

KIM IL SUNG

**ON SELF-RELIANCE AND THE
BUILDING OF AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL ECONOMY**

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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CONTENTS

ALL EFFORTS TO ATTAIN THE SIX GOALS (Excerpts)

Concluding Speech at the Second Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea <i>December 1, 1961</i>	1
---	---

LET US EMBODY THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE, SELF-SUSTENANCE AND SELF-DEFENCE MORE THOROUGHLY IN ALL BRANCHES OF STATE ACTIVITY (Excerpts)

Political Programme of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Announced at the First Session of the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK <i>December 16, 1967</i>	4
---	---

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY ABDEL HAMID AHMED HAMROUCHE, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE *DAR-EL-TAHRIR* OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (Excerpts)

<i>July 1, 1969</i>	8
---------------------------	---

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE IRAQI JOURNALISTS'
DELEGATION (Excerpts)

October 11, 197117

TALK TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
ECUADORIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE
VOLUNTAD (Excerpts)

October 9, 197419

TALK TO THE EX-PREMIER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU
(Excerpts)

May 24, 197821

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE RESEARCH
AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL
SECURITY AND NATIONAL
ORIENTATION OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BENIN
(Excerpts)

June 30, 197924

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE
GHANA TIMES, ORGAN OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF GHANA
(Excerpts)

October 8, 198127

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SYRIAN
MAGAZINE *JEICH AL SHAAB* (Excerpts)

November 9, 198228

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE
YUGOSLAV NEWSPAPER
OSLOBODJENJE (Excerpts)

May 20, 198631

LET US ACCELERATE SOCIALIST
ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION BY
GIVING FULL PLAY TO THE
REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF
SELF-RELIANCE (Excerpts)

Talk to Senior Officials in the
Economic Sector
January 3, 198734

ON THE DIRECTION OF SOCIALIST
ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION FOR
THE IMMEDIATE PERIOD AHEAD
(Excerpts)

Concluding Speech at the 21st Plenary
Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea
December 8, 199345

**ALL EFFORTS TO ATTAIN
THE SIX GOALS**
(Excerpts)

**Concluding Speech at the Second Enlarged Plenary
Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea**
December 1, 1961

...

In conclusion, I must emphasize the need to display the spirit of self-reliance. Self-reliance means standing on one's own feet, and we need this spirit more than anything else. Of course, we are not opposed to aid from others; we would receive necessary assistance. But the main thing is that we advance with the spirit of self-reliance, determined to reunify the country and build a society good enough to live in, by our own efforts.

Nobody should have an idea of depending on foreign countries. Dependence will get us nowhere. Such a spirit holds back people from striving to tap the resources of their own country and can greatly retard its development. It can also give rise to worship of big countries and various other abuses.

Self-reliance is one of the important characteristics of

the communist revolutionary traits and spirit. Communists must always lead the revolution to victory by enlisting the efforts of their own people and must know how to build a new society by breaking through whatever difficulties by their own efforts. This, in fact, is the way to serve the world revolution.

We must, without exception, have a determination to build more and better with our own hands and advance faster by our own efforts. We must build a rich and strong country and win a happier life by making what we lack in our country, by exploring for what we are short of, and mobilizing all the resources of our country. It is essential that we maintain the idea of developing by ourselves all the economic sectors including industry and agriculture.

This is not to say that we must build the economy with our doors locked up. Of course, economic cooperation with fraternal countries and efficient foreign trade are important. It would be difficult to build the economy exclusively with one's own domestic resources or produce everything at home. It would be natural to obtain things unavailable at home from abroad through exchange with other countries. For instance, it would be more advantageous to specialize in the production of a few types of lorries needed in large numbers in our country and exchange part of them for other types with neighbouring countries, than try to manufacture all kinds domestically. The same applies to dyestuffs. Producing all kinds at home would be difficult. So we had better meet the demand through foreign trade. There would be no end of such examples.

Having the spirit of self-reliance and building an

independent economy in this way does not mean opposing an international division of labour nor does it contradict it. It rather facilitates our contribution to the international division of labour. Moreover, the socialist international division of labour provides a favourable condition for independent and comprehensive economic progress in every country which participates in it. One can participate in such a division of labour in dignity only when one does it with necessary capability and contributes good things. To contribute nothing or barter things which are useless and ask for good things from others amounts to begging and not division of labour. If one manufactures good things, one can exchange them for the things one needs anywhere and anytime.

We must strengthen the basis of an independent national economy by our own efforts and in a firm spirit of self-reliance, and at the same time participate in the international division of labour in dignity and contribute to cementing the might of the world socialist system. This means applying Juche in economic construction.

It is of special importance for scientists and technicians to acquire the spirit of self-reliance. The power of science is needed more than anything else in exploring for what we have not yet discovered in our country and in making effective use of the domestic resources, to improve the people's standard of living. Our scientists and other intellectuals working in the field of technology must devote all their talents and zeal to working out original solutions to the pressing questions in building an independent economy to suit the specific conditions of our country.

...

**LET US EMBODY THE REVOLUTIONARY
SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE,
SELF-SUSTENANCE AND
SELF-DEFENCE MORE THOROUGHLY
IN ALL BRANCHES OF STATE ACTIVITY**
(Excerpts)

**Political Programme of the Government
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Announced at the First Session of the Fourth
Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK**
December 16, 1967

...

The Government of the Republic will faithfully continue to carry out our Party's line of building an independent national economy by applying the principle of self-reliance to the full in the economic sphere, while, at the same time, consolidating political independence.

Today we are confronted with the heavy task of carrying on economic construction and the building up of our defences in parallel so as to lay a firm material foundation for the prosperity of the generations to come and establish a sound economic base which will enable us to cope readily with the great revolutionary event of the reunification of our country. All this can be achieved

successfully only if the principle of self-reliance, the line of building an independent national economy, is adhered to consistently and implemented more thoroughly.

Self-reliance is a completely revolutionary stand for a people to accomplish the revolution in their country relying mainly on their own forces; it is an independent stand of building up their country through their own labour and with their own national resources.

Only by firmly maintaining such a revolutionary stand and revolutionary principle can we carry on the struggle without abandoning revolutionary constancy, no matter what complex and difficult situation may confront us, and ensure victory in the revolutionary struggle and success in our work of construction, bravely overcoming any difficulties and hardships which stand in the way of our advance. If you lack the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, you may lose faith in your own strength, neglect efforts to tap the inner resources of your country, grow indolent and idle, and fall into a state of inactivity and conservatism.

Only when a nation builds an independent national economy can it secure political independence, make its country rich, strong and progressive and achieve national prosperity.

