

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG IL

LET US STAUNCHLY CHAMPION OUR PARTY'S LINE OF BUILDING AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMY

Talk to Students at Kim Il Sung University
June 12, 1963

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Today *Rodong Sinmun* carried an important editorial, under the headline *Self-Reliance and the Building of an Independent National Economy*. This editorial aims at helping to staunchly champion our Party's line of building an independent national economy.

We should have a correct understanding of the Party's intention behind the publication of this editorial and firmly defend the Party's line of building an independent national economy.

Building an independent national economy is a law-governed requirement for building socialism and communism.

Countries, if they want to be self-sufficient economically, should adopt the line of building an independent national economy.

As long as nations and countries exist, people live and conduct the revolution and construction with the nation-state as the unit. As the way the economy is run differs from country to country, people should develop their own economies in a responsible manner. So, every country is required to build an economy which is developed in many aspects, equipped with modern

technology, underpinned by its own technology and resources, and managed by its own cadres and people so that it can fully meet the material demands of the economy by relying on its internal forces.

Certain countries are finding fault with our Party's policy of developing the economy in all aspects, claiming that each country should specialize in its "traditional" economic sectors to ensure the profitability of production; but we cannot accept this argument. If we followed this line our country, where even the handicraft economy, to say nothing of modern industry, was held back by the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, would not have any new, modern industrial sectors. Then our national economy, having become distorted and lopsided, would grow more so, and its dependence on and subordination to other economies would increase.

Some people once insisted that our country should import tractors as it would not be cost-effective to manufacture them by itself. But we could not do so.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, in his historic report to the Fourth Congress of the Party, presented the task of manufacturing more than 80 000 tractors with a view to realizing the mechanization of the rural economy. It would have cost a huge amount

of foreign currency to import all the tractors necessary for mechanizing the rural economy, instead of building tractor factories of our own. If our country could earn enough foreign currency to purchase 1 000 tractors a year, it would take 80 years to buy 80 000 tractors. So, our country would not have realized the mechanization of the rural economy if it had chosen to import tractors.

Our country could realize the mechanization of the rural economy and give a rapid boost to agricultural production because it built its own tractor factories. At the outset, production costs were high but, with the technical updating of the tractor factories, costs fell and the profitability of the factories increased.

In our country the tractor industry and other new industries were created according to our Party's policy of building Juche-oriented industries, not on the basis of the "traditional" features of the economy. Today we have a comprehensive system of production sectors which turn out everything needed for developing the economy, defence building and raising the people's standard of living.

Building an independent national economy is an essential requirement for consolidating the country's political independence. If you beg someone else for

food and clothing you are obliged to obey his will. The same applies to the relationship between countries. Any country which is not self-sufficient economically cannot retain its political independence; nor can it maintain a Juche orientation and independence in formulating domestic and foreign policies. Political independence, if not based on economic self-sufficiency, is empty talk. The US-led imperialists are resorting to every possible means to prevent the newly independent countries from achieving economic self-sufficiency; their goal is to make those countries' political independence nominal by maintaining a grip on their economic lifelines.

Today our country, having built the solid basis of an independent national economy, is firmly defending its political independence and formulating policies according to its free will.

The independent national economy is a guarantee for the promotion of economic exchanges and cooperation among countries.

Some people are slinging mud at our Party's line of building an independent national economy, calling it a "closed economy" and an "isolationist line," but this is quite absurd. Our Party's line of building an independent national economy has nothing to do with

a “closed economy” and “isolationism.” We object to the line of concentrating on a few economic sectors and importing all the other goods we need, having not laid the foundations for building an independent national economy; but we are not opposed to economic cooperation and exchanges among countries. By building an independent national economy we can produce what we most need or is in greatest demand, and trade with foreign countries for that which is in small demand or inadequate, on the principle of filling one another’s needs. It is widely known that our Party, when it adopted the line of building an independent national economy, envisaged relying on domestic industry to supply 60-70 per cent of industrial materials and importing the rest, such as crude rubber, crude oil and coking coal, which are not found or are scarce in our country. Meanwhile, our country exports its surplus to other countries.

Our Party’s stand towards the correlation between the building of an independent national economy and economic exchanges is to promote economic exchanges with other countries on the basis of building an independent national economy.

The building of an independent national economy does not conflict with promoting economic exchanges

with foreign countries. Rather, it enables countries to expand the economic exchanges among themselves.

Only when it produces a variety of goods in large quantities by building an independent national economy can our country sell our goods to other countries and purchase what it needs for developing its own economy. Our country has, by going full steam ahead with the building of an independent national economy, strengthened its economic might and expanded the scope of its foreign trade beyond the socialist markets to reach the capitalist ones.

To promote economic exchanges with other countries on the basis of laying the solid foundations of an independent national economy is a fundamental guarantee for maintaining the principles of equality and independence in external economic relations. Only when it is capable of producing large quantities of quality goods needed by other countries can a country conduct economic exchanges with others on an equal footing. Asking others to sell you their goods while being unable to sell your own to them cannot be called economic exchanges; it amounts to little more than begging. If a country begs others for what it needs, it cannot maintain independence in external economic relations. Every country should lay solid

economic foundations by building an independent national economy so as to develop its external economic relations on the principles of equality and independence.

Today our country is not begging others for help but developing economic exchanges with others on an equal footing, because it has laid solid economic foundations by building an independent national economy.

