

KIM IL SUNG

**ON UPHOLDING
INDEPENDENCE**

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the Director of the Research and
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**Answers to Questions Raised by
the Director of the Research and
Planning Department of the Ministry of
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of the People's Republic of Benin
(Excerpts)**

June 30, 1979

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Question: The Juche idea holds an important place in the world. It is particularly well known in the third world countries.

Some intellectuals affirm that the Juche idea will become the philosophy of the third road for the third world.

What do you think of this affirmation, Comrade President?

Answer: The present is the era of independence when the oppressed and humiliated people have emerged as masters of the world and are carving out their destiny independently and creatively.

The world's people desire independent lives now. No one wants to be subjugated by another nor does he tolerate his right to independence being trampled upon. Even some capitalist countries, to say nothing of the newly independent

and the socialist countries, oppose imperialist and dominationist control and interference in their bid to lead independent lives.

Vast multitudes of people in the world who were long exploited and oppressed by the imperialists in the past are now pressing forward along the road to a new society under the banner of independence. At present, newly independent nations are valiantly struggling to consolidate their political independence, build independent national economies and increase their own defence capabilities in the face of many trials and tribulations. This proves that it is the trend of the times which no force can ever check now that the world's people want independence and are advancing towards independence.

Our Juche idea reflects this trend.

What is essential in the Juche idea is to establish the Juche orientation in the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction. Establishing the Juche orientation means having the attitude of masters towards the revolution and construction. In other words, it means discarding the idea of dependence on others and displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. This enables one to maintain at all times the independent standpoint of tackling one's own problems on one's own responsibility, and to adhere to the creative standpoint of solving all the problems that arise in the revolution and construction in line with the interests of one's people and the actual conditions of one's country.

The independent and creative standpoints are embodied

in the principles of independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence.

Political independence is the lifeblood of a country and nation. Only when independence is maintained in politics is it possible to defend the nation's prestige and to accelerate the revolution and construction.

Political independence must be guaranteed by an independent economy. An independent national economy is essential for the consolidation of political independence and national prosperity and for providing the people with an affluent material standard of living.

An independent and sovereign state should always be self-reliant in national defence. Self-reliance in defence is indispensable for safeguarding national independence and revolutionary gains against all forms of imperialist aggression and interference.

Guided by the Juche idea, our people have established the Juche orientation in all fields of the revolution and construction. As a result a great victory has been achieved in the struggle for a new society. Our country, once a destitute and backward colony, has been transformed into a powerful socialist state, politically independent, economically self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence. Our people's brilliant victory in the building of a new society is graphic proof of the correctness and vitality of the Juche idea.

Although the Juche idea is our own proposition based on

the requirements of the Korean revolution and our people's experience, it evokes a sympathetic response in people throughout the world because it reflects the trend of our times.

You said that the Juche idea is popular with the people of the third world. I think this is because the idea is in accord with their aspirations and needs.

What kind of idea a people will adhere to and which path they will follow will be decided by their own wishes. The Juche idea says that one is the master of one's own destiny and that one has also the capacity for hewing out one's own destiny. If the people of the third world carve out their path independently with a high consciousness that they are the masters of their own destiny, they will surely have a bright future.

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**Talk to the President
of the Editorial Council
of the Mexican Newspaper *El Dia*
(Excerpts)**

June 18, 1981

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It is especially important for non-aligned and developing countries to uphold independence firmly.

A principal criterion to decide whether a country is progressive or not is whether it is maintaining independence or not. If a country does not adhere to independence but is subjugated to another country, it cannot be regarded as a progressive state, no matter how good a social system it might have.

We intend to build independent socialism; we are not trying to build socialism under subjection to another country. Construction of a subjugated socialism is quite meaningless.

If one is to maintain independence, one should oppose flunkeyism towards large powers.

Although surrounded by great powers our country has not adopted flunkeyism.

In the past the flunkeyist tendency was very evident in our country. When we were waging the national-liberation

struggle, the flunkeyists worshipped various large powers, trying to make the revolution in the same way as these countries had done. As a result, they were deeply involved in unnecessary factional feuds.

At that time we, the young communists, opposed this flunkeyist tendency resolutely and held that the revolution must be carried out in our own way. In the process of opposing flunkeyism and working out a new road of our own for the revolution, we put forward the Juche idea.

Even during the period of working hard for the construction of a new society after liberation, the flunkeyists attempted to copy the example of another country. However, we opposed this and pressed forward with the revolution and construction in our own way.

