

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM IL SUNG

ON FURTHER DEVELOPING THE COMMUNIST POLICIES

Talk to Senior Officials
of the Administration Council
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Recently the Central People's Committee issued the decree on establishing the social security system for the cooperative farmers. This is another communist policy employed by our Party and the government of the Republic, which regard it as the supreme principle of their activities to steadily improve the people's standard of living, to promote their welfare. The introduction of a social security system for the cooperative farmers abolished the distinctions between the working class and the peasantry in terms of state benefits of social security. It is producing favourable comments from the cooperative farmers, who have recently received another great benefit from the Party and the state.

For a socialist country to actively introduce a series of communist policies is of great significance in improving the people's livelihood equally, displaying the advantages of socialism to the full and stepping up socialist construction. Only when everyone enjoys a decent material and cultural life thanks to the communist policies of the state will the people be sincerely convinced of the advantages of socialism and strive more devotedly for the consolidation and development of the socialist system.

It is natural that we should develop production if we are to provide the people with a comfortable life. In fact, in any society the development of production plays an important role in improving the people's material and cultural life. However, all members of the society would not become well-off if only productivity develops and materials are mass-produced. The people's living standards largely depend on the forms of distribution of products and the state policy, as well as the development of production. In other words, whether the people can lead a comfortable life equally or not depends on how the products are distributed and what policy the state employs.

In capitalist society the products are distributed to satisfy the requirements and interests of the exploiting class, so this process serves for increasing the income of capitalists and boosting the exploitation of the workers. Therefore, as production develops in capitalist society, the gulf between the rich and the poor widens and such phenomena become serious. But in socialist society the working masses are the masters of productive activity and the masters of the products as well, so the products are distributed to satisfy the requirements and interests of the masses. The distribution of products in socialist society is based on

the principle of improving equally the people's standard of living, so such a phenomenon as "the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer" can never happen.

The material wealth created by the working people in socialist society is distributed fairly according to quantity and quality of work done and in conformity with the communist policies of the state. The principle "To each according to his work" and the communist policies of the state conform to the characteristics of socialist society.

The principle "To each according to his work" is the form of distribution which reflects the transitional character of socialist society. The distribution must be thoroughly based on work done in socialist society where outdated ideological remnants still persist in people's minds, labour has not yet become the first requirement of their life, and essential difference in work still exists. If such principle is not maintained, some people may try to eat the bread of idleness or receive more than they have earned.

Distribution according to work done has limitations in realizing the purpose of socialist and communist construction for enabling all members of society to lead comfortable and civilized lives equally. If we

resort only to the principle of paying the working people according to their work results or earnings, it would inevitably result in some differences in shares among the working people, because there is disparity in the quantities and qualities of work done and in manpower among families which, in the long run, would cause a gap in their living standards. Of course, the difference in the people's living standards is not so great in socialist society where the means of production belong to social ownership as in capitalist society where the means of production belong to private owners. However, it cannot be overlooked.

In order to overcome such limitations in distribution according to work done and improve the working people's standard of living evenly in socialist society, the state must widely introduce various people-oriented social policies, communist policies.

Communist policies of the state reflect the communist character of socialist society. All communist measures taken by the government of our Republic embody in them the communist principle "One for all and all for one." Only when different kinds of communist policies are carried out and gradually expanded and developed to perfection can socialist society develop into communist society,

where all people lead a happy life equally.

You should never neglect distribution according to work done because it is important to carry out communist policies for the enhancement of the people's livelihood and socialist and communist construction. If you neglect this principle, you may dampen the people's zeal for production and make it impossible to press on with socialist and communist construction. You should steadily develop and perfect communist policies in accordance with the level of the people's ideological consciousness and the economic level of the country, while strictly maintaining the socialist principle of distribution to suit the transitional character of socialist society.

Throughout the period of building a new society, our Party and the government of the Republic have always maintained the principles of paying the working people for as much as they worked or they earned, introducing many communist policies step by step.

During the grave Fatherland Liberation War, we already enforced the universal free medical care system, one of the important communist policies, and provided free medical service to the wounded in the war and other patients. This greatly encouraged our

people to demonstrate heroism in the life-and-death struggle against the American aggressors. Thanks to the universal free medical care system and various other people-oriented policies, the health of the people is effectively protected and improved, with the result that the average life span of our people has risen to 74 years. This means that the average life span of our people is 36 years longer than before liberation, and that our country ranks among those countries where the average life span is the longest in the world.