Economic independence is the material foundation for political independence. A country which is economically dependent on outside forces becomes a political satellite of other countries; an economically subject nation cannot free itself from colonial slavery politically.

Without building an independent national economy it is

impossible to establish material and technological foundations for socialism, and build socialism and communism successfully.

To build socialism, it is essential to create a powerful base of heavy industry with the machine-building industry as its core, and, on this basis, equip light industry, agriculture, transport and all other branches of the national economy with modern techniques, thus laying the powerful material and technological foundations for socialism—needed to improve the welfare of the working people as a whole—as the laws of socialism require. As long as national distinctions remain and states exist, these material and technological foundations of socialism must be built by each national state as a unit. Therefore, it can only be said that firm material and technological foundations of socialism have been laid in each country when it has built a comprehensive, independent national economy diversified in its development, equipped with the latest technology and run by its own national cadres, using its own natural resources, raw materials and other supplies so that its domestic products can fully meet the varied and ever-growing requirements of economic and defence construction and the people's consumption, for heavy and light industrial goods and farm produce.

Only if the material and technological foundations of socialism are established in this way within the boundaries of each national state as a comprehensive, independent economic unit, can the country's natural resources be tapped and utilized to the fullest extent and a high rate of growth in production be maintained together with a correct

and flexible balance between all branches of the national economy. Moreover, only in this way is it possible to develop science, technology and culture rapidly, steadily raise the technological and cultural standards of the working people, and turn them into people of a new type, developed in a comprehensive way.

The building of an independent national economy is also the basic guarantee that nations can eliminate the economic backwardness which constitutes the real basis of inequalities between them, achieve national prosperity and build a socialist and communist society successfully.

...

All this testifies to the fact that the line of building an independent national economy, consistently followed by our Party and the Government of the Republic, is a thoroughly revolutionary line of economic construction which conforms with the laws which govern the building of socialism and communism.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY ABDEL HAMID AHMED
HAMROUCHE, GENERAL MANAGER
OF THE *DAR-EL-TAHRIR*
OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
(Excerpts)**

July 1, 1969

Question: Comrade Premier, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance is the most important thing I have learned on my visit to Korea. During my stay here I have seen that this spirit is splendidly embodied in all aspects of your domestic and foreign policies. I have seen clearly how the principle of self-reliance is actually carried through at home, in particular. But I cannot say I have fully understood everything in such a short time. So could you please tell me something more about it, Comrade Premier?

Answer:

...

Our Party has so far adhered firmly to the stand of Juche, solving all the problems of the revolution and construction independently in conformity with the specific conditions of our country and, in the main, through our own efforts. Our people have all carried on the struggle in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, which calls on us to

accomplish the revolution and build socialism and communism in our country through our own efforts and using our national resources, ridding ourselves of the idea of dependence upon others.

As a result of the establishment of Juche and self-reliant efforts, we have been able to advance the country's revolution as speedily as possible and win victories and successes, surmounting many hardships and trials. Juche and self-reliance—these are the basic guarantees for all our achievements.

You might have seen our film shot right after the armistice; the war destroyed so many things in our country. Everything was burnt down and destroyed and only ashes were to be found in our towns and villages. In Pyongyang, for example, nothing was left after the war but a few houses and even they were badly damaged. Our country was truly in a very difficult situation, confronted by a mountain of hardships.

But we were not at all discouraged. We embarked on postwar reconstruction, fully convinced that we could rise to our feet again in any adversity, so long as the Party, the power, the people and the territory were there. Our Party convinced the people that they could rise again from the debris, though almost everything had been destroyed by the war, if they relied on their own efforts, and it energetically stimulated the people to an enormous struggle for postwar reconstruction. The Party called upon people from all walks of life to contribute what they had to the sacred cause of building the socialist homeland: those who had physical strength gave their

physical strength, those who had wisdom, their wisdom, and those who had technical skills contributed their technical skills.

All the people of our country, in active response to the Party's call, rose as one and carried on a courageous struggle, devoting all their energies, wisdom and technical skills. Our working people manufactured machines for themselves and rebuilt factories, producing what they previously lacked and searching for what they did not have enough of. Furthermore, they made new scientific inventions, technical innovations and creative suggestions, thus solving the tough and complicated problems which faced our country, by their own efforts. Our patriotic intellectuals especially made a great contribution.

Let me cite a few examples.

Under Japanese imperialist rule there was hardly any textile industry in the northern half of our country. There were no more than a few thousand spindles and the per-capita output of fabrics was barely 14 centimetres. Even after liberation it was not so easy to provide enough clothing for the people. Our country has poor cotton harvest because we have a great deal of rain in summer, so the question of fibre still remained a difficulty.

Our scientists, displaying the spirit of self-reliance, solved this difficult problem satisfactorily. Some scientists invented the method of making vinalon from limestone which abounds in our country, and others discovered a way of producing fibre from reeds, which are plentiful in Korea. So we completely solved the problem of clothing for the

people using the efforts of our own scientists and domestic raw materials.

Our iron industry, too, faced many unresolved problems. Coking coal is not produced in our country, and we had to import it to produce iron. But our scientists succeeded in producing iron using anthracite, of which we have inexhaustible supplies. The result was that we opened up an avenue for the production of iron from our domestic raw materials. This was another great contribution to consolidating the foundations of the country's independent economy.

Now some countries produce fertilizer by means of electrolysing water. But this method requires too much electricity, so it does not suit us. Our scientists, therefore, devised a method of producing fertilizer by gasifying the coal of our country.

In addition, various kinds of minerals have been found, which were formerly regarded as nonexistent in our country and they have helped the rapid development of industry. A great deal has also been done in rural irrigation, as we have devised ways and means unknown outside Korea. Again, the work of construction could be pushed ahead rapidly because it was done using our domestic raw materials and building materials.

The idea of Juche and the spirit of self-reliance have likewise been embodied creditably in the fields of education and culture.

The cadres and people of our country are inured to self-reliance and have developed great courage. Whatever task the Party may set, they accept it readily, without the

slightest hesitation, and always carry it through to the end by their own efforts and talents, however difficult and hard it may be.

When we were reconstructing a blast furnace soon after the armistice, we had no technicians and were short of equipment and materials. To make things easy, we could have invited foreign technicians and obtained equipment from abroad. But we did not have enough money to do so at the time. So we took bold measures. We provisionally graduated the third-year students of the technical university in advance and asked them to design and build a furnace. There were about 200 of them, and they worked hard day and night and succeeded in building excellent furnaces in a little over a year.

