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Indonesian President Megawati Visits DPRK; Meets Kim Jong Il for 1st Time in 37 Years

Indonesian President Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri paid an official goodwill visit to the DPRK from March 28 to 30. The visit was historic and dramatic. Megawati came to Pyongyang to meet Kim Jong Il again in 37 years since they met for the first time in Indonesia, to further strengthen the traditional bilateral ties forged by the preceding leaders of the two nations--Sukarno, Megawati's father, and Kim Il Sung--and to help promote the peace and reconciliation process based on the landmark inter-Korean agreement. She became the second foreign head of state to make successive visits to North and South Korea, after Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson, who visited both parts of Korea one after the other last May. She also became the first foreign head of state to meet Kim Jong Il since George W. Bush threatened Pyongyang by calling it a member of an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address in January.

Kim Yong Nam-Megawati Talks

On March 28, President Megawati and her party were warmly greeted at the airport by President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and thousands of Pyongyang citizens. Megawati and Kim reviewed a guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army. Then she visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to the late President Kim Il Sung.

On the same day, talks were held between Kim and Megawati. They exchanged views on further expanding the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the special relations between the preceding leaders in keeping with the requirements of the new century, and on a series of issues of common concern and reached a consensus



on the issues raised. Present at the talks on the DPRK side were foreign minister Paek Nam Sun, minister of foreign trade Ri Kwang Gun, minister of culture Kang Nung

Su. On the Indonesian side were foreign minister Nur Hassan Wirayuda, minister of state for research, science and technology Hatta Rajasa, minister of state for commu-

nications and information Syamsul Muarif, and others.

DPRK Order

A ceremony for conferring the DPRK Order on President Megawati took place in central Pyongyang. Kim Yong Nam awarded the DPRK Order of National Flag First Class to her in recognition of her activities to consolidate and develop generation after generation the long-standing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Banquet

On the evening of March 28, the Presidium of the SPA hosted a banquet in honor of the Indonesian president. Kim Yong Nam in a speech said that on her arrival President Megawati visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to Kim Il Sung, which fully showed her special respect for and trust in the leadership and the people of Korea and her firm will to further develop the bilateral relations according to the intention of her deceased father and left a deep impression upon the Korean people.

Pointing to the DPRK-Indonesia friendship based on the specially close friendship between Kim Il Sung and Sukarno developing on good terms, Kim stressed that this would positively contribute to the common prosperity and progress of the region.

In a reciprocal speech, praising the DPRK's efforts to maintain independence in politics, the economy and national defense, Megawati pledged to strengthen cooperation in the international arena to keep the bilateral relations on good terms even in adversity and strive to build a fair and

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SPA Approves New State Budget Featuring Technical Innovation and Modernization of Economy



Photo shows the platform of the 5th Session of the 10th Supreme People's Assembly held on March 27 in Pyongyang.

The DPRK convened the 5th Session of the 10th Supreme People's Assembly in Pyongyang on March 27, and approved a growth state budget for the fiscal year of

2002, featuring measures to make full preparation for technical improvement and modernization of the national economy.

In the session, an SPA resolution, "On ap-

proving the report on the work of the DPRK cabinet and the summing-up of the 2001 state budget" and the SPA ordinances, "On the state budget for 2002 of the DPRK" and "On adopting the DPRK law on land planning" were adopted.

State Budget for Fiscal Year 2002

Minister of Finance Mun Il Bong summed up financial activities in the 2001 fiscal year by making a financial report "on the summing-up of the 2001 state budget and on the 2002 state budget of the DPRK."

The state budgetary revenue in 2001 totaled for 21,639,941,000 won (roughly US\$ 9.8 billion), or 100.3 percent of the plan, and the total expenditures amounted to 21,678,654,000 won, or 100.5 percent of the plan, the official Korean Central News Agency quoted Finance Minister Mun Il Bong as saying.

