

The People's Korea

No. 1,921

OCTOBER 12, 2002

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)

Pyongyang Said Bush's Envoy Was "Arrogant and High-Handed"

James Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, "raising 'issues of concern,' took a high-handed and arrogant attitude" during the latest DPRK-U.S. talks in Pyongyang, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK said in an October 7 statement.

Commenting on a three-day visit to Pyongyang by the special envoy of President George W. Bush, the spokesman dismissed the U.S.-raised "issues of concern" as "nothing but a product of its hostile policy towards the DPRK," "to bring the DPRK to its knees by force and high-handed practices."

Arbitrariness and arrogance on the part of the Bush administration was revealed, the statement stated, in Kelly's assertion that Pyongyang must "first meet the U.S. unilateral demands such as those related to nuclear and missile issues and conventional armed forces, and the human rights issue" as a prerequisite for "smooth settlement of Pyongyang-Tokyo, inter-Korean and Pyongyang-Washington relations."

"Since it has been confirmed that the Bush administration refuses to remove the DPRK from an 'axis of evil' list and a target of its 'preemptive nuclear attack' and still maintains its unilateral hard-line policy of hostility towards the DPRK, the latter clarified to the envoy its principled stand towards such a U.S. position before his departure from here," the statement added.

Kelly became the first special envoy of the U.S. president to visit Pyongyang after hawkish George W. Bush came into office in January 2001 to "explain" the

Bush administration's North Korea policy. While in Pyongyang between October 3 and 5, he had talks mainly with his DPRK counterpart vice foreign minister Kim Gye Gwan, and met with Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and first vice foreign minister Kang Sok Ju, who, as the North's chief negotiator, had reached agreement with the U.S. on the 1994 Agreed Framework.

In response to a U.S. State Department's statement on Pyongyang's finger-pointing, which stressed the special envoy's message was just "frank," Pyongyang on October 12 blamed once again the U.S. by saying: "This is sheer misinformation intended to escape public denunciation of the already disclosed arrogant attitude of the United States." "This time the special envoy had no intention to discuss the issue of resuming dialogue and did not make any mention of dialogue," the Korean Central News Agency said.

Kelly "straightforwardly and frankly spelled out the U.S. 'concerns' in a bid to disarm the DPRK. In this sense what he said during his visit may have been frank. For the DPRK, it was a good occasion to correctly understand the U.S. intention," the KCNA said.

"This policy (of the U.S.'s) ... compels the DPRK to take every necessary counter-measure, pursuant to the army-based policy whose validity has been proved. The prospect of the DPRK-U.S. relations depends on the U.S. attitude," it concluded.

Korean Athletes March Together in Pusan Asian Games



North and South Korean athletes and officials march together in the opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games Pusan on September 29.

Wearing the same uniforms, north and south Korean athletes walked hand in hand together in the Pusan Asiad Stadium on September 29 in an opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games in Pusan.

Participated in by more than 10,000 athletes from 44 Asian countries and regions, the 14th Asian Games started in south Korea's big port city Pusan with an emotional opening ceremony.

Entering last among after 44 nations, 300 athletes from north and south Korea, all in blue jackets and beige trousers, marched behind a white "unification flag" depicting a blue image of the Korean Peninsula. North Korean female soccer goalkeeper Ri Chong Hui and South Korean male handball player Hwangbo Sung Il jointly carried the "unification flag," as a traditional Korean song "Arirang" was played in the stadium.

Later, two sports figures from the north and the south raised a torch in their hands to light the games flame. Kye Sun Hwi of the north side and Ha Hyong Ju of the south side lit a red cauldron atop a stage in the center of the field. Kye Sun Hui was a winner of the women's judo 48kg category in the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta, U.S.A. Ha Hyong Ju was a gold medalist of the male judo competition in the 1984 Olympics held in Los Angeles.

Present at the opening ceremony were President Kim Dae Jung of south Korea, prominent figures of political and social circles of south Korea, Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, senior officials of the Asian Olympic Council and other guests from foreign countries.

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North, South Commemorate Accession Day of Nation's Founder



Photo shows the inter-Korean joint event to commemorate the Foundation Day of Korea held on October 3 in front of the tomb of Tangun, a founding father of *Kojoson*, the first ancient state in the Korean Peninsula.