Had we built the furnace with foreign help, it would have cost us a great deal of time as well as money. It would have taken a year to design it, another year to manufacture the equipment plus a very long period of time to import it; it would have taken four or five years at least to complete the construction of a furnace.

If we rely on foreign countries to build a furnace, large amounts of funds and time must be spent, but if we rely on our own efforts, we can build a good furnace in the short period of a year. How good it is to rely on our own efforts!

Large funds are also necessary to import such things as electric locomotives. We could not afford to buy the large numbers of electric locomotives needed in our country from foreign sources. Therefore, we assigned our university students and technicians to the task of designing and building locomotives by themselves. Our technicians are

now in a position to produce fine electric locomotives using their own techniques and efforts, and we are electrifying nearly all the railway lines in the country with locally-built locomotives.

Whenever we obtained a good machine, we copied it and opened up the let-each-machine-tool-make-another movement everywhere and thus developed the nation's machine-building industry. Today we manufacture automobiles, tractors and different kinds of weapons on our own; we make almost everything we need by our own efforts.

By relying on our own efforts in this way, we have laid solid foundations for an independent national economy and built up an impregnable defence power for the country and have been able to solve the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people fully.

In our country today locally-built up-to-date machines are working at the construction sites, our own tractors are ploughing the fields, and strings of *Jaryokgaengsaeng* (Self-Reliance-Tr.) motor vehicles are driving along the roads. Our brave People's Army is impregably protecting the nation's defence line with weapons made by our working class. It is true that our people's livelihood is not so prosperous as that in advanced countries. However, we all eat our fill with the rice we produce in our country, and do not have to purchase it from abroad. We all lead decent lives in the houses we have built; we are dressed in clothing made of our own fabrics, and use consumer goods of our own manufacture.

As a result of the establishment of the Juche orientation

and our self-reliant efforts we have turned our country, once a backward colonial agrarian nation, into this advanced socialist industrial-agricultural country in a very short space of time. Today our people have become a dignified nation whom no one would dare to flout.

Some say that a small country need not have a comprehensively developed industry and others say that it would be better if we produced only some of the things which are needed in the country, and bought the rest from foreign countries. Certainly, at a given stage of development of the productive forces we may buy from abroad things which are not produced or are in little demand in our country. But the main thing is to establish the principle to build an independent national industry through our own efforts and using our own resources. In particular, we ourselves must produce things which are in great demand at home, as well as important raw materials and other items. Only by doing this can we ensure the independence of the national economy.

The idea of Juche and the spirit of self-reliance do not involve nationalism. We establish the Juche orientation and rely on our own efforts in order to build socialism and communism faster and better. Koreans are bound to build socialism and communism in Korea and live in Korea. They could not abandon their country to live in some other country, could they? If we build socialism and communism well in Korea through self-reliance, it means that we carry out our national duty and, at the same time, we are faithful to our international duty. All this will be conducive to the advancement of world revolution.

In establishing Juche and relying on our own efforts we do not intend to reject international solidarity, mutual cooperation and assistance between fraternal countries and to solve everything by ourselves. We consistently urge that international solidarity between the fraternal countries should be further strengthened, and we think it is vital that we cooperate with and assist one another.

We were given active support and encouragement by other socialist countries and the peace-loving people of the world, during the difficult days of postwar reconstruction. We also received no small assistance from the fraternal socialist countries. The successes achieved in the postwar reconstruction of our country are also associated with these friends' helping hands. We are grateful for this and remember it.

We benefit from the advanced learning of foreign countries and draw on their good experience. We also get foreign help when we undertake something of which we have no previous experience, or tackle something new to us. And we purchase from abroad things which are unobtainable in our country. We have built a thermal power station with the help of Soviet technicians. We are also building an oil refinery with their help because oil is not yet produced in our country. It is unquestionable that next we shall build thermal power stations and oil refineries using our own technicians.

We consider it necessary that fraternal countries should cooperate with and assist each other. We get help from other countries, but we do not depend entirely upon it. Even in the days of postwar reconstruction we always made

it a rule that we should rely on our own efforts and we did not attach overall importance to foreign assistance. This is all the more true today. Foreign assistance has limitations, however sincerely intended it may be, and can only play an auxiliary role in building the national economy. It is impossible to meet our own demands on time satisfactorily with the assistance of foreign countries.

If too much stress is laid on foreign assistance or an attempt is made to rely entirely on others, it will make people lose faith in their own strength and neglect their endeavours to tap the inner resources of their own country, blindly pinning their hopes on others and simply imitating them. Then, in the end, it will be impossible to succeed in building a sovereign, independent state. You are a writer, so you cannot write a good article nor improve your writing if you merely imitate or copy the articles of others. You can write a good article and raise your writing standards only if you use your own intelligence.

Our experience shows that it is possible to build an independent national economy successfully, bringing prosperity and progress to the country, only when the Juche orientation is thoroughly established and the main emphasis is placed on self-reliance.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE IRAQI JOURNALISTS'
DELEGATION**
(Excerpts)

October 11, 1971

Question: We should like to tell you of our admiration and wonder at the experience acquired by the Workers' Party of Korea under your wise leadership.

Would you please tell us what you consider to be the most important experience of the fighting people of Korea and what they have contributed to the treasure house of mankind in their struggle for socialism?

Answer: First of all, I should like to say how grateful I am for your high assessment of our experience.

...

Our Party's line of building an independent national economy is the embodiment of the Juche idea in economic construction.

By relying largely upon our own technical skills and resources, and using our own cadres and people, we have maintained the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. This has been our principle in developing the country's economy. Our Party's line of building an independent

national economy illustrates our people's real hope for complete national independence and prosperity, and it has been behind the startling achievements in the socialist construction of our country.

Our country's economy is now independent, equipped with modern techniques and has developed all round. As a result of this, we have been able to develop the national economy at a steady, high rate and to improve the people's living conditions through our own efforts. Our independent national economy serves as a solid material guarantee for the political independence of the country and for the increase of our defence capacity.

Although implementing Juche and relying on our own efforts we do not intend to build socialism in isolation. We fully recognize that it is necessary for states to supply each other's needs and cooperate with each other, and we are working hard to expand and develop such relations. We believe that mutual cooperation between states should be conducted with a view to building an independent national economy in each country. This factor alone makes it possible to expand and develop economic cooperation between states on the principles of complete equality and mutual benefit.

...

**TALK TO THE DIRECTOR
OF THE ECUADORIAN
PUBLISHING HOUSE *VOLUNTAD***
(Excerpts)

October 9, 1974

...

