

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

# **KIM IL SUNG**

## **TALK WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*August 20, 1992*

**Foreign Languages Publishing House  
DPR Korea  
Juche 110 (2021)**

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I would like to welcome you, a delegation from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, on your visit to my country.

You must be tired, considering how tight your schedule is while you are here.

I am pleased and very grateful that you, president of the National Council of Churches, are visiting my country at the head of a delegation which includes several prominent figures from the United States.

Although this is the first time I have met you, Mr President, I have heard a lot about you from the chairman of the Central Committee of the Christian Federation of Korea.

Recently, I have met several guests from the United States who have visited my country; I think this is a very good thing.

Today I am meeting you for the first time, but we will be old friends if we meet again in the future. I would like you all to become my old friends and visit my country frequently. If we meet frequently and become close, we will be able to hold frank discussions on issues of mutual concern.

I am grateful to you, Mr President, and the other

delegates for the support you extend to our people in their struggle for national reunification, and I thank you for it.

It is the most pressing task for all Korean people to achieve national reunification as soon as possible through a united effort by the whole nation. Ours is a homogeneous nation with a time-honoured history and brilliant culture. Our nation must not remain divided.

You, Mr President, and the other members of the delegation have said that the greatest pain suffered by the Korean people is the division of their country and that we should strive together to achieve Korea's reunification; I agree with you wholeheartedly. And I hope that you will work actively for Korea's peaceful reunification. If you join your efforts in striving for Korea's reunification, it will be a positive contribution to our national cause.

There are many Korean Christians who have worked actively for national liberation and reunification.

There were several Christians among the 33 people who published the Declaration of Independence at the time of the March First Movement, which was a highly significant event in the history of the Korean people's struggle for national liberation. There were

many Christians, including the Reverend Son Jong Do, among those who were arrested by the Japanese imperialists at the time of the 105-Man Incident; most of them were members of the Korean National Association organized by my father.

The Reverend Son Jong Do helped me a lot in the early years of my revolutionary activities. I used the church he ran in Jilin as a venue for my underground activities. In those days I also used a YMCA hall. Although Sunday was a day of worship, young people would still gather in that hall. Its signboard read YMCA Hall, but for us it was a meeting place where we instilled revolutionary ideas into the minds of young people. Son Won Thae, the reverend's youngest son who now lives in the United States, visited his motherland last year; and he came this year to attend the events celebrating my birthday. Our meeting last year was our first since we parted in Jilin. I could have met him earlier, but a letter he wrote to me requesting a meeting went missing.

My maternal grandfather and uncles were also Christians who devoted themselves to the country's independence cause. My elder maternal uncle was arrested while engaging in armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists. He passed away, having been

released on probation after serving 13 years in prison.

Mr Kang Ryang Uk, a Christian clergyman, was active in the effort to realize our Party's line of Korea's peaceful reunification after liberation. His family, his wife in particular, were devastated shortly after the country's liberation when they suffered the tragedy of a son and daughter being killed in a terrorist attack carried out by reactionaries. I imagine you, Mr President, are aware of this. The chairman of the Central Committee of the Christian Federation of Korea, who is present here, is a son of Mr Kang Ryang Uk.

You, Mr President, have said that you heard from your mother that she got to know Mr Kang Ryang Uk very well when she was working for a while as a teacher at Changdok School. There were several women teachers at the school when I was attending it. I cannot remember all their names, but your mother must have been one of them. At the time my maternal grandfather was the school's superintendent, but he also took charge of a class. Mr Kang Ryang Uk was my class teacher when I enrolled at Changdok School in the fifth grade.

Reverend Moon Ik Hwan, someone else who is striving for the reunification of the country, is facing

oppression by the south Korean authorities, but is refusing to yield. Reverend Moon Ik Hwan is a very good man. I had not met the reverend before he came to Pyongyang to see me, following the publication of the July 7 Declaration by the south Korean chief executive. It was a pleasure to meet him. I explained to him our proposal for reunifying the nation through a federation; he said that he fully supported it, but that he had a question. When I asked him what it was, he said he wondered what would be my attitude towards the capitalists in south Korea after the country's reunification through a federation was achieved.

