

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**SPEECH AT THE DEFENCE
DEVELOPMENT EXHIBITION**
SELF-DEFENCE 2021

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Comrades,

Today we have an opportunity to see with our own eyes how the defence capability of our glorious motherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been developing.

I extend warm congratulations to those who are participating in the Defence Development Exhibition, a symbol of the advanced, modern and bold character of our Korea.

The Defence Development Exhibition, called *Self-Defence 2021*, which has opened today, is adding lustre to this year's celebrations for the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As its name denotes, this exhibition is a splendid festival that will act as an intensive, visual demonstration not only of the far-sighted ambition, leadership ability and executive capability of our Party in bringing about a fresh turn in consolidating our country's defence potential by invariably holding fast to the invincible line of self-defence, but also of the remarkable level of development of our state's defence science and munitions industry, and their bright future.

This large-scale exhibition, as a crystallization of our Party's revolutionary defence policy and its robust viability, is an epoch-making demonstration of our national strength that is no less significant than a large-scale military parade.

Comrades,

I am still vividly mindful of the do-or-die revolution in the defence industry which our Party has adhered to over the past five years. In the course of following this untrodden path, it has shouldered the heavy historic mission of generating a greater, absolute strength with which to reliably defend the country's security and the coming generations' lasting dignity, happiness and safety, doing so in accordance with the demands of the changed objective and subjective conditions and environment of our revolution and the rapidly-shifting military balance worldwide.

Every step we have taken on the road of developing our defence capability over the past five years, in which we have experienced severe trials as well as moments of great delight, has been taken for the sake of the glorious and worthwhile revolution, of patriotism, and of a great victory. We can stand proud of this before our Party, our country, our people, and posterity.

We should not treat lightly the military hardware displayed in fine array here, which we have developed over the past five years.

The more we see and touch them, the greater the dignity and pride we feel and the more valuable we feel they are, as something that is ours.

Our people have all rendered unconditional and absolute support to our Party's policy of strengthening our defence capability, despite the increasingly severe hardships and difficulties they have had to experience, caused by the persistent anti-DPRK schemes of the hostile forces who are desperate not to see us growing stronger. Were it not for their trust and ardent patriotism, we would never have achieved this development.

Every piece of military hardware tells many unforgettable tales about our defence scientists and technicians, as well as the workers in the munitions industry, who, following the Party, have braved every manner of difficulty on the road of defence building; every piece is also permeated with the sweat and blood of these scientists, technicians and workers who, in devoting their enthusiasm and wisdom, have made self-sacrificing efforts.

They have always supported, absolutely and

without condition and in a death-defying spirit, every demand and resolve of our Party, and have displayed infinite loyalty and heroism on the road of accomplishing the historic cause of strengthening our defence capability.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity, on behalf of the Party, the government and all the people, to extend warm gratitude to the scientists and technicians, to the merited and all other workers in the munitions industry, who have contributed to the outstanding, advanced successes conducive to building, for the first time in the history of our Republic, a world-class defence capability, and have thus realized a long-cherished desire of our people.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the other people.

I am convinced that this will be a victors' exhibition that will review our great triumphs, an inspirational exhibition that will instil inexhaustible strength and courage in the defence field and people across the country, and an enterprising exhibition that will promote the faster and more vigorous construction of our style of socialism.

Comrades,

The essence of our Party's defence policy is to

defend our country and people by our own efforts, and to contain any threat and challenge and reliably and steadfastly safeguard peace by consistently developing a powerful defence capability.

Historically, our nation suffered trials as a result of being invaded by foreign forces, and it has had to build socialism under a constant threat from hostile forces, from last century to this. In view of this historical lesson and of the demands and unique character of the Korean revolution, building up the nation's defences is an essential and vital affair of state which our Party, government and people must not neglect for even a moment.

A country without an effective self-defence capability will inevitably be at the mercy of external military threats and, worse still, unable to safeguard its survival and that of its people. This is an immutable law of human history.

In the world today, the rapid development of military technology and hardware is transforming the style of military operations and the security environment for states in every region.

The threat to our state due to the military tension surrounding the Korean peninsula is different from that of ten or five, even three, years ago.

Having witnessed the types of military exercise regularly conducted by the United States and south Korea on the pretext of coping with what they call a threat, even as they talk publicly about peace, cooperation and prosperity, as well as south Korea's recent intolerable and undisguised attempts to modernize its armaments, we can easily guess how the military climate in the region of the Korean peninsula will change in the near future.

Recently, south Korea, with the powerful support of the United States, has been trying to upgrade its military's fighting efficiency. It has introduced large quantities of cutting-edge weaponry of various kinds, including stealth joint strike fighters and high-altitude unmanned reconnaissance aircraft.

