



National meeting celebrates birthday of Kim Jong Il



PYONGYANG, February 15 (KCNA) -- A national meeting was held at the April 25 House of Culture here Tuesday to celebrate the birthday of leader Kim Jong Il

(February 16). Present there were senior officials of the Workers' Party of Korea, the state and the army, chairpersons of the friendly parties, members of the Cabinet, servicepersons of the Korean People's Army and people from all walks of life.

Also present were congratulatory groups of compatriots from Japan and other parts of the world, overseas Koreans and the chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the National Democratic Front of south Korea.

Diplomatic envoys of different countries in Pyongyang and foreign guests were present there on invitation.

Choe Thae Bok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee,

made a report at the meeting.

The birth of Kim Jong Il in Mt. Paektu was a great fortune for Korea as it brought a bright future of the revolutionary cause of Juche and a great event for the Korean nation, he said, adding that thanks to this day the Korean revolution could win victory after victory through generations, firmly preserving the bloodline of Juche and dynamically steering the advance of the times.

He continued:

Kim Jong Il has developed in depth the Juche idea of President Kim Il Sung and formulated it as a revolutionary philosophy, political philosophy serving the popular masses in their practical struggle to achieve independence. (More on p. 4)

14th international figure-skating festival for Paektusan Cup opens

PYONGYANG, February 16 (KCNA) -- The 14th International Figure-skating Festival for Paektusan Cup opened here to mark the birthday of leader Kim Jong Il. An opening ceremony of the festival took place at the Ice Rink on Tuesday.

Present at the ceremony were Yang Hyong Sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Kim Jung Rin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and

officials concerned. Nam Sung U, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), other overseas Koreans and staff members of foreign embassies here were also present there.

Figure-skaters from the DPRK, China, Russia, Romania, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Switzerland, Ukraine and Chongryon entered the ice rink amid the warm welcome of

the spectators.

Mun Jae Dok, chairman of the Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Commission, in his address said that the festival under way to celebrate the February holiday is a sports festival in praise of a great man as it reflects the unanimous desire and will of humankind to significantly celebrate the birthday of Kim Jong Il.

The festival is an annual event publicly recognized as a sports festival, he noted, warmly welcoming

A little can go a long way

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Scenes from a visit by KFA members to the Kochang Cooperative Farm in July 2004

North Koreans have made tremendous strides in recent years toward economic growth and development, but agricultural stabilization is key to achieving greater prosperity. Unfortunately, North Korea is still challenged by many of the same factors that contributed to the food crisis of the late 1990s. These include:

- ✓ A dearth of arable land
- ✓ Susceptibility to natural disasters, such as droughts and floods
- ✓ The US government's criminal economic embargo

In January of 2005, the North Korean government issued an international appeal for assistance in purchasing fertilizers to increase production of fruits and cereals. The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) is accepting donations to accomplish this goal.

At \$109 per 1,000 kg of fertilizer, your donation will help the Kochang Cooperative Farm, situated in the Chollima District, Nampho Province, acquire the fertilizers necessary to boost crop output. All donations will be delivered to the farm by KFA representatives in October.

Please donate via *PayPal* at <http://www.korea-dpr.com/donation.htm>, or contact Jason LaBouyer at jlabouyer@yandex.ru to send donations by mail. Together, we can make a difference.



Korean Friendship Association

figure-skaters from different countries.

Excellent figure-skaters from the DPRK and various other countries were introduced at the ceremony.

Then it was followed by a group performance of DPRK figure-skaters.

They presented impressive beautiful rhythms, representing the deep reverence of the Korean people and the world progressives for Kim Jong Il and their praises of him.

The ceremony was followed by the first day demonstration performances.

The festival continues.

KFA kicks off fertilizer campaign

THE Korean Friendship Association (KFA) has launched a campaign to raise funds for the acquisition of much-needed fertilizers for the Kochang Cooperative Farm, a state-supported collective farm in Nampho Province.

All individuals are encouraged to contribute a small monetary donation to the KFA campaign, which will conclude in October. At a cost of \$109 for 1,000 kg of fertilizer, the KFA suggests individual donations of \$10.9. Parties interested in donating or volunteering for the campaign are asked to contact KFA International Organization Secretary Jason LaBouyer at jlabouyer@yandex.ru

The issue

The campaign was inspired by a call from the Workers' Party of Korea to increase national cereal production this year. The effort seeks to both alleviate the shortage of fertilizers experienced by the Kochang farm, and to draw global attention to the problems faced by North Korea's agricultural system.

North Korea has experienced significant shortages of food since the early 1990s, when the break-up of the Soviet Union resulted in the loss of North Korea's closest trade partner

and forced the nation to purchase fuel at higher prices on the global market, with hard currency.

Subsequent years of floods and droughts severely hampered North Korea's already strained agricultural system, resulting in a food crisis that lasted from the late 1990s till 2001. The problem has been exacerbated by US trade sanctions that have deprived North Korea of the necessary machinery and equipment to sustain a fully mechanized agricultural system.

Though conditions have improved dramatically in recent years, North Korea remains vulnerable to many of the conditions that caused the severe food shortages of the 1990s in the first place. North Korea's food problems may not be fully resolved until the US abandons its longstanding embargo.

