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Speech at the Meeting Held in Celebration
of the 80th Founding Anniversary
of the Workers' Party of Korea
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Comrade delegates to the celebrations for the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea,

Dear Pyongyang citizens and overseas compatriots,

Dear foreign friends celebrating this holiday with us,

Comrades,

Today, as we mark our Party's 80th anniversary, we are celebrating this historic holiday with a grand meeting and looking back once again upon 80 sacred years. Through it our generation are paying sublime and sincere tribute to the great Party-founding generation who brought about an epochal change in shaping the destiny of our country and people.

In the midst of the struggle to genuinely carry forward and develop the original ideals and spirit of the Party, a dignified and powerful socialist state, faithful to the dreams and ideals of the people, has been built on this land. Great miracles and changes that are the admiration of the world have been made decade after decade, century after century. This is the history of modern Korea under the 80-year leadership of the Party.

First of all, availing myself of this significant opportunity, I would like to express my warm gratitude

to the delegates to the celebrations, who have come to this glorious place, bringing with them the proud fruits of their remarkable patriotic enthusiasm and strenuous labour struggle. I also extend sincere congratulations and encouragement to all Party members, all other people and all the service personnel of our army, who are extending best wishes to this meeting from all parts of the country.

My warm congratulations go to the congratulatory groups of Koreans in Japan, the General Federation of Koreans in China and the International Social Federation of Koreans, and to the delegates of other overseas organizations who are visiting their homeland and, my warm greetings, through you, to all our overseas compatriots.

Also present at today's meeting are heads of party and government and leading figures from several countries, and delegates from international democratic organizations, who have come to Pyongyang with feelings of support for our Party and warm friendship for the Korean people.

I welcome you, dear friends, who are celebrating our Party's holiday with us and deepening the sense of friendship, and extend my heartfelt thanks to you.

Comrades and friends,

The 80th anniversary of the WPK can be marked as a glorious milestone, thanks to the immortal achievements it has made over the long years for the country and the people and for the times and history.

The founding of our Party did not simply mean the birth of a political party in a country; it was a political event that signalled the emergence on the stage of history of a new type of revolutionary party that would prove the righteousness of socialism and demonstrate the superiority and might unique to it.

From the days of building a democratic country, which coincided with its founding and the beginning of its overall leadership of state and social life, to this day, the WPK has remained faithful to its responsibility and role as an engine of the revolution and guiding force of state administration. In the course of this, it has performed truly remarkable historical exploits.

By successfully leading several stages of social transformation under the uplifted banner of the Juche idea, it has built on this land a genuine people's country that enjoys total prestige and national strength, a powerful country that fully embodies the socialist ideas and ideals. It has also rendered a significant

contribution to implementing the international cause of independence and justice.

The past 80 years have been truly complicated and arduous, yet worthwhile and glorious.

These years have witnessed a hard-fought war for repulsing an armed invasion by the allied imperialist forces and defending the land and dignity of the country, the course of building a country and creating a life again from scratch, and social revolutions accompanied by an acute class struggle and the elimination of factions from the Party.

Following the establishment of the socialist system in our country, we found ourselves standing at the forefront of the most acute confrontation between the forces of progression and reaction and between socialism and imperialism. Given the country's geopolitical position, our Party had to adopt a more resolute approach towards performing its mission of defending socialism, and to give strong impetus to implementing the cause of building the country's self-reliant defence capabilities. With the vicious schemes aimed at isolating and stifling the country economically persisting from one century into the next, it had always to cope with these schemes proactively and aggressively while pushing forward

with the gigantic projects for socialist construction.

In particular, amid the worldwide political upheaval in the 1990s, it had to defend our ideology and social system, and entering the new century, in order to cope with the growing nuclear war threat from the US imperialists, it had to lead the people to make a new leap forward in socialist construction while simultaneously conducting economic construction and the build-up of our own nuclear forces.

