

KIM JONG IL

**LET US HIGHLY DISPLAY
THE KOREAN-NATION-
FIRST SPIRIT**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Speech Addressed to the Senior Officials of the Central
Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea

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Today our people take immense pride and confidence in the prospering socialist country where they live and work. They strongly feel the greatness of our nation through their actual lives and are greatly proud of having been born into the Korean nation. Seeing our reality, our foreign friends also say that the Korean nation is excellent, and they envy us greatly. It is natural that our people have the Korean-nation-first spirit.

Some people, however, do not have a correct understanding of the Korean-nation-first principle. They think that technological progress alone is a matter of national pride, but that is only one aspect of it. Any nation may have some individual fields of which they can be proud. Some nations take pride in their beautiful land, and some nations in their ancient culture. However, you cannot say that pride in some individual fields can be the source of honour as the most advanced of nations. A nation, to be honoured as the most advanced, must achieve distinguished successes in the basic field of social life and in many other sectors. Our Party has proposed the task of stepping up the education of Party members and other working people in the Korean-nation-first principle on the basis of their noble ideological and mental qualities and the great success made in the building of socialism, which are recognized by people around the world.

By the Korean-nation-first spirit I mean, in short, the pride and confidence that emanate from the greatness of the Korean nation, the noble thoughts and feelings that find expression in the strong determination and will to brighten the greatness of the Korean nation.

The excellence of our nation that we emphasize has nothing in common with racism or national chauvinism.

We do not assert that the Koreans' biological constitution is more developed than those of other races. Defining the superiority of a nation according to biological or ethnic characteristics is the practice of reactionary, bourgeois ethnology. Arguing that national characteristics are defined by racial characteristics, bourgeois ethnologists classify people according to skin colours, namely white people as a "higher race" and coloured people as a "lower race". They say that only a "higher race" can create advanced civilization. The reactionary ethnological doctrine has been used by imperialists as an ideological instrument for their policy of racial discrimination and obliteration of nations. Imperialists still use the bourgeois ethnological doctrine as an instrument to justify their domination over other nations, to spread national nihilism, the idea of subservience to great powers and the idea of dependence on foreign forces among the people of colonial, dependent countries and the people of the third world, and to obstruct their national independence and independent development. Fundamentally speaking, there can be no "higher race" or "lower race". All the races are endowed with creative intelligence and ability. The low level of civilization of nations under colonial subjugation in the past is not due to any inborn inability, but is the consequence of the imperialists' predatory policy and their policy of keeping colonial people in ignorance. The people of the third world, who were despised by the imperialists as a "lower race", have now become the masters of their destiny, are making brilliant successes in the creation of a new life and are steadily raising the level of their civilization. By contrast, in the United States, where the white people who claimed to be the most developed race make up the overwhelming majority of her population, illiterate people are daily growing in number and their intellectual level is gradually dropping. The fact patently proves the fallacy of the

bourgeois ethnological doctrine.

Our country has neither a large population nor a large territory, nor is it an economic power. There is no reason for us to look down upon other nations or reject them. National chauvinism is a reactionary idea of the exploiting class and the imperialists.

Reactionary racism and national chauvinism, which were used by imperialists as their ideological instrument for aggression and domination, have been categorically rejected by progressive humanity. The Japanese imperialists, who clamoured for the “mission” of “leadership” over other nations by claiming the “superiority” of the “Yamato race”, and the German fascists, who attempted world domination by advertising the “superiority” of the “Aryan race”, received the judgement of history. In spite of this, the US and other imperialists are still using racism and national chauvinism in justifying their domination and plunder of other nations.

Today the US imperialists have combined the bourgeois ethnological doctrine and national chauvinism with aggressive cosmopolitanism and are using these as an ideological instrument for realizing their ambition for world domination. Cosmopolitanism, which denies the nation-state, the independent national economy and national culture and preaches a “world state”, a “world economy” and a “culture without national identity”, serves to justify the imperialists’ aggression and domination and the exploitation by multinational enterprises. The US imperialists are working viciously to dominate the world and enslave many nations by preaching racism, national chauvinism and cosmopolitanism and cooking up the “supremacy” of the white race and the “leading role” of the United States in the world.

Our nation-first principle, which is thoroughly opposed to

reactionary racism, national chauvinism and cosmopolitanism, not only values the good traits of different nations, but also respect the independence of other nations. What we are opposed to is not the pride various nations take in their excellent national traits, but dominationism that ignores them and tramples upon them. Our nation-first spirit is associated with the noble thought and feelings of respect for and trust in other nations.

