

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG IL

THE PRESENT TIMES AND THE TASKS FACING YOUNG PEOPLE

Talk to Senior Officials of the Central Committee
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October 12, 1988

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Next year the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students will be held in Pyongyang, and this will be a significant event. The delegates of progressive students and young people in the five continents will come to our country, the homeland of Juche, and strengthen international friendship and solidarity, making a resolve to fight in cooperation for their common cause. This will not only be a great event in the development of the youth movement in the world, but also powerfully demonstrate international solidarity with our revolution.

This festival will be a good opportunity for our students and young people, who have been educated and trained by our Party, to display their high revolutionary spirit and noble spiritual and moral traits. Making good material preparations for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students is important, but making good political and ideological preparations is still more important.

We must pay close attention to improving work with the students and young people in anticipation of the forthcoming Pyongyang Festival and to developing the youth movement to meet the

requirements of the present times.

Young people are the precious flower of a country and nation. They are the most vigorous of the social forces and the masters of the future. It can be said that the prosperity of a nation and the future of mankind depend on how the young people are prepared and how their role is enhanced.

History shows that young people have always stood in the forefront of the advance of the period and played a major role in it.

It was none other than the young people that played the vanguard role in pioneering the revolutionary cause of Juche in our country. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung embarked on the road of the revolution in his teens with the noble ambition of saving the nation. Boldly breaking with the outmoded ideological trend towards dependence on foreign forces, he blazed a trail for the Korean revolution. By creating the immortal Juche idea in his youth and organizing the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists and leading it to victory, he became renowned as the saviour of our nation and as a legendary hero. Most of those who fought heroically under his leadership against the Japanese imperialists and for the liberation of the country were young

people in their teens and twenties. In view of the fact that the young fighters under the command of the young General, the great leader, carved out the path of the revolution through a bloody struggle, we can say that our revolution took root in the youth movement.

Innumerable examples of young people rendering great services to innovation and social progress can be traced in the history of other countries as well. The point in question is that young people should be encouraged to take an active part in the struggle, fully conscious of the mission entrusted to them by the period and history.

Today, young people are living in an age of change, an age which is very important in the development of human history.

The masses of the people, who have been a mere object of history for thousands of years, are now standing securely in the centre of the times and are leading historical progress. Humanity is now faced with the task of eliminating once and for all the outmoded order of domination and subjugation, exploitation and plunder, and of building an independent, new world where all nations can live in freedom and peace, a task which is a mature requirement of our age. This means that mankind has

entered a new historical stage in the struggle for independence.

The cause of independence for mankind, however, has now encountered a serious challenge from the imperialists who are trying to turn back the main trend of our times. In conspiracy with one another, the allied imperialist forces are opposing the forces of independence in the world; they are manoeuvring with increasing cunning and viciousness in order to undermine socialism, the hard core of the anti-imperialist forces of independence, to strengthen their domination of the developing countries and to increase the plunder of these countries.

While talking loudly about “peace” and “arms reduction,” the imperialists are building up their armaments, accelerating their preparations for a nuclear war and, in the guise of “detente” and “dialogue,” resorting without hesitation to interventions and subversive plots against other countries. The “aid” and “cooperation” loudly advertised by the imperialists are nothing more than specious signboards, and they are aimed at strengthening their domination of the developing countries and intensifying their plunder of them by resorting to the law of the jungle, the outmoded order.

The craftiness and wickedness of modern imperialism are being expressed most glaringly in its scheme to make the younger generation mental cripples by spreading the corrupt bourgeois culture and way of life. Being crippled mentally is a greater misery for a man than being crippled physically. A mental cripple whose consciousness of independence has been paralysed is as good as dead as a social man. The imperialists are destroying the noble and beautiful qualities and vitality of young people and making mental cripples of hundreds of millions of young people who have the world before them. This is an atrocity that should be condemned more bitterly than the crimes committed by the fascists who victimized young people in their wars of aggression in the past.

The modern imperialists are, truly, the common enemy of the progressive people of the world who are fighting for independence, peace and social progress. They are the main target that must be attacked by the young people of the age of independence through a concerted effort, regardless of their ideas, religious beliefs, nationalities and races. The young people of our times must clearly understand the true nature of modern imperialism which is as cunning and despicable as an old wolf. They must courageously

join the struggle against imperialism in order to save humanity from its grip and protect their own precious youth.