The communist policy of our Party and the government of our Republic has also been fully embodied in the socialist education system of our country. From ancient times our people's desire for learning had been great, but they could not realize such a desire during Japanese imperialist colonial rule. Since the first days after liberation we have given priority to education to satisfy our people's desire for learning; in the arduous days of postwar reconstruction we established the universal compulsory primary education system, the universal compulsory secondary education system, and then the universal free education system, in which all educational institutions train students at state expense. Today, in our country, the state finances various types

of social and adult education as well as formal school education. The socialist education system of our country is a superior education system outstanding in the world. In our country preschool children are brought up in nurseries and kindergartens at state and social expense. It is an important communist policy to bring up all children at state and social expense.

The agricultural tax in kind system and the tax system have been abolished in our country. Our country became the first to be free from all taxes. We build dwelling houses with state funds and provide them to the farmers free of charge as well as to the workers and officials. Such a country as ours cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

In our country the state affords every working person a stable job and guarantees a living; in addition, it takes responsible care of the people who have temporarily lost their working ability, the disabled, and the elderly and children who have no support, by introducing social insurance and security systems for the people. The state also bears the burden of a paid holiday system, recuperation and relaxation systems and a maternity leave system for women workers. Many other communist policies are now in force in our country.

Since the days when we started building a new society after liberation, we have enforced a people-oriented policy of food supply so that people do not suffer from hunger. The food supply system for factory and office workers is, in essence, a communist policy. The state buys grain from the farmers at 60 *jon* per kilogramme and sells it to the factory and office workers at only 8 *jon*, a nominal charge. The money which the state receives for providing food to them is nothing but the transport fee. Some economic officials once suggested that food grains should be sold at market prices instead of food ration, as in other countries. At that time I advised them to go among the people and take stock of their life, saying that if food grains are sold at market prices, big families which have one or a few breadwinners might live in want, while small families with many breadwinners would not have a big problem. After looking into the situation, they said that it would be unreasonable to sell food at market prices. The food supply system for the factory and office workers is an excellent policy in that it enables everyone to live without worry about food in our country where we cannot produce rice enough to supply on the principle "To each according to his need."

The social benefits in which our people share in addition to their salaries thanks to the communist policies of the state are considerable. In our country one student gets a subsidy of 15 800 *won* from state funds from his nursery days until he graduates from a university through compulsory eleven-year education. Besides, the annual benefit from free medical care is 470 *won* in an average family, and that from the food supply system is 560 *won*. The benefits by the communist policies of the state such as the free education system, the system of bringing up and educating children, free medical care and food supply systems are really great. It shows that communist policies are carried out in our country to a considerably high degree.

The happy life which all our people enjoy today is inconceivable apart from the people-oriented and communist policies carried out by our Party and the government of the Republic. Thanks to these policies our people lead a happy life with no worry about food, clothing, housing, education of their children and medical care.

Having seen our people living happily with no worry, an overseas compatriot, on his visit to the homeland, said that our country is a paradise on earth,

the “Heaven” of the people, and that we should not wait to see “Heaven” after death but live long in this “paradise on earth.” The progressive people of the world, too, highly praise and envy our communist policies. It is inevitable that our country is admired as the “model socialist country,” “country of education” and “country free from tax.” It is natural that we are proud of this fact.

The fact that our Party and the government of the Republic have set in force many people-oriented and communist policies does not mean that our economy is more developed than others or that we have a lot of money. Frankly speaking, a series of communist policies such as free medical care and compulsory free education are a great burden on the state. But I never consider it a burden. I regard it as a great pride to give our people an equally happy life by carrying out various communist policies, which other countries have not done.

I often meet heads of state, political, public and academic figures from different countries and have talks with them. They ask me how Korea can introduce free medical care, compulsory free education and the like without collecting tax in kind or monetary taxes, and what secret underlies these

policies. There is nothing mysterious in our communist policies. These are only the result of our efforts to make people equally well-off by carrying out correct policies using the money which our people have earned demonstrating the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. The question depends on how to serve the people. When you work with a spirit of devotion to the people, you can raise money and find a way as well. Needless to say, as many communist policies are in force we sometimes have to save every penny, not using money even when necessary and not building what should be built. Nevertheless, we have implemented communist policies, overcoming all these hardships.

Different kinds of communist policies introduced in our country are not the policies which any country can set in force, only because it is a socialist or rich country. Such communist policies can be introduced only by the genuine party and state of the working class which regard the masses of the people as most valuable and take care of them, fully ready to answer for their destiny. The policies of our Party and the government of the Republic cannot change, as they reflect the requirements of the Juche idea that demands thinking everything centring on man and

making it serve him.

We should not rest on our laurels but widen the range of communist policies steadily in accordance with the requirements of socialist construction so as to provide our people with a richer and more civilized life.

First of all, we should develop the food supply system further and realize communism first in food.

The prerequisite in people's living is food. People can manage to live in a shortage of clothing or housing, but cannot endure hunger. As the food question is important in the people's living, I changed the words "clothing, food and housing" into "food, clothing and housing."