Historically, no country other than ours has ever had to carry out at the same time so many tasks, both challenging and gigantic, relating to national defence and construction, even as it was facing constant and tenacious pressure, interference and threats of aggression from outside forces.

In fact, maintaining its political power and defending the social system has been a miracle in itself, yet our Party has readily taken on all those important tasks. It has opened up an untrodden path for their implementation, writing a history of epochal transformation.

In every period and at every stage of the revolution and construction, it has put forward scientific lines and policies for overcoming the manifold challenges and advanced along the unchangeable path of socialism. On

this road, it has propelled the historic cause of building an independent and powerful state.

The significant events that have been recorded in history, as well as the amazing transformation that has been achieved in a race against time, testify to the scientific accuracy and vitality of our Party's revolutionary ideology and lines. As we can clearly see, they constitute a key factor in making substantial and rapid progress in the political, military, economic and cultural fields, and in our external relations in particular.

For its imperishable exploits, the WPK has earned the envious prestige of being a revolutionary party providing seasoned and sophisticated leadership, a steel-strong party that achieves one victory after another, and a genuine people's party that faithfully serves them.

All these exploits and this prestige would be unthinkable apart from the precious successes achieved by our Party in building itself.

Ensuring that the ranks of the Party and the revolution achieve ideological oneness and organizational unity was defined by our Party as a key to advancing the revolutionary cause along the road of victory. Directing primary concern to this end was an important factor in

enhancing the Party's ruling power and guaranteeing the purpose and consistency of its leadership activities.

After its founding, our Party had to provide a sure guarantee for achieving oneness in ideology and leadership. This was a crucial and pressing task it faced in preserving its original revolutionary features and leading the gigantic social revolutions and the whole course of state building along the road of victory.

Not only in the initial period of nation building, but also during the war and in the post-war years, our Party prioritized establishing the Juche orientation in ideology and equipping Party members and all the other people with its guiding ideology and revolutionary lines. At the same time, it directed primary efforts to strengthening its grass-roots organizations, building up its own ranks as an elite force and improving the fighting efficiency and vitality of its organizations at all levels, while intensifying the struggle against the slightest tendency towards separatism.

Whenever it was faced with important tasks in conducting the revolution and construction, and whenever it encountered obstacles in the way of implementing them, our Party directed closer attention to strengthening itself organizationally and ideologically.

Unperturbed even in the face of political upheavals, it preserved its ideological purity and organizational integrity, and by dint of its high efficiency and seasoned leadership, it led the effort to achieve a revolutionary turn and upsurge in socialist construction.

A party, in performing its role as an engine propelling the revolution, must do so through practical and meticulous leadership.

In the course of resolving the problems arising in the revolution and construction and overcoming all the difficulties, our Party has proactively explored and applied proper approaches and work styles that make the most of the people's revolutionary zeal and creativity.

Our Party has developed many revolutionary methods of guidance and people-oriented styles of work that have been effective in uniting the masses under a single banner, giving full play to their revolutionary and patriotic enthusiasm, and bringing about uninterrupted innovations and amazing miracles on the strength of collectivism of helping and leading one another forward and mass heroism while overcoming every manner of obstacle.

Always aware of and guarding against the possible

emergence of authoritarianism and a number of other problems likely to separate the Party from the masses as its ruling years get longer and one generation is replaced by another, it has made sure that an absolute spirit of serving the people prevails throughout itself. This is an important factor in its success in gaining the enduring confidence of the people and encouraging them to voluntarily entrust their destiny to our socialist state.

Whatever the adversity, our Party has continued to struggle under the uplifted banner of independence and socialism. This has made an enormous historic contribution to implementing the common cause of humanity for justice and peace.

Our Party has cherished as part of its faith the validity of the socialist cause and the inevitability of its triumph, and has proved the scientific accuracy of its ideals both in theoretical and practical terms. In this way it has offered a substantial contribution to building a powerful barrier against the allied imperialist forces' schemes against socialism and achieving solidarity and unity among the world's progressive forces.