New KFA Official Delegate in South Africa



JUDA Tsotetsi has been appointed the Korean Friendship Association's first official delegate in South Africa. A long-time champion of the DPR of Korea, Komotedi offers great enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of defending the socialist system of the DPRK.

Tsotetsi said he has taken the initiative to play a more active role in the global movement to defend the DPRK in light of the US government's increasing aggression toward the Korean people. "Korea is a unitary state, sovereign and socialist, not attacking any country in

the world, but the US and imperialists speak of Korea as being one of those perceived devil countries," said Tsotetsi.

In addition to demonizing North Korea, as Tsotetsi noted, the US has also worked hard to curb the greatest aspiration of all Koreans, north and south: the cause of national reunification. "All Koreans want the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, yet there is still a stumbling block to that peaceful process, as the US occupies South Korea," said Tsotetsi.

Tsotetsi said he is most attracted to Korea because of its socialist political system based on Juche, or national self-reliance. "I do favor such an ideology because it deals with the creation of a better, free and caring world," said Tsotetsi.

Tsotetsi, an avid reader and soccer player, is married with three daughters and employed as a provincial secretary of the South African Communist Party in Mpumalanga Province. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Mpumalanga Parks Board, and is a member of the advisory panel to the Mpumalanga provincial Minister of housing.

In addition to serving as KFA official delegate in South Africa, Tsotetsi is also president of the Solidarity and Friendship Association with Korean People.

Tsotetsi can be contacted at smthimkhulu@num.org.za

University admissions in North Korea

PYONGYANG, February 21 (KCNA) -- The selection of students for the new academic year is under way at all universities and colleges in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Public attention has been directed to the selection of the university students which is an important issue related with the

future of the country, nation and the revolution.

Anyone who received the universal eleven-year compulsory education is qualified to advance to universities or join the study-while-working system (factory, farm and fishermen's colleges and correspondence courses).

In the DPRK, the universities open the door for graduates from middle schools so that they may realize their hope and develop their talents. And young people who work in economic sectors can apply for an examination at universities they want to study at.

Among the examinees are discharged soldiers.

Each university can select those with distinguished ability and talent for preparatory course.

Under the study-while-working system, working people can study at universities or colleges commensurate with their occupation.

The selection of students will be completed throughout the country before the start of the new academic year on April 1.

Kimjongilia festival closes



PYONGYANG, February 22 (KCNA) -- The 9th Kimjongilia Festival that opened on Feb. 12 on the

occasion of the February holiday closed at the Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Exhibition today with due ceremony. Put on display were 19,000 potted Kimjongilias in exceptionally fuller bloom presented by armed forces organizations, ministries, national institutions, provincial units, servicepersons, working people and school youth and children.

Diplomatic missions of different countries here, missions of

international organizations, the Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of south Korea, scores of friendship and solidarity organizations and individual figures in different countries and overseas Koreans also presented immortal flowers to the festival carrying their sincerity.

The festival venue was visited by senior party, state and army officials, officials of ministries and national institutions, at least 800,000 officers and men of the Korean People's Army, working people and school youth and children, a delegation of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the diplomatic corps, military attaches corps and economic and commercial councilors' corps here and members of delegations and art troupes from at least 100 countries and overseas Koreans staying in the DPRK.

Present at the closing ceremony were Pak Pong Ju, Yang Hyong Sop, Jong Ha Chol, Kwak Pom Gi, Cabinet members, leading officials of ministries, national institutions and working people's organizations, officials concerned, servicepersons, working people and school youth and children.

Diplomas and cups of special prize of the immortal flower were awarded to the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces, Ri Sang Ryol-led unit of the KPA, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Secretariat of the Cabinet which got the highest appreciation at the festival, diplomas of the best prizes of the immortal flower went to 55 units and diplomas of prizes of the same flower to 38 units.

Diplomas of the best prizes and diplomas of prizes of the immortal flower, prizes of merit and gold, silver and bronze medals were conferred upon 22 individual servicepersons, working people and school youth and children and diplomas of the best prizes of the

immortal flower and gold medals went to two Chinese residents in the DPRK.

Kang Nung Su, chairman of the DPRK Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Committee made a closing address.

KFA-China forms trade Company



Pictured: representatives from KFA-China and the Association of Korean Residents in China

KFA-China, in collaboration with the Association of Koreans in China, has created the Jindalai Company to facilitate trade between China and the DPR of Korea. For more information about Jindalai, visit www.dprk-info.com.

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By setting out the Juche philosophy he performed a brilliant ideological and theoretical feat as he established a perfect revolutionary outlook on the world centered on the popular masses, the first of its kind in the human history of the development of progressive philosophy and provided the people with a powerful weapon for the revolutionary struggle for independence and socialism and the training of independent human-beings.

He has carried forward the Songun idea and line set out and consistently embodied by the President and further developed them in depth as required by the times and the revolutionary development, clarifying

from a new angle the idea and theory on the Songun politics.

The tremendous vitality of his revolutionary idea lies in the fact that it scientifically indicates the road to be followed by the times and revolution as it is based on the Juche idea, which crystallizes the popular masses' idea of independence, and takes the Songun idea as its cornerstone.

