

**KIM IL SUNG**

**LET US DEVOTE OURSELVES  
TO THE SERVICE FOR THE  
MASSES OF THE PEOPLE**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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## **LET US DEVOTE OURSELVES TO THE SERVICE FOR THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE**

Talk to the Senior Officials of Ryongchon  
County, North Phyongan Province  
*November 29, 1945*

I am glad to see you, on my visit to Sinuiju, and have a talk with you, senior officials of Ryongchon County. I think you have gone to a great deal of trouble to deal with the complex problems in your county.

It is very gratifying that the workers, peasants and other people in this county have turned out with a greater awareness and in more solid unity to build a new country, since the Ryongampho incident.

The recent student disturbance at Ryongampho was caused by the reactionaries. Members of such reactionary organizations as the Koryo Young People's Association and the Students Association held, at the instigation of the reactionary Democratic Party of South Korea, what they called a public lecture to promote nation-building for the purpose of divorcing the Communist Party from the masses. They agitated for mass opposition to the peasants' struggle for the sharecropping system by which tenants get 70 per cent of the harvest and landowners 30 per cent, by slandering and abusing the Communist Party and the trade unions and the peasants' unions, which are under the Party's influence. But their scheme met with the protest and denunciation of the awakened masses at the lecture, and was frustrated. In spite of this, the reactionaries, with the aim of realizing their scheme by hook or by crook, instigated the innocent students to attack the buildings of the county people's committee and the county security station, and then to demonstrate. But the disturbance was immediately ended by the joint efforts of the broad masses, particularly the workers and the peasants.

The whole course of the Ryongampho incident shows that

any reactionary machination can be foiled by the united efforts of the people. You must learn a serious lesson from this student incident, heighten your vigilance against any seditious moves of the reactionaries and firmly unite the masses.

We now have a great deal of work to do. We have to set up a democratic central government, reconstruct the damaged factories, enterprises and educational and cultural institutions quickly, rehabilitate and develop the national economy and culture, and find a solution to the difficult food problem.

A new, democratic Korea can be successfully built only when the broad masses are roused to action. We can build a prosperous, sovereign state quickly only when the people from all walks of life, who truly love their country, their nation and democracy, stand together and work for nation-building.

Officials must acquire a correct style of work in order to energetically mobilize the broad masses for nation-building. Only then can they establish close ties with the broad sections of the masses and rally them. You should know that the reactionaries can hatch a plot by taking advantage of a wrong work style of officials.

Our officials are not bureaucrats but the people's faithful servants. They must, before all else, respect the people and devotedly serve their interests and happiness.

On my visit to Sinuiju and here in Ryongchon County, I have found that some officials often infringed on the people's interests. Security officers here are said to have arrested and beaten some people because they had made some minor mistakes. They have made a very serious mistake. Beating people was an inhuman practice of the Japanese imperialist police in the past. They arrested innocent Koreans at random, rattling their sabres, and tortured them brutally, resorting to every manner of

violence. That was why the Korean people were afraid even of passing by the Japanese imperialist police stations and substations. What will the people think of the security officers if they are threatened or beaten even now when the country has been liberated? Probably they will think that our security officers are no different from the Japanese imperialist police, so they will certainly not follow our Party.

We must mete out severe punishment to reactionaries who obstruct the building of a new Korea, but we must protect the people's human rights, their lives and property in every possible way. However, some security officers in Sinuiju confiscated the property of traders and entrepreneurs and of those who had served the Japanese imperialist institutions, as "enemy property." In Ryongchon County security officers attempted to take over a school building as their office building. How dare they behave so badly? On the contrary, they should have offered their office building to the students if it was for their education. Judging from your attempt to take the school building by force for their office, it is clear that the security officers do not have the spirit needed to serve the people. Taking advantage of this, the reactionaries spread a false rumour that the Communist Party was taking the school building from the students to isolate the Party from the masses, fanned the unenlightened students into unrest and instigated them to go to extremes.

Our officials must learn a serious lesson from this incident, refrain from any encroachment upon the people's interests and resolutely combat such a practice.

If they put on airs and behave arrogantly, as if they were officials of a feudal regime, and feather their own nests, blinded by greed for wealth, the officials cannot mix with the people or

work successfully among the masses of all strata. Wherever they are and whatever they do, they must lead a frugal, simple life, learn humbly from the masses and behave politely. They must be honest and clean in and out of work.

Officials must go among the masses and deal with all matters, relying on them.

Our Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army defeated the Japanese imperialists because it maintained inseparable ties with the masses and received unqualified support and assistance from them. It was not accidental that rumour had it that we were employing the art of shortening distance. Such a legendary tale originated from the fact that the guerrillas had always maintained unbreakable ties with the masses and fought, relying on them. The Japanese imperialists used to detect our whereabouts through their secret agents and sent their army and police forces stealthily to attack us. But the people always let us know beforehand how many enemy troops were coming to attack us from where and to which alley. When we received information about enemy movements from the people, we would hold a meeting of unit commanders immediately and plan the combat in detail and then lie in ambush at vantage points on their way and take them by surprise or, when necessary, would vanish into thin air. So the enemy were either destroyed or moved about in vain, even though they had bragged that they would "wipe out" the guerrillas. Not knowing that we were employing elusive tactics in close touch with the people, and with their assistance, the Japanese imperialists complained that the guerrillas were shortening distance, now being everywhere and again nowhere. It is a fact that a man cannot be everywhere or nowhere or compress distance. If we had ever compressed distance, that would have been the work of the masses.

Public security work can also be successful only when it is done with the support of the masses. The public security officers over here are said to have spoken with the peasants about the need to combat the landlords and other reactionaries. You have done a very good job in that. Our people, who had never approached policemen for fear of them during the Japanese imperialist rule, must be very pleased, if they converse face to face with the senior officers of the county public security station, saying that the world has changed, and they will give you active assistance in your work.

Officials must not yield to difficulties but know how to overcome them by their own efforts.

You will encounter many difficulties in the course of nation-building. If you yield to them or want someone else to remove them for you, you will be unable to do anything. If you are willing to overcome the difficulties on your own without hesitation, you will find a solution to any problem.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle we were beset with many hardships. But we never gave way to them; we faced them with an unbreakable spirit. One of the knottiest problems we had when we started the armed struggle was to obtain weapons. We solved this problem on our own by relying on the masses.

In order to acquire a correct style of work and mobilize the masses in nation-building, you must firmly arm yourselves with the Marxist-Leninist ideology. One of the main factors in our victory in the long-drawn-out war against the Japanese imperialists in difficult circumstances was that the guerrillas were armed with the Marxist-Leninist ideology and fought with an unshakable confidence in victory. You must always strive to arm yourselves with the advanced Marxist-Leninist ideology.

I wish I could talk a little more spending a night with you, as you would like me to, but I have to leave you soon; I have an appointment to meet people elsewhere tomorrow.

I hope you will work responsibly and enjoy good health.