The first-ever inter-Korean joint commemoration event was held on October 3 to celebrate the Foundation Day of Korea at the tomb of Korea's founding father Tangun, in suburban Pyongyang.

A 100-member group of civic activists in South Korea traveled to North Korea on October 1 to participate in the national joint commemoration of Tangun's Accession Day. The south side delegation was led by Han Yang Won, chairman of the

South Korean preparatory committee for the joint commemoration.

Because of striking differences of opinion between the north and the south about the founder of the nation, North and South Korea had separately celebrated October 3. The latest joint commemorative event was held amid the recent reconciliatory and cooperative mood in the inter-Korean

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"There Are No Living American MIAs in N. Korea, But Exhumation of War Dead Is Underway": KPA Spokesman

"There are no American 'war survivors' ... since all the U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) were already repatriated in accordance with the agreement between the two sides right after the Korean War," a spokesman for the Panmunjom (truce village) mission of the Korean People's Army said on October 12. The statement came in the form of an answer to the question raised by the Korean Central News Agency in response to a U.S. argument--the issue it raised at the working-level bilateral talks held in June last in Bangkok, Thailand--that there may be some living American soldiers in North Korea in addition to the four American defectors to the country after the Korean War.

Stressing that the issue of the American defectors might be smoothly settled depending on the termination of the hostile relationship between Pyongyang and Washington as it was not contrary to international law on political exiles and the right to protect them, the spokesman urged Washington to show its sincerity if it was interested in the exhumation of the remains of the war dead.

"Even under the circumstances where

the DPRK-U.S. relations remained strained," the spokesman said, "we unilaterally exhumed the remains of 208 dead bodies and handed them over to the U.S. side with generosity and sincerity from a humanitarian point of view from 1990 to 1994, and we have unearthed the remains of 170 bodies together with the U.S. side since 1996, handing the remains of a total of 378 bodies to it up to this date."

He also revealed the fact that two rounds of exhumation were carried out from July 20 to September 24, 2002 according to the agreement reached at the Bangkok talks, and the third round of exhumation is now under way.

Pointing out the fact that the escalated U.S. hostility toward Pyongyang, together with the erosion of remains due to the passing of nearly half a century since the war and a decreased number of Korean witnesses, is making it harder to continue the work in a successful manner, the spokesman once again emphasized the importance, on the part of Washington, of establishing and operating a national organization for investigation of the remains of American war dead.



Participants dance with each other to commemorate the anniversary.

Tangun

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lations.

Present at the event from the north side were representatives of the Korea Socialist Democratic Party, the Consultative Council for the Reunification of the Tangun Nation and other social organizations, religious groups and people in Pyongyang. Delegates of overseas Koreans also attended the meeting.

"This joint event will surely be recorded in the history of the movement for national reunification as a meeting of national unity of Korean compatriots in the north, the south and overseas who are all Tangun's posterity," said Ryu Mi Yong, chairwoman of the Consultative Council for the Reunification of the Tangun Nation.

Han Yang Won, head of the South Korean delegation, also said in his speech that the event showed the roots of the Korean nation and would give a firm confidence to the nation in its national reunification.

The South Korean delegation also toured Mt. Kuwol, the area of Mt. Myohyang and other famous scenic sites. Art performances were also held for the guests from the south followed by a special tree planting ceremony to wish for national reunification.

Historians from both sides held a wide range of discussions on the history of Ko-

rea and historical facts about the legendary founding father of Korea, Tangun.

In a joint symposium on Tangun and ancient Korea held at the People's Palace of Culture, North and South Korean historians showed the understanding that Tangun was a real historical person and the founder of Kojoson (ancient Korea), the first state of the Korean nation. Both sides also agreed to activate academic cooperation and solidarity to protect their national identity.

North Korea has deepened its research of Tangun as a historical person since it discovered the remains of Tangun in Pyongyang in 1993. The north also organized the Consultative Council for the Reunification of the Tangun Nation in 1997 and promoted historical research activities, preservation of related relics, exchanges and cooperation with foreign historians.

But some people deny the fact that the roots of the Korean nation are in Pyongyang, even after Tangun's ashes were discovered in Pyongyang. In particular, scholars had a critical opinions of Tangun's ashes. The "Tangun Society" was organized in South Korea in 1997, and the organization held academic conferences to renew the understanding of Tangun and proposed academic exchange with North Korea.

Winding up the symposium, both sides issued a joint press release on October 3.