Last year, the DPRK government channeled funds accounting for 42.3 percent of the total budget into the economic construction to "rev up the production in key branches of the national economy and rapidly push forward the construction, reconstruction and modernization of factories and enterprises related to people's living." Furthermore, 38.1 percent of total state budget of last year was also appropriated for the implementation of free education, free health care, social insurance and social security system.

For this year, the Supreme People's Assembly approved the new governmental budget of 22,173,790,000 won (about 10

billion dollars), marking a 2.5 percent increase in total revenue and up 2.3 percent in total expenditure compared with last year.

A sum of 9,230,684,000 won (about 4.2 billion dollars) will be spent for the purpose of developing the mining industry, power and metal industries, railway transport and agriculture.

The cabinet will allocate a large amount of funds to step up the overall technological reconstruction and modernization of the national economy, to develop state-of-the-art technology and build an ultra-modern industry, Finance Minister said.

A total amount of 3,497,500,000 won will be spent for capital construction. This year's outlay shows a 2.5 percent increase for social and cultural services as compared with last year, while showing a 6.3 percent increase for education, a 5.1 percent advance for public health and a 6.1 percent gain for social insurance and social security.

Furthermore, 14.4 percent of the total expenditure of the budget for the fiscal year of 2002 was earmarked for national defense.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il appeared on the platform. The platform was also taken by senior officials of the party, state and military organs including Kim Yong Nam, Jo Myong Rok and Hong Song Nam.

Meanwhile, the 5th Session of the 10th SPA adopted the Law on Land Planning. The law consists of 5 chapters: the essence

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Pyongyang Denounces U.S.-S. Korea War Game



Laborers of the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Plant hold a rally on March 21 to denounce U.S.-S. Korea joint military exercises.

The U.S.-South Korea "Combined Forces Command" recently announced that it would stage two joint military exercises called "Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Exercise" and "Fool Eagle" from March 21 to 27. In this regard, the DPRK's papers on March 13 in signed commentaries observed that the projected joint exercises are, in fact, operations aimed at a full-scale attack on the DPRK.

Through various forms of joint military exercises to be staged under the unified command, the domestic and foreign warmongers seek to finally complete their preparations for a war and get fully ready to go into actions against the DPRK at any time, said "Rodong Sinmun," organ of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It continued:

The announcement of this plan came right after the South Korea visit of Bush, warmonger who was busy fanning up confrontation with the DPRK, and war hysteria, clamouring about the "axis of evil." This is an outright challenge to the DPRK and a premeditated war provocation. It is little short of a declaration of war.

The projected joint military exercise, a

replica of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, a test nuclear war, which had to be suspended for being targeted against the DPRK, is a prelude to a very dangerous war of aggression aimed to plunge the Korean nation into a scourge of nuclear war.

The reality goes to more clearly prove that "dialogue" called for by the U.S. is a sheer lie, the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression against the DPRK has reached a stage of its reckless implementation and their wild design to stifle the DPRK by force of arms remains unchanged.

The army and people of Korea are following with high vigilance the adventurous moves of the domestic and foreign enemies keen to ignite a war of aggression against the DPRK.

"Minju Joson," organ of the Cabinet, said:

The U.S. is grossly mistaken if it thinks it can bring the Korean people to their knees by force of arms. If the U.S. imperialists finally opts for military confrontation with the DPRK despite Korean and foreign public's unanimous protest and denunciation, they will face only a bitter defeat and death, it warned.

Pyongyang Condemns U.S. for Political Use of Korean-Americans

Pyongyang recently denounced the U.S. for seeking to use the reunion of U.S.-resident Koreans with their families and relatives in North Korea as a lever of pressure intended to isolate and stifle it. The denunciation came in the form of a statement dated March 18 by the Korean Committee for Aiding Overseas Koreans. Follow excerpts from the statement:

The U.S. House of Representatives has already adopted a "resolution" urging an official discussion of the reunion issue at the DPRK-U.S. inter-governmental negotiations. And the Senate is working hard to fabricate even a more "specific and binding legislation" on the issue.

