

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

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THE GREAT VICTORS WILL
REMAIN WITH US FOR EVER**

Speech at the Sixth National Conference
of War Veterans
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Esteemed comrade war veterans,

Today is July 27.

July 27 is Victory Day, when all the people born on this land celebrate with surging emotions and by repeatedly crying the word “Victory!” our great, historic triumph in the war.

At this conference held to mark Victory Day, I am once again meeting you, the esteemed war veterans who achieved this great, historic triumph. Such is my happiness that I cannot find the words to express my feelings.

We are honoured that you, our precious teachers, are attending this conference.

In marking the 67th anniversary of victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War, I, on behalf of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the government, extend warm congratulations to the participants in this conference and to the other war veterans and people who performed distinguished wartime service.

I also extend my noble respects to the revolutionary martyrs, both sung and unsung, who sacrificed their

precious lives in the sacred war for achieving the reunification and independence of their country and the freedom and happiness of their fellow people.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I also extend my noble respects to the martyrs and veterans of the Chinese People's Volunteers who set such a genuine example of militant friendship by supporting us in our revolutionary war, even at the cost of their blood.

Esteemed comrade war veterans,

We cannot conceive of our country today without recalling the sweat and blood shed by the generation who won the war, the great spirit they demonstrated, and our warriors' noble sacrifice.

We will remember them for ever.

It is our Party's intention always to be mindful of those who performed immortal exploits that are recorded in our country's history, and to make known and honour their heroism. This conference is an important opportunity for demonstrating at home and abroad the unanimous desire and will of our Party and all our people to more vividly hand down to posterity the exploits of the war veterans and to carry forward the fighting spirit of the 1950s so that our

forerunners' noble aspirations are translated without fail into reality.

The distinguished exploits performed by the victorious wartime generation of the 1950s under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the spiritual wealth and assets they have bequeathed to the following generations have, with the passing of the years, become so precious that they are now priceless. The major, profound significance of July 27 Victory Day in modern history goes beyond the fact that a country and nation defended their dignity and sovereignty in a battle against foreign aggressors and created a military miracle that shines in the annals of warfare.

The great Fatherland Liberation War was a grim war in which we defended our nascent Republic and the destiny and future of the tens of millions of our people; moreover, fought at the start of the Cold War that followed the Second World War, it was also the first all-out war between the forces aspiring after independence and those of domination, and between socialism and capitalism. As such, the confrontation was unprecedented in its ferocity and gravity. Our

new-born Republic was no match for the enemy in any respect, whether military hardware or economic strength, population or territory; yet in this war we halted the military offensive of the US imperialists, who had boasted of being the “strongest” in the world, and their vassal forces and, at the cost of our blood, defended our territory and sovereignty. No event of such heroic and legendary importance had ever before been recorded in the histories of our nation and the world revolution. July 27 constituted a turning point, when our country and people, which had been reduced to a condition of weakness, took pride of place in history as a heroic state and nation that were admired by the world, and when violent storms of revolutions for anti-imperialist independence, socialism and national liberation were unleashed on the globe.

Without the great July 27, there would not be the socialist Korea of today that is demonstrating its glory as the most dignified, independent and powerful of countries—a people’s country—in the modern world; and the high-handed attempts of the imperialists to bring Asia and other parts of the world under their domination, would not have been

stopped. The great significance of July 27 is also that it defined the orientation of the new, great history of the postwar socialist revolution and construction, created the proud traditions and wealth based on which our country and people could achieve lasting victory, transformed the global political landscape, and forcefully propelled the trend of the times towards independence and socialism.

The victory in the Fatherland Liberation War was the victory of the noble patriotism and mass heroism of the service personnel of the Korean People's Army and our people, the victory of justice and progress over injustice and reaction, and the victory of socialism, the future of mankind, over capitalism, the dregs of history.