All these facts prove that the attacks on our Party's line of building an independent national economy are totally groundless and absurd.

It is important properly to understand the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance being upheld by our Party, along with its line of building an independent national economy.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance is a noble revolutionary spirit displayed by communists who are determined to accomplish their revolutionary cause by their own efforts, however difficult the conditions. Communists do not make the revolution under orders or coercion or to curry favour with someone else. Since they have faith in the validity of the socialist and communist cause and in the certainty of its victory, communists devote their all to the

revolutionary struggle and never shrink from it. By virtue of their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, communists never vacillate in the face of adversity, and solve everything for themselves by overcoming all manner of trials and difficulties that lie in the way.

However, certain countries are taking issue with our Party's principle of self-reliance, insisting that less-developed countries can develop their economies only with the help of big or developed countries. Of course, aid from other countries can help in building one's economy and can contribute to shoring it up. But a country cannot develop its economy by depending entirely on help from others. The main principle in economic construction is, ultimately, to rely on one's own forces.

In the period of postwar rehabilitation, our country received a great deal of aid, economic and technical, from fraternal countries but, with that aid alone, could not recover from the war damage. The rehabilitation of our country on the war debris is attributable not to external aid but entirely to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance it maintained in the face of the trials and difficulties. If one abandons the principle of self-reliance and looks only for external aid in economic construction, one can become shackled to others

economically. If one truly wants to build an independent national economy, one should uphold the banner of self-reliance.

The principle of self-reliance and the line of building an independent national economy have been vindicated by the practical experience of our revolution.

Our Party, from the first days of building a new country after liberation, set the line of building an independent national economy advanced by the leader as its strategic line in economic construction, and has implemented it to the letter ever since.

Before anything else, our Party put forward a policy of building a multi-faceted economy. Our people, true to this policy, strove to build an economy equipped with an integrated system of numerous production sectors. As a result, our country, where even making farm implements had been a challenge, has come to have a multi-faceted economy that is operated by relying on domestic forces.

While striving to build a multi-faceted economy, our Party emphasizes equipping all of its sectors with modern technology.

Equipping the various sectors of the national economy with modern technology is an important

guarantee for fully meeting the growing material demands by internal forces by rapidly boosting production, and for ensuring the self-sufficiency of the country's technology and the economy.

Immediately after the liberation of the country with its technologically backward economy, it was far from easy to equip the economy with modern technology. But by depending on the technology of others it could neither lay solid technological foundations of its own nor achieve the independent development of its national economy. By holding fast to the stand of developing the economy independently in all circumstances, our Party overcame the trials and difficulties by relying on domestic forces in the effort to equip the economic sectors with modern technology. In fact, when we decided to make tractors for ourselves, we had no experience in this field, and no relevant technology, much less design. Foreign countries were not pleased with our decision. Given these circumstances, our Party called on the workers and technicians to make tractors by themselves without looking to external help. In hearty response to the Party's call, our working class and working intellectuals buckled down to the job; by disassembling a foreign tractor and drawing up a

design, they finally made the first tractor by themselves.

We created an efficient heavy industry through an intensive struggle and, by relying on it, laid the basis for equipping all the sectors of the national economy, such as light industry, agriculture and transport, with modern technology.

Our Party has also pursued a policy of developing industry by relying on domestic fuel and materials.

Relying on domestic fuel and materials is a prerequisite for independently developing the economy on a sound basis in all circumstances.

Since the Second World War many capitalist countries planned to purchase crude oil from abroad, and accordingly created a number of petroleum-based industries. The capitalist countries are now importing crude oil dirt cheap, mostly from their colonies and the newly independent countries, in order to power their factories and enterprises; but their economies cannot be said to be on a solid footing. In the future they may face a crisis if they continue to rely on imported oil. Conversely, our Party, from the early days of economic construction after the liberation of the country, has not turned to other countries for fuel and materials in building up its industry, but relied on

the abundant domestic resources for developing its own economy. Our Party did not choose to build oil-fired power stations, but hydro-electric power stations by relying on the hydro-power resources which are abundant in our country. Considering the fact that the country has a limited area of land under cultivation and unfavourable conditions for cultivating cotton, our Party ensured that a vinalon industry relying on the abundant domestic resources was created. Today our industry can steadily develop in any circumstances, as it relies on domestic fuel and materials.

Our Party has also directed great concern to training domestic technical cadres. This is of crucial importance for building an independent national economy. Only when it has its own ranks of domestic technical cadres can a country solve by itself the scientific and technical problems that arise in building an independent national economy and be successful in equipping all its production sectors with modern technology. This task was all the more pressing particularly in our country, where there was a serious deficiency of domestic technical cadres as a consequence of Japanese colonial rule.

Our Party, in the early days after its founding, advanced the policy of giving definite precedence to

the training of domestic cadres and to education over all other affairs, and has implemented it thoroughly, with the result that a large number of technical cadres of working people origin have been trained in a short span of time. Today in our country the modern factories and enterprises are all operated properly by domestically trained technicians and experts.

Our country has laid the solid foundations of an independent national economy, so it does not have to beg others for help in order to step up economic construction and improve the people's standard of living, and it has become economically self-sufficient.

We should conduct a close study of the essence and validity of the line of building an independent national economy advanced by the leader, and staunchly champion and implement this line in the face of the mud-slinging campaigns by our enemies inside and outside the country.

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