Since ancient times, our nation has had a strong sense of justice, a love of truth, a value of morality, and a sympathetic, well-mannered and modest nature. Our nation, with these traits, has never invaded another country and never harmed any nation throughout our history. Our nation has fought uncompromisingly against the enemies who infringed upon our sovereignty, but has promoted friendship with the peoples who respected our sovereignty and lived in harmony with them. Especially in the common struggle against imperialism and for the construction of socialism, the Korean communists and other people have fought shoulder to shoulder with other revolutionary peoples, sharing life and death, joy and sorrow, with them. Because it is based on this laudable national character, the Korean-nation-first spirit constitutes a fair and reasonable idea and feeling that precludes any chauvinistic elements.

These fine traits of our nation are now flowering more beautifully on the basis of the Juche idea. The Juche idea is a man-centred idea that puts forward the masses as masters of everything and as the most precious beings in the world and thoroughly champions their independence. The Juche idea is, therefore, fundamentally opposed to misanthropy, chauvinism and dominationism. Because it is based on the Juche idea, which regards man as a most precious being and thoroughly champions the independence of the masses, the Korean-nation-first spirit constitutes a noble idea and feeling that respects the desires of all

nations for independence and their interests.

Today's actual life patently proves that our people's Korean-nation-first spirit is a noble idea and feeling that has nothing in common with national selfishness or national arrogance. Even though they carry out the revolution in difficult conditions in direct confrontation with US imperialism, our people are giving unstinting material and moral support and encouragement to many third-world peoples who strive for independence. They also accord very kind treatment to foreign guests on visits to our country. Foreign friends highly admire our people's sincerity and kindness and express high respect for and trust in our people. All these facts clearly show that our people's Korean-nation-first spirit is a noble idea and feeling that coincides with the feelings of international solidarity and friendship with all the peoples of the world who aspire after independence.

The basis of our people's particular pride and confidence began to take shape a long time ago. Our nation has been creating a fine culture since the dawn of human history. We are a homogeneous nation of the same blood. We are a nation that has lived on the same land, speaking the same language and developing the same culture since ancient times. We are a resourceful nation with a time-honoured history of five thousand years, a refined culture and traditions. We are an intelligent and talented nation that has created excellent material and cultural wealth and shaped our destiny through diligent creative activity.

In the long historical course of independent development, our people have acquired excellent national traits. Our nation's history has witnessed more than one invasion by aggressors who attempted to obliterate our sovereignty and national traits. However, our people have courageously repulsed each of the invading enemies and preserved our national identity. The

Japanese imperialists occupied our country and worked viciously to wipe out everything national in an attempt to assimilate our nation. But they failed.

The revolutionary cause of Juche initiated by the great leader has made an epoch-making change in inheriting, developing and brightening our national traits. The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War waged under his leadership were heroic struggles that demonstrated our nation's resourcefulness. The history of world people's struggle against aggression has witnessed many instances of people defeating a stronger enemy. But no victory has ever been scored against such heavy odds as those which faced our people when they emerged victorious when fighting the Japanese and US imperialists. That is why the people around the world call the Korean people heroic. This fact alone is enough to inspire the Koreans with the pride of being excellent. National traits find expression not only in a decisive battle against an enemy, but also in creative work and construction. Our people's excellent qualities have been demonstrated clearly also in the great history of building a strong socialist state, independent, self-sufficient and capable of self-reliant defence, on the ashes of war and in a short period of time.

Indeed, on the basis of the great successes and victories we have achieved through our heroic struggles and on the strength of our creative resourcefulness, our people can proudly have the thought and feeling of national excellence. Our people can be proud of their nation as the best in the world because they have the great leader, the leadership of the great Party, the great Juche idea and the best socialist system. Today when the masses of the people have emerged as masters of their own destiny, the decisive factor in shaping the nation's destiny lies in the leadership of the Party and the leader given to the nation, the

ideology that guides the nation and social system under which the nation live and work.