The young people must fight all forms of colonialism and racism and struggle to establish an equitable international political and economic order. They must fight to thwart the imperialists' manoeuvres for war and aggression, to safeguard world peace and security, to reject decadent ideas and culture and to develop a sound ideology and culture which accord with the people's aspirations to independence.

The young people of our times must meet their honourable responsibility to history and mankind by dedicating themselves to the anti-imperialist cause of independence, find the true value of a genuine life in this cause and add lustre to their lives.

How a man lives in his youth is very important for his career. If he is to live honourably all his life, he must acquire a correct outlook on the world in his youth. In order to make his life fruitful, he must devote his youthful energy and passion to the common cause of the society and the collective.

A man, a social being, can only live and develop in the social community. The life of an individual is a part of the life of the masses of the people and it is

linked to the great life of the whole of mankind. If he pursues his own pleasure in disregard of the destiny of the society and the collective, he will be forsaken by them. Such a man will be like a leaf cut off a tree.

The value of a man's life is determined by what he has contributed to the society and the collective. No matter how fully he has satisfied his personal desires, his whole life will be worthless and meaningless if he has contributed nothing to the development of the society and the collective. There have been many rich people in the world who lived in clover but gave nothing to the society. These people left no mark on history. On the other hand, the people who held the destiny of the collective dear and devoted their whole lives to the development of the nation and the progress of mankind, sharing joys and sorrows with the collective, will be loved and respected by their fellow people down through the generations and their names will long be remembered in history.

Devoting oneself to the society and the collective never amounts to ignoring one's own desires and interests. Real happiness and a truly worthwhile life can only be achieved when the desires and interests of an individual are linked to the common desires and interests of the society in which he lives. Being

faithful to the society and the collective amounts to being faithful to oneself. If they truly hold themselves dear and wish to see their youthful hopes realized, young people must train themselves into more powerful beings mentally and physically and devote their all to the common cause of the society.

The young Koreans born in the homeland of Juche assume a very great responsibility to our times.

Today our people are safeguarding peace and the eastern outpost of socialism in direct confrontation with US imperialism, the chieftain of world imperialism. They are fighting to realize complete national sovereignty and to hew out a path for socialism and communism, the future of mankind. Our country has become the site of a showdown between the progressive and reactionary forces in all fields of politics, the economy and culture; our people's struggle epitomizes the major characteristics of the trend of the age of independence. Therefore, carrying out the revolution and construction in our country with success will exert a great influence on the struggle of the progressive people the world over. When our people and young people in particular adhere to the revolutionary principle firmly and carry out the revolution and construction successfully, they will

show the progressive people and young people of the world a good example of the anti-imperialist struggle and the construction of a new society and inspire them with the conviction that they can shape their own destiny by themselves whatever the adversity.

Today the young Koreans are faced with the noble task of inheriting and developing, under the leadership of our Party, the revolutionary cause of Juche which was pioneered and has been led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Our young people are our Party's reliable fighting detachment that must undertake the building of socialism in the northern half of Korea and the great task of reunifying the country.

The cause of socialism is the noblest historic undertaking to fulfil the desire of the masses of the people to free themselves from every manner of domination and subjugation, exploitation and oppression and to lead an independent, happy life. Under the guidance of the great leader, our people have marched triumphantly along the road of the arduous and complicated struggle for socialism and now they have entered a high stage where they are assured of the complete victory of socialism.

If they are to inherit the cause of socialism and

accomplish it, our young people must clearly understand the essential superiority of socialist society over capitalist society.

The imperialists are now making frantic efforts to embellish capitalism and to slander socialism. In essence, however, capitalist society is an exploitative society ruled by the capitalist class; only socialist society is a genuinely popular society where the masses lead a worthy life on an equal basis as the masters of the state and society. This is an indisputable, established fact. The essential superiority of socialism over capitalism is that socialist society meets in full the intrinsic requirements of social beings to live and develop independently and creatively on an equal basis.

Capitalist society is not by any means a rich and prosperous society as the imperialists claim, but a society where the rich get ever richer and the poor get ever poorer. In capitalist society the more the production of material wealth increases, the greater becomes the material inequality of the people. In this society the rich people recklessly squander colossal amounts of wealth on an utterly worthless, extravagant and dissolute life, but the poor people live in misery and abject poverty. In capitalist society many people

are forced to lead an inhuman existence; they are compelled to sell even their human dignity and conscience in order to earn a living. In the final analysis, in capitalist society neither the rich nor the poor can be genuine masters of a sound material life.

