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March 2004 (Juche 93)

Korean Friendship Association

www.korea-dpr.com

KFA President Featured in Korean Documentary

BARCELONA -- Korean Central Television (KCTV) of the DPRK has honoured KFA president Alejandro Cao de Benos with a short documentary focusing on his activities and creation of the webpage www.korea-dpr.com.

A CD-ROM copy of the report, which has been broadcast across the DPRK several times, was received by Cao as a gift from the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) branch in Pyongyang on 3 March. The 15-minute documentary can be viewed at <http://www.korea-dpr.com/kfapres.htm>.

“As soon as I land in Pyongyang I'm always surrounded by cameras, microphones and interviews,” said Alejandro. “So [several reporters of

Korean Central TV] made a mix of some of my last interviews.”

Alejandro is seen in the film with several senior members of the DPRK Committee on Cultural Affairs with Foreign Countries, of which he is a Special Delegate.

Also included are appearances by Andreas Bousios and Stamos, a cameraman from the National TV of Greece, and Kristian Carter, KFA-UK Communications Secretary.

The film includes clips of Alejandro's visits to many sites around the DPRK, including the famous Miohyang Mountains, Kim Il Sung's native Mangyongdae, and several venues around Pyongyang. One segment features Alejandro at the base of the Tower of Juche,

accompanied by the Chairman and Secretary of the Institute for DPRK Friendship in Peru.

A clip of Alejandro on a high terrace gazing upon a sweeping panorama of Pyongyang was taken atop the Tower of Juche.

Throughout the remainder of the film, he is seen at other noteworthy sights in Pyongyang, including the US spy-ship Pueblo, the Yangakkdo International Hotel, and the Monument of the Three Charters for the Reunification, under which he is seen singing the DPRK patriotic song “No Motherland Without You” before a crowd of about 4,000 Koreans.

DPRK stance on US-provoked nuclear issue



KFA President Alejandro Cao de Benos sent the following letter to Epaminondas Dimitriadis, Editor of OTENET (www.otenet.gr), the primary Internet media information

company in Greece. Dimitriadis requested the DPRK position over the nuclear issue.

The DPRK sticks to its principle that it will not freeze its nuclear power stations as long as the USA will not provide an alternative means to supply electricity to factories, hospitals, et cetera. Moreover, if the USA wants that the DPRK freeze and eventually dismantle our nuclear deterrence, it must provide warranties that it is not going to attack our country. Finally, we demand the exclusion of the DPRK from the US

Survey Question

July 8 marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of the Great Leader Kim Il Sung. What do you feel was most remarkable about the late President's leadership, character or accomplishments?

Please send a brief, two-three lined response by April 16 to:

jlabouver@yandex.ru

Prior survey responses are located on page 5

list of 'terrorist states' and an end to the economic blockade.

So the DPRK asks for simultaneous actions. If the USA provides alternative energy and lets us freely conduct business with other countries, then we shall freeze our nuclear power stations. When they provide us security over a possible US invasion, we shall begin dismantling our nuclear deterrence and allowing international inspections. If they build us an alternative power reactor, we shall stop using our heavy-water nuclear power plants. If they want to sign a definitive peace treaty, we shall welcome all American people to our country and look forward to opening embassies in both countries.

Ours is the most fair and balanced proposition. This solution was already agreed upon by the previous US administration, and a permanent peace was on the way. Unfortunately, Bush destroyed all agreements that were made under Clinton's personal signature. The promise to complete the light-water reactors by 2003 just evaporated, and we have learnt that we cannot trust the word of the USA. Our people suffered a lot under the consequences of the power-shortage from 1994 (when we signed the Geneva agreement) till the present. I personally experienced it *every year*. We remained faithful to our compromise and cancelled our nuclear power programme, while the USA waited, believing that the DPRK would eventually collapse.

The policy of the USA is analogous to a hooligan with weapons knocking on the door of a house and asking to enter, while the home-owner knows that this hooligan already launched dozens of bombs upon his house per square kilometer fifty years ago. His reaction will logically be the following demand: first disarm yourself, then later I shall let you enter in my home.