The Korean-nation-first spirit reflects our people's pride and confidence in being under the guidance of the great leader. The destiny of the nation, which advances along the road of independence, is shaped by the outstanding leader of the working class. The great leader provides the nation with the guiding ideology, which illumines the correct road to be followed by the nation, builds up the nation's own revolutionary force and leads the nation to carry out the revolution and construction with success. The greatest happiness of our nation lies in receiving the guidance of the great leader. In the past our people were robbed of their national sovereignty and suffered the bitter lot of slavery because we had no outstanding leader. It is only when the masses have a preeminent leader and receive his leadership that they can make up the independent driving force of history and become a great nation capable of shaping their destiny independently and creatively. Under the guidance of respected Comrade †, the great leader whom we acclaimed for the first time in our history of thousands of years, the Korean people were able to usher in a new revolutionary age by putting an end to the long history of suffering, and become an independent people who have shaped their destiny by their own efforts and a glorious people who have set an example in building socialism after defeating two imperialist powers. Our people's great pride and confidence in exalting the honour of national excellence are the pride and confidence in holding the great leader in high esteem as the liberator of the nation and as the genius of creation and construction. Cherishing the national pride and confidence in having the great leader, our people are afire with a firm resolve to remain loyal to the respected leader forever.

Our people's Korean-nation-first spirit is the pride and

confidence in receiving the leadership of the great Party. Because of their intrinsic characters, the revolutionary struggle to realize independence for the masses and the socialist society, of which the masses are masters, needs the leadership of the revolutionary party of the working class. This party is the general staff for the revolution, as well as the guiding force of the society. The leadership of the working-class leader is realized through the working-class party. Therefore, the party's leadership, along with the leader's guidance, is of decisive significance in shaping the nation's destiny. Our Party, which was founded by the great leader, is a Juche-type revolutionary party that is guided by the Juche idea and struggles to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche. Our Party has made imperishable achievements in carrying out the Juche revolutionary cause and enjoys unqualified support from the masses. It is an unconquerable revolutionary party that has achieved steel-like unity and acquired rich experience and seasoned and refined leadership ability. Thanks to our Party, our people have been able to overcome all the trials and advance straight to victory, while safeguarding the nation's dignity and sovereignty through whatever storms. Today our Party members and other working people regard it their highest honour and source of pride to be under the leadership of the great Party and are firmly resolved in their support of the Party's leadership forever.

Our people's Korean-nation-first spirit means the pride and confidence in the great Juche idea. The development of a country and the future of a nation depend on their guiding ideology. Only people who are guided by a great ideology can be a highly proud people who write a great revolutionary history. The Juche idea, which has been evolved by the leader, reflects the requirements of a new historical period when the masses have emerged as masters of their own destiny. It is a great idea that marks the

pinnacle of the revolutionary ideas of the working class. By struggling under the guidance of the Juche idea, our people have overcome the influence of flunkeyism, dogmatism and all other obsolete ideas, highly displayed the spirit of national independence and successfully carried out the revolution and construction through their own efforts and with their own convictions. It is under the guidance of the Juche idea that our people have been able to excellently build socialism without wavering in however complex a situation. With a great honour of having the Juche idea that has opened up a new era of historical progress, our people are strongly determined to brighten this idea further.

Our people's Korean-nation-first spirit represents the pride and confidence in living under the socialist system, which is the best in the world. Under the leadership of the Party and the leader, our people have translated the Juche idea into reality and established the best socialist society and set an example in building socialism. It is our people's greatest pride that they have made our country the "model of socialism". It cannot but be the great pride of our nation that they have built the best of socialism, which mankind has aspired after as their ideal for a long time and for which a large number of revolutionaries have laid down their precious lives. Our people take special pride and confidence and feel special attachment to socialism because they have built it with their own hands and in their own style along the road they have chosen.

As you can see, the Korean-nation-first principle means the pride and confidence we take in living under the best socialist system under the care of the great leader, under the leadership of the great Party and under the guidance of the Juche idea. Under the correct leadership of the Party and the leader, under the guidance of the correct ideology and under the best socialist

system, our nation can exalt its honour highly in all fields of activity. Of course, it is not easy to exalt national honour in all fields for a country like ours, which has the backward heritage of a colonial, semi-feudal society and in which everything was destroyed in war and which is carrying out the revolution and construction in direct confrontation with a formidable imperialist enemy. But the fighting experience of our people, who have built in a short historical period a powerful and civilized socialist state, which is independent, self-sufficient and capable of self-reliant defence, clearly shows that a nation can display its might and exalt its honour in all spheres if it gives full play to the advantages of the socialist system under the guidance of a great leader and a great party and is guided by a correct ideology.

It is important to have self-respect, believing that one's nation is not inferior to other nations. But it is more important to have a determination and will to shape one's destiny better than other nations. We emphasize the Korean-nation-first principle for the purpose of not merely encouraging our people to take pride and confidence in our nation, but also ensuring that they make socialism better through their own efforts and exalt the dignity and honour of the nation higher. If we rest content with today's proud successes, we may lag behind others sooner or later. It is not easy to build up the dignity and honour of the nation. But it is more difficult to preserve them and brighten them further. History shows the fall of many prosperous nations as a consequence of only singing their own praises and the praises of peace.