You said our country has been industrialized and highly developed, but it is a young country. We have only just laid the foundations enabling us to stand on our own feet and to develop the country through our own efforts.

Without economic independence it would be impossible to ensure political independence.

We have built a solid, independent national economy. Therefore, it is not subordinated to anyone; it is completely independent. There is no foreign capital in our country. We are not shackled to any other country.

...

As is shown by our country's experience, economic independence is vital to complete national independence.

In order to achieve economic independence one must rely on one's own resources. Self-reliance, however, does not in any sense preclude economic and technical exchanges with other countries. By self-reliance we do not mean producing for ourselves all the machinery and equipment we

need. We import some kinds of sophisticated factory equipment. But we do not go hat in hand for aid which might put us in a subordinate position.

...

Recently we have met and talked to journalists from many countries. We met journalists from Panama, Argentina and Peru. Many of the questions which they asked us concerned how to secure national independence. We explained that national independence must be accompanied by economic independence and that economic independence necessitates not only the political unity of the developing countries but also their close economic and technical cooperation.

There are now over 100 developing countries in the world. If each contributed one good technique, that would make more than a hundred. Accordingly, if they learn from each other what they do not know and teach each other what they know, help each other and cooperate closely in the economic sphere, the developing countries can progress rapidly and dispense with the aid of the great powers with strings attached to it. It is more beneficial for the countries of the third world to strengthen mutual friendship and cooperation in this way than to receive aid on various conditions from the big powers.

...

TALK TO THE EX-PREMIER OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU

(Excerpts)

May 24, 1978

...

Making the national economy Juche-oriented means building and developing an economy which is suited to the actual conditions of one's own country, relying on domestic raw materials and technology.

We are intending to improve the Juche-orientation of the national economy in the future, relying on the solid independent national economy which has already been established. This is the way to enable us to live independently, free from the domination of other countries.

It is most important to build an independent national economy. The defence of political independence depends on whether or not an independent national economy is built. The economy supports politics. The political independence of a country cannot be maintained unless it is supported by an independent national economy. This is a proven truth. Therefore, it is vital for a country to build an independent national economy in order to maintain its political independence.

The most important aspect of building an independent

national economy is to open up and develop an industry based on domestic raw materials and fuel.

When building factories in the past, we ensured that they relied on the raw materials of our country. The vinalon factory you inspected in Hamhung is also based upon domestic raw materials and on our own technology. The factory is producing vinalon with our own technology using anthracite and limestone, of which there is an abundance in our country. Vinalon is the most stable raw material for our textile industry. We use it to make clothes for the people. The vinalon industry is a Juche-based industry of our country.

In the past, some of our scientists suggested the construction of oil-fired power stations. Of course, the construction of an oil-fired power station requires less funding and time than the building of a hydroelectric or any other power station. However, I did not agree to their suggestion because our country was still unable to produce oil. It was better to build thermal power stations using the coal that is plentiful in our country to fuel it than to construct oil-fired power stations at a time when oil was not being produced domestically. What would we do when oil could not be imported after constructing oil-fired power stations? That was why I maintained that thermal power stations which relied on our domestic fuel should be built, although more time and funds would be needed.

At the moment, quite a few countries are experiencing economic stagnation due to the worldwide fuel crisis, but our economy is developing safely, unaffected by that crisis. This testifies to the advantages of our Juche-based industry.

Korean people must live on Korean soil; they must not think of living in foreign lands.

Building an independent national economy does not mean closing the door to economic exchange with other countries or to advanced foreign technology. When such an economy is built, it will enable the country to make economic and technological exchanges better with other countries and to extend and develop foreign trade.

There are large deposits of iron ore in our country. It is more profitable to mine ore to produce steel for sale or to make the steel into machinery for the market, rather than to sell the ore as it is; moreover, this will make it possible to expand our trade with other countries to an even greater extent.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE RESEARCH
AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL
SECURITY AND NATIONAL
ORIENTATION OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BENIN**
(Excerpts)

June 30, 1979

...

Question: In recent years an economic crisis has swept many countries. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, however, new industries have been built and progress has been made in other fields.

How do you build the economy in your country?

Answer: As you justly remarked, many countries are now suffering from the economic crisis. Because of an acute shortage of fuel and raw materials on a global scale in recent years, those countries which depend on imports are all undergoing great economic difficulties. An economic crisis in one country affects other countries in a chain reaction.

Nevertheless, our country is immune from the effects of worldwide economic upheavals, and it is crisis-free. Our

national economy is continuing to develop and production is steadily growing in all branches including industry and agriculture. Our present general economic situation is very good.

Socialist construction in our country has been progressing smoothly, unaffected by global economic fluctuations, because we have built a powerful independent national economy under the correct leadership of our Party.

When we started building a new society, we put forward the line of building an independent national economy. We have striven ever since to carry it out. Of course, our people's struggle to create an independent national economy was by no means easy; we had to overcome many trials and difficulties. But, under the revolutionary slogan of self-reliance, our Party and people struggled dauntlessly and ultimately built an excellent independent national economy which is well-balanced, modern, supplied with indigenous raw materials, and operated by our own cadres using our own techniques.

Today our economy produces everything necessary for socialist construction and the people's welfare. It is continuing to develop rapidly, unaffected by any external factors. I think you have seen for yourself the might of our independent national economy while looking around our country.

Our people are now carrying out the Second Seven-Year Plan, an ambitious new programme of socialist economic construction. The central task of this plan is to make the national economy Juche-orientated, modernize it, and put it on a scientific footing. This task is also derived from our

Party's policy on building an independent national economy and is intended to reinforce that economy.

During the Second Seven-Year Plan we intend to develop the metallurgical industry and all other branches of the national economy by using our own raw materials and techniques so that it will be better suited to the conditions of our country. In other words, we have set ourselves the task of increasing the independence and Juche-character of the national economy. We are also striving to introduce up-to-date techniques into all fields of the economy and raise our level of science to the world standard.

The Second Seven-Year Plan is being carried out quite smoothly, much to our satisfaction. If we go on at this rate, I think, we will fulfil the plan far ahead of schedule. Then, our independent national economy will be stronger than ever, and our country will have attained a new eminence.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF THE *GHANA TIMES*, ORGAN
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA
(Excerpts)**

October 8, 1981

...

An important factor in building a sovereign and independent state is to attain economic self-sufficiency.

Economic self-sufficiency is the material basis of political independence and sovereignty. Only when one is self-sufficient economically, can one consolidate national independence, exercise political sovereignty and materially guarantee an independent and creative life for the people.