Oil & Gas Reserves Found in DPRK

"Sovereign Ventures," a Singaporean petroleum exploration company, announced on August 28 that it found in the DPRK reserves of at least 28.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 50 million barrels of petroleum. The locations are in Hoeryong and Onsong in North Hamgyong Province. The Singaporean venture stressed that the discovery is particularly significant since the survey covered only a third of the exploration zone with an area of 6,000 square kilometers. It acquired a 25-year concession from the DPRK's oil development company in September 2001 and started its geophysical survey from April this year--the first case in which a foreign business that has been given a concession in the country's terrestrial part.

An agreement signed between the two companies stipulates that the 25-year-long project constitutes three stages-- 1) geological surveys (first three years); 2) drillings (two years); 3) production (twenty years). It also says that Sovereign Ventures shall retain 45 percent of the total amount of resources produced, and the remaining 55 percent shall be held by the DPRK.

According to the Singapore-based firm, it has signed an agreement with Sovereign Ventures Canada to extract the deposits, in which the latter will pay for all costs involving the exploitation of oil and gas reserves. The source also said that Sovereign Ventures Canada will undertake an extensive ground gravity and magnetic survey of the reserves and that Excel Geophysics in Canada will conduct a ground survey to gauge the extent of the reserves. In addition to the Singaporean firm, four other foreign companies have been exploring for oil in three different places in North Korea, according to Seoul's Korea National Oil Corp. They belong to Canada, Japan, Germany and Australia, all of which are involved in offshore operations, the source said on September 24.

The DPRK's oil exploration history dates



Photo shows a boring operation held in Anju, North Korea.

back to 1965 when it started its extensive geological research. And the country has been fully set on oil business since 1993 when its government upgraded the Petroleum Research Bureau to the Ministry of Petroleum Industry. In its report released in late 1997, the ministry, after 30 years of geological study and test borings in both offshore and onshore parts of the country, concluded that there exist seven oil-bearing basins. The report suggests that the West Sea Bay Basin alone contains billions of barrels of oil.

In October 1998, DPRK leader Kim Jong Il told the visiting South Korean business tycoon, the then honorary chairman Chung Joo Young of Hyundai Group (who died last year): "Pyongyang is on oil(basin)."

Travel notes From Pyongyang to Hyesan by train

"We are brothers and sisters"

By Staff Reporter

This September, a photographer for PK went to Mt. Paektu from Pyongyang by train for the first time. The purpose of this travel was to cover the ceremony of taking the sacred fire for the 14th Pusan Asian Games. The travel took about 28 hours. There were new encounters, discoveries and so on in his travel.

Fellow travelers

The whistle blew at 6:30 p.m. at Pyongyang Station. Some people, who came to see off their family or friends, were seen waving their hands.

There are three means of transportation to go to Mt. Paektu from Pyongyang. These are airplane, car and train. And it was my first experience to go there by train. The railway line goes from Pyongyang to Hyesan in Ryanggang Province through Pyongson City, Kowon County, Hamhung County in South Hamgyong Province, Kimchek City and Kilju County in North Hamgyong Province. Generally, people use cars to go to Samjiyom District from Hyesan.

Most train users are people who come and go on business. So we can often see scenes at Pyongyang Station in which families are reluctant to leave each other.

People who boarded the same train exchanged greetings with each other, and from that moment, they became fellow travelers and went to their destination to-

gether. It is a long way to Hyesan. We took meals in the train. So I jammed bread, drinks and so on into my rucksack.

There used to be a traveling food wagon service in the train to sell box lunches, drinks and so on. But owing to various circumstances in the "Arduous March," such as electric power shortage, trains didn't run on schedule, it is even now impossible to offer any food wagon service. There are now only fruit shops at each station. Most passengers take their own meals with them and usually share food with other passengers. Some of them bring alcohol in drinks and enjoy drinking with strangers as if they were old friends. They also got along well with the crew. I spent a night on a berth in the train with groups of people who were going to participate in the ceremony of taking the sacred fire on Mt. Paektu. Though they were all strangers to me, I had a good time with them, talking about various topics and sharing our food. The time spent with them made me keenly realize the words "Korea is one family," words that I had heard many times.

The sun set behind the mountains without my realizing it. The train arrived at the first station at exactly 8 o'clock. After a five minutes' stop, the train departed for the next station.