Meanwhile, the U.S. made some reactionary organizations of Koreans in the U.S., including the "World Headquarters of the Koreans' Movement for Mutual Assistance," spread rumors that a DPRK official visited the U.S. in secrecy to discuss issues related to the reunion of separated families and that U.S.-resident Koreans were allowed to visit the DPRK from early this year to meet with their families and

relatives on a regular basis.

It is also building up public opinion that the U.S. government's intervention is needed for the settlement of this issue as it is a matter related to the interests of U.S. citizens.

It is a well-known fact that many Korean residents in the U.S. have visited the DPRK without any restrictions since long ago to reunite with their families and relatives.

Nevertheless, the U.S. ruling quarters and their stooges are now working hard to build up world public opinion over this matter. This is aimed to isolate and stifle the DPRK by painting it as a political matter and a human rights issue.

By nature, this matter surfaced because of the U.S. which occupies one half of Korea, dividing its nation into two, and provoked the aggression war. Therefore, the U.S. should have already owned its due responsibility for this issue and apologize for it.

Over the past years the U.S., however, has committed such inhuman deeds as persecuting in various ways U.S. resident-Koreans for their visits to their homeland to

New Developments in Medical Science in DPRK

Recently scientists in the DPRK succeeded in researches on making artificial blood vessels of a special texture and developed an efficacious anti-cancer injection, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

Artificial Blood Vessels

They made blood vessels of a lateral type (16/8 and 20/10) and a rectilinear type (8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 22).

The porosity of vessels is 1,500 to 2,000 ml per square centimeters in a minute, thickness 450m and mass 20g per centimeter.

The vessels proved efficacious in clinical practice.

They were applied to more than 100 male patients (32-65) suffering from arteriosclerosis, thrombosis and their efficacy reached 88.2 percent in three months to five years after the operation.

The vessels were developed and made by the medical fiber laboratory of the textile institute of the Branch Academy of Light Industrial Science under the Academy of Sciences

Efficacious Anti-Cancer Injection

A research group of the X-Ray Institute of the Academy of Medical Science developed injection gallium microspheres (66Ga), an efficacious medicine for the treatment of cancer. The injection was manufactured on the basis of a strong effect of X-ray from 66Ga killing cancer cells. This is injected into a cancer region to treat the first and second stage mammary cancer and idiopathic liver cancer.

It can be used to cure brain cancer, etc. This medicinal substance works within a radius of 4 cm.

The injection has no sideeffect and no special substance for immunity revival is needed as the medicinal substance remains only in a cancer region and has no immunity-resisting effect.

Unlike an operation, the injection causes little pain and burden to the patients.

The results of the four-year-long treatment of over 50 patients suffering from first and second stage mammary cancer and idiopathic liver cancer, with affected regions reaching up to 7 cm, showed that all of them have been fully cured.



Indonesian President Megawati and her party visit the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace in Pyongyang on March 29.

Megawati

(Continued from page 1)

peaceful world together with developing countries on the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in other's internal affairs. Expressing belief that Pyongyang's brisk activities for regional security and progress would give a strong impetus to all countries of the world, the Asia-Pacific countries in particular, she said that she was rejoiced over the admission of the DPRK to the ASEAN Forum. She also supported resumed inter-Korean talks. "Our concern is how this region can maintain brotherhood despite the crisis," she said.

Kim Jong Il-Megawati Tete-a-tete

On the following day, Kim Jong Il met Megawati Soekarnoputri and had a tete-a-tete with her for an hour at the Paekhwawon state guest house. Only interpreters were there and no details of the talks were given. The official Korean Central News Agency just said that the two leaders had a talk "in a cordial and friendly atmosphere." However, Megawati disclosed later at a press conference in Seoul that she delivered to Kim Jong Il a message from Kim Dae Jung, and Kim Jong Il responded to the message

reunite with their parents, brothers, sisters and relatives who have lived separated from them for many years, thus stirring up anger among people in the world.