Since President Bush regards the DPRK as part of an 'Axis of Evil' and 'Target of Preemptive nuclear strike', we shall not remain as mere spectators, but take the firm determination of building up our defense to avoid a future invasion. And we know that, thanks to our Nuclear Deterrence and three-stage missiles that can reach US territory, North Korea has not and will not be invaded.



Our launching of the artificial satellite Kwangmyongsong in 1998 was not only to demonstrate the space-abilities of the DPRK, but to show the USA that the DPRK possesses ICBM. If one puts the trajectory of our space rocket horizontally instead of vertically, one sees that before a single atom touches the Korean land, we can convert the USA into a sea of fire.

The US policy of building a Missile Defense System is useless; we have already developed a new generation of Nodong missiles that can penetrate this system, which has not even been implemented in countries like Japan or Australia.

The nonsensical idea that the DPRK must 'follow Libya's disarm example' will never work. North Korea is a sovereign country and the position of Libya or any other will have no effect at all in the decisions of our Leadership.

Koreans are a very peaceful and friendly people, but we are also very determined and stand tall against those who seek to bully us.

The six party talks in Beijing are indeed bilateral talks between the DPRK and the USA, but we have accommodated the US demand for the presence of other countries to 'save the face' of its empire. We have stated since the beginning that this is a matter between *two*, and the international community is irrelevant. The DPRK will not abandon what it believes is essential for peace and the building of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

We are aware that if Democrats win the next US elections, a more favorable atmosphere will bring us back to the path of friendly negotiation.

KFA endorses Ulan Bator Proposal

BARCELONA -- The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) has endorsed the 16 February Ulan Bator joint proposal. The KFA statement of support was signed in Barcelona, Spain, on 15 March 2004 (Juche 93) by Alejandro Cao de Benos, President of the Korean Friendship Association and Delegate Counselor of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFS).

The Ulan Bator proposal involves a consortium of Mongolian organizations, kindergartens and companies, including the Mongol-Korea Friendship Society, the Mongol- Mt. Paektu Association, the Mongol- Ober Kan-gaido Aimag Kim Il Sung Kindergarten, the Mongol Darkan-Uul Aimag Kim Jong Il Kindergarten, the Mongol Ulan Bator City Kim Jong Suk Kindergarten, and the Production Service Limited Liability Company. The Ulan Bator Proposal is an alliance of activists and friends of the DPRK who call upon the international community to support a "Meeting to Prize the Three Generals of Mt. Baektu" at the former secret camp on Mt. Baektu in 2005, the year

marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea and the 60th anniversary of Korean liberation.

In addition, the proposal calls for the erection of monuments depicting the images of the Three Generals of Mt. Bektu in the former secret camp on Mt. Bektu, while supporting all steps to implement the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration. The KFA has had the honour of sharing DPRK solidarity activities with the directors of the mentioned kindergartens. In the past, they provided sincere, invaluable help by accepting Korean children to protect them from the bombings of American imperialism.

The KFA has pledged vigorous activities to support this special event, including preparations to organize an International Delegation that will travel to Bektusan to participate in this most important date for the Korean peninsula. The KFA further proposed that this meeting not only be a foreign gathering, but that representatives of all strata share the inauguration of such a symbolic creation.

The KFA specifically made a call for the presence of delegates from the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the DPRK Children's Union, the Kim Il Sung Youth Socialist League, the Worker's Party of Korea, the Air Force, Navy and Infantry of the Korean People's Army and the National Democratic Front of South Korea. The KFA also requested that the music band of the Ministry of People's Security perform the Songs of Generalissimo Kim Il Sung and Marshal Kim Jong Il, which would be sung together by all the participants to symbolize their solidarity and monolithic union around the DPRK Leaders, as well as the international admiration and deep respect for the Three Generals.

"A man who dreads trials and difficulties cannot become a revolutionary." ~Kim Jong Il

DPRK Q & A



In an effort to address the concerns of our members and confront many of the rumors and lies spread throughout the media by self-proclaimed "experts," neo-liberal fanatics and Pentagon war-hawks, we provide the following answers to some of the most prevalent questions relayed to the Korean Friendship Association about modern North Korea.

Q: Are frequent news reports that describe North Korea as "famine-stricken" accurate?