Kim Jong Il has strengthened the WPK into an invincible militant party leading the Songun revolution and the DPRK into a powerful revolutionary regime based on the Songun politics and consolidated the single-minded unity of the society as firm as a rock.

The reporter called for bringing about an eternal prosperity of the country by dynamically speeding up the general march for the Songun revolution under the slogan "Let the Whole Party and Army and All the People Unite as One in Mind and More Strikingly Demonstrate the Might of Songun!"

He underscored the need for the whole Party and army and all the people to fully apply the idea of attaching importance to the army and military affairs, true to the Songun politics of the WPK, and thus augment the military muscle of the country in every way. It is necessary to effect a fresh revolutionary surge on all fronts of the socialist construction by dynamically speeding up the general march for the Songun revolution and bring about a decisive turn in the economic construction and the improvement of the standard of people's living this year which marks the 60th anniversaries of the WPK and the liberation of the country, the reporter noted, and continued: We should concentrate all efforts on doing farming well this year, build monumental edifices for eternal prosperity and effect an uninterrupted boost in production to translate Kim Jong Il's plan for the building of a great prosperous powerful socialist

nation into a brilliant reality.

We will achieve the historic cause of national reunification at any cost by realizing the three forms of cooperation for national independence, peace against war and reunification and patriotism under the banner of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration provided by Kim Jong Il.

The U.S. administration disclosed its real intention to escalate its policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK. If the U.S. recklessly opts for a war of aggression despite the repeated warning of the DPRK, our army and people will mobilize all potentials, built up pursuant to the Songun politics, and deal merciless crushing blows at the aggressors and achieve a final victory in the confrontation with the U.S.

The National Security Law: heart of South Korean National Socialism

By Zo Sun Il

NOWADAYS Europe talks about the anniversary of the liberation from National Socialism and its extermination camps, while championing the fight against racism and pressing successive generations to remember the holocaust so it will never happen again.

Unfortunately, most people do not know about a similar situation of repression in South Korean society today, aside from brief segments on newscasts showing the regular demonstrations of young students and bloody fighting in the streets of Seoul.

The black hand of a new Fascist Empire seeks to control the world: George Bush and his administration that, working hidden strings, control the life and destiny of South Korea.

Much as when Korea was occupied by the Japanese Empire,

which paid local traitors to help perpetuate its control over their fellow citizens, in the 21st century it is the White House which provides the gold to corrupted South Korean politicians in exchange for their advancing US policy preferences. The most egregious case of late surrounds the dreaded National Security Law (NSL) of South Korea.

The NSL, which effectively institutionalizes anti-communism, follows in the spirit of Nazism, allowing authorities to prosecute, jail and torture anyone that defends the rights of workers, human equality, reunification with the North, and the true independence of Korea—freedom from the national slavery imposed by Uncle Sam.

The NSL's ultimate objective: to silence the voices of Korean patriots and keep forever the division of the Korea peninsula. Thus, the NSL only benefits the economic and socio-political interests of the Yankees, the modern-day "IV Reich" that wants to force all nations and millenary cultures to bow to their life of decadence.

South Korea must raise its voice against its master and immediately abolish the NSL and similar Fascist legislation like the "Law on Coordinating Labor Disputes."

The Chong Wa Dae must immediately release the imprisoned lawmakers of the Democratic Labor Party, a legitimate progressive political group that contributed highly to the South Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, as well as the patriotic members of the Southern Headquarters of Beomminnyon that were recently sent off to languish in prison.

Ri Jong-rin and Kwon Youn-ghil are symbols of the resistance and the hope that, no matter the obstacles, the South Korean fighters will continue their struggle until Korea will be one and the US occupation forces will leave the sacred land of the morning calm.

Special: North Korea's nuclear deterrence



Media and North Korea: fanning the flames of hatred

By Jason LaBouyer

THE most vile, rabid foes of North Korea are not the powers in Washington or Tokyo. Indeed, most of them are of only minimal socio-economic stature, inhabiting the lower rungs of capitalist society. They are the intellectual soldiers of imperialism, the many journalists, “experts” and other anti-communist activists around the world marching onward most faithfully in defense of the US government’s geopolitical ambitions. And their influence over policy and personal perceptions makes them far more dangerous than any fighting force.

Journalists in the US and Japan, the two states most aggressive toward North Korea, have a long and shameful history of rallying the public around their governments’

imperialistic ambitions. In the US, “yellow journalism,” or journalism that exploits, distorts, or exaggerates facts in order to create sensations and attract readers, originated from the efforts of William Randolph Hearst and other journalists to incite hatred of Spain in the 1890s, thereby contributing to the Spanish-American War—one of the US government’s first imperialist acts.

Japanese leaders enjoyed similar support from many of the nation’s most prominent media figures during their bid at imperialist expansion, with such widely circulated newspapers as *Asahi*, *Mainichi* and *Yomiuri* working to rally the Japanese public behind their government’s acts of aggression up through World War II. Indeed, Japan’s vicious deeds across Asia in the early 20th century were carried out with the blessings of Japan’s independent media.

Today, media outlets in the US and Japan have their eyes fixed on North Korea, a country blackened and vilified by global corporate media like few others. But why?