By giving full rein to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, the Government of the Republic has creditably built an independent socialist national economy which is run using our own resources, technique and cadres, developed in many-sided ways and equipped with the latest technique.

By building an independent socialist national economy we have strengthened its Juche character and laid a firm material foundation for the country.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE SYRIAN
MAGAZINE *JEICH AL SHAAB*
(Excerpts)**

November 9, 1982

...

Question: Respected leader, in your many speeches and teachings you have stressed the principle of relying on the strength of the masses of the people themselves and on the rich national resources of the DPRK.

I believe you may have encountered difficulties in adhering to this principle and, if you did, how did you surmount them?

Answer: We have so far consistently abided by the principle of self-reliance, whereby we solve all problems through our own efforts without depending on others in carrying out the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction.

Applying this revolutionary principle to our programme of socialist economic construction, we proposed the policy of building an independent national economy and carried it out to the letter. We successfully built an independent national economy which is managed through the efforts of our people and relies on our indigenous resources and our

own technical expertise. It is in every respect a developed economy equipped with modern technology.

It was by no means easy to build an independent national economy in our country. We encountered many obstacles and difficulties.

After liberation we took over a backward and deformed colonial economy, and even that had been wrecked in three years of war. Starting afresh in a country where everything had been destroyed, we set about the task of building an independent national economy. We tightened our belts and set to work to surmount one obstacle and difficulty after another.

One very difficult period was when our people embarked on the First Five-Year Plan after successfully fulfilling the postwar Three-Year Plan.

In the First Five-Year Plan we set the ambitious target of laying the complete foundations for socialism in our country, but at that time we lacked funds, manpower, equipment and materials. To make things worse, our political situation, both internal and external, was very tense and complicated.

...

Consequently, our people were confronted with a serious dilemma as to whether they should implement this line or not.

At the time we made up our minds to extricate ourselves from the crisis through the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and by placing our faith in the strength of the masses, as we have always done at each hard stage of the revolutionary struggle when there have been obstacles and

difficulties to surmount.

We went out among the workers and other labouring people to inform them of the country's difficult situation and explain to them the demands of the revolution and the Party's intentions. We consulted with them on ways and means to cope with the hardships and difficulties and boost production. And we called upon them to bring about another great step forward in the building of socialism, by fully exploiting every latent reserve and possibility.

Our working class and other labouring people defended our Party resolutely. They responded magnificently to the Party's call. They introduced innovations and performed miracles in production, displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance to the full. They outstripped the old established production capacities and fixed norms, creating new ones. Through the redoubled energy and devotion of the masses, various obstacles that had been cast in our path were cleared away and a great revolutionary upsurge in the building of socialism was brought about. This was the origin of the Chollima Movement that is so famous all over the world. In the long run, we turned misfortune to our advantage in our endeavours to extricate ourselves from the crisis.

In the future we will continue to press on successfully with the building of socialism and communism by strict adherence to the revolutionary principle of self-reliance in the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction.

...

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF THE YUGOSLAV NEWSPAPER
OSLOBODJENJE**
(Excerpts)

May 20, 1986

...

Question: The principle of self-reliance is becoming paramount in the economic policies of the non-aligned nations.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has achieved great success in revolution and construction as well as in the national economy by implementing your Juche idea thoroughly and by consistently adhering to the principle of self-reliance.

Which do you think is the most significant success achieved in your country?

What do you think of the major prospects of the development of your economy, and on what are they based?

Answer: Self-reliance is, in brief, a revolutionary spirit and fighting principle of independent people who shape their own destiny themselves. It is the spiritual fibre of revolutionary people which is derived from unshakable faith in the justice of their cause and from their revolutionary optimism.

Self-reliance means believing in one's own strength and

solving all the problems in the revolution and construction by one's own efforts. It fundamentally contradicts dependence on others, the weak attitude of yielding to difficulties and giving up the struggle, and the slothful attitude of waiting around for favourable conditions. If people rely on their own strength, they can do any difficult work; if they depend on others by losing the spirit of self-reliance, they can do nothing.

In the past our Party, the Government of our Republic and our people have implemented the Juche idea to the letter and maintained the revolutionary principle of self-reliance consistently in all spheres of the revolution and construction and so have been able to achieve great success in the building of socialism.

Our country, once very backward, has today become a socialist state which is independent, self-supporting, and self-reliant in defence. This is a valuable result of the arduous and heroic struggle of our people who have demonstrated the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

The greatest success our people have achieved in building the socialist economy is that they have removed the root cause of age-old backwardness and poverty and built a socialist, independent national economy for the prosperity of the nation and for the well-being of all generations to come.

Our people have built the independent national economy in very difficult circumstances. Our people took over a backward and one-sided colonial economy from the old society, and even that was totally destroyed in the three-year war. After the war we had to start economic

construction from scratch. At that time we were short of materials and funds and had few technicians of our own. But, courageously overcoming difficulties and hardships by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, our people founded heavy industry with the machine industry as its core by their own efforts and technology, and built a large number of light-industry factories, towns and villages. We have carried out several long-term plans successfully so as to improve the structure of the national economy and its technical equipment considerably.

Today the potentials of our independent national economy are enormous. In our country, which could hardly manufacture even a simple farm implement properly in the past, we are now easily producing modern machinery and equipment such as precision machines, large mining equipment, heavy-duty lorries, large tractors, electric locomotives, large ships, a 10 000-ton power press and a large oxygen plant. We also produce plants for modern factories and enterprises. Our country is pushing ahead with great projects for the transformation of nature including the Nampho Barrage, which made it necessary to wall off the sea for 8 kilometres, and also providing adequate material conditions—food, clothing and housing—for the people, on the strength of the solid foundations of the independent national economy.

Our people are very proud of having built this powerful independent national economy by their own efforts and technology, even though they had to start virtually from nothing.

...

LET US ACCELERATE SOCIALIST ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION BY GIVING FULL PLAY TO THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE

(Excerpts)

Talk to Senior Officials in the Economic Sector

January 3, 1987

...

The tasks of the Third Seven-Year Plan are ambitious, and we face various difficulties. But we are fully able to carry out the new long-term plan by our own efforts. The situation now is different from what it was when we were undertaking postwar reconstruction with nothing. Our strength has now grown hundreds of times compared with those days. We have the solid foundations of an independent national economy, the people who have been hardened in the practice of socialist construction and are rallied rock-solid behind the Party, and a large force of able scientists and technicians has been trained by our Party.