A: Absolutely not. North Korea's food problem traces its origins to the disintegration of COMECON and the loss of most all of its trade partners in the early 1990s. The problem was aggravated by certain developments in the late 1990s, when catastrophic floods and a prolonged drought compounded the damaging impact of US economic blockade, which is the real source of North Korea's woes. The scarce availability of fuel resulting from sanctions has taken a heavy toll on North Korea's highly mechanized agricultural system, which has had to rely increasingly on manual labor to feed a population of 23 million.

Through prompt, effective mobilization, vast land-realignment projects and an efficient collectivized agricultural program, North Korea has managed to restore crop yields to their pre-crisis levels, thus resolving the food shortage for the present

time. However, medical aid is still needed in anticipation of future crises, whether natural or US-policy induced.

Q: Is North Korea's economy truly "moribund"?

A: The loss of North Korea's allies and trading partners in the early 1990s had a tremendous impact on North Korean industry. For the first time, North Korea had to purchase supplies and commodities with hard-currency while enduring the loss of imports at "friendship" prices.

North Koreans now faces the task of reconfiguring their economy to function in accordance with the global market and its instability. However, North Korea's economy has far from "collapsed." Automobiles, electric locomotives, televisions, textiles, consumer electronics and computer software are all produced in North Korea, exported, and renowned for their quality.

While North Korea's economy will never be totally self-reliant, it is largely self-sustaining. This is the product of North Korea's unique *Juche* ideology, which stresses the importance of national independence and the construction of socialism according to a nation's unique circumstances and culture. In spite of a steady increase in mutual economic projects and industrial ventures between North Korea and foreign firms, the long-standing US embargo presents a serious obstacle to North Korean economic development.

Q: Are claims of North Korean human rights abuses valid?

A: No. Consider the sources! Most reports alleging human right violations in North Korea come from a scant number of fake defectors who are often subject to a lengthy process of interrogation upon their arrival in

Japan or South Korea. The pressure exerted upon these highly vulnerable individuals is likely to elicit all sorts of statements, as will bribes. Likewise, accounts from purported “eye-witnesses” who have visited North Korea for various reasons are bogus, as foreigners, for security concerns, are not granted free travel in North Korea. In reality, the highly publicized reports churned out by so-called “human rights groups” and other NGOs are founded solely upon rumor and hearsay, are sometimes fabricated, and are always conveniently unverifiable. Christian organizations, rightist foundations or governmental sources with a particular anti-communist agenda finance most such groups. What “Human Rights Watch” and “Amnesty International” do not tell you is that Articles 67 and 68 of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK stipulate that citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of demonstration and of religion and that all citizens are provided with independent rights, vital rights, as well as rights of equality and development.

Q: Do North Koreans live in abject poverty?

A: By global standards, North Koreans actually have quite a high standard of living. Free education, universal healthcare, guaranteed housing and employment, as well as an advanced social-welfare network might be incomprehensible to the citizens of some industrial powers, but are a reality for all North Koreans. In the worst years of the “Arduous March”, the period of the late 1990’s coinciding with several natural disasters and economic setbacks, North Koreans still benefited from these provisions and an extensive distribution network, having vital living necessities such as food and clothing provided by the

state. Indeed, foreign visitors to North Korea are often struck by a sense of modernity, cleanliness, and social harmony. Illiteracy, joblessness, homelessness and prostitution are as alien to North Koreans as a palm-tree on the moon.

Q: Why did North Korea breach the Agreed Framework of the 1994 Geneva Convention and pursue a nuclear development program?

A: North Korea is guilty of violating the 1994 Agreed Framework only insofar as it responded in kind to the US government’s refusal to abide by its share of the bargain: the completion of two light-water nuclear reactors by 2003, and the delivery of crude oil shipments monthly to compensate for the hardships posed by North Korea abandoning its nuclear energy program. In the decade following the Geneva Convention, North Korea has faced serious challenges to its economic development from the US government’s unwillingness to fulfill its promises. As the Clinton Administration failed to earmark sufficient funds from Congress, construction of the reactors began only last year. Even before the Bush Administration’s suspension of the reactors’ construction, the project would not be completed before 2009.