Media have a profound influence on public opinion, and in their constant drive to draw in greater numbers of readers, viewers and listeners, reporters are often compelled to embellish the truth in order to sell a story. The image of a dangerous, fanatical and starving regime in North Korea may be totally divorced from reality, but it sells. And in selling this story, media serve to advance the US government’s hostile agenda toward North Korea. When anti-North Korean propaganda is presented to the public by media, no matter how sensationalistic, the public is much more likely to accept it as truthful. In countries like the US and Japan, as a result, the public is pushed toward supporting the aggressive policies of hardliners.

In Japan, for example, recent widely publicized reports have suggested that 80 percent of Japanese citizens favor sanctions against North

Korea. This should come as little surprise, however, considering that the Japanese public is subjected to a daily diet of egregiously propagandistic media reports that effectively demonize North Korea, conjuring up a wide array of the most baseless suspicions while fanning the flames of hatred sparked by militarists in Japan’s ruling elite. Some Japanese reporters have been particularly keen on exploiting the kidnapping issue in their mission to portray North Korea as a “threat.” Meanwhile, the issue of Japan’s failure to redress its historic crimes and atrocities against the Korean people is quietly swept under the rug.

Media distortions of reality have reached greater heights in the wake of North Korea’s candid revelation of its nuclear capabilities. While North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons can more accurately be explained by the fact that nuclear weapons provide an effective deterrence for all countries against potential aggression by foreign powers, Western reporters, pundits and other “experts” have fashioned their own narrative.

Thus, we hear that North Korea is “holding the world hostage” with its nuclear arsenal, according to *The Economist*. Other reporters contend that the North Korean government is using nuclear weapons to hold its own people hostage, in light of an “impending collapse.” Meanwhile, North Korea is “blackmailing the world” in order to win “more food and energy handouts from the West,” claim other widely circulated papers and newsmagazines, including *Time*, *The New York Times*, and *Newsweek*. A peaceful and rational government reacting to the threat of overtly hostile US policies becomes a “fanatical regime, starving and on the verge of collapse, threatening its neighbors and the world.” When packaged and presented by “experts,” even the most absurd lies, speculation

and rumor can be made to seem reasonable.

Media's depiction of North Korea as a "threat" is problematic in a myriad of ways. One must ignore the overwhelming danger posed by the US nuclear arsenal, which numbers in the thousands, to North Korea and the world at large. One must forget that North Korea has no history of aggression toward other countries; America's history of aggression toward other nations and peoples is extensive and unparalleled. One must disregard that North Korea pledges to use its nuclear arsenal for defensive purposes only; the US is the only country in the world to have ever used nuclear weapons *offensively*. And one must overlook that North Korea has tried for 50 years to conclude a pact of non-aggression with the US, but the US government consistently refuses, instead orchestrating and funding efforts to undermine the North Korean political system. That includes a criminal economic embargo that continues to inflict hardships upon the North Korean people. Who is the real threat?

Korea has right to develop nuclear weapons

By Bahram Pirouz

NORTH Korea has every right to develop nuclear weapons and use them in self-defense. The US propaganda machine is the biggest lie-manufacturing establishment in the world and they have fabricated a negative image of North Korea. But if any nuclear state is a potential threat to the world peace, it is the USA.

The US government believes any nation who refuses to drink Coca Cola and eat unhealthy American junk food, any nation who refuses to accept the filthy American culture,

and the corrupt American style free market economy has no right to exist. The US government wants the young generation of all countries to set the disgusting uneducated pervert drug addict American movie stars and singers as their models. America desires to destroy the economic infrastructure of other countries and make them consumers and buyers of American goods and agricultural products. They want everybody to watch disgusting Hollywood movies.

The American military has shown the world that they are experts in using their weapons against the unarmed civilian people whenever the US soldiers are defeated in the battlefield. In WWII, because they failed to defeat the Japanese army in the Pacific, they used nuclear bombs against Japanese civilians.

This is the unwritten soldier's code of the American Army: When the enemy soldier refuses to give up fighting and you dare not go forward because he is armed, then locate his home and murder his family and loved ones. Civilians can not shoot you back. American war heroes have always earned their medals by murdering civilians, not in the battlefields, as they are supposed to.

In the Korean war General Douglas McArthur, the greatest war criminal of all times, after receiving a humiliating defeat in spite of possessing better weapons, insisted on the use of nuclear bombs against the civilians of Korea and China to satisfy his devilish personal desire to win. If it was not for the fear of igniting the WWIII, the US President would have approved the use of nuclear bombs.

The atrocities of the US military commanders in Vietnam war, in the Pacific war, in the Korean war, and in the war against Germany, the systematic destruction of population centers and mass murder of totally more than 3.2 million civilians in those wars in order to impose capitulation on the other side can not

be hidden in the pages of history books and behind the cheap Hollywood movies depicting heroic actions of the American soldiers.

Nations like North Korea who have fallen victim to hostile invasions in the past, cannot afford to be sitting ducks to arbitrary military advances of their enemies in future. Such nations have to be prepared to defend themselves. Historically, Korea has never invaded other countries, and there is no reason to believe that possession of nuclear weapons by Korea is a threat to any country. On the contrary, the US government with a shameful record of systematically murdering Korean civilians has always been and is a potential threat to Korea. USA is the devil himself.