The DPRK visit by overseas Koreans with foreign citizenship is a matter entirely pertaining to the DPRK's sovereignty.

The U.S. should not interfere in other

"very affirmatively." "Chairman Kim Jong Il conveyed his regards to President Kim Dae Jung," Megawati told the press conference held on March 30.

Kim Jong Il and Megawati met first in Indonesia in 1965 when he accompanied Kim Il Sung who was visiting the country which advocated the non-aligned movement. As a college student, Megawati presented flowers to Kim Il Sung, and Kim Jong Il watched her perform a traditional ethnic dance at a banquet. President Megawati was saying she and Kim Jong Il were like "brother and sister." So her trip to Pyongyang was "as much a private reunion as it was an official visit." Megawati was invited to visit Pyongyang in May 2000 when she was serving as vice president, but the circumstances in the Korean Peninsula and in her own country at that time did not permit her to do so. She said several times that she would like to contribute to peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. Megawati's three-day trip to North Korea was the first visit by an Indonesian leader since her father, Sukarno, was there in 1964.

Successfully winding up her trip to the DPRK, the Indonesian president left Pyongyang on March 30 for Seoul to meet Kim Dae Jung.

country's internal affairs, but properly mind its own business such as a serious human rights situation.

The DPRK, which values national dignity, will never allow the U.S. to interfere in its internal affairs and encroach upon its sovereignty over the above-said issue, but resolutely react to its moves.

DPRK-Russian Ties Keep Progressing



General Secretary Kim Jong Il with members of Russia's Presidential Orchestra.

A number of events to demonstrate further cemented ties between Pyongyang and Moscow were seen in March. They included Kim Jong Il's attendance at a celebration of a Carnival hosted by the Russian ambassador in Pyongyang; celebrations to mark the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the bilateral agreement on economic and cultural cooperation; a visit to Pyongyang by Russia's presidential orchestra at the invitation of Kim Jong Il; and others.

Kim Jong Il Joins in Russian Carnival

In a rare move, Kim Jong Il attended March 18 a celebration of the Carnival, a traditional folk holiday in Russia, hosted by Russian ambassador to the DPRK Andrei G. Karlov, at the latter's invitation. He was warmly greeted by the ambassador and leading officials of the embassy according to the Russian custom of receiving the most distinguished guest. Karlov gave a dinner in honor of Kim Jong Il on the same day, at which a specially prepared art performance was given by children of the embassy. This is the second visit of Kim Jong Il to the Russian embassy since January 6 this year.

Russia's Presidential Orchestra Visits DPRK

Kim Jong Il met on March 27 leading members and principal actors of the presidential orchestra of the Russian Federation on its visit to the DPRK. Lieutenant general Sergei Streigin, Commander of the Garrison of the Kremlin in Moscow, courteously conveyed to Kim Jong Il a gift from Russian President Vladimir V. Putin. On the same day, Kim Jong Il enjoyed a performance of solos, choruses and concerts given by the presidential orchestra. Kim Jong Il had invited the orchestra to visit Pyongyang for its successful and superb performance given for him during his visit to Russia in August last year. Among the art envoys of the Kremlin are many talented actors and actresses of world fame, including actress Pudukova, singer of the State Academy Grand Theater. When interviewed at the airport, Sergei Streigin, head of the orchestra, said that they came to Pyongyang carrying with them the deep respect of the Russian President for Kim Jong Il. He also stressed in his speech at a reception in wel-

Kim Jong Il Sends Funds to Korea University & Opera Troupe in Japan

Kim Jong Il sent on March 28 funds separately to Korea University and the Kumgangsan Opera Troupe under Chongryun (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan). According to the Korean Central News Agency, he sent 132,420,000 yen in Japanese currency (a

million U.S. dollars) to the university located in western Tokyo, and 270 million yen (2 million U.S. dollars) to the ethnic artists' group in Japan, respectively. This decision of Kim Jong Il's came as part of his care for maintaining and developing Korean ethnic education and art in the foreign land of Japan, where a long-drawn-out economic recession has seriously affected the Korean community in the country.