Refraining from losing heart when backward and from being complacent when advanced is the trait of our people, who are optimistic and diligent. Both in the dark years of Japanese imperialist rule and during the grim Fatherland Liberation War, our people were not dispirited, but courageously fought and

defeated the imperialist aggressors. In the difficult postwar years after everything had been reduced to ashes, our people, instead of feeling discouraged, stood up and struggled to bring about the national prosperity we see today, with a determination to trot ten steps and even a hundred steps ahead to overtake and outstrip others when others were walking one step forward. Our people's will to exalt the honour of the nation finds expression in their struggle to attain a higher objective, not satisfied with the successes they have achieved. Our conditions have now improved beyond compare. But our people are struggling vigorously still in the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu, in the revolutionary spirit of Chollima.

Our people's struggle to make continual innovations and continue to advance, not complacent with victories, is an expression of their high revolutionary awareness to carry out the cause of independence for the masses, the cause of socialism and communism. While carrying out the revolution and construction, our people think not only of today's happiness, but also their historic mission to reunify the country and effect prosperity for all the generations to come, as well as their internationalist duty to hasten the ultimate victory of the cause of independence for humanity.

Having the will to continue the revolution through to the end is all the more important today when a sharp confrontation is taking place between the forces of independence and those of reaction and between socialism and imperialism. The imperialists are scheming to realize their strategy against socialism at any cost by slandering socialism to stamp out the people's faith in socialism. Our people are countering the imperialists' anti-socialist machinations with an unshakable determination to build socialism better with a firm conviction that the socialism of our own style, which embodies the Juche idea, is best. The faith

and will of our people are reflected in the Korean-nation-first spirit emphasized by our Party. Our people's struggle to strengthen, develop and brighten socialism further with pride and confidence that their socialist country is best in the world means a heavy blow against the anti-socialist manoeuvres of the imperialists. Foreign visitors to our country derive confidence in the socialist cause from our socialism, saying that, not capitalism, which is characterized by growing imbalance between the rich and the poor, but the stable and prosperous socialism of the Korean style, which provides everyone with an equitably happy life, free from all worries, is the best in the world. This means that by building an excellent socialism on this land in the Korean-nation-first spirit we have contributed greatly to thwarting the imperialists' manoeuvres against socialism and accelerating the cause of independence for humanity.

With a clear understanding of our Party's purpose and intention of giving full play to the Korean-nation-first spirit today, Party organizations at all levels and officials must intensify the education of Party members and working people in the excellence of the Korean nation so as to exalt the honour of the nation and accelerate the cause of independence for the masses, the cause of socialism and communism.

The most important task in highly displaying the Korean-nation-first spirit is to make sure that all Party members and other working people know clearly the greatness of the Party and the leader and support their leadership with loyalty.

Our nation's greatness stems precisely from the greatness of our leader and our Party. It is only when the Party members and other working people have a clear understanding of the greatness of the Party and the leader that they can take great pride and confidence in working for the revolution under the guidance of the great leader and the great Party and brighten the nation's

honour further.

A great deal is being written about the Party and the leader. But their greatness is not dealt with exhaustively. The history of our people's struggle to build the excellent socialism of our own style and bring about great national prosperity is the history of the leader's revolutionary activities and the history of our Party's struggle. The achievements made by the Party and the leader and recorded on every page of this glorious history are great, without any equal in all periods of history, Eastern and Western. Many books have been written about these achievements. But more still remains to be written. We must write many more books about the imperishable achievements and greatness of the Party and the leader and produce many more works of art and literature dealing with them.

Party organizations and propagandists must publicize the greatness of the Party and the leader in various forms and by varied methods. An important matter in this work is to disseminate every single piece of information effectively, so that it can touch the people's hearts. To this end, every single piece of material about the greatness of the Party and the leader must be made with sincere efforts so as to be convincing and must be explained carefully to suit the people to be educated. Not only the propagandists, but also all other officials, must undertake propaganda work and explain widely the greatness of our leader and our Party by a variety of forms and methods.