Self defense and fighting for survival is the instinct of all living creatures. Even the smallest and weakest creature will always fight back when cornered and there is no other alternative. In case of being attacked by USA, Korea should not hesitate to strike back with all her might. I think destruction of a major US city by Korean nuclear weapons will teach the American government a good lesson. American soldiers should not think they can murder civilians of other nations and expect their own loved ones to be safe at home.

Why the DPRK really has nuclear weapons

By Jorge Eduardo Carbajal Castillo

THE government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) recently announced it possesses nuclear weapons for self-defensive purposes, amid hysterical condemnation from the West. But the DPRK government's development of nuclear weapons is indeed a logical course of action due to the permanent threat made by the US to the self-determination of every country around the world. As the

Soviet Union did in 1949, now the people of the DPRK seek for their own safety.

During the years of Cold War, US propaganda drew an elaborate picture of Soviet "crazy leaders" seeking the destruction of American soil, as well as to obliterate all forms of religion, culture and traditions in the globe. In the end, however, this image of Soviet leadership proved grossly inaccurate: Soviet leaders were, on the contrary, rational and risk averse. We must also remember that the US is the only country that has used nuclear weapons, and not for defensive purposes.

Now, the US government and propaganda machine proclaim that the DPRK is governed by irrational leaders who do not worry about their people and the land they love so much. Sound familiar? Much like the Soviet Union of yesteryear, the DPRK is lead by extremely intelligent and very rational people with a strongly developed sense of self-preservation.

In the US, some argue that the DPRK does not understand the concept of deterrence, but exactly the contrary is true. The DPRK has developed nuclear weapons to counter a threat and to protect their country and people; this, indeed, demonstrates a keen comprehension of the deterrence concept.

The DPRK government does not seek to use these weapons against another country, but to assure the nation's survival as a free and sovereign state. As time has shown, deterrence is the only option that the DPRK has left due to failures in the six-party negotiations and continued US hostility.

Nuclear weapons vital for Korean sovereignty

David Hyun Sin

THE US government's view of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea (DPRK) is based on an inaccurate belief that the DPRK is a "rogue" state, which is run by an "unpredictable, isolated and ruthless" leader. It is no surprise, therefore, that in the midst of the nuclear controversy, the US is able to frame the DPRK as a threat. As an American born citizen, however, I believe in the contrary.

First, I believe that the US turned a blind eye toward the vast history of Korea, and has based its shortsighted foreign policy toward the DPRK and Republic of Korea (ROK) on the events that unfolded during the cold war.

For centuries Korea has been victim to countless invasions from overwhelming neighbors, thus, making military might a matter of survival for the Korean nation. I strongly believe that Korea has a legitimate reason to invest heavily on maintaining a strong military, which includes the possession of nuclear weapons. It is a natural to do whatever it takes to maintain readiness and deterrent forces when there are powerful countries in the region and beyond that threaten the Korean people.

After reading much about Korea's history, I have come to the conclusion that no nation, however great, advanced and intimidating will force the Korean people to stand down. History has proven that Korea will stand strong and resolved in the midst of great adversity and overwhelming force.

Furthermore, I do not believe dividing the nation, putting a wedge in between Korea in an attempt to conquer the people will prove an effective strategy. America's hidden motive of being a regional power and establishing a forward operational land based military in the peninsula to counter any Asian threat to its hegemony is transparent, crude, and an outdated method of domination, which all but reflects negatively on a nation that is already loosing it's

image of being a beacon of freedom, benevolence and goodwill. The Soviet "threat" is gone, and China has become a trading partner with the US. There is no legitimate reason for the US to maintain such a vast military in the region. Therefore, I believe the US demonizes the DPRK to justify such a large military presence in the region.

Events that occurred in No Gun Rhee make clearly apparent that America has no interest in the well being of the south Korean people. However, the US propaganda machine has drilled into the minds of south Koreans the false belief that America came to their rescue during the Korean war.

As time passes the truth surfaces, and the younger generation of Koreans has come to the realization that the north Koreans are none other than their brothers. The only people that wish to stifle the progress of Korea are the people that want to keep Koreans divided.

Indeed, unification burns in the hearts of both Koreas, yet America does everything in its power to prevent unification while claiming to honor the vision of a unified Korean peninsula.

Nuclear weapons have leveled off the military playing field, and now the traditional hard-line attitudes that drive US foreign policy can be extremely costly and detrimental. Korea will reunify peacefully, and I believe that it is inevitable that the US honor the desire of the Korean people, and allow them to take their destiny into their own hands. With that said, it is necessary for the US to drop its hard-line stance against the DPRK, and develop a policy of engaging the DPRK in a peaceful, constructive, cooperative and civilized manner.

In short, I believe that history has proven that it is necessary for the survival for the Korean people to possess nuclear weapons so long as

they are used as a deterrent to war and to maintain peace.

Survey



The DPRK recently revealed it possesses nuclear weapons for self-defense purposes. The US government considers that a “threat.” What do you think?