What is most important for solving the food problem is to produce plenty of rice. Without rice we cannot build a socialist and communist society successfully, and unless people eat their fill we cannot say that we have built a socialist and communist society. Therefore, already in the first stage of socialist construction I advanced the slogan "Rice is immediately socialism" and have exerted great efforts to implement it.

In order to develop the food supply system further and realize communism in food, we should increase grain production considerably.

For the present, we should launch a dynamic struggle to hit the target of 15 million tons of grain included in the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction. If we produce 15 million tons of grain, we can realize fully the centuries-old desire of our people to live on rice and meat soup.

In order to attain the goal of 15 million tons of grain, we should increase per-hectare yield by strictly observing the Juche farming method, and expand the area under cultivation.

The agricultural sector must strictly maintain the principle of sowing the right crop on the right kind of soil at the right time, establish a scientific manuring system and apply fertilizers to suit the regional character of soil and the biological character of the crops. In addition, we should develop many varieties of high-yield crops by launching a green revolution, and make arable lands fairly fertile.

If we are to increase grain production remarkably in our country where the per-hectare yield of the crops already has risen to a high level, we should increase the area of cultivated land by launching a vigorous movement to reclaim tideland and obtain new land. Along the west coast there are many tidelands and, moreover, the conditions for reclaiming them are

favourable. We must direct an especially great effort towards tideland reclamation and thus carry out the task of reclaiming 300 000 hectares of tideland as advanced at the Sixth Congress of the Party.

The efforts of the agricultural officials alone cannot boost grain production. The Party, the people and the army must come out in powerful support for the countryside in order to consolidate the material and technical foundations of the rural economy and bring about a fresh upswing in agricultural production.

We should be deeply concerned about the housing question in addition to the food problem.

The family is a cell of society, and happy family life is inconceivable without a dwelling house. As dwelling houses are vital for the people's living, we have built them on a large scale in urban and rural communities. In our country no one lives in the open; everyone leads a stable life in the house built by the state. However, we should not neglect the housing problem. The people's demands for dwelling houses become greater as their living improves. In the postwar days our working people were reconciled to living in single-room housing, but nowadays they demand two-, three- or four-room flats. We should build a lot of modern dwelling houses in a planned

way in the cities, including Pyongyang, and the countryside to satisfy the ever-increasing demands for dwellings.

We should further develop the universal compulsory free education system.

Education is the work of training young people into social beings, ideologically sound, knowledgeable and physically fit; it decides the fate of the country and nation. Apart from education we cannot expect prosperity and a bright future for the country and nation. The future of the country and nation largely depends on the efforts for education. At present, our country is carrying out advanced educational policies which provide all sorts of education free of charge, including the universal eleven-year compulsory education, but the quality of education is not yet very high and the educational conditions are not satisfactory either.

We should direct great effort steadily towards education in keeping with the requirements of the rapidly developing reality to raise the quality of education decisively and develop the universal compulsory free education system onto a higher level. We should build schools in a planned way and produce and supply plenty of school furniture and

school supplies. We should also produce different kinds of modern experimental apparatuses and practice equipment and publish many reference books for study, and extracurricular books for use in the schools. As the economy of the country develops, we should improve educational institutions and educational facilities, provide textbooks and other school supplies for the students free of charge and ensure the life of boarding students at state expense.

Our ultimate target in developing the universal compulsory free education system is to introduce a compulsory higher education system.

The Sixth Congress of our Party set forth the policy of intellectualizing the whole of society. When this has been done, the cultural and intellectual level of all members of society will reach that of a college graduate. The introduction of compulsory higher education in our country is not an event in the remote future. As we have raised the matter of enforcing compulsory higher education for the first time in history, all sorts of difficult and complicated problems may arise in the course of implementing this task. However, you should not consider the enforcement of the compulsory higher education an indefinable objective. When we were going to introduce the

universal compulsory primary education in 1956, some people also thought it hardly possible. But we were determined and got down to it, with the result that we introduced universal compulsory primary education and it was followed soon by universal compulsory secondary education. If we make up our minds and work hard, we can carry out universal compulsory higher education, too, in the near future.

For the enforcement of compulsory higher education, we must improve the existing institutions of higher learning, and at the same time increase higher educational institutions mainly by developing the study-while-you-work system of education. We should set up many factory, farm and fishermen's colleges and higher specialized schools for the study-while-you-work system in towns and farm and fishing villages. We should enforce compulsory higher education for young people just out of eleven-year compulsory education first, and then gradually, as the conditions mature, enrol all those working people who have had no higher education.

