The **Korea National Christian Council (KNCC)** on February 6 issued a statement, which accused Washington of designating this year as a "year of war," and of using the "axis of evil" remark against the North, and stressed that "if the Bush administration really wants world peace, it should make contributions to bringing peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula as soon as possible, by respecting the spirit of the inter-Korean joint declaration of June 15, 2000."

Representatives of over 20 Buddhist groups gathered in Seoul on February 7 to make public a joint statement at a press conference, which opposed Bush's upcoming Seoul visit. Pointing out that the Bush administration was throwing the whole world into a state of war by taking advantage of the September 11 event, the statement accused Washington of daring name North Korea part of an "axis of evil" for the purpose of its self-centered policy of pursuing world hegemony, thereby casting a shadow of another war over the Korean Peninsula. They also declared they would launch a campaign in protest against Bush's visit to South Korea hand in hand with other civic groups.

Local Organizations

The anti-U.S. mood spread quickly nationwide in the wake of Bush's January 29 State of the Union speech. In Kwangju City, South Jolla Province, 19 civic groups from different quarters held a press conference on February 8. They said in their statement that Bush's visit to South Korea was aimed at hindering the implementation of the historic inter-Korean joint declaration, strengthening U.S. interference in Korea's domestic affairs, pressuring Seoul to purchase U.S. weapons, and throwing cold water on the Korean efforts to bring about national reunification. "We can never tolerate Bush's visit to Korea as long as the U.S. rejects a thorough probe into the crimes committed by U.S. GIs and its apology and reparations."

On February 7, the **Kwangju Christian Association** issued a statement, denouncing the U.S. that it lumped North Korea with Iraq and Iran as an "axis of evil" in a bid to avoid growing global denunciation of the U.S. for its intention to start another world war based on the notorious "clash of civilizations" theory. "This is nothing but an acme of U.S. policy of world domination." The **Mokpo District Branch of Korea Teachers Trade Union** said in a statement on February 7: "We will teach our children on the war crimes America had inflicted upon Koreans so that they clearly understand who is really part of an 'axis of evil.'"

In (South) Kangwon Province, in their February 8 joint statement, 24 civic organizations condemned the Bush administration's provocative statements against North Korea by calling them "reckless," whereas they demanded that President Kim Dae Jung express his opposition to the U.S. and that the Parliament adopt a special resolution denouncing Bush's remarks before he came to Seoul.

Politicians

Friction between the ruling and opposition parties increased in the wake of Bush's remarks. At a National Assembly meeting on foreign affairs held on February 8, Moon Hee Sang, member of the ruling **Millennium Democratic Party**, said: "We should

U.S. Is "Empire of Devil" in "War Hysteria": Pyongyang Returns Answers To Bush's "Axis of Evil" Rhetoric

Roundup of Media's Comments

To the Reagan-type harsh and aggressive rhetoric, "axis of evil," George W. Bush used against Iraq, Iran and North Korea in his recent State of the Union address, media in the DPRK have returned scathing answers. Follow excerpts from official media's comments:

Korean Central News Agency (Feb. 2): His outburst is little short of a declaration of war on the DPRK, and this may once again bring the military situation on the Korean Peninsula to a brink of war. More than once the DPRK has declared that it has nothing to do with terrorism, and it has posed no threat to any country. His remarks clearly show that the U.S.-proposed "resumption of dialogue" with the DPRK is intended not for the improvement of the bilateral relations but for the realization of the U.S. aggressive military strategy. It is the steadfast stand and transparent will of the DPRK to counter force with force and confrontation with confrontation. We are sharply watching the ill-boding moves of the U.S., in full readiness. The option to "strike" is not U.S. monopoly.

Korean Central Broadcasting (Feb. 4): Bush's remarks revealed Washington's intention to destroy the DPRK through military means by falsely connecting it with terrorism. The DPRK joined a number of anti-terror conventions last year and there is absolutely no evidence of its support for terrorism or any other "evil." In fact, the title ("evil") better suits the U.S. itself, which is a source of true evil.

Rodong Sinmun (Feb. 4): It was the U.S. which developed and used nuclear weapons for the first time in the world and it is again the U.S. that has deployed more nukes in its mainland and different parts of the world than any other countries. Though it is talking about "nuclear disarmament," the U.S. is set to keep not a small number of nuclear warheads to be dismantled in the nuclear arsenal and reuse them when necessary conditions are created.