53rd Anniversary of Agreement Feted

To mark the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the DPRK-Russia agreement on economic and cultural cooperation, a series of events were held in Pyongyang which included a film show on March 20, in which a feature film "Cavalryman, Who Are You?" was shown; and a friendship gathering for the diplomatic corps on the occasion.

SPA Leader Visits Moscow

A delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK headed by its chairman Choe Thae Bok visited Moscow from March 16. Talks were held on March 18 there between Choe Thae Bok and his counterpart Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. At the talks both sides exchanged views on a series of issues of mutual concern including implementation of the agreement reached between the heads of the two countries, Korea's reunification and exchange between the two parliaments.

Atomic Agency Delegation Visits Moscow

A delegation of the General Bureau of Atomic Energy of the DPRK led by its director general Ri Je Son visited Russia from March 16 to attend a meeting of the plenipotentiary representatives of governments of the member nations of the Combined Institute for Nuclear Studies held in Dubna, Russia.

Scientific Cooperation Agreement Signed

An agreement on scientific cooperation between the DPRK Academy of Sciences and the Siberia Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences was signed in Novosibirsk on March 22. Present on the occasion were members of the delegation of the DPRK Academy of Sciences headed by vice-president Kang Tong Gul and president of the Siberia Branch Nikolai Dobretsov and officials concerned.

The Pyongyang government has continuously sent educational aid funds and stipends to the compatriots in Japan every year since 1957 for the development of Korean ethnic education in Japan.

Former "Comfort Women" in S. Korea Hold 500th Weekly Demonstration



Former "comfort women" and members of support groups hold a demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul on March 13.

About a dozen elderly women in their 70s and 80s gathered in front of the Japanese Embassy in Jongro, central Seoul, on March 13 to mark the 500th weekly Wednesday demonstration organized by a support group for former sex slaves known as "comfort women."

More than 100 protesters including 10 former "comfort women," residents in Seoul and university students, demanded that the Japanese government admit having abducted Koreans and forced them to become sex slaves for Japanese soldiers at front-line brothels between 1932 and 1945 and make a sincere official apology and reparation. They also protested the Japanese government's "Asian Peace National Fund for Women," saying that it is intended for the evasion of the Japanese government's legal responsibility for its wartime sex slave system.

This marked the 500th demonstration, organized by the (south) Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, since its first rally held on January 8, 1992, on the occasion of the then Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa Kiichi's visit to south Korea.

Every Wednesday since January 8, 1992, members of various civic groups led by the (south) Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan established in 1991, have gathered at noon in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul to stage a weekly "Wednesday Demonstration."

"It's not revenge we seek. It is only justice we seek," Yun Jong Ok, honorable representative of the council, was quoted as saying.

"We will continue the demonstration to the very end until the last protester dies," Hwang Gum Ju, former "comfort women," said.

The council said that a total of about 25,000 people have so far participated in the weekly protests.

Since the Wednesday rally started 10 years ago, 61 former "comfort women" have died; 141 are still alive.

"The Asian Peace National Fund for Women" was established in 1995 to gather donations as a solatium for the victims. But almost all the elderly women have so far refused the money on the grounds that only the Japanese government's official apology and compensation can restore their honor and human integrity.

The Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery held in Tokyo in December 2000 brought an epoch-making opportunity for the victims to restore their honor.

This unofficial trial found the Japanese government and former Japanese Emperor Hirohito guilty of sexual enslavement.

But their demands remain unanswered. Meanwhile, the DPRK plans to hold in early May an international symposium to demand Japan's atonement for its colonial rule over Asian nations and its war crimes. Hosted by the Committee on Compensation for "Comfort Women" for the Army & Victims of the Pacific War, the meeting will invite victims, representatives of organizations concerned, lawyers and researchers from north and south Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, India, Indonesia. Representatives from European organizations will also attend the symposium.