Party members and working people feel the greatness of the Party and the leader through both study and practical life. Our people feel their wise leadership, love and consideration warmly in their hearts at the sight of the miraculous successes and innovations being made at the sites of socialist construction and through their day-to-day happy lives. Bearing in mind that making continual innovations in the revolution and construction

and improving the people's standard of living in support of the leadership of the Party and the leader are means of brightening the greatness of the Party and the leader, all officials must thoroughly implement the plans of the Party and the leader.

Brightening the greatness of the Party and the leader is inconceivable apart from the struggle against all unhealthy elements that damage their authority. Today, when the class enemies are directing the spearhead of attack to damage the authority of the Party and the leader in a vicious attempt to destroy socialism, it is all the more important to safeguard and protect their authority. All the officials must, at any time and in any place, keep a vigilant eye on the enemy's moves to impair the authority of the Party and the leader and promptly crush even the smallest element.

The authority of the Party and the leader is impaired more often than not because of the irresponsibility on the part of our officials. We must eliminate the practice of distorting the leader's instructions and the Party's lines and policies in their implementation and all other unhealthy elements that damage their high authority, safeguarding and protecting it in every possible way.

In highly displaying the Korean-nation-first spirit it is important to ensure that the Party members and working people firmly equip themselves with the Juche idea and Party policy, the embodiment of this idea, and fully implement them in their work and lives.

Our Party's ideas, theories, lines and policies contain all the strategy, tactics, principles and methods of solving all problems arising in accelerating the building of socialism and communism and brightening the nation's honour, in keeping with the actual conditions in our country and by our own efforts. Only by equipping ourselves with the Juche idea and Party policy and

defending and implementing them thoroughly can we carry out the Korean revolution successfully and in our own way.

We must see that all Party members and working people study the works of the great leader and the documents of the Party in depth and clearly understand their essence, content and validity. Studying is not for its own sake but for translating the Party's ideas, theories and policies into reality. Therefore, studying must be closely combined with practical activities so that it actively contributes to people's ideological edification and the implementation of their revolutionary tasks.

Officials must always use their heads and make strenuous efforts to carry out the Party's policies. In order to carry out the Party's policies, they must efficiently conduct organizational and political work to activate the masses. No matter how correct the Party's lines and policies are, and no matter how clear the ways of implementing them are, they cannot be put into practice unless the popular masses are aroused to action. Party organizations and senior officials must mobilize the Party members and working people to carry out the Party's policies by bold planning of operations, effective political work and efficient direction.

In order to forcefully speed up the revolution and construction under the guidance of the Party's lines and policies, we must intensify the struggle against all sorts of unhealthy ideological elements that contradict the Party's ideas. We must tirelessly combat and wipe out individualism, self-centredness, formalism, expediency, irresponsibility and all other remnants of outmoded ideas that stand in the way of our advance.

If you are to make our Party's ideas and policies your single conviction and work and live in accordance with them, you must categorically reject the infiltration of imperialist ideas and cultures and revisionism. Since the imperialists step up their anti-socialist manoeuvres and the situation at home and abroad is

complex, the danger of the infiltration of bourgeois ideas and revisionism among our ranks always exists. We must strengthen the struggle against bourgeois ideas and cultures and revisionism and prevent their infiltration on any account.

Worship of great powers and dogmatism are an obstacle to carrying out the revolution and construction in our own way. These are harmful ideas that damage the dignity of our nation and serve as a guide for the infiltration of opportunism and all other reactionary ideas. Without eliminating the worship of great powers and dogmatism, it would be impossible to display the national excellence. Flunkeyism and dogmatism ceased to exist as ideological trends in our country. But their remnants still exist. Flunkeyism and dogmatism, which did tremendous harm to our revolution, are so deep-rooted that they may be revived in some people's minds unless we continue to combat them. We must continue to combat flunkeyism and dogmatism without compromise while intensifying education in the Juche idea among our officials and thus carrying out the revolution and construction to suit our situation in keeping with the Party's policies under the slogan, "Let us live our own way!"

It is important in encouraging the Korean nation's excellence to continue to consolidate and develop the socialist system of our own style, which is most advantageous.

Our own style of socialism is the social basis upon which to acquire the spirit of our nation's excellence, and the purpose of displaying this spirit is to further this socialism. The road of exalting the honour of national excellence is also the road of strengthening and developing our style of socialism.

A considerable number of people now regard their happy lives as a matter of course and do not feel the advantages of the socialist system deep in their hearts because they have over time become used to living in the socialist society. In this condition, it

is important to step up the education of the Party members and working people in the advantages of the socialist system.