The Fatherland Liberation War made people clearly aware of, and determined never to forget, the aggressive and brutal nature of US imperialism; everyone on this land lost a parent, a brother or sister, a precious comrade-in-arms or friend, and suffered dreadful misfortune and pain. Yet, thanks to the legendary exploits of the victorious wartime generation, who overcame all the trials and agony, the great spirit

of defending the country and revolution was forged, and our people developed unrivalled and uniquely powerful traits of heroism, self-sacrifice and fortitude.

Our victorious wartime generation is a proud generation that, by devoting their lives and blood, created a new chapter in carrying forward the Korean revolution, and that developed the revolutionary spirit of Paektu into an all-people ideological spirit. Thanks to the service personnel who defended every inch of their motherland at the cost of their blood, bolstered by the steely faith that they were sure to emerge victorious as long as they were led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, and to the people on the home front who dedicated their all to victory in the war by displaying the spirit of unity around the leader, the unfailing spirit of fighting the enemy to the death, and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance with which they made weapons with their bare hands, all created by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners, heroic Korea could display its true mettle. That is why our Party holds in such high esteem and gives such prominence to the victorious wartime generation who triumphed at the cost of their blood amid the flames of

war, and honours them as a proud generation who laid the cornerstone on which our revolutionary traditions could be carried forward.

They are the heroes who, true to the Party's call, established a socialist system and laid the foundations of an independent, powerful country in the spirit of Chollima; they are also the great teachers who have implanted the ennobling spirit and soul in the rising generations. In the days when they were playing the key roles in all sectors, our socialist construction witnessed the most eye-opening, rapid advance and upsurge. Tales of their exploits form an excellent textbook for teaching a revolutionary lifestyle and outlook on life that can sustain the peacetime generations who have not experienced war.

They are truly outstanding revolutionaries and patriots and a priceless treasure of our revolution who, despite the trials they went through, have devoted their all to the rising generations by invariably and faithfully supporting the Party and the leader, from the grim times of the war through to the years of postwar reconstruction and socialist construction. Our Party regards it as a source of great

pride and honour to have such revolutionary forerunners as you with your noble attitude to the rising generations and the revolution, and it raises up the victorious wartime generation as models from whom everyone should learn, for all ages.

Esteemed comrade war veterans,

The period of nearly 70 years since the war cannot be called peacetime, since the fierce confrontation with the enemy has continued, and the pressure from the imperialists and their threat to hinder our development and invade and plunder our Republic have been increasing with each passing moment.

Based on the spirit of victory and the will to achieve it inspired by the immortal July 27 and anticipating a bright future for our Republic, we chose the arduous path of making our nation more powerful by our own efforts. In refusing to alter our choice, we have tightened our belts while others vied with one another in the pursuit of instant “prosperity.”

Since we must absolutely be strong enough to prevent and deter war so that we never experience again the pain and suffering of the war in the 1950s, we have, by braving all the pressures and challenges

and overcoming unprecedented adversity that would have brought others to their knees a hundred times, advanced along the path of self-development into a nuclear state. As a result, we are now able to reliably defend ourselves against any form of high-intensity pressure and military threat by the imperialist reactionaries and other hostile forces.

War is armed conflict that is invariably unleashed on the weak.

No one can now treat us lightly.

We will not permit others to look down on us and, if they do so, we will make them pay dearly.

Thanks to our reliable and effective self-defensive nuclear deterrent, there will be no more war on this land, and the security and future of our Republic are guaranteed for all time.

Every year, generation after generation, we celebrate July 27, but this year, when our Republic has secured a strategic position the world cannot ignore but must recognize, the day brings us special emotions, and the significance of the victory in the war and the exploits performed by the war veterans have become more valuable and a greater source of

pride than ever before.

Comrades,

Many years have passed and much has changed since the guns fell silent, yet the noble spirit displayed by the war martyrs and veterans remains, encouraging our people to renew their struggle.