"Defection" Drama: Part of Int'l Conspiracy to Lead N. Korea to Collapse

A drama on 25 North Korean "defectors" from Beijing to Seoul, which took place in mid-March, had been long and carefully planned by groups of "political activists" from America, Japan, South Korea, and Germany, it has been learned. The defectors stormed into the Spanish embassy in Beijing to "seek asylum" or "in a bid of freedom," and arrived in South Korea in a week. The Los Angeles Times on March 19 reported the activists were trying to "replicate the historic events of 1989 that led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall," intending to "topple" the North Korean government.

"The incident was more a carefully planned covert operation than a spontaneous occurrence," the article said and went on: The group of about 30 activists spent months preparing for it. They "picked" six families and three individuals "for their intelligence and resolve." Then, they cased embassies in Beijing and surreptitiously photographed the diplomatic missions' security precautions. Furthermore, "they carefully selected and rehearsed the defectors."

A spokesman for the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils ("Hanchongryun") suggested that there was a high probability of the American CIA's involvement in the case, given its timing, in particular.

In the meantime, the Chinese government reportedly sent word to Seoul that it would no longer play "nice guy" to activists helping North Koreans in Beijing "defect." The JoongAng Ilbo said that Beijing told Seoul through diplomatic channels that it would tighten surveillance on those China-based foreign groups and arrest, deport or refuse entry to the activists who helped 25 North Koreans seek asylum in the Spanish embassy in Beijing.

"China seems to harbor dissatisfaction about the open activities of defector-related private organizations," a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said. "They (the activists) should reconsider their methods. It is true that they have ignored Chinese law," he added.

Interview with Bernard Krisher

“North Should Ignore Bush and Continue What It Has Been Doing with South”

Interviewed by Choe Kwan Ik, PK editor

Bernard Krisher, former Tokyo bureau chief of Newsweek, is a journalist, publisher, and organizer of two NGOs helping Cambodia. He is a close friend of King Sihanouk and close to Kim Dae Jung of South Korea. For Krisher, Cambodia and North Korea are closely related to each other. In his interview with PK, Krisher stressed that Pyongyang should ignore Bush and accelerate the peace and reconciliation process in accordance with the historic inter-Korean agreement. He is planning to visit the DPRK again to assist it in building a “telemedicine system.”

Q: What do you think about the Bush administration's North Korea policy?

Krisher: Bush is “a bully in a birthday party” who suddenly disturbs the whole nice atmosphere. He doesn't know about Korea and its people. He doesn't know how hard Kim Dae Jung and Kim Jong Il worked to put fracture together. Madelleine Albright had talks in Pyongyang and she had a great success. She was so welcomed by Kim Jong Il. But Bush didn't like Albright. He didn't like Clinton. So he shattered all of this and destroyed everything the Clinton government had built up.

Q: Now, he is calling North Korea part of an “axis of evil.”

A: North Korea is not an “evil” country. I think he dared say so because of lack of knowledge. He is not very smart. Recently, chats on the Internet joking about Bush are mostly about his stupidity. I can't stop laughing. And he actually did not win the election. If it had not been for September 11, he basically would be very unpopular today, and the people would not have much respect for him. September 11, however, pulled America together because of the attack on America by terrorists. America became very patriotic. And Bush immediately did fight terrorism and succeeded in Afghanistan to a degree. But he has done too far now, and has used this incident to lump the whole bunch of things together that are totally unrelated. And now he finds certain countries he doesn't like, and puts them all together. But most intelligent people neither follow nor support him. Many articles criticized Bush's such policy, and European allies don't support it either. The problem is that Bush has been trying to be more militaristic. He has a very strong Pentagon, a strong Secretary of Defense. And his people are wanting an increased military budget. They need “enemies” and “threats.”

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of the law on land planning, the formulation of land plans, the approval of the land planning, the fulfillment of the land plan and the guidance and control of the land planning.