Right after the country's liberation we had few technical personnel for economic construction. Those who had been engaged in the armed struggle against the Japanese knew about politics and military affairs but were not well versed in economic matters. So we were obliged to send students abroad for study. When they returned home after finishing studying they tried to raise crops and construct industry in a foreign way.

I opposed this. I stressed that farming and all economic construction projects must be carried out in accordance with the prevailing conditions in our country.

As was explained in the *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country*, I set the tasks of the technical revolution in the country areas with the main emphasis on

irrigation, electrification, mechanization and the use of chemicals, in order to develop agriculture, and stressed the need to give priority to irrigation. For rural technical reorganization, other countries effected mechanization first, but we undertook irrigation first to suit the situation in our country. As a result of putting irrigation first, we were able to increase agricultural production considerably, even though we were farming manually and could grow the crops on a sound basis without suffering from natural disasters.

We have created a farming method suited to the specific conditions in our country and thereby grow crops in a completely Korean way. We call our own way of farming the Juche farming method.

In building socialism we adopted the independent policy conforming to our existing conditions. As a result, we have achieved brilliant successes. At present we do not import food; we are completely self-sufficient in food. Our people are enjoying a happy life, free from any worry. Everyone in our country studies as much as he pleases and receives free medical treatment. There is no taxation and no unemployment in our country.

If a country taps the creative effort of its own people properly and pursues a policy suited to its actual conditions, it can score great success in the building of socialism. If, on the contrary, it takes to flunkeyism or commits subjectivism against the will of its people, it cannot succeed in socialist construction.

Man is the master of everything and decides everything—this is the principle of the Juche idea. When the masses of the people are forcefully roused to action, nothing is beyond their power. If we are to enlist their creative strength and intellect correctly, we must oppose flunkeyism and subjectivism and enforce an independent policy. This is well demonstrated by the experience of many countries in the building of a new society.

Today very many countries throughout the world are demanding independence and following an independent path. For this very reason, we call the present time the age of independence.

A country without independence cannot really be called an independent state. Such a country cannot in any way represent the interests of the nation and defend its independence.

Adherence to independence is the only means not only to defend national independence but also to rouse the people to efforts to construct a rich and strong country.

In addition, only the maintenance of independence prevents the war which the great powers want to ignite. If each country becomes an independent and sovereign state and refrains from acting under the control of any big power, the big powers will not be in a position to carry on a feud. Therefore, maintaining independence is also extremely important for universal peace. When every country adheres fast to independence, no war will break out and world peace will be preserved for ever.

In upholding independence it is important for developing countries to build an independent national economy. Countries which have failed to do so cannot defend national independence and political sovereignty successfully. A country which is economically subjugated to others cannot but be subject to them politically.

In order to build an independent national economy it is necessary to strengthen economic cooperation between non-aligned and developing countries.

At present there are few advanced countries, but developing countries number more than a hundred. If each of these developing countries contributes one technique, they can exchange more than a hundred techniques. Therefore, if they succeed in economic and cultural exchanges and technical cooperation, they can develop rapidly and catch up with developed states.

Developing countries can learn technology from developed countries. It is not bad to learn science and technology. Of course, they should not accept any conditions attached in learning techniques from advanced countries. Such conditions are aimed at subjugating other countries. For this reason, one must oppose any attempt to impart techniques to other countries with conditions attached.

The essential principle one must observe in learning foreign experiences and techniques is to uphold independence. One should not attempt to accept these experiences and techniques without reservation, on the

grounds that they are good. As for foreign things, one should, above all, chew them before swallowing them if they are palatable, or spitting them out if they are not.

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Let Us Uphold Independence (Excerpts)

Talk to the First Vice-President
of the Venezuelan Movement to Socialism

September 7, 1981

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To uphold independence in party and state activities is the most justified policy that conforms with the requirements of the present time.

Needless to say, we learned the theory and method of revolutionary struggle from revolutionary pioneers like Marx and Lenin. But we cannot dogmatically apply their revolutionary theory and method for ever. As years roll by, the nature of the times and the social circumstances change and the objectives of the revolution, too, change. As the objectives of the revolution change, its nature changes and its theory and method, too, ought to change.

Marx said that revolution would take place successively in developed capitalist countries carrying the world revolution to victory. He thought that when the revolution took place in developed capitalist countries, the national liberation movement in colonies would triumph spontaneously. But history did not turn out as Marx had anticipated. As history shows, revolution did not take

place successively in developed capitalist countries but broke out in backward countries first.