In capitalist society, the ideological and cultural life of the people is also very poor. There, the people have their independent thinking paralysed and are degenerating ideologically and culturally because they are poisoned by the reactionary bourgeois ideology and culture. Even in what they call the most developed capitalist countries, the number of illiterate and mentally deformed people is ever increasing, and many people are degenerating into vulgar beings who seek only momentary comfort and pleasure without having any ideals or ambitions.

The imperialists are claiming that capitalist society is a “free world” which provides people with complete freedom, but this is a shameless lie. There can be no genuine freedom in capitalist society where the capitalist class dominates everything and the masses are prevented from leading an independent political life. Freedom in capitalist society is the freedom to pursue only individual interests in disregard of the common interests of society; it is freedom only for the rich.

In capitalist society the number of unemployed and bankrupt people, alcoholics and drug addicts as well as of such social evils as murders and robberies is increasing with the result that people are being driven into greater anxiety and despair with the passage of time. In a nutshell, capitalist society is a corrupt and ailing society which has no future and is nearing its doom.

By contrast, socialist society is a sound and vivacious society which is vibrating with the creative life of the people; it is a promising society which is continuing to advance towards a bright future. In socialist society where the people are the masters, everyone can enjoy a sound material life and a rich ideological and cultural life as well as an independent political life.

In our country no one has any worries about food, clothing and housing and everyone, without any distinction between rich and poor, leads an equally prosperous life. Thanks to free education and free medical care, everyone in our country studies throughout his life as he or she wishes, develops equally and enjoys a long life in good health. Our people enjoy to the full socialist art and literature, and these are developing and flowering; they have a most

progressive ideology and are living very proudly, looking forward to a bright future. No one in our country wears rags, suffers from hunger or is out of work, nor are there any alcoholics or drug addicts nor any social evils which cause unrest and suffering to the people. In our society, where the wealth created by the people is devoted totally for the promotion of their welfare, the material and cultural standard of living of the people improves as their creativity increases.

The superiority of socialism finds its most tangible expression in the political life of the people. In our society, where the masses of the people themselves are the masters of politics, everyone enjoys equal political rights and freedom and takes part in state activities as befits a master. In our society everyone belongs to a political organization, and political life here is the most important part of a person's life; it is a vital part of his daily routine. In our society all the people are closely united as one on the basis of revolutionary obligation and comradeship and are fighting together, helping and leading each other forward on the principle of one for all and all for one. This is the greatest pride of our society and it is inconceivable in capitalist society; it is the very source of our people's boundless happiness and their unconquerable strength.

Our young people today are leading a new, happy socialist life because the young people of the previous age gave their sweat and blood, and because the previous generation discharged its historical mission in good faith. Our young people must bear this in mind and carry out their historical mission in a responsible manner as their predecessors did. Our young people must fight, taking great pride in socialism, and thus firmly defend the banner of socialism from the imperialists' schemes and all their challenges and demonstrate to greater effect the decisive advantages of socialism.

If our young people are to fulfil their responsibility as the successors to the revolution, they must arm themselves fully with the Juche idea of our Party and display a high degree of loyalty and revolutionary spirit in implementing their revolutionary tasks.

The Juche idea is a scientific, revolutionary idea which, for the first time in history, has identified man as the master of the world and shown the masses, the driving force of history, the correct way of achieving independence. The Juche idea is an absolutely correct guide to action in the struggle for independence; it is the guiding ideology of our times which the people of the age of independence must acquire. It is only when

young people are imbued with the Juche idea that they can work for the revolution to the very end, overcoming any trials and difficulties by displaying a high degree of consciousness of being the masters of the revolution, and by having firm confidence in the victory of the revolution.

Our young people should make the Juche idea their firm belief and think and act in accordance with this idea.

In order to shape their destiny independently and creatively, the masses should be united around the Party and the leader as a single socio-political organism and follow them loyally. The historical experience of our revolution shows that the people will always emerge victorious when they all fight, bound closely together as one behind the Party and the leader.