Review of Cabinet's Activity in 2001 and Tasks for 2002

Referring to last year's economic activities of the DPRK, Premier Hong Song Nam pointed out in his report, “On the review of work of the DPRK cabinet in 2001 and on its task for 2002,” that the country's socialist political system was consolidated, its military power was strengthened and signal achievements were made in building up a strong economic potential.

Last year the industrial output value grew



Mr. Bernard Krisher

Q: Despite the historic Pyongyang summit in June 2000, the inter-Korean relations are undergoing a stalemate after Bush came to office.

A: I think there was a great breakthrough in inter-Korean ties. The Pyongyang summit was a very remarkable event. You may take two steps forward and one step backward. But you cannot take it back. Clinton made a great step forward and North Korea was really moving toward something very positive. Pyongyang kept all agreements with Washington. And then, Bush lumped together North Korea, Iraq and Iran. He was lacking in understanding of the situation. But I think a real victim is Kim Dae Jung. He was pushed into confusion by Bush. He doesn't necessarily have to criticize the U.S., rather, he should be “polite” to Bush. In the meantime, Pyongyang should not overreact to Bush's rhetoric, but just ignore Bush and continue what they were doing with the South. It should not let Bush get in the way. International public opinion is in favor of the continuation of inter-Korean dialogue in this direction. South Korea is a very conservative society. No “sanction” whatsoever against the North should be taken. I think Kim Jong Il's meeting Kim Dae Jung will make a big difference. The people suddenly change their minds, you know. I think it's up to North Korea to support Kim Dae Jung and not let him leave with a total failure or as a lame duck. Everything should be put back in place to show that Bush is totally wrong and irrelevant.

Q: You have known King Sihanouk of Cambodia for many years. Your first visit to the DPRK was at his invitation

2 percent and railway turnover 4 percent over the previous year and there was a remarkable increase in the output of major industrial products such as electricity, coal, iron ore and machine tools compared with the preceding year.

“The main thrust of this year's economic construction is to make full preparations for technical improvement and modernization of the national economy while readjusting the country's economic foundations in keeping with the practical demand and prospect of an independent economy and giving full play to its potentials,” Hong Song Nam said.

In order to bring about a new surge in the building of an economically powerful nation, the cabinet will put great importance on the mining, power and metal industries and railway transport.

The DPRK will “improve trade and economic cooperation and widely conduct joint venture and collaboration with different

when he was staying in Pyongyang in exile. And you have been engaged in humanitarian aid to the two countries.

A: Yes. I have been to North Korea six times in all. I visited the country to bring relief goods there three times. What gave me a clue to dealing with Pyongyang was a perfect example of Kim Il Sung-Sihanouk relationship based on loyalty. It was in Indonesia in 1965 that the two leaders met for the first time through the good offices of Sukarno. At that time I was there. The loyal friendship between the two totally unlike leaders was forged especially after Prince Sihanouk was ousted in a 1973 coup d'etat but soon offered asylum by Kim Il Sung to live in a newly-built private palace for him in Pyongyang until he was reinstated in Cambodia. It was so loyal a relationship that for several years after Kim Il Sung died, Sihanouk would not approve diplomatic relations with South Korea, and only after he knew that Kim Dae Jung was the man who Kim Il Sung once said was “a good man.” So there was nothing disloyal. Sihanouk called Kim Il Sung his best friend. Because of my friendship with King Sihanouk, I became very much interested in North Korea and wanted to help.

Q: What are you working on now in Cambodia for a humanitarian purpose?

A: I helped build many schools in remote villages of Cambodia. I set up a computer center. I trained 285 children how to do on computers. We are training them into “children teachers” who teach other children. Now, I am working on a “telemedicine system” which I set up as a pilot project. It is a medicare system using computers and a communication satellite to link local clinics in Cambodia with a hospital in the capital city of Phnom Penh and with two teaching hospitals in the U.S. from which doctors give medical help to the patients in Cambodia. This system is something which could work in North Korea. I am willing to help North Korea introduce our experience in Cambodia.