We must teach them not only socialism in general but the concrete reality of socialism in our country in depth. However, the propaganda workers are not explaining the characteristics and advantages of our socialism in depth. Socialism in any country is an advanced society that is qualitatively different from all the exploitative societies that have existed in human history. However, the environment, circumstances, national traits, the guiding ideology, theory and method of revolution and construction vary with each country where socialism is constructed, so that there cannot but be differences in the mode of building socialism and in the specific type of socialist system.

Our socialism has been built to suit the specific conditions in our country and has been developed to meet our people's aspirations and interests, so it is the socialism of our own style. In short, the socialism of our own style has been established on the basis of the Juche idea, the guiding ideology of our revolution, and is being developed and consummated in line with the Juche idea. Our socialism is Juche-orientated socialism that is the most advantageous in that it fully meets the people's desires for an independent, creative and collectivist life. The advantages of our socialism are highly displayed in all spheres of our political, economic, ideological and cultural lives. Because of its great advantages, our socialism is displaying unconquerable vitality.

When they have a correct understanding of the advantages of our socialism, the Party members and working people can advance stoutly under the unfurled banner of socialism in whatever situation. We must, therefore, convincingly explain to Party members and other working people not about socialism in general but how socialism of our own style has been built, consolidated and developed, what are its characteristics and

advantages and what a bright future it has. Furthermore, we must give them a clear understanding of the principles and methods of strengthening the socialism of our own style, ensuring that they implement them fully so that they brighten this socialism further. In particular, we must make sure that they adhere to the collectivist principle, “One for all and all for one”, and highly display the noble trait of helping and leading each other forward and striving with devotion for their society and collective.

In highly displaying the excellence of the Korean nation it is essential to strengthen the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses.

The greatest pride in our nation’s excellence is pride in the unshakable single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses we have realized. Unity is the way to national prosperity; division is the way to national ruin. Our people, with time-honoured history, once suffered the miserable lot of an enslaved nation because the nation had been torn into splinter groups. The feudal rulers’ factional strife resulted in the fall of the country. And the tug-of-war among the flunkeyists and factionalists also led to failure in the national liberation struggle and the incipient communist movement¹² of the past.

Our people, who learned bitter lessons of history and craved unity, found the centre of unity for the first time in the great Comrade †, whom they had acclaimed at the helm of the revolution. Since then our nation has been making new history by paving the road of victory in unity. In spite of numerous serious crises and trials it has had to surmount, our revolution has scored great victories because all the people struggled in solid unity behind the respected leader Comrade †. Our Party has thoroughly overcome factionalism and all other heterogeneous elements and firmly established the monolithic ideological system in the entire Party. We have thus realized its most durable unity and cohesion,

the great single-hearted unity, unprecedented in the history of the communist movement. To preserve, strengthen and develop the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses down through generations is a sure guarantee for the accomplishment of the socialist cause. With a clear understanding that this task is vital to the future destiny of the nation, Party organizations and officials must continue to strengthen the single-hearted unity of the whole society behind the Party and the leader, the unity that is based on revolutionary morality and comradeship.

There is no faction in our Party today, but in view of the fact that the remnants of parochialism, nepotism, defeatism and other outmoded ideas linger in the minds of officials, there is no guarantee that an anti-Party tendency of harming the Party's unity and cohesion will not appear. In the light of the lesson that factionalists raised their heads and challenged the Party whenever the situation at home and abroad was complex in the past, we must pay great attention to strengthening the Party's unity and cohesion today when the internal and external situations are complex. While teaching our officials the experiences and lessons of our Party's struggle against factionalism, we must see that the officials fully acquire the habit of respecting the dignity of the Party organization and working and living under its guidance and control.

In strengthening the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, it is important to knit the masses in all walks of life closely behind the Party. Victory in the confrontation with the enemy depends on who wins over more of the masses. If divorced from the masses in our society where the leader, the Party and the masses constitute a socio-political organism, the Party will be unable to maintain its existence and in consequence be unable to shape the nation's destiny. We must improve our work among the workers, farmers, working

intellectuals, young people, students and all other sections of the masses and unite them more solidly behind the Party.

We must ensure that all the Party members, working people, youth and students, without exception, belong to socio-political organizations, take part in organizational life willingly and faithfully with a high sense of organization, and train themselves steadily on revolutionary lines.