The energy shortage plaguing North Korea as a result of its friendly gestures and willingness to accommodate the wishes of the US and other belligerent powers has been felt in all aspects of North Korean society. From stifled production to fuel rations, the Korean people can trace many of their present hardships to the very fact that the US reneged on its end of the deal. Therefore, the North Korean government has taken initiative to improve its people’s standard of living by reactivating the nation’s graphite-moderated nuclear energy program, with the intent of

providing much-needed electricity for industry, public facilities and homes.

Q: Does North Korea have nuclear weapons?

A: North Korea has developed a nuclear deterrent. That means that North Korea has the expertise and resources to produce nuclear weapons, as well as the missile technology to deliver them to all corners of the globe. This measure is entirely resultant of the Bush Administration’s belligerent foreign policy and unilateral ambitions, which pose a serious threat to North Korea as it has been singled out for preemptive nuclear attack and labeled part of an “Axis of Evil.” North Korea is committed to peace and nuclear disarmament, and has expressed a willingness to verifiably dismantle its nuclear program in return for a pact of non-aggression and economic aid to compensate for the repercussions of the US government’s policies. However, North Korea is fully entitled to protect itself, and will not be compelled to dismantle its nuclear program before the US extends a genuine, substantive overture of peace and abandons its conspicuously hostile policy.

Q: Is North Korea a dictatorship?

A: Not by any objective standard. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a multi-party Socialist Democracy governed by a unicameral legislature, the Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA). North Korea’s top post, Chairman of the National Defense Committee, is the position occupied by Kim Jong Il and is subject to election by popular vote. Contrary to common belief, North Korea is not a one-party state. Two additional political parties coexist with the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK), including the

Chondoist Chongu Party and the Social Democratic Party. Both parties, though small, are represented in the SPA. The WPK is supported by the overwhelming majority of DPRK citizens, giving North Korea's political system a degree of legitimacy rarely paralleled in other countries. North Koreans enjoy universal suffrage at 17.

Koguryo heritages to be registered on World Heritage List



The following article is courtesy of the People's Korea (www.korea-np.co.jp)

The project to register historical heritages of the DPRK on the World Heritage List is being promoted actively in the DPRK.

The DPRK, which had joined the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in October 1998, recommended 63 Koguryo heritages such as the Tomb of King Dongmyong, Kangso Tomb No.3, Tokfung-ri Tomb, Susan-ri Tomb to be listed as world's cultural heritages. This work was started in May 2000 and now there are bright prospects for the Koguryo heritages to be registered on the World Heritage List at the general assembly of the 28th World Heritage Committee (WHC), which will be held in China this June. The problem of registration of Kyoguryo heritages on the world's cultural heritage list was discussed at the general assembly of the 27th

WHC which was held in June last year, but its registration was not approved because of "various related problems" according to a staff of the DPRK Preservation and Administration Bureau of Culture. After that, the DPRK presented additional documents to ICOMOS. Then, an ICOMOS expert meeting of the world's cultural heritages investigated heritages such as Koguryo heritages of the DPRK for registration on the world's cultural heritage list in this January.

As a result, the meeting decided to recommend the Koguryo heritages for registration on the World Heritage List. The Preservation and Administration Bureau of Culture under the DPRK Culture Ministry is engaged in the administration of historical relics and heritages in the DPRK. From February 2002, the Preservation and Administration Bureau of culture reorganized the preservation bureau into an independent organization.

The leading bureau made preparations for application for the registration of the cultural heritages on the World Heritage List within a year and eight months (May 2000-January 2002).

This work was finished comparatively early in spite of the fact that it was its first challenge, Kang Yong Min, 30, a staff of the Preservation and Administration Bureau of Culture who is in charge of the project, said. The application documents consist of photos, maps, ground plans and an administration program. According to Mr. Kang, there were some difficulties in promoting the project, but it has been promoted successfully thanks to the cooperation of Hirayama Ikuo, a prominent Japanese painter and a goodwill ambassador of UNESCO, and of other organizations.

Referring to the significance of the registration, Mr. Kang said, "It is significant to get the heritages recognized globally as common

treasures of the human race. Moreover, the project of preservation of cultural heritages will create opportunities to strengthen worldwide cooperation and partnership."

He said, "Though most world's cultural heritages in other countries are open to tourists as sightseeing spots and are huge income sources, the basic purpose of the registration of historic heritages of the DPRK is to preserve them in good state.