While explicitly underlining the importance of its own defence technology in the wake of a recent revision of its guidelines for missile development, it has been focusing on modernizing its various strike weapons. This includes developing an array of warheads and extending the range of its missiles, with a clear objective to improve its missile capability, as well as enhancing the combat efficiency of its submarines, and developing fighter jets.

These efforts are too dangerous to be ignored. But

what is even more dangerous is its justification for modernizing its armaments and its hypocritical, reckless double-dealing attitude.

While doing whatever they want to, the south Korean authorities, with a view to depriving us of our right to develop a capability for self-defence, are leading the anti-DPRK propaganda campaign conducted by the hostile forces headed by the United States, and are wantonly labelling even our tests of conventional weapons as an armed provocation, threat and inappropriate action aggravating the tension.

They are directing the words *provocation* and *threat* exclusively against the north.

In attempting to stifle our efforts to develop a self-defence capability by invoking illegal UN resolutions, they are bent on increasing their own military expenditure on the so-called justified excuse of coping with what they have unilaterally defined as a threat. Their hypocritical attitude and the tacit support from the United States continue to damage inter-Korean sentiments and emotions, and their unbridled, dangerous attempts to strengthen their military capability are undermining the military equilibrium in the region of the Korean peninsula and aggravating the military instability and danger here.

South Korea has frequently revealed its ambition to secure military supremacy over us, on the preposterous excuse of deterring a threat from us, each time claiming that it is containing our threat and defending peace.

Designating us as a threat and target to be contained, not as a partner in dialogue and cooperation, is an unequivocal expression of their deeply-ingrained hostility towards our Republic, which they are unable to conceal, no matter how hard they try to pretend otherwise.

Their avaricious ambition and their double-dealing, illogical and reckless attitude, which is so unjust and injurious to the feelings of the other side, is a cause of great regret for us; we will never tolerate and we will respond with powerful action if they continue to infringe on even our right to self-defence.

On the other hand, if south Korea stops insisting on finding fault with us and if it ceases picking a quarrel with our exercise of national sovereignty, I am confident that there will be no further rise in tension on the Korean peninsula.

In this case, we will not be dragged into verbal confrontation with south Korea, nor will we have any reason to.

I want to reiterate that south Korea is not a target for our armed forces.

We are certainly not strengthening our defence capability in order to target south Korea.

The dreadful history of armed conflict between fellow countrymen must not be repeated on this land.

I want to reiterate once again: We are not talking about a war with anyone; we are building up a deterrent true to the meaning of the word in order to prevent war and to safeguard the sovereignty of our state. Our war deterrent and south Korea's so-called capability to contain the north are contrary concepts in word, meaning and essence.

Our true enemy is war itself, not south Korea, the United States or any other specific state or forces.

Therefore, as I stated in a recent policy speech, all I want is that the south Korean authorities and society, in their attitude towards the north, abandon their outdated and anachronistic worries and anxieties and their illusory mission to contain the threat from the north, and free themselves from their paranoia and persecution complex as soon as possible.

We should not judge the prevailing situation spontaneously, sentimentally or subjectively, but approach it with a cool head, and correctly.

The change in the military and political climate created around the Korean peninsula under the manipulation of the United States, on top of south Korea's excessive military build-up and ambition, portends great danger and presents a pressing need for us to develop our strength.

Recently, the United States has frequently signalled that it is not hostile to our state, but its behaviour offers us no reason to believe it.

The world is not inhabited solely by fools. I wonder if there is any person or state that believes this claim that it is not hostile to the DPRK and, if there is any, I am curious to know who they are.

The United States is still creating regional tension with its misguided judgment and acts.

What is clear is that, because of the United States, the instability in the region of the Korean peninsula cannot easily be removed.

In view of this situation, the military balance in the region may grow more perilous as the days go by and our state may face worse security concerns and a more menacing situation if, having decided we are satisfied with the successes we have achieved in strengthening our national defences, we slacken our advance along the road of development.

Considering the prevailing unstable situation on the Korean peninsula, steadily strengthening our military might to cope with it is a demand of the contemporary revolution and the supreme duty we have assumed for the revolution and the future.

The reality demands that we refrain from resting on our laurels and marking time, and that we work to build up the capability and means to control the existing concerns and threats.

Possessing a strong military capability is a natural, self-defensive and mandatory right and a core policy which a sovereign state should not ignore for even a moment, whether in times of peace or confrontation.

This is because the power of self-defence is the root of a state's existence and a guarantee of its development.