Our Party and government, in coping with our adversaries' ferocious political and military pressure moves, are pursuing harder-line policies, holding fast

to firm principles and employing brave, unflinching countermeasures. This is powerfully propelling the growth of the progressive camp against war and hegemony and bolstering, with each passing day, the international prestige of our Republic as a faithful member of the socialist forces and a bulwark for independence and justice.

Comrades and friends,

The cause of a victorious party always has a key.

It is, in a nutshell, that the party shares everything with a great people.

The history of working for the people, the history of relying on the strength of the people, is the key factor behind all the victories and glory our Party has won.

The 80-year history of our Party can be accurately defined only when it is based on the history of the people. The secret to the history of its energetic guidance and the imperishable achievements it has made can be properly identified only when it is explained by the great, immortal aphorism, "Together with the people."

When it was founded, our Party raised a red flag etched with the ideals and will to build a genuine people's world. This marked a great start to the history it would share with the people and a demonstration of

its tremendous power.

Being etched with the image of the people, the flag of our Party was not so light, since it was laden not only with the Party's sense of responsibility for the destiny of the people, but also with the infinite resourcefulness and creativity of the people who would indicate the road of truth, display invincible courage and propel the advance towards the future all the time.

There has been no mistake or error in our Party's lines over the past 80 years, as they have embodied the people's opinions and requirements; the Party has also won victory after victory without the slightest setback or stagnation because it has been powered by the people's wisdom and strength.

As our Party has led the advance of history on the strength of the people's commitment and efforts, all the projects it has planned for the revolution and construction have become the affairs of the people themselves and reached a successful conclusion.

The important events guaranteeing the victory and success of our cause for all ages have been brought about by all the people of this country, the great Korean people, including our heroic working class, our agricultural workers and our intellectuals.

Today our people are standing before the world as powerful beings for whom no difficulty is insurmountable and no cause unachievable.

The 80-year ruling history of our Party, which has been opening up an untrodden path reflecting the desires, will and strength of the people and fulfilling their desire for a powerful country together with them, is once again etching a truth in the times and history.

A party that exists among the people, not standing above them, a party that shares their aspirations and ambitions, wisdom and strength, good times and bad, will never break up or lose its vigour and vitality.

It is an enduring, iron truth that our Party cannot exist apart from the people and that the Party is great just as the people are great.

I would like to offer thanks once again to our great people who, while pioneering the arduous and yet sacred socialist cause for 80 long years, have consistently injected strength and wisdom into our Party and devoted their pure minds and diligent efforts to it, with belief in victory.

Comrades,

As I face the people at this significant moment, I strongly feel once again their boundless trust in and

high expectations for our Party.

Thanks to the mentality of a people who absolutely support and follow it in whatever it is determined to do, while enduring all the hardships, our Party has full confidence in all its work and has a firm conviction in victory.

By continuing to strive for some years more in the same spirit as now, we are sure to change our life remarkably and get closer to the goals we aspire to.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to affirm my commitment to working harder to live up to the trust of the people, whom I will always love and for whom I will not neglect my obligations.

I promise to turn this country into a more affluent and beautiful land, into the greatest socialist paradise in the world, by believing in the people who support our Party and by always acting as one mind and body with them.

Comrades,

The glorious 80-year history of our Party encourages us to wage an even more gigantic and fulfilling struggle.

Let us advance with one mind and body and with redoubled courage and confidence towards a great history which will be filled with higher glory and pride than the outstanding 80 years of pioneering efforts

and victories by the Party and people, and for the final accomplishment of the socialist cause when the dreams and ideals of our people will be realized.

Concluding my speech, I offer my humble best wishes for the peace and well-being of our beloved people.

I extend my sincere wishes for cordial harmony and happiness to all the families in the country.

Long live the great Workers' Party of Korea and the great Korean people!

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