Everything depends on how our cadres, Party members and other working people display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. Self-reliance is a strong revolutionary spirit of carrying out one's tasks by producing anything that is not available and finding out what is in short supply, believing

in and relying on one's own strength. Only when all officials fully display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude with a high degree of consciousness that they are the leading officials in the revolution, can they make the best possible use of the existing economic foundations, and succeed in achieving the ambitious goals of the Third Seven-Year Plan.

...

Those who are lacking in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude cannot make the revolution. If one lacks this spirit, one will look up to others without believing in one's own strength, and vacillate or yield, losing confidence even in face of slight difficulties. If things come to this pass, we will not be able to carry out the Third Seven-Year Plan, and, moreover, will not succeed in the building of socialism.

Officials must make strenuous efforts to solve all problems of the revolution and construction through their own efforts. They must not vacillate or yield in the face of any difficulties and trials but brave them full of confidence and optimism.

Self-reliance and fortitude constitute an important fighting spirit of communists. Communists are conscious revolutionaries who work to build socialism and communism, the ideal of mankind. They are making a revolution, not under someone's orders or coercion nor for standing high in someone's favour. They make the revolution in accordance with their own faith. The communists, who have embarked on the road of revolution of their own free will, with a firm determination to build

socialism and communism, must regard it as an important revolutionary rule to always believe in the strength of their people and solve all problems of the revolution and construction by relying on that strength. One cannot make revolution if one seeks help from others and relies on the strength of others without believing in one's own strength. Self-reliance is the only way for communists to achieve the ultimate victory of the revolution. There is no other alternative.

During the whole period from the first days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle up to now, we have invariably adhered to the revolutionary principle of self-reliance and fortitude, and carried on the revolutionary struggle and construction work by our own efforts.

As all of you know through the study of the history of our revolutionary struggle, the greatest difficulty for us in organizing and waging the anti-Japanese armed struggle was to obtain weapons. No country was willing to give us weapons for nothing at that time, and moreover, even if we wanted to buy them, we had no money. In this situation we had no choice but to seize weapons from the enemy and produce them by our own efforts. Under the militant slogan "Weapons are our life and soul! Oppose armed force with armed force!", we waged a bloody struggle to wrest weapons from the enemy. Many revolutionary comrades even laid down their valuable lives to obtain weapons. Each one of the guns we procured at that time was stained with the hot blood of our revolutionary comrades and their ardent patriotism. While arming ourselves with the weapons we had captured from the enemy, we made

weapons by ourselves. As a matter of fact, it was unimaginable at an ordinary time to produce weapons by oneself with no tools worth mentioning. However, by overcoming all hardships, the anti-Japanese guerrillas produced gunpowder by themselves and made various bombs, small and big, by obtaining iron and wire. The bombs made at that time were called “Yanji bombs”. Using these bombs, the anti-Japanese guerrillas killed and injured a large number of enemy soldiers.

Even in the difficult years immediately after liberation, when we had taken over an insignificant economy and empty treasury, we rebuilt the destroyed factories and coal and ore mines by our own efforts without asking others for help. During the grim Fatherland Liberation War decisive to the destiny of the country, we built underground arsenals with our own resources and produced weapons to fight the enemy.

Even during the days of postwar reconstruction, when everything had been destroyed and we were at a loss what to begin with, we relied on our own strength without depending on others. We took up the first shovel of reconstruction literally on the ruins. Some people wavered at that time. The anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factionalists insisted on depending on aid from others, claiming that our people were unable to perform the difficult task of postwar reconstruction. Nevertheless, our Party resolutely rejected this attitude and resolved to undertake postwar reconstruction by relying on our people’s strength. Our people rose in response to the policy of the Party and successfully restored the ruined economy

in a short time, tightening their belts and making immense efforts. Moreover, they built many factories and produced a variety of up-to-date machines such as tractors, lorries and electric locomotives in large quantities.

I highly appreciate the workers of Ragwon as an example of self-reliance. This is because they have carried out all difficult tasks given them by the Party, by their own efforts, with no conditions attached and without asking their superiors for help.

Even under the difficult circumstances of the grim Fatherland Liberation War, when their factory's production facilities were severely destroyed by the enemy's bombing, the workers of Ragwon did not discontinue production even for a moment, and turned out hand-grenades for the front. After the war, in hearty response to the Party's call for intensifying the efforts for increased production and economy, they produced with distinction large water pumps, lorry-mounted cranes, excavators, and other modern machines and equipment, braving numerous obstacles by their own efforts. We carried on construction and irrigation with the cranes, excavators and water pumps made by the workers of the Ragwon Machine Factory by relying on their own efforts. Recently they have admirably turned out a large oxygen plant by their own efforts, which only developed industrial countries were said to be able to make. The production of an up-to-date large oxygen plant by the workers of Ragwon means that our country has scaled another height in the development of the machine industry.

Our independent and modern industry, developed

agriculture, brilliant national culture and enormous defence capability have not been built with the help of any great power or thanks to any “god”; they are all attributable to the fact that our people have worked devotedly under the leadership of the Party by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. This is why we can say that all the successes achieved by our people in the revolutionary struggle and construction work are a valuable fruit of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. Today many people throughout the world highly praise our country as a “model country of self-reliance”. This is by no means accidental.

Our people have suffered greater hardships and shed more blood and sweat than others in building socialism by their own efforts under unprecedentedly arduous conditions. Nonetheless, they have great pride and self-confidence in having admirably built our own style of socialism which firmly guarantees them a happy life.

We must honourably carry forward the tradition of self-reliance of our Party and our people. “Let us reach the ambitious goals of the Third Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule by displaying a higher degree of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude!”—this is an important militant slogan our Party is putting forward now.

...

If we are to fulfil the new long-term plan successfully by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude we must step up the technical revolution, at the same time as tapping latent reserves to the full.

The technical revolution is an important guarantee for

increasing production and accelerating economic construction. It is only when all sectors and all units of the national economy vigorously promote the technical revolution, put production processes on a modern basis and introduce advanced production methods that they can increase labour productivity, economize on raw and other materials and fuel, and make a success of the enormous tasks of the new long-term plan. At the moment, many officials of factories and enterprises are preoccupied only with current production, and hardly direct any attention to developing technology. Some officials do not think of improving the old and backward machines and equipment in their factories, and even when workers and technicians offer good proposals for technical innovations, they are unwilling to accept them on the excuse that they are busy with current production. If this is the way the officials do things, they will never be able to innovate technology, improve backward machines and equipment and develop production speedily.