"When shall we arrive in Hyesan?" I asked various people. But the answer varied according to different persons. Surprisingly, the crew also didn't know the exact time. I had to wait patiently and enjoy the



People gathered around the train to see the "Heroine"

trip anyway, I thought. I went to bed a little early.

Chong Song Ok Fever

On the second day, the train arrived at a small station in a mountain after 11 o'clock in the morning. It was Yohejin Station in Tanchon City, South Hamgyong Province.

The train didn't depart soon because the work of changing the locomotives had to be done for some time. In the DPRK, it takes time for trains to start. This may be because trains do not run on a double track but on a single track. Moreover, there are difficulties in electric power supply. And the work of changing locomotives may be said a cause of delays. Crew usually inspect their trains during that time.

There was a crowd of people around the train before I was aware of it. They were not train passengers but they gathered to see the "Heroine", Ms. Chong Song Ok, who was a marathon champion of the 7th World Track and Field Championships.

Her popularity was so great. The crowd swelled to over 100 people, young and old. Someone asked Ms. Chong to make a speech. Ms. Chong said, "I am good at running but not at making a speech." "Then, please sing a song", someone asked. She sang "the sky is blue and I'm very happy...We are all brothers and sisters..."

People sang the song with her. The station resounded with a chorus for a while. But the happy time was over soon as the train began to move.

"Everybody, take good care of yourself!," Chong said.

"We expect good results from you," people said with a sad feeling of parting.

There was no wall between the "heroine" and the public. I felt deeply again that my fatherland was a great family like the words in the song, "We are all brothers and sisters."

One Country

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Koreans Suffer Attacks, Blackmail Due to Abductions Issue

As the DPRK admitted in the summit talks with Japan on September 17 that its secret agents abducted thirteen Japanese citizens during the 1970s and 80s, Korean schoolboys and schoolgirls in Japan have been subjected to unwarranted attacks, unfair treatment, abuse and blackmail.

Attacks and verbal abuse have been concentrated on Korean female students who wear *chima jogori*, traditional Korean costume, as their school uniforms.

Attacks on and harassments of Korean school students have escalated since the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration was issued on September 17. According to the Education Bureau of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), a total of 306 cases have been reported. Cases of harassment include two assaults, 10 attempted assaults, 18 cases of abusive language, 108 menacing telephone calls, 61 silent telephone calls and 108 harassing e-mails.

Japanese citizens and local administrative organs have raised a cry of protest against repeated attacks on and harassment at innocent Korean children and students, and their actions have encouraged the victims and their protectors and helped them in this way.

In the past, whenever bilateral relations between the DPRK and Japan worsened, students of Korean schools in Japan fell victims to abusive language and violence by Japanese.

The Kanagawa Korean Elementary, Middle and High School was annoyed with a total of 24 threatening telephone calls from evening to midnight on September 17. A middle-aged man, about 50 years old, attempted to kidnap three third-grade girl students of the Aichi Korean Middle and High School.

Korean schools in Kyoto Prefecture received over 90 harassing telephone calls. Anonymous telephone calls said, "I will kill your students" and "Get out of Japan!" Menacing letters were also sent to Korean schools.

Taking these incidents very seriously, the Kyoto prefectural government made pub-



Japanese citizens hold a campaign in a street to stop violence against Korean children and students.

lic a statement concerning the actual situation of persecution of Korean residents, in the health and labor committee of the prefectural assembly. "Anger at the abduction cases is quite different from the human rights of Korean residents in Japan. It is important for us to take things calmly," an official concerned said. "The harassment of Koreans is getting quite vicious in nature, and I regret those incidents," he added. The authorities decided to distribute handbills among people in the prefecture in cooperation with the Legal Affairs Bureau. The Kyoto Prefectural Board of Education requested on October 7 the municipal boards of education and the principals of prefectural schools to protect the personal safety of foreign children and students.

Ido Toshizo, governor of Hyogo Prefecture, issued an emergency appeal, jointly with the heads of organizations related to education and international exchange. "Threats and harassment are inhuman acts, and the recent attacks on and harassment of Korean residents are very shameful

acts," the appeal said. It also said that citizens should act sensibly in an extraordinary atmosphere. A number of civic groups also have issued similar appeals and statements one after another.