That the revolution was victorious in Russia, a backward capitalist country, is to Lenin's credit. The Russian revolution was led by Lenin. The Russian revolution carried out under the leadership of Lenin made a great contribution to the development of the world revolution. The victory of the Russian revolution injected the oppressed nations and the peoples of backward countries of the world with the confidence that if they waged a revolutionary struggle they could win.

But historical facts show that the way adopted by Lenin is not the only way to win a revolution. Not in all countries of the world can a revolution be only conducted in the manner used by Lenin to wage the revolutionary struggle.

Revolution can neither be exported nor imported. One must settle all problems arising in the revolutionary struggle in accordance with the actual conditions of one's country by drawing on the strength of one's people.

Ours is the age of independence.

After World War II many countries achieved independence. The time is gone when such countries as France, Britain, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands with their many colonies dominated various continents of the world. Now nearly all countries which were under the colonial yoke in the past have been liberated. Only a few countries in some areas, including Southern Africa, have not yet attained national independence.

The most important problem confronting the peoples who have won national independence today is how to consolidate the political independence of their countries and how to defend their independence.

Independence is the life and soul of the country and people. All countries from their inception have sovereignty. A country without sovereignty cannot be truly called an independent state.

Although countries may differ from each other in the size of territory or population, there should not be higher and lower countries. There must not, on any account, be superiority or inferiority in relationships between nations.

The same applies to the relations between parties, too. As you have said, there cannot be a father party and a son party, a grandfather party and a grandson party, or an eldest brother party and a younger brother party. We think you are absolutely right when you insist that the principle of independence should be observed between parties. Your viewpoint is in full agreement with our Party's. Our Party always advocates that all countries and parties should uphold independence.

In order to consolidate political independence and uphold independence all countries should build an independent national economy. Building an independent national economy means attaining economic independence by building an economy suited to the actual conditions of one's country by relying on the strength of one's own people.

Economic self-sufficiency is the material foundation of political independence and sovereignty. Failing economic self-sufficiency, political dependence on other countries is inevitable and inequality between nations would not be abolished. Economic self-sufficiency is essential for consolidating political independence and sovereignty and for ensuring the free development of the nation.

If countries which have achieved political independence do not build an independent national economy but economically depend on other countries, they would in fact be subordinated to the latter, and they cannot be considered to be genuinely independent. Even a country which is building socialism, if it is economically dependent on other countries, is as good as having lost political independence, however progressive its social system may be and whatever anti-imperialist slogan it may put up.

The people's objective in the struggle against imperialism is to achieve independence by winning the political independence of the country. And if a country is economically dependent on other countries again because of its failure to attain economic independence after it has thrown off the colonial yoke of imperialism, its achievement of political independence would become meaningless, for, in the final analysis, this would signify nothing more than changing one form of subordination for another. A country which has lost independence and has no sovereignty can never be called an independent state.

We maintain that not only nations but also people should uphold independence.

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Man wishes to live freely without being restrained by anything. The quality of man to live freely as the master of the world is termed independence.

Along with independence, man has creativeness. This means that he has the creative power to transform nature and society in accordance with his will and wishes.

Independence and creativeness constitute the most essential attributes of man. Because he has independence and creativeness, man becomes the master of everything and the factor that decides everything.

Man's independence and creativeness are closely interrelated and they are manifested in a unified process. Only when man has independence can he display creativeness, and only when he displays creativeness can he maintain independence. If man has no independence, he cannot display creativeness, and if he cannot display creativeness, he cannot achieve independence.

Although independence and creativeness are essential attributes of man, they are not inborn. In our country efforts are made to foster independence and creativeness in people from the moment they are born. We continue to cultivate independence and creativeness in people from their childhood till they become adults after going through adolescence.

After seeing the realities of our country, people from

the countries of the third world and the Asian, African and Latin-American countries ask us from where is such great strength derived. Our strength lies in the fact that all the people work by displaying independence and creativeness with a great awareness that they are the masters of the country. The strength of the masses of the people is inexhaustible. It is therefore very important to believe in their strength and solve all problems by drawing on it.

The Juche idea is a philosophy which puts the main emphasis on man. It places man in the centre of all thinking and shows people the way to shape out their destiny. That we have the Juche idea and that all people are equipped with the Juche outlook on the world constitute the source of our indestructible strength.

Because we have the Juche idea, we won the struggle against Japanese imperialism and also the struggle against American imperialism, and have been able to build such a fine country as we see today on the ruins of the all-destructive war.

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