Rodong Sinmun (Feb. 5): There has been no precedent in the modern history of DPRK-U.S. relations as that which Bush openly threatened the DPRK with aggression. What merits a more serious attention is that the U.S. attempts to designate the DPRK as a target of its military operation.

Japan's War Crime

(Continued from page 2)

Still classified documents

1) List

1. The Japanese government started investigation of the lists of forced Korean laborers and recognized its possession and sent the lists to south Korea. But the government still classifies these lists on grounds of the protection of individuals' privacy.

2. The Japanese government also admitted that it had kept lists of wartime "comfort women."

2) Arrears

1. It was revealed that arrears for forced

laborers had been kept in the National Treasury of Japan. The Japanese government has refused to pay arrears to victims because of prescription without notice to victims.

2. It was made public that the social insurance payments by Korean laborers had been deposited in the National Treasury of Japan. The Japanese government has refused to pay the money under the pretext of individuals' privacy.

3) Documents on war crimes

1. The Japanese government has refused to release stenographic notes of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, which judged a case in which a Japanese trader in Guam had forcibly taken native women to a brothel to be a war crime.

However, it will be a fatal blunder for the U.S. to ignite a new war on the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK is neither Afghanistan nor Yugoslavia nor Iraq.

Korean Central News Agency (Feb. 7): Powell, Rumsfeld, Rice, and Blair (commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Command) are busy everyday with false propaganda and strong "warnings" as regards somebody's "threat of mass destruction" in a bid to create a terror-ridden atmosphere in the U.S. and the international community. This fuss of Bush team's is arousing great concern of the international community. As they put it, this disturbing development reflects a dangerous war hysteria of the hard-line conservatives of the U.S. who have become extremely arrogant through its "war against terrorism" in Afghanistan. The extremely reckless remarks made by Bush about the "axis of evil" clearly indicate that the U.S. is chiefly responsible for disturbing the peace and security of humankind and for posing a real threat to the future of this century.

Minju Josen (Feb. 7): Bush's remarks in U.S. Congress clearly prove how crazy he has become in pursuing his hostile policy to stifle the DPRK. The bellicose elements consider that if tensions are defused on the Korean Peninsula, their policy of military presence in South Korea as well as their Asia-Pacific strategy will go bust. That is why they have left no stone unturned to wreck peace on the peninsula whenever a favorable atmosphere for the Korean people is created.

Korean Central News Agency (Feb. 8): The U.S. does not conceal its vaulting ambition to put the world under its control by relying upon its huge military capabilities. The Bush administration is working out such a huge national defense budget bill as one in the era of the Cold War and inciting unilateral militarism in a bid to threaten the international community that advocates a multi-polar world and take actions against the countries disobedient to the U.S. Though it has the largest number of weapons of mass destruction in the world, the U.S. is sharply increasing military spending. This clearly proves that the U.S., "empire of devil," is posing a grave threat to world peace and stability.

remain cautious not to be influenced by U.S. information on the military and security situations in small and weak countries, which may well be exaggerated or distorted. Otherwise, we would be faced with a recurrence of the 1994 nuclear crisis." Kim Won Woong, member of the conservative **Grand National Party**, became the only dissident in the party by saying: "The more complicated Pyongyang-Washington ties become, the more actively inter-Korean cooperative relations should be developed

to overcome such a situation." In fact, the first opposition party's criticism of Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" toward the North had been gaining momentum particularly since a series of meetings between its president Ri Hoe Chang and George Bush and his hawkish aides in Washington. Another member of the ruling party expressed a strong suspicion at the same session of the Parliament that Ri Hoe Chang significantly contributed to letting Bush make the controversial "axis of evil" remark.

Interview with Amin Kohi

“Vicious Cycle Must Be Terminated In Afghanistan”

Interviewed by Choe Kwan Ik, PK editor.

Recently PK met with a Japan-resident Afghan dissident for an interview. M. Amin Kohi, who had been deprived of a chance to return to his country 30 years ago when a political tumult took place there, opened his mouth to tell the truth about Afghanistan. Follow excerpts from the interview:

Q: You have been in Japan for many years--actually in exile. But your country, Afghanistan, which has been a “nation long forgotten,” is now in the focus of the international community, including Japan. How do you feel?