So I told him: We do not oppose all the capitalists in south Korea; we oppose those who sell the country out and harass the people, but we do not reject those who aspire after the development of the country and nation; this is the stand we have consistently maintained; when I addressed a rally of Pyongyang citizens welcoming me on my triumphant return home after achieving the country's liberation, I called on the entire nation to unite and devote themselves to the building of a new Korea, those with strength giving their strength, those with knowledge dedicating their knowledge and those with money donating their money; a monument inscribed with these words was

erected at the place where I delivered the speech shortly after the country's liberation; you should go and see it. Reverend Moon Ik Hwan noted down every word I said. Just as I had suggested, he went to the monument commemorating my speech on my triumphant return home, and read the inscription. I told him that what I had said in that speech about devoting oneself to the building of a new Korea, those with strength giving their strength, those with knowledge dedicating their knowledge and those with money donating their money, is still valid and would be valid in the future, too.

After liberation, we ensured that intellectuals also turned out proactively in the building of a new country. Because intellectuals had an important role to play, we defined them as a motive force of the revolution and included a writing brush, along with the hammer and sickle, in the emblem of our Party when it was founded immediately after liberation. We can neither build a new society nor develop it without intellectuals. I also told Reverend Moon Ik Hwan about our Party's policy on intellectuals.

During his stay in the northern half of Korea, Reverend Moon Ik Hwan held talks with the officials concerned and they published a joint statement in

support of our Party's proposal for reunifying the country through a federation.

Before Reverend Moon Ik Hwan left, I went to the place where he was staying and asked him if it was safe for him to go back to south Korea. He said he would be all right, since the chief executive of south Korea had committed himself to the July 7 Declaration. He added that he would not be harmed, because the south Korean chief executive had said he regarded the north as a partner. I told Reverend Moon Ik Hwan: How can we trust the chief executive of south Korea, even if he has said he regards the north as a partner? Someone in his position must mean what he says, but the south Korean chief executive will deny something he said yesterday. So, how can you trust him? But Reverend Moon Ik Hwan insisted he would be all right, and returned to south Korea.

However, the south Korean police arrested him at the airport and took him straight to prison. The south Korean authorities displayed real cruelty in imprisoning the man in his seventies for visiting Pyongyang for the sake of national reunification.

In the face of strong demands from our side at the north-south premier-level talks and from the broad masses of the people from all walks of life in south

Korea, the south Korean authorities reluctantly released him, only to imprison him again a short time later.

You, Mr President and the other delegates, published a statement in 1986 in support of our efforts for the peaceful reunification of the country; I highly appreciate this. Good work done for the sake of the country and nation deserves the appreciation of the country and nation.

Our people will never forget those Christians who have worked with devotion in the vanguard of the patriotic movement for national liberation and the peaceful reunification of the country.

The chair of the international Christian women's association, who is concurrently a director of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, has said that during her current visit to our country she learned about the education I received from my mother during my childhood; I am grateful to her for her words.

My mother was a strong-willed and good woman. She had fought for the country's independence before passing away at the early age of 40 without seeing the day of liberation.

When I founded the anti-Japanese guerrilla army at

the age of 20, she offered my comrades, the anti-Japanese guerrillas, some truly inspiring words. She said to them: You are doing a great thing for the country; mothers feel happier than ever when their sons and daughters are doing a great thing for their country, whereas it strikes pain in their hearts if they act foolishly; how happy your mothers will be to see you taking up arms to win back the country. When I was about to embark on an expedition to southern Manchuria after founding the anti-Japanese guerrilla army, she was confined to her sickbed by a serious illness. I was worried about her, and took home with me a bag of foxtail millet my comrades had given me. She urged me to leave soon and not to worry about my family, saying that a man who had risen up with a determination to win back his country could not perform great feats if he was preoccupied with his family. To my great sorrow, she passed away soon after I left for southern Manchuria. Throughout the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle, she was always in my heart. This year, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, is significant also because it marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my founding the anti-Japanese guerrilla army.

The director of the Asia-Pacific Regional

Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States has said that he hopes Korea will be reunified not by force of arms but in a peaceful way; it is our consistent policy to achieve reunification peacefully.

Reunifying the country on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity is the fundamental principle of national reunification which I set out in 1972 when I met a delegate from south Korea.

The chairman of the Korea Association for Justice, Peace and Reunification, who is concurrently an executive secretary of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries' World Division, has asked me to offer some guidance for the work of the Koreans resident in America, now that their numbers are so much greater than ever, and to offer my advice on the current work with them. Your request is appreciated.

We will not tell our Korean compatriots in America to do this or that, but at your request, I shall briefly offer my opinions. First of all, I am grateful to them for the great efforts they have made for their country's reunification.