Bureaucratism, abuse of power and all other outmoded work methods and styles remaining among officials are the major obstacle to uniting the masses behind the Party. If officials practise bureaucratism and abuse power, they will divorce the Party from the masses, undermine the existence of the Party itself, destroy the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, and end up jeopardizing the revolutionary cause. All the officials must, therefore, overcome outmoded work methods and styles, clearly aware that eliminating them is an important task that is vital to the destiny of the Party and the nation. The Party organizations at all levels must induce the officials to acquire an unshakable revolutionary outlook on the masses, regard faithful service to the people as the highest honour and worth of life, protect their interests to the full, mix with the masses and learn from them, sharing life and death, weal and woe, with them, always bear the brunt of difficult work and lead them by setting personal examples.

It is important in exalting the Korean nation's excellence to inherit and brighten revolutionary traditions and sustain national traditions.

National traits are embodied in traditions, which are inherited by the nation, and highly displayed on the basis of these traditions. Therefore, ignoring traditions amounts to ignoring national traits.

The most important matter in inheriting traditions is to inherit

the glorious traditions of the revolution against the Japanese. The anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions established by the great leader are the historical roots of our revolution and constitute its lasting cornerstones. These revolutionary traditions are the most valuable of traditions in that they embody the noblest revolutionary spirit displayed in the most difficult circumstances under the guidance of the leader. These are the richest and most profound traditions, which encompass comprehensive achievements and experiences. The anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners' unflinching loyalty to the leader, their spirit of devoted service to the people, their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and unbreakable fighting spirit are the brilliant examples of ideological and mental qualities that must be acquired by communist revolutionaries. It is the greatest pride of our people to have glorious revolutionary traditions such as the anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions. We must intensify education in the revolutionary traditions among all the working people, especially among the younger generation, so that they always live and fight in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu as the revolution advances and their lives become richer.

It is also important to inherit and develop the rich experiences and achievements in the struggle to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and build socialism of our own style by carrying forward the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions. The heroic fighting spirit displayed in effecting the Chollima upsurge in the circumstances of war devastation always serves as an example for our people to follow in building socialism. Today our Party has raised the slogan, "Let us live and work with the spirit and mettle displayed in the period of the postwar Chollima upsurge!" By encouraging all the Party members and working people to fight with the spirit and mettle of the period of the Chollima upsurge, we will further brighten the honour of being

the model of socialism.

Down through their history of five thousand years, our people have established excellent national traditions. Carrying forward the national traditions is of great significance in sustaining our own national traits. We must categorically reject national nihilism and keep alive the heritage of national culture, fine customs and other national traditions. Inheriting national traditions does not mean tolerating the tendency to return to the past; the tendency to revive outmoded things. In sustaining national traditions, we must discard obsolete things, things that are not in accord with the needs of socialism, and take over and develop the progressive and popular elements so that they cater to modern aesthetic feelings and the sentiments of the socialist working people. We must carry forward and develop our nation's cultural heritage and traditions in keeping with today's socialist reality and thus build more efficiently the national culture, which is socialist in content and national in form, and sustain our people's peculiar national traits.

As in all other work, we must effectively do the work of displaying the national excellence not in a formalistic manner.

We must, above all else, do the ideological work more effectively to promote the spirit of national excellence.

The education in national excellence is not an undertaking separated from other educational work. If we carry on all aspects of ideological edification now at hand, with an emphasis on displaying the spirit of national excellence, it means education in national excellence. Party organizations and propagandists must not confine this education to organizing a few public lectures or study sessions, but do it tirelessly by making use of all the content, forms and opportunities of ideological education. This work should not be done only by shouting a slogan that our nation is excellent, but through theoretical explanation by means

of vivid examples so as to encourage Party members and working people to feel that our nation is excellent and work hard to exalt the nation's honour. We have achieved great successes in the basic field of social life, the successes of which we can stand proud in the eyes of the world. But we are still lagging considerably behind others in some individual fields. If you say in this context that we are the best in everything, people will not believe you or will doubt the truthfulness of your propaganda. If this happens, your propaganda may have an adverse effect on these people. In our reality, there are many things that are really excellent and in which we can take pride. So there is no need to exaggerate even backward things and describe them as best. About those that have not yet attained the world level may be explained by showing how rapidly they have developed from the backward state of the past. It is more important, however, to show the people the targets for attaining the world's advanced level and the ways of reaching it, inspire them with confidence and encourage them to work hard to make them first-rate. Propaganda workers must sincerely and effectively teach the Party members and working people the nation's excellence, without exaggerating the actual situation or shutting their eyes to it, and ensure that they strive to add lustre to the nation with a high sense of national pride and confidence.

We must see that the Korean nation's excellence is fully embodied in the lives of all sectors.