Kohi: So far, Afghanistan has been little short of such a “non-existent country” as the Mayas in the minds of Japanese. It is ironic, therefore, that the US-led “anti-terror war” made the Japanese aware of the existence of Afghanistan for the first time. Japanese media, however, have failed to tell the truth about the war. I have been interviewed by a number of media companies about the war only to see my key points omitted almost.

Afghanistan has a long history, however. It has been full of misfortunes and hardships. The principal reason why the population remains unchanged there, if not depopulated, is because the country has been dragged into wars so long and so often. In retrospect, Afghanistan has been repeatedly invaded by outsiders--starting with Persians 2,600 years back, then followed by the forces of Alexander the Great, the Arabs, Jhinghis Khan, Great Britain, and of the Soviet Union. And occasional civil wars were taken advantage of by neighbors or big powers. In spite of such long continued wars against the invaders, Afghanistan survived and achieved final victories all the time. For the Afghan people are very independent-minded. Nevertheless, an end must be given to this historical vicious cycle in Afghanistan--invasions, wars and occasional civil wars, and intervention by big



Mr. M. Amin Kohi

powers.

Q: Now the war is over. What do you think about the Taliban?

A: Personally, I have been against the Taliban since they seized power. Because all that they were doing was the ruination and destruction of Afghanistan. But I think I must make an issue of what the U.S. has done in our country. It is no other than the U.S. that once trained and supported the Taliban and Al Qaeda. For the U.S. to call them now “terrorists” or “devils” is to spit up into the sky and on its own face. It was illegal for the U.S. to put the foreign minister of the Taliban under physical restraint when he surrendered in the early stage. He was just a spokesman, not a terrorist. The worst is that U.S. planes were bombing in Afghanistan while dropping foods simultaneously! The U.S. behavior was bordering on the absurd. I thought the American public went crazy after the September 11 incident. America should reflect on itself over what it had done before branding Bin Laden as a crazy. My point is that the U.S. is obligated to publicly apologize once for its wrongdoing in Afghanistan.

Q: What do you think about the background of the September 11 incident?

A: Americans should ponder on what lies behind global anti-Americanism. First, it is a consequence of unjust U.S. policy toward the Middle East. The U.S. has never treated Palestinians equally as it has treated Israelis. U.S.-made high-tech weapons are used in the mass killing of Palestinians, while stones are the only weapons for ordinary citizens of Palestine to resist with. Israelis argue that their slaughter of Palestinians is an act of “retaliation” but Palestinians’ is an act of “terror.” The same logic as the Americans’. This is a key factor that has caused a growing resentment against the U.S. among the people in the Middle East, to say nothing of Palestinians. If the U.S. adheres to such partial policy, something more horrible may happen in any other form.

Second, it concerns the issue of religion. It is a fact that the U.S. has made full use of Bin Laden and the Taliban in a bid to tarnish the image of Islam. A tricky propaganda has been made on the part of the U.S. to describe Islam as “an enemy of humankind.” Religions can coexist. But they seem to have been trying to intentionally make different religions confront with one another. Presumably, they are making Islam a chief enemy of both Christianity and Judaism. That’s what Israel wants, I believe. Mass media in the West are fully utilizing this direction. It is very dangerous.

Q: Please tell us about your family and what you have done in Japan.

A: Thirty years have passed since I left my country for Japan to study. My grandfather and father were killed by Russians. My two brothers were killed by Talibans. My son I had left in Afghanistan escaped there when he was 12 years of age. His little sister also left there on her own afterwards to join us in Japan. I lost chances to repatriate to my country because of political turmoil and long-continued social unrest there and the wars that followed. But I have never forgot my homeland even for a day ever since. During the period of Russian occupation of Afghanistan I used to stage a campaign here, demanding a prompt withdrawal of Russian troops from my country. And during the period of civil wars after Moscow withdrew its troops, I did everything to help Afghan refugees. During the Gulf War, I kept standing for 40 days con-

secutively in front of Shibuya Station of Tokyo, making speeches in demand of an earlier end to the war. I severely criticized the U.S. and Japan at that time. One day, an American threw a raw egg at me as I was making a speech critical of the U.S.-led war.

Now, Afghanistan has been given a golden opportunity to build a durable peace and stability. As a proverb says, “Bad luck often brings good luck.” we should turn a misfortune into a blessing after all. And I am determined to do whatever I can for a new Afghanistan.

Q: You must have suffered from racial harassment or discrimination during the past three decades. What are your bitterest experiences?