Those officials who cling to the status quo, engrossed only in the production in hand without promoting the technical revolution, cannot be said to be loyal to the Party. Officials must have a correct point of view on the technical revolution, and energetically promote it. In accordance with the prospective objectives of socialist economic construction and the requirements of the prevailing situation, they must map out a correct plan for scientific and technical development, and enlist in every possible way the creativity of scientists and technicians and broad sections of the workers for its implementation. All sectors

of the national economy must modernize old and backward equipment, and work hard to introduce mechanization, automation, the use of robots and computers in production processes. Furthermore, the technical revolution in the rural areas must be stepped up to put agriculture on an industrial basis. Since irrigation and electrification of agriculture have already been realized, we must consolidate this success and, at the same time, produce a variety of modern farm machines such as tractors and combine harvesters as well as fertilizers and agricultural chemicals in great quantities for the rural areas, and thus achieve comprehensive mechanization and use of chemicals in agriculture as soon as possible.

Building socialism on the principle of self-reliance and fortitude does not mean rejecting international exchanges and cooperation in order to provide everything one needs by oneself. No country provides everything it needs on its own, and no country, however advanced it may be, possesses all kinds of technology. The same is true for our country. Although our country abounds in natural resources, it is lacking in many things, such as crude oil, coking coal and crude rubber. However, some officials think that the import of materials or the introduction of advanced technology from other countries means the lack of the spirit of Juche and of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. If we do not import without delay those materials which are not available or are in short supply in our country, and do not accept advanced science and technology from other countries but delay under the plea that we should research them by ourselves,

we cannot make a success of the tasks of socialist economic construction. While putting the main stress on building and developing the economy by relying on our own resources and technology, we must obtain those things which are not available or are in short supply in our country, and renovate backward technology through economic and technical exchanges and cooperation with other countries. This is advantageous from the economic point of view.

If officials are to give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, they must be fully equipped with our Party's revolutionary idea, the Juche idea, and be firmly convinced of the victory of the socialist cause.

The Juche idea is the idea that man is the master of his destiny and that he has the power to shape his destiny. The Juche idea clarifies the goal of achieving independence of the masses of the people and the ways of attaining it. Only when the officials are firmly equipped with the Juche idea can they overcome the difficulties and trials on their way by their own efforts, be convinced of the justness of the socialist cause and work with devotion for its victory. Some officials neglect the study of the Juche idea on the excuse that they are busy. If they do this, they will suffer from ideological maladies. The officials, however busy they may be, must not discontinue their study but continue it unremittingly so as to make the Juche idea their faith, and must make it their ingrained characteristic to work and live as the Juche idea demands.

A resolute struggle must be waged against all manner of

morbid ideas, such as worship of big powers and defeatism, which are alien to the Juche idea.

As I have already mentioned, worship of big powers is a servile idea of serving and worshipping big powers and developed countries and national nihilism which is expressed in looking down upon one's own country and people and despising them. As a matter of fact, there is no flunkeyism among us as an ideological trend, but flunkeyist tendencies still remain among our officials. If officials become obsessed with flunkeyism, they will not believe in our Party's lines and policies, or try to implement them faithfully, looking up only to big powers and developed countries. They will fail to give play to creativity as their faculty of independent thinking will become paralyzed, and, in the long run, they will become unable to tell right from wrong. This is why I said a long time ago that if one is affected by flunkeyism, one will become a fool, if a nation falls into flunkeyism, the country will be ruined and if a party follows flunkeyism, it will make a mess of the revolution and construction.

Defeatism is a very harmful ideology which makes one fear difficulties and step back from them or abandon oneself to despair. If officials become obsessed with defeatism they will lose confidence in the victory of the revolution, and vacillate or yield even to slight difficulties because of fear. They will not put their shoulders to the wheel to solve difficult problems and will not work hard, only complaining about circumstances. Defeatism is evident among those who are not firm in their faith in the socialist cause and do not believe in the strength of their

people. Defeatism is a taboo for revolutionaries. Officials must never be imbued with defeatism however great the difficulties they face are. They must be full of confidence and optimism that they can overcome difficulties if they challenge them through struggle.

All the officials must be fully aware of the harmfulness of flunkeyism and defeatism, and resolutely fight against them.

I firmly believe that all officials will successfully carry out the economic tasks facing their respective sectors by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and thus bring about a fresh upsurge in socialist economic construction.

**ON THE DIRECTION OF SOCIALIST
ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION
FOR THE IMMEDIATE
PERIOD AHEAD**
(Excerpts)

**Concluding Speech at the 21st Plenary
Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea**
December 8, 1993

...

In order to carry out the Party's revolutionary economic strategy with success, all our officials must highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Revolutionaries must believe in their own strength and think of carrying out the revolution by their own efforts. Whenever difficulties cropped up during my revolutionary struggle, I have broken through them by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle I went through a great many crises. The most difficult of them was the crisis I had to deal with when advancing to the Mt Paektu area after the meeting at Nanhutou in February 1936. At that time I left the guerrillas whom I had taken on the expedition to North Manchuria from East Manchuria

with the units operating in North Manchuria, and then even turned over one platoon from the Hunchun young volunteers' corps to Wei Zheng-min at Mihunzhen. So I had to proceed to the Mt Paektu area in command of less than 20 guardsmen. I did so because I had calculated that I would meet the Second Regiment in the Fusong area and could organize a new division with the regiment as a parent body. However, when I reached the Fusong area, I found the situation there unspeakable. The Second Regiment, from which I had expected a great deal, had moved away towards Jiaohe, and there were only a hundred-odd men in that area who were suspected of having been involved in the "Minsaengdan" case. They had neither rifles worth mentioning nor ammunition.

I decided to organize a new unit with them by boldly trusting them. I made the decision because I believed that none of them had belonged to the "Minsaengdan" and also because the Comintern supported our position about the "Minsaengdan" case. I got all the "Minsaengdan" suspects to assemble and destroyed the bundle of their personal files in their presence. The Minister of Public Security will remember this. Setting fire to the bundle of the "Minsaengdan" files, I said to them, "I trust you and declare the charges against you null and void. If you had been 'Minsaengdan' members, why should you have endured all the hardships by following us, instead of surrendering to the Japanese? I declare that there is not a 'Minsaengdan' member here now. Those who have been suspected as 'Minsaengdan' on a false charge need not worry because they have nothing to do with 'Minsaengdan'.

from the start. If any of you were involved in it, though I don't believe it, he can make a fresh start and that will settle the matter." Hearing this they embraced one another and cried in tears, grateful for my trust in them. I went on to say, "You must now fight the enemy but you have neither rifles nor ammunition. What is to be done? You should go down to the enemy area in groups of 10 to 15 persons and capture rifles and ammunition from the Japanese imperialists before you come back. However, you must not fight in Fusong County." In those days we had an agreement with the puppet Manchukuo army unit in Fusong County not to fight against each other. They all went down to the enemy area, raided Japanese army units, captured new weapons from the enemy as well as several hundred rounds of ammunition each, and then returned. This was how we organized a new division with the "Minsaengdan" suspects at the core.