So, we intend to open them not for the general public but only to historians."

The research project of the Koguryo heritages has been developed since the Koguryo laboratory group was organized in the archeology laboratory of the Social Sciences Academy 10 years ago. The History Department of Kim Il Sung University also decided this year to promote a scientific research project to analyze Koguryo history and deepen studies in its history.

Kang stressed that they would have to develop their research project more and more in the future to study our history, including Koguryo history.

NOTICE

Pre-inscription for the 2004 KFA Reunification March is now closed. Those already pre-inscribed must proceed to book their reservations by transferring 240 euro through our booking page, accessible at <http://www.korea-dpr.com/booking.htm>

Only 50 places remain available, and each space will be allotted strictly in order of payment. There is no need to complete the B-05 form. Deadline is 1 April.

The pre-inscription fee will not be returned if cancelled from your side. Fees will be returned if cancelled on our side, always by PAYPAL (www.paypal.com). For more details, please visit: www.korea-dpr.com/kfa2004

Monthly KFA Survey



Pyongyang's abundance of parks, recreational grounds and prize-winning architecture, as well as its stellar urban planning make the DPRK capital a showcase of human ingenuity and engineering prowess. Pyongyang is often recognized as the most beautiful and harmonious city in the world. Which of Pyongyang's many landmark structures do you find most inspiring, and why?

For me the most awesome and powerful piece is the Tower of Juche. Its meaning cannot fail to inspire! Reaching up to the heavens, it's a lasting sign of peace, dignity, pride and strength, a living show of the strength of the world's proletariat and peasantry, which no atom bomb can destroy!

~Paul Cooper
KFA UK

Although there are a very lot of exciting buildings in Pyongyang and the choice is really hard, I choose the Pyongyang Metro. I thought before that the Moscow Metro was the most beautiful in the world, but now I'm sure that Pyongyang's is more beautiful and has no competitors!

~Alexander Shinkarevsky
KFA Israel.

One of the most inspiring sights in Pyongyang is the Tower of the Juche Idea. This physical portrayal of new philosophical thought can be seen in

brave silhouette against a skyline of modern city buildings. Fountains in the river between the Okryu and Taedong Bridges add to the complimentary framing of the Tower, whose entire impact will remain indelibly in the mind of the visitor.

~James Hill
KFA UK

Of Pyongyang's many landmarks, the Grand People's Study House strikes me as the best. Its grand size and beautiful traditional Korean architecture make it stand out among the buildings of Kim Il Sung Square and indeed all of downtown Pyongyang.

~Sean Burton
KFA Canada

I think the Juche Idea Tower is one of the most inspiring landmarks in Pyongyang because of its height and its imposing position on the bank of the River Taedong in the centre of Pyongyang. The red flame torch on top of the tower is indeed highly symbolic of the red rays of Juche spreading over the world. I would also nominate the statue of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il Sung at the Korean Revolution Museum on the Mansu Hill and also the Chollima statue.

~Dermot Hudson
Official Delegate
KFA UK

The Children's Palace at Mangyongdae in Pyongyang is a monument to the DPRK's dedication and paternal love for the nation's youth. Grand in its design, epic in its proportions, it is a testament to the building of the new generation."

~Kristian Carter
Communications Secretary,
KFA UK

Korea - Beacon of Independence

By Craig Manton
KFA Ireland

There can be no doubt now after decades of struggle that the freedom-minded people of Korea, in the north and south, are acting as a beacon of independence in a world succumbing to imperialism. Had the people of the DPRK not been united behind the socialist leadership of the Worker's Party and Kim Il Sung, it is highly probable they would have gone the way of most nations assaulted by imperialism - collapse and collaboration. In the DPRK everyone is raised in the knowledge that they live in a fairer society that is built through collective will. As a result they have survived many crises, most notably the natural disasters. The time-proven philosophy of Korea has growing support in south Korea as well, especially among the youth and poor, who know all too well the croneyism of the right-wing GNP. Korea will not go the way of Iraq, or Japan, or Afghanistan; the DPRK will continue to serve as a reminder to the world that through solidarity and determination it is possible to challenge the imperialist hegemony over the oppressed. Juche sasang-manse!

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and clarity.

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