The Revelation of its nuclear capabilities by the DPRK is not a threat as claimed by the US, but self defense. Every country in this world has the right of self-defense.

HC Wong
KFA-Malaysia

Of course the US considers this as a threat: a threat to their aim of world domination. I congratulate the DPRK for having such weapons and fully support their decision to reveal this.

Leanne Lindsay
KFA-Australia

Don't the Korean people have the basic right to choose their own destiny free from interference by outside forces? If these arms are merely an attempt to preserve their freedom to choose their own socio-economic system for the benefit of their people, and they vow to use them only if interfered with, then I say kudos to them.

Elliot Van Korin
KFA-USA

I think the DPRK has a right to possess nuclear weapons to defend itself against bullies who have a track record of trampling on smaller countries for no

legitimate reason. Disarming would just invite an invasion, as we saw in Iraq.

David Sin
KFA-USA

The real threat is the United States. Were it not for North Korea's deterrent force, Bush would try to attack North Korea and make it another territory of the imperialist nation of America. North Korea, as one of the last holdouts for freedom and equality in this world, has every right to defend itself by any means possible.

Kevin Southern
KFA-USA

It is the DPRK that is under threat by the USA, and this since the 50s at least. It is clear that having these weapons is not a "threat" but an effective deterrent, as the DPRK has said. Now the USA cannot attack the DPRK as they did with Iraq.

Alain-Marc Mendaza Vil?
KFA-Spain

I'm very pleased to hear that DPRK has nuclear weapons now. I feel that the US is practicing double standard by condemning the DPRK. Why can't the DPRK have its own weapons for self-defense, especially against the imperialist army of the USA? It's not as if the DPRK is the only country with nuclear weapons.

Tan Kok Wee Clarence
KFA-Singapore

I believe that the DPRK having nuclear weapons is not a direct threat to the USA or the neighboring countries.

Nimer Pardes
KFA-Israel

I do not feel it is a threat towards the United States if the DPRK possesses nuclear weapons. If Pakistan, India, China, Israel, France and Russia have nuclear weapons, then what is the problem with the DPRK having them for their self-defense? It is a good deterrent for the DPRK to have a huge military force and nuclear weapons because this will deter an un-provoked attack by the United States.

The US would get its butt kicked if it ever set foot in the DPRK.

Brandon Harris
KFA-USA

I think it is essential that North Korea has a form of nuclear defense against the US aggressors. Other countries only stand back and watch the US perform these unlawful actions because the US has plenty of money. Once their money runs out, they will be alone and abandoned. Time is running out for the US.

Leon Dyson
KFA-UK

I feel that DPRK possessing nuclear weapons for self-defense is very smart of them. America is a busybody who likes to stick its nose into other people's business. After the Iraq war, they might move on to [North Korea], so building nuclear arms is a good move.

Tan Zhi Hao
KFA-Singapore

I am very glad to hear the DPRK now has an unquestionably powerful method of deterring American aggression. It is not surprising that the Americans consider this a threat. The Americans have long sought to undermine the government of the DPRK, and now that they know attacking the DPRK would amount to sheer folly, they have stepped up their propaganda to make it appear as though the DPRK seeks to destroy America. The American government's lies are plain enough to see, no matter how flowery their speeches may sound.

Sean Burton
KFA-Canada

The Juche philosophy of the DPRK promotes an independent and creating spirit. So, the DPRK decided to create nuclear weapons for self-defense. This is a legitimate decision and it's not a threat. The real threat comes from USA, a nation that attacks, invades and destroys other nations.

Gabriel Lopez de Rojas
KFA-Spain

Why is America not taking itself for a threat? They have nuclear weapons as well. How can you demand from the other party (DPRK) to put away its weapons, while you keep your own? It is clear that America is not creating a good

atmosphere for the six-party talks, so it is only logical that the DPRK will withdraw from these talks.

Steeff Karthaus
KFA-Netherlands

The DPRK must have nuclear weapons in order to protect itself from a possible American invasion. I hope your nuclear bombs are strong enough to burn all the aggressors if they will come.

Oleg Korovin
KFA-Russia

In my opinion every country has the right of self-defense.

Mohammad Arif
KFA-Pakistan

The DPRK has strengthened itself against imperialism by arming itself with nuclear weapons for self-defense. In this sense, the analysis of the US government is 100% accurate. The DPRK possessing nuclear weapons for self-defense is a threat to worldwide imperialism, in particular US imperialism, the system which allows for the decadent standards of living enjoyed by the western world.

Timothy Kerswell
Australia

Every country has its own right and own way to protect its homeland and people; others have no way to blame them.

Danny Chen
KFA-Canada

I do not agree with the US Government. Don't forget, the US also has nuclear weapons.

Berki Tambs
Hungary

It is the unquestionable, unalienable right of a sovereign state to make preparations to defend itself against any perceived threat. The DPRK is merely exercising this right to prepare.

David Schultz
KFA-USA

What nation has used nuclear weapons against another country? What nation has spent billions of dollars on nuclear weapons development? Who was

directly involved in wars and "interventions" in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Libya, Afganistan, Serbia, the Republic of Srpska, and 14 years of terror against the people of Iraq? Who is the real threat, the biggest threat to peace in the world?