Lawyer Hong Jong Su of the Association of Human Rights of Koreans in Japan said that menacing telephones and acts of violence on the street-- such as intimidation, assaults, defamation, etc.-- were obviously criminal acts punishable by law. Hong Jong Su has urged the authorities to take measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. He played a leading role in organizing "the committee to investigate violations of the human rights of Korean students in Japan" in 1998. "There are lots of cases in which middle-aged men say abusive words and do violence to girl students. It is an unforgivable act to find an outlet for one's anger in helpless children,"

Hong said.

Pointing to the fact that the social background to the recent incidents should be found in the Japanese government's failure to fulfill the UN treaties concerning human rights and the failure to give correct education in history in Japan, Hong Jong Su warned that the persecution of Koreans will be repeated, unless the Japanese overcome these problems.

The Peace Boat, a Japanese NGO, protested attacks on and harassment of Koreans, which have often occurred in Japan in a hysterical anti-Korean atmosphere, since the shocking news on the DPRK's admission of the abduction of Japanese citizens. On September 19, the Japanese civic group held a street speech meeting and distributed handbills in Shinjuku, Tokyo, urging people to stop attacks against Korean residents in Japan.

Attack and Blackmail on Korean Residents in Japan

Here we introduce a date-wise summary of main anti-Korean incidents, which occurred between September 17 and October 10.

and one of them threw a packet of cigarettes at her.

September 21

Osaka-- Schoolgirls of the Higashi Osaka Korean Middle School suffered from abusive words by Japanese students, "Koreans, Go home!"

September 22

Nagano-- A middle-aged man threw a stone at a fourth-grade pupil of the Nagano Korean Elementary and Middle School, who was riding a bicycle.

October 4

Tokyo-- A man made a threatening telephone call to the Central Headquarters of Chongryun. (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), saying, "I have kidnapped a girl wearing a chima jogori."

October 10

Tokyo-- Korea University received a threatening telephone call which said, "I have planted a bomb in a lady's washroom in your university."

September 18

Saitama-- A middle-aged Japanese man said to a fourth-grade girl of the Saitama Korean Elementary and Middle School, "You are a Korean, aren't you. I will hurt you."

Tokyo-- A Japanese man in the 20s phoned Tokyo Korean School No. 8, saying, "Don't speak Korean! I will overthrow your country. Go back to Korea if you don't like Japanese."

Hyogo-- Some Japanese high school students walked up to a girl student of the Osaka Korean High School and said, "We will kidnap you!"

September 19

Osaka-- Three Japanese high school students asked a girl student of the Higashi Osaka Korean Middle School, "Are you a Korean?" She said, "Yes," and then one of them kicked her on the calf of her leg.

Five Japanese high school students used abusive words to a girl student of the Higashi Osaka Korean Middle School

USFK, GIs Continue Causing Troubles

By Staff Reporter

While the truth about the June 13 killing of South Korean teenagers by a GI-driven armored vehicle has yet to be fully disclosed, a number of the USFK-involved incidents have occurred in South Korea since then to fuel South Korean citizens' simmering anger. They include two car accidents, which killed a Korean male driver and injured a Korean woman, respectively; a U.S. submarine's collision with a Korean fishing boat in the West Sea of Korea; a U.S. attack helicopter crash; and oil contamination by a U.S. base in Yongsan.

Vehicle of 2nd Division Again

In midnight on September 16, another shock came as a Korean man, this time an adult, was killed in a car crash with a delivery trailer assigned to an air brigade of the 2nd Division of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), an armored vehicle of which division had crushed two Korean junior high school girls to death three months before. Moreover, it was only four kilometers away from the scene where the two Korean teenagers were killed that another Korean fell victim.

According to "Ohmynews," an Internet news site, the new victim was identified as Mr. Park Seung Joo, 36, a restaurant's owner. The crash occurred on a road some 500 meters away from Park's restaurant.

The USFK and South Korean local police temporarily assumed that his car had crossed the center line to crash with the USFK trailer running on the opposite lane. However, the bereaved family dismissed it. "It is a total frame-up," said Cho Han Jo, Park's brother-in-law who visited the exact spot where the crash had occurred. The fact is that the road was 6.3 meters wide while the trailer was 18.8 meters long and over four meters wide with its freight jutting out one meter from both sides. This shows, he observed, that the U.S. military vehicle had been violating the opposite lane over the center line. And it had damaged another car by hitting it before it crashed with Park's sedan, he added.