A: In fact, I got naturalized in Japan. Because I was unable to have my passport reissued by the Afghan embassy in Tokyo for my “political stance.” And because I thought it would be more advantageous for me to acquire Japanese citizenship to secure a better job and stable life. Nevertheless, it did not mean that everything went well, of course. In general, Afghans have neither inferior nor superior complex to other nations. But here in Japan you can never escape from blatant racial discrimination. For instance, I faced unbearable racial harassment from the occupants and board members of this apartment house. And when my son got married to a Japanese woman, we underwent harsh racial discrimination inflicted upon us by the bride’s family side. I can never forget the bitter experiences we had simply because we are Afghans. My son divorced her afterwards though.

Q: What do you think about the DPRK-Japan relations?

A: From a long time ago, I have been wondering why the Tokyo government has assumed a stance so harshly toward Pyongyang only. For example, when a Korean credit association under Chongryun (a pro-Pyongyang organization in Japan) went bankrupt, the Japanese police authorities dealt with the case very politically rather than technically. The same applied to the case of the so-called “mysterious ship” or “North Korean spy ship.” I think such abnormal relations between Pyongyang and Tokyo cannot be put on the right track unless Pyongyang-Washington ties are drastically improved after all.

Roundup of Major Events on DPRK

January 2002

5 -- General Secretary Kim Jong Il visited the Kim Jong Tae Electric Locomotive Factory to encourage the workers.

5 -- Kim Jong Il saw an art performance given by the merited chorus of the KPA at Mansudae Art Theatre.

6 -- Kim Jong Il inspected KPA unit No. 942 entitled Kim Sung lifeguard.

6 -- Kim Jong Il visited the Russian embassy in Pyongyang.

10 -- Pak Kil Yon, the DPRK ambassador to the United Nations, had a talk with Jack Prichard, U.S. special envoy to the Korean Peninsula peace talks, in New York.

15 - 19 -- A technical team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon.

21 -- The first meeting of the board of the Pyongyang-Euro-Asia Joint Venture Company was held at the People’s Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

22 -- A Joint meeting of the DPRK government, political parties and social organiza-

tions was held at the People’s Palace of Culture.

24 -- The 10th general assembly of the north headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country’s Reunification (Pomminryun) was held in Pyongyang.

25 -- The capital cities of the DPRK and Russia established their friendly relations as an agreement on establishing friendly ties between Pyongyang and Moscow was signed.

28 -- A sports contest of officials of national institutions for “Paektusan Cup” was held in Pyongyang.

30 -- A delegate of the DPRK Literature and Art General Alliance left for China.

30 - February 2 -- A working-level contact between north and south delegates was made at Pyongyang to discuss holding an event “The joint meeting of the north and south to promote national unity and reunification greeting 2002.”

31 -- The 2002-04 mutual agreement to implement the exchange between the Academy of Medical Sciences of the DPRK and its Russian counterpart was signed.

17-Year-Old Korean Girl Wins Highest Award at “30th Prix De Lausanne”

Choe Yu Hui, a Korean in Japan, won the highest award, getting both a “Prix de Lausanne Apprentice Scholarship” and a “Contemporary Dance Prize” at “the 30th Prix de Lausanne” held from Jan 27 to Feb 3.

She graduated from Kita-Kyushu Korean elementary and junior high school. At present, she is studying at the Japan-France Art Dancing Center in France.

It is one of the three major ballet competitions to discover young talented persons and train young dancers of all nationalities aged 15 to 17, who are not yet professionals.

A total of 115 people (100 girls, 15 boys) participated in the contest, and 15 people who won the preliminaries, moved on to the final.

Her parents, told of its final judgment on the Internet, said in chorus, “I was very surprised that she got this precious prize. She danced graciously and beautifully. I thought she would do her best. I am deeply grateful to our compatriots and the persons concerned for their support.”

She has been studying ballet since she was 5 years old and has gained many prizes and victories at various recitals and competitions. After she graduated from junior high school, she went to France to train herself from the beginning. In the year before last, she placed second at the classic ballet junior class in “the



9th Paris International Dance Contest.”

Once she said, “My name is Choe Yu Hui. I’m a Korean. I was not able to dance well in my own style until I thought seriously of this truth. The most important thing is not technique but something peculiarly of my own. People are charmed by something that cannot be expressed in words.”

Her activity not only gave a dream to Koreans in Japan but also encouraged the Koreans who are trying to develop their activities internationally.