We will confront, decisively and resolutely, every despicable act by the hostile forces that are inciting military tension in the region of the Korean peninsula, and will strive to the utmost to achieve durable peace in the region by mitigating and removing one by one the causes that are striking at the very foundations of peace.

However, no external effort to achieve peace must ever mean abandoning our right to self-defence.

Comrades,

The Eighth Congress of the WPK put forward detailed tasks for making our superiority in military technology more irreversible by carrying out the second-stage revolution in the defence industry across the field of defence science and throughout the munitions industry during the period of the five-year plan.

The main aspect is to further strengthen the war deterrent we already possess in terms of both quality and scale and further accelerate the development and production of the strategic and tactical means essential for guaranteeing national security.

Our Party trusts in the indomitable revolutionary spirit, outstanding patriotism and remarkable brains and talents of our defence scientists and working class in the munitions industry who never fail to create unprecedented miracles if the Party and the revolution require them to do so, and in the powerful foundations of the munitions industry that have been consolidated amid the long-term hardships.

During the first stage of the revolution in the defence industry our Party gained a full appreciation of the loyalty and practical abilities of the defence scientists and technicians and the potential of all units

and skilled personnel. It fostered the firm belief that the goals of cutting-edge defence capability can be hit as long as we have dependable revolutionary soldiers who are prepared to sacrifice their lives for their country and fellow people.

We can believe in and be optimistic about achieving victory at the new stage because our Party has a huge army of up-and-coming creative young scientists who have always carried out its plans as intended by it, without condition and with an innovative approach.

These talented young people are the pillars supporting the present and future of our defence industry and a source of great strength for our Party and state.

Along with them, we have the praiseworthy workers in the munitions industry who have always been unfailingly loyal to the Party and the revolutionary cause.

The Party expects a great deal from the scientists and the workers in the munitions industry.

Our self-defence capability will continue to be transformed in the future, too.

As long as we have the strong will and correct leadership of our Party, and as long as we have

defence scientists and the workers in the munitions industry who are unfailingly loyal to the Party and the revolution, we will achieve even more brilliant successes in carrying out our just and patriotic cause. In the course of doing this, we will build up a more perfect, more complete and more powerful war deterrent, in other words, the strategic might which will guarantee the security and future of our country and people.

Comrades,

Today's large-scale exhibition is, of course, aimed at encouraging our defence scientists and technicians and the workers in the munitions industry, and inspiring the people with fresh confidence and courage. But the main purpose is to give a more powerful impetus to the development of the country's defence capability.

We should not sit back and reflect on the glorious history of our defence industry, which has created a defence capability at a level required by the stage of the developing revolution. We must think about making a huge leap forward, regarding the tenacious efforts and achievements we have made for more than half a century by shedding our sweat and blood, as a firm springboard.

The defence industry sector should, through this exhibition, conduct a detailed and comprehensive analysis and appraisal of its successes and level of development. On the basis of this, it should draw up a plan and design for its rapid development in every field, share the excellent experiences it has gained to date, and take steps to achieve a higher and faster leap forward in the future.

We should all continue to bear in mind the grand strategy set out by the Eighth Congress of our Party, and contribute to the development of our defence capability with redoubled courage.

Comrades,

Our Party has been frank in explaining to you the requirements of the revolution and the situation as they are, and it derives great encouragement from your steadfast attitude and ardent patriotism.

I stress once again: It is invariably our Party's overriding policy and goal and its unwavering resolve to possess and further strengthen a military capability which no one would dare challenge.

All those present here should critically analyze the situation in their sectors and units in light of the great successes achieved by our defence industry, commit to a new resolve concerning the achievements they

intend to present before the Party, state and people in the future, and make a fresh determination to fully support our defence industry's further development.

Of course, the economic situation in the country is still difficult and other sectors are also facing important and pressing tasks. All sectors, however, should always be mindful of the overriding importance of consolidating our defence capability, and remember that any development and success by our revolution would be inconceivable apart from the preferential development of our national defence capability.

Without a strong self-defence capability, we can neither expect success for the internal and external policies of the Party and the government, nor conceive of stability and a peaceful environment for the country.

All the people should support the consistent and iron will of our Party and government by regarding it as the highest expression of patriotism to strengthen our defence capability and by rendering unsparing material and spiritual assistance to it.

We must be powerful also for the sake of the younger generations. We must first be powerful.

Let us all devote ourselves heart and soul,

contributing our wisdom and enthusiasm, to the sacred cause of building up the defence capability of our great state, never forgetting the pledge we have made before the country, the revolution and the people, and filled with conviction and confidence in sure victory.

I once again welcome you to this event, at which you will see for yourselves our proud military strength.

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Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House

DPR Korea

Issued in December Juche 110 (2021)