"Further investigation is going on," local police said on September 17. The USFK has kept silence ever since. The angry bereaved family's effort to reveal the truth about the incident has been encouraged and shared by social organizations including the national group to address the issue of the two killed school girls.

Pedestrian Hit by USFK vehicle 3 days later

Only three days after, September 19, a Korean woman Jung Jeum Sun, 47, was injured after being hit by a military sedan driven by a U.S. soldier on a highway in Taegu, North Kyongsang Province. Ac-

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UN Should Lead Anti-Terror War: DPRK Ambassador

DPRK Opposes All Forms of Terrorism

"It is a primary task for the United Nations to combat all forms of terrorism," said the DPRK ambassador to the international body in his speech at a meeting of the Sixth Committee of the 57th UN General Assembly on October 2. Holding that an "anti-terror war should not be waged to attain the strategic objective of a specific country," apparently referring to the U.S., the North Korean representative stressed that attempts to escalate this war in different parts of the world without any reasonable ground are only rendering the world more unstable.

He blamed the United States for singling out a number of countries as targets of preemptive attack and attempting to carry out even undisguised armed intervention after listing them as members of an "axis of evil" and "terror-sponsoring states" under the pretext of "anti-terror" war to meet its own interests, because this is, in fact, a form of state-sponsored terrorism. He went on to say:

"The anti-terror struggle should be led by the U.N. under any circumstances. It should be strictly based on the purpose and principles of the U.N. Charter.

"The DPRK government follows a consistent stand of opposing all forms of terrorism and any support for it.

"The DPRK will strongly denounce and reject all forms of terrorism including acts

of organizing, supporting, inciting or conspiring at it in the future, too."

He expressed the hope that the meeting would have exhaustive discussions on realistic ways to combat terrorism and reach an agreement on them in line with the aim and principles of the U.N. Charter.

U.S. Should Give Up Hostile Policy

In another speech two days after at the First Committee of the UNGA, the DPRK diplomat referred to the issue of ensuring peace and security in Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula. He said:

"Disarmament should never be unilateral. It should be done on the basis of mutual respect and trust among countries.

"The issue of the Korean Peninsula is a focal point in ensuring world peace and security. Peace and security in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia can be expected only when the United States gives up its hostile policy toward the DPRK, respects its system and sovereignty and develops its relationship with the DPRK on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

"It is the stand of the DPRK to newly formulate and develop the DPRK-U.S. relations in the new century. If the U.S. administration intends to withdraw its hostile policy toward the DPRK, we will settle through dialogue the matter of U.S. concern over its security," he concluded.

*Asian Games***(Continued from page 1)**

Pak Myong Chol, President of the DPRK National Olympic Committee, and delegates of sports delegations from Asian countries and regions, also attended the opening ceremony.

About 700 Chongryun-affiliated Koreans living in Japan visited Pusan to see the reconciliation and unity of north and south Korea in the Asian Games and cheer their athletes.

Meanwhile, north Korea's passenger ship entered a south Korean port for the first time. The "Mangyongbong-92," a north Korea's ship which goes plies between Niigata and Wonsan, carried north Korean athletes, cheering party and officials concerned to Pusan and was utilized as temporary accommodations for them.

*Travel Note***(Continued from page 2)**

I wondered how long the train ran. When I looked out from the window, it was getting darker and darker. In the evening on the first day, a beautiful scene of well-tended fields spread far and wide as far as the eye could reach. And the ears of rice plants and the sky at sunset matched well, looking just like a beautiful picture.

Then, I felt that I had once seen a scene like that. And that was when I visited south Korea to cover Korean residents affiliated to Chongryun(The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) visiting their native places in South Korea. At that time, I went to Pusan from Seoul. Once out of the city, nature was almost the same in both of Korea. Our country had been one coun-

*U.S. Forces in Korea***(Continued from page 3)**

According to a USFK source, Jung was running across the highway on a crosswalk when she was struck. She suffered the fractured vertebrae, abrasions and bruises. The unit commander and the driver belonging to U.S. Taegu Air Base visited Mrs. Jung in a local hospital and "expressed their sympathies over the accident" and "apologized for it," the source said. "The accident is under investigation by the Korean National Police and U.S. military authorities," it added.