Developing all areas of social life rapidly is now an urgent task for preserving and brightening the honour of the nation. Without quickly improving and raising the still backward sectors to the world's advanced level, it would be impossible to exalt the nation's honour. Especially today, when the imperialists are disparaging socialism on the strength of their superiority in some fields of science and technology and in some economic sectors, it

is very important to make rapid advance in science, technology and economic construction. Even though the socialist system is superior to capitalism and the people's ideological level is high, it will be impossible to ensure undisputed victory in the confrontation with capitalism and exalt national honour if we lag behind in the level of scientific and technological progress and economic development. Under the wise leadership of the Party and the leader, solid foundations of an independent national economy have been laid and an army of intellectuals has been trained. We must efficiently enlist all our economic potential and scientific and technological capability in raising the level of economic strength and science and technology to the world standard at the earliest possible date.

All Party members and other working people must set high targets for the development of science, technology and the economy and exert all their energy and intelligence to this end. They must thus contribute to brightening the nation's honour further in their respective revolutionary posts. In all sectors they must work hard to improve the quality of our products to meet world standards. Every single item we produce and every single building we construct must be better than their foreign counterparts. We must strive to improve the quality, regarding it as a national disgrace to damage our reputation because of careless production and construction and resulting poor quality.

We must treasure and take loving care of all the property of the country and manage the nation's economic life with great care. All Party members and working people must treasure towns and farms, streets and villages, mountains and rivers, facilities, work places and machines and everything else in the country and keep them spick and span and develop them carefully with an awareness that they are the owners of all these.

We must highly display the revolutionary spirit of

self-reliance and fortitude and strengthen the Juche character and independence of the national economy. The “disease of dependence on imports” that affects some of our officials now is a serious obstacle to strengthening the Juche character and independence of our economy. All officials must combat this “disease” in every way, with a clear understanding that wiping it out is not a simple economic routine but a political question. Even if the quality of our products is a little lower than those of foreign goods, we must value our own goods and, with a determination to make things better than foreign things, raise their quality to the world’s advanced levels.

Self-reliance does not mean refusing to adopt anything that is exotic. Even foreign things that are advanced should be adopted without hesitation to suit our own situation.

Increasing the production of well-qualified workers is essential for the development of science and technology and the nation’s capabilities. Well-qualified people can do anything. We must train more scientists and technicians capable of building our world reputation, as well as preeminent talents in all areas. We must radically improve the quality of education and produce a large number of renowned scientists, technicians and other well-qualified workers in their twenties and thirties from among the rising generation.

We must work hard, highly displaying the Korean-nation-first spirit, and advance science, technology, the economy, culture, sports and physical culture and all other areas to the world level in the 1990s.

Party organizations at all echelons and officials must set correct targets for consolidating and further developing advanced sectors and improving backward sectors to the world standards as soon as possible, get down to Party organizational and political work, and organize administrative economic work in every detail.

Every sector must build many exemplary units capable of earning world renown and generalize them. They must hold in high social esteem the meritorious workers who exalt the honour of the Korean nation.

Party organizations at all levels must press ahead with the work of displaying the excellence of our nation by conducting it in close combination with the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement, the movement to emulate unassuming heroes, and other mass movements, and ensure that the struggle to exalt the nation's honour becomes the concern of the masses.

Our people have displayed the honour of national excellence by building the best and most powerful socialism, a system of our own style, in the northern half of Korea. But the nation is still suffering tragedy due to the division of our country. The tragic situation is the product of the US imperialists' colonial enslavement policy and the treacherous policy of the south Korean puppet clique, who sold out our nation. The entire nation is eager for reunification and will unfailingly win back the homogeneity of five thousand years, as well as its sovereignty, by thwarting the manoeuvres of those at home and abroad who try to keep the country divided. We will join hands with all the people who desire reunification, whether they live in the south or abroad, irrespective of their past records, and accomplish the great cause of national reunification.

With a deep awareness of the mission to exalt the honour of the nation throughout the country, we must devote ourselves heart and soul to the struggle to reunify the country. We must consolidate the Party and the revolutionary ranks and speed up the building of socialism to strengthen our revolutionary force and also brighten the nation's honour still further in all sectors to give powerful encouragement to the south Korean people's struggle and achieve the historic cause of national reunification in

the 1990s.

We must step up the education of Party members and working people in the excellence of the Korean nation to ensure that they fight staunchly to brilliantly accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, with a high sense of pride and confidence in the excellence of our leader, our Party, our country and our socialist system.