In the dark days of Japanese imperialist rule, the young patriotic Koreans were groping for the correct path for their struggle. It was not until they rallied closely around the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and came under his leadership that they were able to become true revolutionaries and play the vanguard role in blazing the trail for our revolution. To these young communists Comrade Kim Il Sung was not

only the leader of the revolution, but also their intimate comrade and benefactor who provided them with a noble life as revolutionaries and who guided them with kindness to add lustre to it. That was why the absolute loyalty of these young communists to the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung was purest and most steadfast; it was based on their strong revolutionary belief and obligation.

The young people of today belong to the new generation which was born and has grown up in the socialist motherland, enjoying a happy life to the full. Our Party has strong faith in these young people, the successors to the revolution, values them most highly and spares nothing if it is for their benefit.

Our young people must emulate their revolutionary forerunners in following the Party's leadership and the leader's guidance with loyalty and in fulfilling their obligations and duties as revolutionary fighters. They must resolutely defend the Party, with a firm resolve to share their destiny with it, and must act as its guards and death-defying corps at any time and at any place.

They must express their loyalty to the Party and the leader in their practical activities to implement the Party's lines and policies.

Our Party's lines and policies are the strategy and

tactics for the fulfilment of the revolutionary cause of Juche; these are the revolutionary tasks that must be carried out by the young and other people. The lines and policies advanced by our Party are permeated with its warm love and care for the people. They imply its great expectations and belief that the people will accept them as their own and implement them without fail. The young people must accept Party policy not only as a duty but also as a great joy and honour, display intense loyalty and devotion in its implementation and live up to the Party's expectations and trust.

The young people must play the vanguard role in carrying out the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions. They must take the lead in any difficult and labour-consuming work for the building of socialism and carry out their revolutionary tasks in a responsible manner at their respective posts. Our young people must march courageously to the most vibrant sites of socialist construction and must all perform exploits and become heroes.

The victory of socialism does not come of itself; it is achieved only after an arduous struggle by the masses of the people. A new machine cannot be developed unless painstaking efforts are made and

repeated failures are overcome. Much less is it possible to achieve, without any difficulties and twists and turns, the historic cause of building a new society for the people by removing the exploiting system and the remnants of the old society that have existed for thousands of years.

A man who dreads trials and difficulties cannot become a revolutionary. If he is to become a revolutionary with an indomitable fighting spirit, he must be tempered in the arduous struggle from his youth. As the saying goes, early training means more than late learning.

The young people must bravely overcome any trials and difficulties which they encounter, firmly convinced that if they struggle in firm unity under the leadership of our Party nothing will be impossible and victory will be theirs. Defeatism and pessimism in the revolutionary struggle end in betrayal and surrender. Whenever they are confronted with trials and difficulties they must screw up their courage so much the more. They must continue to make innovations and advance, displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

In order to accomplish their mission as the successors to our revolution, the young people should

acquire strong creative ability and rich cultural appreciation.

The struggle to build socialism and communism is a gigantic creative undertaking to transform people, nature and society on a full scale. The young people who build socialism and communism and are the masters of the future must naturally have a wealth of knowledge of science and technology and the strong physiques they will need to carry out socialist construction forcefully in addition to having communist characteristics.

As ideological consciousness is a decisive factor in defining man's independence, so scientific and technical knowledge is the main factor in defining man's creativity. Science and technology are now developing at an amazing speed, and there is hot competition between countries to lead the world in science and technology. The imperialists are tenaciously manoeuvring to monopolize science and technology, the common wealth of mankind, and to check their development in socialist countries. Unless they acquire a knowledge of modern science and technology, young men and women cannot work creatively to render distinguished service in socialist construction, nor can they demonstrate the advantages

of socialism, which is in confrontation with imperialism.

All young people must study and study in a high revolutionary spirit and with a strong sense of responsibility to acquire a knowledge of modern science and technology. From the very young generation, a large number of scientists and technicians must be produced who are capable of making a great contribution to the development of science and technology in our country. Young people must reject the fear of technology and conservatism and launch a powerful movement for scientific invention and a mass movement for technical innovation by strengthening creative cooperation among scientists, technicians, producers and three-revolution team members.

A strong physique is the source of youthful spirit and vitality and guarantees creative labour and a heroic struggle. Our young people must be not only sound ideologically and spiritually but also physically healthy, harmonious and strong. Sporting activities should be encouraged and popularized among young men and women so as to make them fully ready for work and national defence.