US Submarine Hits Fishing Boat

Then came a Korean version of the "Ehime Maru" incident in which the fishery training vessel of Japan was rammed

try for a long time. This was a fact I knew well. But the natural scene I saw from the window made me realize it keenly again.

After we arrived at Hyesan, we left for Mt. Paektu. The sacred fire, taken on Mt. Paektu on September 6, was carried across South Korea over Mt. Kumgang. The national team of the north and the south did participate in an entrance procession jointly with one flag at the opening or the closing ceremony in the Pusan Asian Games. An ardent desire for reunification arose anew with the participation of a North Korean cheering party. Ceremonies held to celebrate the start of construction for the connection of road and railway links along the East Sea and the West Sea were held on September 18. The day when trains will run through the north and the south of Korea will come soon. My first trip by train made me feel confident of Korea's reunification.

and sunk by a U.S. submarine off Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in February 2001. It was in the West Sea of Korea(Yellow Sea) that a South Korean fishing boat was hit by a U.S. submarine on October 2. According to the U.S. Seventh Fleet, at the time of the crash, the 6,900-ton submarine USS Helena was exercising with the South Korean Navy. The submarine reportedly collided with one of the two fishing boats while it was surfacing, but "no serious damage" resulted. However, no further information regarding the collision has been released by the U.S. side since then.

"Apache" Chopper Crashes

Earlier, on August 1 night, a U.S. attack helicopter crashed in a rural area east of Unchon, about 40 km northeast of Seoul. The chopper was identified as an AH-64D Apache Longbow, assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. It was "on a routine training flight when it crashed in an unpopulated area. Neither the pilot nor the co-pilot were injured. There were no reports of injuries or damage on the ground," a news release of the USFK said.

Oil contamination in U.S. base

Oil contamination of the underground water and soil at the main U.S. military compound in Yongsan, Seoul, has reached a serious level, "Green Korea United," a South Korean environmental activists' group said on October 7. According to the GKU, which has conducted constant inspections of the contamination issue caused by the U.S. Yongsan Base since 2000, soil samples it took from several locations in

Yongsan Garrison contained petroleum elements that exceeded environmental standards--8,638 milligrams per kilogram compared to the 5,000 milligrams standard set by the Environment Ministry of South Korea. The group said that thousands of tons of earth were soaked with oil and the land was beyond restoration. The problem was discovered during the work to renovate GIs' quarters and update the heating systems.

In July, Seoul City and USFK admitted that there was such widespread contamination. However, a growing suspicion has been raised that the U.S. military base may be the source of oil found in manholes and water tanks at nearby Noksapyeong Subway Station. The GKU referred to high possibilities that the oil that has flowed from oil tanks has permeated the soil over the years and resulted in the contamination. It also said that the only proper treatment would be incineration. The major impediment lying in the way is the discriminative "Status of Forces Agreement(SOFA)" between Washington and Seoul. Stressing that the oil leakage is a clear violation of Korean oil protection laws, the GKU has called upon the USFK to take the responsibility for the serious environmental destruction, and upon the South Korean government to designate the U.S. base in Yongsan as a "special measure area to address soil contamination."

In retrospect, in July 2000, the fact was revealed by the GKU that the U.S. base in Yongsan had poured illegally 480 bottles of formaldehyde into the Han River. During the year 2001, oil contamination of the underground water was discovered on several occasions inside the same base and its adjacent areas.

Roundup of Major Events on DPRK

September 2002

1-- General Secretary Kim Jong Il appreciated a performance given by the art squad of the Ryu Kyong Su 105 Tank Division honored with the title of Seoul Guard, that participated in the 29th art festival of KPA servicemen.

2-- Kim Jong Il appreciated a performance given by the art squad of KPA unit No. 762 that took part in the 29th art festival of servicemen.

3-- Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which was headed by its vice-chairman Zhou Tienong, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

3-6-- The 3rd National Magic Festival was held at the Juggling Theatre of the Pyongyang Circus.

4-13-- The 8th Pyongyang Film Festival of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries was held at the Pyongyang International Cinema House.

4-- Kim Jong Il appreciated a friendship concert, hosted by the NDC, at the Mansudae Art Theatre in congratulation of his successful Russia visit.

5-13-- A film market was held at the Yanggakdo International Hotel as part of the 8th Pyongyang Film Festival of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries.

6-- A sacred torch for the 14th Asian Games was lit on Mt Paektu with a due ceremony.