In order to train the younger generation into fine communists with a sound ideological consciousness, we should educate them properly from their childhood. As the saying goes, "what is learned in the

cradle is carried to the grave,” meaning that a bad habit once formed is hard to change, so good habits must be inculcated from childhood. It is a fact that a bad habit in one’s childhood can hardly be changed in adulthood, no matter how good an education he receives. Therefore, it is very important to foster and bring up children collectively in the nurseries and kindergartens. This is far more advantageous than family fostering by the parents. Bringing up children collectively in nurseries and kindergartens accustoms the children to a disciplined and collective life, and builds communist characters; it also has a good influence on the mental and physical development of the children. We should make a positive effort to consolidate and develop the advanced system of bringing up children collectively in nurseries and kindergartens at state and public expense.

To this end, we should build more nurseries and kindergartens and modernize them. In order to bring up and educate children better and fully guarantee the social activities of women, in particular, we should organize and run weekly and monthly nurseries and kindergartens on a large scale.

The management of nurseries and kindergartens must be improved. We should build them up in a

cultured way, guaranteeing hygienic conditions and providing children with sufficient nutritional foodstuffs. We should establish a well-organized state supply system to feed children satisfactorily. We should supply enough of everything for children, even though grown-ups may lack. We should produce and supply in sufficient amounts toys, educational materials, medicines and educational facilities as well as foodstuffs needed for the upbringing and education of the children.

Good nursery and kindergarten teachers must be trained. Fostering and bringing up children is a very responsible yet difficult task. It is not easy for the mother of a family to take care of a few children of her own, so it goes without saying that bringing up many children of others is not a simple task. Nursery and kindergarten teachers must warmly love the children as their own mothers and know how to foster and bring up children. We should build up the colleges and training schools for nursery and kindergarten teachers and improve their management to train many excellent teachers of all-round learning.

We must further develop the universal free medical care system.

It is the centuries-old desire of people to live long

in good health free from illness. However, the people's long life free from illness is inconceivable in capitalist society where money decides everything. It is possible only in socialist society, a true people's society, which considers people the most valuable in the world and spares nothing for their life.

Though we have long enforced the free medical care system and achieved great successes in protecting and promoting the people's health, we still have a lot to do in this field. At present, medicines and medical appliances are not in sufficient supply to suit the universal free medical care system, and the technical level of our medical workers is not high; so its vitality is not displayed to the full. In accordance with the requirement of the developing reality we should build up the establishments for disease prevention and medical treatment, including hospitals, produce and supply in sufficient amounts different kinds of medicines and medical appliances, and enhance the technical level of the medical workers so as to take better care of and promote the people's health.

We should manufacture Koryo medicines in large quantities. Many Koryo medicines are made of various elements such as essential amino acids necessary to protect and promote people's health. If

we manufacture Koryo medicines in quantity and use them, we can prevent diseases and better protect the people's health. We should collect different kinds of medicinal herbs abundant in our country, create many herb gardens, and build up production bases of Koryo medicines, so as to produce plenty of them as needed to protect and promote the people's health.

Disease prevention and medical treatment are a really responsible and important undertaking which deals with human life, and success in this work largely depends on the qualifications and ideological preparedness of the public health workers. We should consolidate the institutions of medical education including universities of medical sciences and train many public health workers of high quality; at the same time, a vigorous movement should be launched among the public health workers to acquire knowledge of medical sciences and technology and gain clinical experience necessary for disease prevention and medical treatment. Along with these, political and ideological education should be strengthened so that they will take an active part in the movement for wholehearted service, cherishing warm love for the people.

We should further develop social insurance and

social security systems and other communist policies at state expense. In conformity with the revolution and construction developing to a higher stage, we must more thoroughly implement the communist policies which are now in force and increase their benefits, while expanding their range in different sectors.

As the enforcement of every communist policy is immediately a social change which eliminates the remnants of the old society, it is not carried out by one man's subjective will or ambition. Communist policies can be enforced only when certain conditions have matured for them. First of all, all members of society must be ready politically and ideologically. If we introduce communist policies in a situation where all members of society are not ready politically and ideologically, idlers may appear and it may produce a serious effect on socialist and communist construction. We can say that arming people firmly with the communist ideas is the prerequisite for developing communist policies. By strengthening political and ideological education we can train every member of society to be a man of the communist type who places the interests of the country and people above his own and works with complete devotion for society and the collective. Along with this, we should achieve great

successes in socialist economic construction to provide material and financial guarantees for the development of communist policies. Without creating the material conditions, we cannot introduce a communist policy, and the communist policy introduced under such conditions cannot display its vitality to the full. We must press on with production and construction in all sectors of the national economy to consolidate the foundations of the socialist independent national economy and further strengthen the country's economic power. We must develop communist policies continually as the political and ideological and material conditions mature.

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