Seeing in the faces of you, war veterans, the images of all the comrades-in-arms who failed to return from the front in those grim years, as well as those of the unforgettable martyrs who devoted themselves to socialist construction, we are preparing to redouble our efforts to make ourselves proud before them. You wrote a new chapter in the history of building a prosperous country by brilliantly carrying forward the traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle, and the new generations of today, by inheriting your spirit, will without fail achieve the final victory of socialism of our own style.

Our victory in the war teaches us the philosophical principle that a people armed with a great spirit can work great miracles.

Our Party, by ensuring that the spirit of the 1950s is etched in golden letters on the hearts of all our service personnel and people, will ensure that every one of

them becomes a fighter who is undaunted in the face of any adversity and lives as the creator of fresh miracles and victories, so that no one feels any sense of shame in front of the martyrs and war veterans.

We have never forgotten your rancour when, owing to a shortage of arms, you had to turn back, weeping bitter tears after burying your fallen comrades-in-arms on the banks of the Raktong near the South Sea of Korea. Always mindful of the truths that only when our sovereignty and right to existence are guaranteed can we achieve and promote happiness, and that in order to defend the destiny of our Republic and people we must be independently strong, we will not permit ourselves even a moment's halt on the path of making our defence capability so strong that no one would dare to challenge us.

Comrades,

What those who fought in the war must have pictured in their minds during the many days and nights of do-or-die battles, was a beautiful people's paradise that would be built on our 3 000-*ri* land. Our Party will strive with redoubled courage to realize without fail our forerunners' dream and ideal of a

powerful country, so as to make our people the happiest in the world.

All the people, as they advance victoriously along the path of making their country prosperous, should, by viewing themselves in the light of the victorious wartime generation, add glory to their own lives. The present conditions and situation, though difficult, are nothing when compared to what they were during the war.

Our Party will make sure that all officials, all Party members and all the other working people hold high the slogan “Let us live and struggle in the spirit of the great defenders of the country!” and achieve proud victories on all fronts of socialist construction.

It will also train all our service personnel into versatile, a-match-for-a-hundred combatants who, as well as being fully versed in our style of warfare, count among their mental qualities the indomitable revolutionary spirit, valiant militant mettle and noble patriotism cherished by the war veterans.

Recorded in the history of our war victory are the exploits of numerous heroes including Ri Su Bok, Jo Kun Sil and Kang Ho Yong, with whom we associate

the word *youth*. The Party is bringing up all the young people as hot-blooded loyalists and staunch revolutionaries who put the Party and their country first and are prepared to devote themselves for the sake of society and the collective, just as those heroes did who, in the face of death, gave their lives without hesitation for their country.

In this way, our Party is ensuring that our great traditions of ideology and system you defended, and the victory you won, at the cost of your blood are carried forward from one generation to the next.

It is also making sure that the climate of respecting, holding up and according preferential treatment to the war veterans and other forerunners of the revolution is established throughout society, and becomes an unshakable national trait.

Our Party will look after you, war veterans, with all sincerity and will take full responsibility for your health and your living conditions so that you can gain in vigour, despite your advancing years, and continue to add lustre to your glorious lives.

It will make sure that Party organizations, government bodies, working people's organizations at

all levels and all the people regard it as their noble obligation and duty to take good care of the war veterans as they would their own parents, and do all they can for them.

Time passes and one generation is replaced by another; yet the heroic fighting spirit and undying exploits of the victorious wartime generation will keep the red blood of our descendants boiling for all eternity, and will for ever accompany the victorious advance of our revolution.

Esteemed comrade war veterans,

You, our staunch war veterans, defeated the US imperialists that had boasted of being the “strongest” in the world and their vassals, weathering the storms of those years and every manner of hardship. But as the saying goes, time and tide wait for no man, and many of the veterans have passed away and the hair of you, present here, has turned grey. This fills me with sorrow and causes me to regret the passage of time.

Comrade war veterans, again I wish you good health.

I earnestly request the respected war veterans across the country to lead a long life in good health,

serving as our eternal source of strength and our spiritual mainstay.

Long live the great July 27 Victory Day!

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