I think the key to their work is, in a word, unity. In the past there were not so many Koreans in America,

but it seems that many people in south Korea, in the face of the increasingly harsh fascist oppression by the authorities, have defected there in the belief that it will provide safe asylum. During Park Chung Hee's military fascist rule in particular, great numbers defected from south Korea to America. Since the number of Koreans in America is so much greater now than it was in the past, I think the main task is to unite them. The Korean residents in Japan are rallied firmly around Chongryon (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and are devoted to patriotic work. Their counterparts in America, however, have too many groups, so that a handful of people now comprise an independent organization. This, I think, makes it impossible for them to unite as one. I hope they will unite and make an active contribution to the cause of national reunification.

My experience of waging a revolutionary struggle has taught me that it is important for the whole nation to unite closely as one. Unity is strength. As you must have learned from Comrade Kim Jong Il's work on single-hearted unity, in our country the leader, the Party and the masses are united with one mind and one purpose. This is what we call single-hearted unity.

As I have said several times, if we are to reunify

the country, we must achieve great national unity. The whole nation must achieve great unity, transcending differences in ideology, ideals and system. Only by doing so can it exert its full strength in the struggle for national reunification. No matter where they live, Koreans should unite and render their individual contribution to the cause of national reunification, those with strength devoting their strength, those with knowledge offering their knowledge and those with money contributing their money.

I mentioned something in this vein when I met some overseas compatriots who were visiting Pyongyang for the recent Pan-National Rally. Participating in the rally were many overseas compatriots from America, Japan, China and other parts of the world. The delegates from the South Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification (Pomminryon) could not attend due to the obstructive moves by the south Korean authorities, but as they managed to maintain contact via telex, a joint statement could be published that included their aspirations and demands. In order to resolve the issue of national reunification, it is not enough for all the compatriots at home and abroad simply to publish a joint statement reflecting the aspirations and demands

of the nation; they should establish contact and get together frequently to achieve unity. I instructed the officials concerned to ensure that the south Korean delegates, having failed to attend the recent rally, participate in the next one without fail. The next rally should be held in a country, be it the US, Japan or any other, where delegates from the South Headquarters of Pomminryon will be able to come so that it is attended by all the delegates of the whole nation.

The chairman of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries' World Division has said that if I tell him our viewpoint on how DPRK-US relations can be improved, he will advise the American government on improving their relations with the DPRK; that is a very good idea.

We would like to be on good terms with the US, but only if it respects our sovereignty. I think it is possible for the DPRK and the US to develop good relations and good feelings towards each other. The fact is, the two countries do not have diplomatic relations at present, but it can be said that there are good signs for improved relations. In January this year, a secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea visited America and had a meeting with a high-level delegation there. The start

of DPRK-US talks can be called a good sign in improving mutual relations.

Another good sign is that the American president sent me a verbal message via Reverend Billy Graham when he visited my country. When the evangelist passed on the verbal message from the American president to me, I said I hoped the ice would thaw and spring would come to the relations between the two countries. If the DPRK and the US work together, there will be no reason why they cannot develop good relations.

The problem is that the US continues to put pressure to bear upon us while spreading false propaganda about us making nuclear weapons. We have received several nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to verify the transparency of our peaceful nuclear activities. The IAEA did not find any evidence of our producing nuclear weapons. For a fair solution to the nuclear inspection issue, south Korea must also pass such an inspection. The whole world knows that the US has shipped large numbers of nuclear weapons into south Korea. It claims that it withdrew them and south Korea is nuclear-free, but how can we trust them, based only on their word? We take every

opportunity to state that we are not producing nuclear weapons, but the Americans do not trust us. So, how can we take them at their word when they say there are no nuclear weapons in south Korea? Now that we have undergone the IAEA's nuclear inspections, south Korea must be subject to them as well. Whether the US withdrew its nuclear weapons from south Korea as it claims or not can be proved only through an inspection by the officials concerned of the DPRK and the IAEA. If nuclear inspections by the IAEA are required, I think it is fair that the north and south of Korea should both be subject to them.

If DPRK-US relations are to improve, both parties should discuss and reach agreements on the issues arising between them on the principles of equality and fairness and should implement them together. Only then can the issue of their relations be resolved properly. Moreover, since the US advocates "equality" and "fairness," it is natural that the issues arising between our two countries should be settled on an equal and fair basis. As far as bilateral relations are concerned, the ball is not in the DPRK's court, but that of the US. We are watching how the US responds to our principled demands.

Mr President, you have told me that Comrade

Kim Jong Il arranged a birthday spread for you last year when you visited your homeland with your wife and children; I am pleased to hear it.

I thank you for your gift of sincere wishes in the name of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

I hope you will all visit our country often in the future, too.

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