Communist people are people of a new type who

are not only fond of working and struggling but also able to lead a cultural life displaying noble moral traits and rich emotions. Communist revolutionary qualities can be most durable and powerful on the basis of a genuinely rich life only when they are welded with noble moral traits and rich emotions. We should see to it that all young men and women love and treasure their comrades and the collectives and voluntarily observe socialist regulations and order so that they make a great contribution to the establishment of a harmonious and well-ordered life in our society. In addition, cultural and aesthetic education as well as amateur artistic and literary activities should be stepped up among the youth so that every place where there are young people vibrates at all times with singing and dancing and overflows with the joy and optimism of youth.

Organizational life should be strengthened among the members of the League of Socialist Working Youth.

Only within an organization can a man acquire precious political integrity as a member of the socio-political community and enjoy a valuable life in the worthy struggle for society and the community. A strong sense of organization is one of the most

important qualities of a revolutionary. Only those who have belonged to an organization and have taken an active part in it since their younger days can grow up into revolutionaries who are accustomed to an organizational life and have a strong sense of organization.

The League of Socialist Working Youth is a revolutionary school which trains all the young men and women of our country as the heirs to the revolution and the young vanguard of our Party. The young people must take great pride in being LSWY members and feel honoured as such and take an active part in the organizational life of the league. LSWY members must value their organization, always rely on it and carry out in good faith the assignments given by the organization and their own revolutionary tasks; in this way they will exalt the honour of being the young vanguard of the Party.

The young people must strive for the reunification of the country, the supreme desire of our people.

Our people lived as a homogeneous nation with a brilliant national culture for thousands of years. When Japanese imperialism was defeated they ought to have become masters of a unified, independent and sovereign state. But they have been suffering from

national division for over 40 years because the US imperialists occupied south Korea after liberation. In the 40-year-long history of the division of our country the world has seen what great misfortune and misery one nation of the same blood is suffering because of the artificial division of their country by foreign forces and what a serious and atrocious crime is being committed by the imperialists who trample upon the destiny of another nation in order to carry out their aggressive scheme.

Nothing is more important and pressing for our people today than the task of ending the tragedy of national division brought about by the US imperialists and reunifying the country. The people, including the youth in the north and the south, must combine efforts and reunify the country without fail in our generation so that the younger generation will enjoy happiness to the full in the reunified land.

Defying the suppression and subtle deception of the enemy, the south Korean youth and students are now fully displaying the heroic mettle of the Korean youth in their struggle to oppose the US imperialists and their hirelings and to reunify the country. They are playing the vanguard role in the just struggle of the south Korean people for anti-US independence, anti-

fascist democracy and national reunification; and their heroic struggle is a source of pride for our nation.

Our young men and women must never forget the fighting south Korean people, youth and students even for a moment and must actively support their struggle. They must build socialism better by displaying a high degree of patriotic devotion and give powerful encouragement to the struggle of the south Korean youth and students who are looking up to the northern half of Korea as their beacon of hope.

The young people in the north and the south should stand in the nation's vanguard in the anti-US reunification struggle and, on the basis of the Korean nation's spirit of independence, take strong joint action to remove the barrier of national division and make a breakthrough in the struggle for the country's reunification.

We must hold the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students successfully in keeping with the idea of anti-imperialism, peace and friendship and further strengthen solidarity between our young people and the progressive youth of the world.

This festival will be participated in by a large number of progressive young people and students from many countries of the world who are fighting for

peace and social progress against imperialism. They are the young standard-bearers of our times who are the hope of mankind and its future. They are the young fighters who are taking the lead in the efforts to create an independent and peaceful new world. It is from among them that the outstanding fighters and heroes of our times will emerge. How they fight will exert a great influence on the future development of the world.

We must work with them properly with warm feelings of cherishing the future of mankind and loving comrades and friends. We must ensure that all the delegates to the festival clearly understand the noble idea of the festival and return home with warm feelings of friendship towards the youth and other people of Korea. Then they will become ardent anti-imperialist fighters, forming a fine vanguard in building new societies, and reliable supporters for and sympathizers with our revolution. Only when this is done can we say that the festival will have been a great success and have met the expectations of the Korean and other progressive people of the world.

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Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House

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Issued in February Juche 112 (2023)