When I met the people in the Chechangzi guerrilla base and the Children's Corps members in Maanshan in the past, I was acutely hurt at their ragged and starving appearances. So I provided the ragged children with clothes. At that time I had 20 *yuan* my mother had given me. I made up my mind to spend that money on the children's clothing and gave it to Kim San Ho, telling him to go and buy cloth at the town of Fusong. Kim San Ho had been the servant of a landowner in Wujiazi. When he was working at the landowner's he got his left hand thumb cut off in a fodder-cutter. Seeing his suffering I took him away with me and treated his wound. He followed me and joined the guerrilla army. At that time he was the regimental political

commissar. I had intended to take leave of him in North Manchuria, but Choe Chun Guk, seeing that I was leaving only with young boys, without an experienced bodyguard, urged Kim San Ho to accompany me. The material he bought for 20 *yuan* was not enough for making clothes for all the children. So I sent Kim San Ho again to Fusong, telling him to meet Zhang Wei-hua there. Zhang had made Kim's acquaintance when he was a teacher in Wujiazi. Receiving my letter from Kim, Zhang bought a large amount of cloth and sent it to me. With it we made the clothes for the children and the men who had been suspected of involvement in the "Minsaengdan" case. It seems that the proverb, "Even if the sky falls in, there is a way out" is meant for such a situation.

After the formation of the new division, I mapped out the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland while advancing to the Mt Paektu area and in May 1936 we inaugurated the ARF at a meeting in Donggang.

Whenever I found myself in difficulty in the years after liberation, I faced the difficulty with a strong will and in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance by recollecting the event we had experienced on our way to the Mt Paektu area.

In the postwar years the situation in our country was extremely complex and our circumstances were very difficult. We were short of funds, labour, equipment and materials. To make matters worse, the US imperialists and the Syngman Rhee puppet clique clamoured again that they would push north. The anti-Party factionalists lurking in the

Party challenged the Party, with the backing of large countries, taking advantage of the difficult situation in the country. At that time the parties of the large countries openly interfered in our disposal of the anti-Party factionalists and brought pressure to bear upon us. However, our Party did not yield to their pressure but took a resolute stand on the principle of independence.

At that time we had nobody but our people to rely on. I trusted the people and decided to break through the difficulty by relying on them and immediately after the December 1956 Plenary Meeting paid a visit to the Kangson Steel Works. I asked the senior officials of the steel works whether they could produce 90 000 tons of rolled steel, and they answered that it would be difficult to do it because the rated capacity of the blooming mill was 60 000 tons. That day I took my lunch at the manager's house and lay down to take a rest, but I could not sleep. When we had to increase the production of rolled steel in any way possible, the senior officials said that it was impossible, so I had no other alternative but to appeal directly to the workers. I got the men to assemble in one place. As there was no meeting hall worth mentioning, I got an empty drum installed in a building that had been intended for a store-house, got a fire built in it to heat the room, gathered the men in the building and made a speech. I explained to them the country's situation, the decision of the Plenary Meeting and the need for steel to undertake more construction and strengthen defence capabilities, and then appealed to them to increase the production of rolled steel by 10 000 tons over and above the original plan by

tapping reserves if they trusted the Party and supported it. Hearing my speech, the men stood up shouting cheers and expressed their resolve to produce 90 000 tons of rolled steel that was required by the Party. In hearty response to the Party's call, the workers of the Kangson Steel Works modified the blooming mill by their own efforts and skill and turned out 120 000 tons rather than 90 000 tons. That was a miraculous success. We were able to develop the defence industry and the machine-building industry by using the rolled steel produced by the workers of the Kangson Steel Works.

In the past the ten Party members at Ragwon always carried out with credit the tasks given by the Party by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. As you might know if you paid a visit to the Kiyang second-stage pumping station, the large water pump installed there was made by the ten Party members at Ragwon who used to make hand grenades with a cupola during the war. Until then, the one at the Kum Song pumping station was the only large water pump, which had been imported. I decided we should make large water pumps on our own and gave the workers of Ragwon an assignment to make a large water pump on the model of the one at the Kum Song pumping station. They succeeded in making it in spite of many shortages and inadequacies by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Our officials will find nothing impossible if they work with the same revolutionary spirit and the same Chollima spirit displayed by the workers of Kangson and the ten Party members of Ragwon. However, not many of our

officials are working with such a revolutionary spirit. Nowadays, our officials cannot ensure increased steel production although they have good steel works, and cannot find a solution to the coal problem although they have many coal-mines. If coking coal is in short supply, they should produce a large amount of iron by using other kinds of fuel and increase steel production, but they are not doing so. They lack the spirit of self-reliance and the revolutionary spirit.

The same can be said of the problem of oil prospecting. If our officials had worked hard to prospect for oil by their own efforts by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, they could have started oil production a long time ago. Because they have not worked in this manner, they are not yet producing oil although oil prospecting started many years ago.

The officials in this sector are aware that there are large deposits of oil in our country, but they hope for foreign aid, instead of thinking of prospecting for oil by their own efforts. They are mistaken. Other countries, not to speak of the United States which tries to isolate and stifle socialism in our country, have no reason to help us. Even if some of them may wish to help us, they will be unable to help us because the US imperialists obstruct it. The officials must not depend on foreign countries for oil prospecting, but think of doing it by their own efforts.

If we prospect for oil ourselves, we shall be perfectly able to extract it. When the people of other countries prospect for oil and produce it by their own efforts, there is no reason why we cannot. The officials must work hard to

prospect for oil by their own efforts with confidence in themselves.

We must build a physical oil prospecting ship. Recently, I convened a consultative meeting of the senior officials of the oil industry in order to get to know how oil prospecting was going on. They said that they were building a physical oil prospecting ship but it was not completed because electronic equipment was unavailable. If foreign currency for its import posed a problem, they should have reported it to me, but they did not. I have instructed the disbursement of the necessary sum of foreign currency, so you must import the electronic equipment and build the ship as soon as possible.

I once again emphasize that the direction of socialist economic construction for the immediate period ahead is to develop agriculture, light industry and foreign trade in every way possible and that self-reliance is the method of doing it.

...

KIM IL SUNG
ON SELF-RELIANCE AND THE
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