Milan Jovicic
KFA-Serbia-Montenegro

Given the proclivity of the neocon thugs now in power in Washington to unilaterally order the invasion of other countries and to threaten any nation which stands in the way of their plan for world domination and control of natural resources, the DPRK's acquiring nuclear weapons is the only logical and prudent response to this threat. Anti-imperialists everywhere wholeheartedly applaud the DPRK's acquisition of nuclear weapons in order to defend itself.

Michael Landis
KFA-USA

I think it is hypocritical for America to find it threatening that North Korea has nuclear weapons. They attacked Iraq without the agreement of the UN but they are complaining that North Korea has nuclear arms and that because of this it is a threat. The only real threat is from America.

Robert Shipman
KFA-USA

Such weapons are the only effective defense for North Korea. We must not forget that America is currently controlled by a bunch of undereducated, narrow-minded religious fanatics.

Tamas Polgar
KFA-Hungary

I firmly believe in nuclear disarmament, but disarmament by everyone, not by just those countries that the United States likes to see disarmed. As long as United States Imperialism is threatening countries like the DPR of Korea, Cuba and Iran, it is justifiable that these countries should take just measures to defend themselves.

Victor Degiovanni
KFA-Malta

It's evident that the actions of the North Korean government are provoked by the ever-growing aggressiveness of the US. This is about the main and essential right of every nation, every people, every man or woman on Earth to choose his own path, his own destiny.

Troushin Pavel
KFA-Russia

Ownership of weapons of mass destruction is not the exclusive right of the US. North Korea has every right to develop whatever weapons it wants, especially with American threats. The only threat to world peace is America. The sooner they realize they are not the world's police the better.

Adam McAteer
KFA-Northern Ireland

If Russia has nuclear weapons, if the USA has nuclear weapons, if Israel, India, Pakistan and China also have nuclear weapons, why can't the DPRK have them?

Trey Wyatt
KFA-Aruba

It would seem that the US administration will only pay attention to those they wish to crush if they know that the nation they are attempting to dominate is capable of defending itself and of striking back. Perhaps this will be the start of sensible discussions, on equal terms, and acceptance by the West that the people of the DPRK have as much right as they do to fulfill their own destiny within the sovereign borders of a united Korea.

James Hill
KFA-UK

The DPRK of course has the right to defend itself against imperialist aggressions such as those of the US. There is no logic in the fact that the country possessing the largest quantity of weapons of mass destruction in the world should have any right to claim the DPRK's nuclear weapons to be a threat. The largest threat to peace and security in the region is the imperialistic presence and threats the US is imposing on the DPRK and the region. I hope the nuclear weapons will act as a powerful deterrent preventing the US from fulfilling its imperialist ambitions.

Per Silvervret
KFA-Sweden

The only threat I can see is the thousands of nukes that are still in the possession of the US. At least with these nuclear weapons in the hands of the DPRK, the USA will think twice before invading the DPRK.

Matthijs Droeghe
KFA-Netherlands

I think that it is right for North Korea to have nuclear weapons for self-defense because America is becoming increasingly hostile to most nations that don't impose a "perfect" American ideal of democracy, one which in my opinion is corrupt and unfair.

Robert Preston
KFA-UK

The threat comes from the imperialists; whilst they have a nuclear arsenal capable of destroying this planet several times over, they talk about non-proliferation. In whose interest is this non-proliferation? It is certainly not for the benefit of all in those in the world who suffer daily from their oppression.

Bart Goossens
KFA-Ghana

The USA feels threatened by anyone who has nuclear weapons; I guess they want to be the only ones with any kind of weapons! They want to be the "super-power" of the world and don't like to be told anything by anyone! They need to get over themselves.

Linda Pou
New Zealand

I believe the DPRK has the right to bear nuclear weapons for the purpose of self-defense, especially against a tyrannical and aggressive country like the USA, which has a history of bombing and invading countries at will.

Anthony Hughes
KFA-Australia

I believe that the DPRK is fully justified in having their weapons, seeing as the US is a very threatening country which has recently indulged in the invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq and now possibly is

making Cuba, Iran and the DPRK its prime targets. The US possesses military weaponry on a dangerously grand scale and has bathed with anticipation over its military "victories" all over the world. So it's utter nonsense to believe that the DPRK, of all countries, is seen as a "threat."

Robin Sanders
KFA-USA

If the US possesses nuclear weapons and opposes any other country in the same position, it constitutes a double standard in their effort of disarmament.

Joanne Lin
KFA-Singapore

I think that if the United States is able to build thousands of deadly nuclear weapons, and bully the world with them, why shouldn't a small country with the evil eye of the United States focused on it be able to build its own nuclear weapons as a deterrent from an attack? North Korea simply does not want to repeat the mistakes of the last four years with the Bush Administration. It is very courageous of North Korea to make an official statement of owning nuclear weapons.

Elias Stahl
KFA-USA

I think that every country that gets nuclear weaponry also gets an insurance policy against US interference. The DPRK's announcement is heartening and reassuring.