6-8-- The 4th inter-Korean Red Cross meeting was opened in Mt. Kumgang.

7-- The year 2002 north-south football

match for reunification took place in Seoul.

8-- A national meeting was held at the April 25 House of Culture to commemorate the 54th foundation day of the DPRK.

8-13-- The second national sports contest of agricultural workers was held in Pyongyang in commemoration of the 54th birthday of the DPRK.

9-- The 54th National Foundation Day of the DPRK was celebrated.

10-12-- The second inter-Korean government-to-government talks to promote Mt. Kumgang tourism were held at a Kumgang mountain resort.

10-- The Morning-Panda Joint Venture Computer Company was formally established with a due ceremony.

11-- A national farm machine exhibition and a technical innovation presentation were held jointly in Sukchon County, South Phyongan Province.

12-- The SPA of the DPRK published a government ordinance concerning the Sinuiju special administrative region.

12-- DPRK-U.S. general-level talks on opening some parts of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to reconnect east coast railways and roads were held in Panmunjom.

12-- Choe Thae Bok, Chairman of the SPA of the DPRK, met and conversed with a delegation of the French-Korean study group of the French Senate headed by Senator Michele Andre, chairwoman of the study group, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

13-- Kim Jong Il met a delegation of the board of directors of Italy's International Foreign Exchange Financial Group.

13-- The first meeting of the inter-Korean panel on reconnecting rail and road links took place at a Mt. Kumgang resort.

13-18-- The 5th reunion of separated families and relatives of the north and the south of Korea was realized at a Mt. Kumgang resort on the occasion of the Korean autumn festival.

13-- The DPRK cargoship "Unbong" accidentally collided with a large trawler, the "Mandoksan," in the East Sea of Korea.

14-15-- The 6th inter-Korean military working-level talks were held in the portion of the south side in Panmunjom to discuss putting the east and west coastal areas of the DMZ under the control of the north and the south side and providing military guarantee for the project of reconnecting rail and road links between the two sides.

16-17-- The 7th inter-Korean military working-level talks took place in the portions of the north and the south in Panmunjom.

16-18-- An inter-Korean working contact for a joint survey of the Imnam Dam was held at a Mt. Kumgang resort.

17-- Talks between Kim Jong Il and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi were held in Pyongyang. A DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration was published.

17-- The Pyongyang international economic technology and infrastructure exhibition opened at the Three-Revolution Exhibition Hall.

18-- Ceremonies simultaneously took place at Kumgangsang Youth Railway Station in Kosong county and Kaesong Railway Station to mark the start of the project of reconnecting rail and road links in the east and west coastal areas.

20-- Kim Yong Nam met with the leading members, actors and actresses of the symphony orchestra of the South Korean Broadcasting System (KBS); Kim Thae Sik, deputy speaker of the National Assembly of South Korea, and other National Assemblymen.

20-- The symphony orchestra of the KBS gave a performance at the Ponghwa Art Theatre.

21-- A joint concert of symphony orchestras of the north and the south was held at the Ponghwa Art Theatre.

23-- A basic agreement on the development and management of the Sinuiju Special Administrative Region was signed between the DPRK Committee for Promotion of External Economic Cooperation and the Holland Euro-Asia International Import and Export Trade Company.

23-24-- Working-level contacts between representatives of the National Reconciliation Council, the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the Korean Democratic Women's Union and the Korean Women's Association from the north side and the Committee of Youth and Students and the Women's Committee of the Headquarters for Promoting the National Joint Function for 2002 from the south side, took place in Mt. Kumgang.

24-- The Presidium of the SPA of the DPRK appointed Yang Bin as governor of the Sinuiju Special Administrative Region.

26-- Yang Hyog Sop met and had a conversation with a delegation of the National Council of Women of Thailand led by its president, Yuwadee Nimsomboon, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

27-- The State Academy Ensemble of the Ministry of Interior of Russia gave a performance at the April 25 House of Culture.

27-- Kim Yong Nam met with leading members, Ri Mi Ja and other singers of the art troupe of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) of South Korea, led by its president, Kim Jung Bae.

27,29-- The art troupe of the MBC of South Korea gave a performance, named "a Special Art Performance of MBC in Pyongyang in 2002" at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

29-- The 14th Asian Games opened with a due ceremony in Pusan, South Korea.