Q: What made you so deeply involved in Cambodia?

A: In the first place, at a certain stage of my life when I became older, I felt I had a very lucky life. Looking back, almost everything I had ever wanted happened. So I started my obligation somehow to return something. I also wanted to test my ability in doing things better than other people. I took a small country like Cambodia with 8 million people at that time. It had the worst problem, terrible medicare in particular. I knew the area and culture. And I came to

countries and international organizations,” the report said.

As for the agricultural sector, energetic efforts will be concentrated on seed selection, potato farming and increasing areas under double-crop cultivation.

“Nationwide efforts should be directed to the land realignment projects in Pyongyang, South Phyongan Province, Nampo and other provinces.”

The cabinet said that it would make sustained efforts to improve light industry to raise the production of consumer goods and build more modern dwelling houses in Pyongyang and other cities and in the countryside.

The DPRK Premier also said that the DPRK would increase the state investment in scientific research to develop ultra-modern science and technology including electronic engineering, mechanical engineering and bionics.

know the King. He was asking me to help his country when he came back after his life in exile.

The other reason is related to my family background. I was born in Germany. My family left there during the Hitler period to escape the Holocaust. My father had 10 brothers and sisters. But all of them and their families were killed. I identified a little bit the Cambodian situation with Pol Pot who killed two million people with Nazi Germany. And I felt most of the world and the majority of people were really helpless. A journalist, usually by training and by profession, is one of few lucky people in the world. They know how to change things a little bit. So I wanted to use exactly this ability of mine to help people in that sense.

Q: You have fully displayed your ability as such.

A: I did everything I could. I asked local governments, and lots of Japanese companies in different sectors to help me in my effort. They included leading companies for construction, transportation, shipping, telecommunication, foods and so on. I was amazed most of them said yes. But some said no. “Snow Brand,” for example. I asked the company to give me some powdered milk for North Korea. Then they refused in an extremely rude manner. So I told myself that company would suffer some day. It did. It came to be punished after all.

Q: How do you feel about what had happened to your family during the Hitler period?

A: When I went back to Leipzig a few years ago, I found my father's old store. A fur shop. I found the apartment house we lived in. We left the furniture in our apartment house. My father left the merchandise. I employed a lawyer and put in a claim. Last year, from the German government I got 20 thousand dollars for the apartment, and 19 thousand dollars for my father's fur shop. Sixty years after the fact! The German government has kept records and everything. They knew about our family in detail. They had even a list of the furniture. They were so meticulous. And I kept the documents and evidence. They finally agreed on everything. I got a compensation sixty years after the fact! This is incredible. I got the feeling that they really want to settle our case there. Japan would never do that. And the younger generation are sad. This younger generation in Japan some day will claim that the people living today did not do justice. The country does not perform its obligation nor take its responsibility for the issue of atomic bomb victims and “comfort women,” in particular. The Japanese government went so far as to try to collect some money on the street as public donations for the women. As a foreigner living in Japan, I consider this the worst example of Japanese behavior. The Japanese government should apologize to the “comfort women” and make reparations. The average Japanese people don't force their government to do it. That's why the government doesn't move.

*SPA (Supreme People's Assembly)

Representing the DPRK citizens of all walks -- workers, farmers, soldiers and intellectuals put together -- the SPA stands as the supreme decision-making organ composed of the deputies who were selected and elected on democratic principles.

The SPA was founded on August 25, 1948 in pursuance of the state-building formula laid down by the late President Kim Il Sung, following the May 10 U.S.-engineered “single” election in the south.

According to Article 90 of the DPRK Socialist Constitution, the SPA will serve for 5 years but its term of business can be extended when an unavoidable situation prevents the election.

All imperative state-affairs such as -- amendment of the constitution, enactment of laws, and election of President -- are placed under SPA's supervision.