Thomas W. Hormby
KFA-USA

The DPRK having its own Nuclear Arsenal for peaceful reasons and self defense will be a good tool to make the US listen to the DPRK and avoid any further confrontation or attack. And as Kim Il Sung said, "a country that is not able to defend itself is a country that will surrender to foreign ideologies and Imperialism."

Amadeu Rubio Padreny
KFA-Spain

The DPRK's decision to arm itself with nuclear weapons is a step it had no option but to take. America's aggressive foreign

policy has pointed its daggers at the country for decades. In order to maintain their right to foster an alternative system to global capital and imperialism, the DPRK must take this step in self-defense to insure that the US's violent agenda does not overcome the country. We must all strive for a world where independent nations do not need to seek nuclear weapons to keep their independence, and peace and justice come before war and profit.

Thomas Hubert
KFA-Canada

It is correct for the DPRK to possess such weapons for self-defense. If the DPRK did not have such weapons, the DPRK would become a victim of the barbaric, cruel, inhumane, senseless and violent system of the US and imperialist forces.

Juda Tsotetsi
KFA-South Africa

The US constructed their Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) even if they never had been threaten by another country before, which means they had plans of using them in offensive wars, and they did. The DPRK, on the other hand, constructed WMD's after they got attacked and threaten by other nations; this means, the DPRK constructed WMD's in defensive purposes. Every time the US has used their WMD's they aimed for civilian targets, killing millions of innocents, to spread fear amongst the world's citizens. The DPRK has never ever attacked another nation, and has never forced anything upon another nation. Now, ask yourselves: who is the real threat to the people of the world?

M. Alexander Pusch
KFA-Sweden

If the US had the chance, it would kill every person it could in North Korea, and think nothing of it. The DPRK must be prepared to defend itself, in whatever way the DPRK sees fit.

Michael Patrick Jackson
KFA-UK

I agree with [North Korea's] obtaining nuclear weapons, to avoid imperialist invasion.

Ulises A. Camino

KFA-Argentina

What "threat"? If the US did not keep sticking their unwanted noses into the affairs of other nations, perhaps the DPRK could spend more of its precious resources on itself instead of having to defend itself against the real evil.

Dominic Taylor
KFA-UK

I think the world will be a safer place as a result of the DPRK having nuclear weapons, since there will be some deterrent against outrageous US behavior.

Ian Mcleod
KFA-Canada

The DPRK can and must possess nuclear weapons as insurance for its own survival. It has been said that you must fight fire with fire. Since the imperialists believe that they can bully countries with their nuclear capabilities, it is only logical that the DPRK even the playing field by obtaining its own nuclear armaments.

Coba Steel
KFA-USA

It is natural for an imperialist state inclined to wage war against the sovereign states to see a socialist state having nuclear weapons as a "threat." This only shows their cowardice. They know that the army of DPRK led by the great commander Kim Jong Il will defeat them.

Mehmet Kara
KFA-Turkey

It comes as no surprise that the US government considers a nuclear armed north Korea a "threat," as it has always considered any country that does not bow down to it a threat. The US government and Christian right are so intent on making the whole world just like the US even if it is bankrupting their country.

Carl Dinunno
KFA-USA

I believe the US government is seeking an excuse to attack the DPRK. President Bush is an extremely hostile man and the DPRK needs nuclear power to ensure

that he will not try to attack. The Dear Leader Kim Jong Il should be praised for his everlasting quest for peace.

Robert R. Smith
KFA-USA

Brilliant Commander of Mt. Paektu



Oil painting by Bjornar Simonsen

PYONGYANG, February 16 (KCNA) -- The Korean people unanimously revere leader Kim Jong Il as a brilliant commander of Mt. Paektu. Mt. Paektu is the ancestral mountain associated with the spirit of the 5,000-year-old Korean nation and the holy mountain of the Korean revolution where Kim Jong Il was born as the lodestar on February 16, 1942, when the victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was visible. It is also a time-honored mountain guaranteeing the future of Korea.

His birth and growth in the mountain as the son of the country gave him opportunities to fully possess qualities needed for a brilliant commander.

The battle field in the deep forest of the mountain where snowstorms were severe was his cradle.

After initiating the work for carrying forward the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese war,

Kim Jong Il led the first group to make a historic visit to revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area in June Juche 45 (1956).

He climbed the mountain in August 1963 and on several other occasions to make a pledge to live always in the spirit of the holy mountain and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche.

In the 1990s when east European socialist countries were collapsing, the imperialists were loudmouthed about the "end of socialism". At that time, he declared that no change would be expected from him and foiled their strategy of blockade against the country with the great Songun politics.

He has also creditably defended socialism in defiance of the strong-arm and high-handed practice of the U.S. imperialists gravely threatening the sovereignty, dignity and vital rights of the Korean nation.

The Korean people, led by him, will surely convert the country into a great prosperous powerful nation, undaunted by any trial and difficulties.

Interested in visiting North Korea with the KFA this summer? Space is still available! Visit:

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Lodestar is a bi-monthly publication of the Korean Friendship Association
<http://www.korea-dpr.com/lodestar.htm>

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Reader submissions are encouraged. Lodestar reserves the right to reject or edit the content of submissions on the basis of special limitations, grammar and clarity. Please send all materials to:

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