

KIM JONG UN

**ON SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION
AND THE INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL POLICIES
OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC
AT THE PRESENT STAGE**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Policy Speech at the First Session
of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
April 12, Juche 108 (2019)

Dear Deputies,

The First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has convened at a time when the prestige and strength of our Republic as it advances along the road of independence are being demonstrated to the full and its socialist construction has entered a vital period.

With the election to the 14th Supreme People's Assembly having been held successfully amid the high political enthusiasm and active participation of all the people and with the government of the Republic having been reorganized, our State power has been further consolidated and the revolutionary advance of our people, united with one mind and will around the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic as they march confidently towards a higher goal of socialism, is being further accelerated.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Deputies for having, on behalf of all the people, placed great trust in me so that I will continue to lead the overall work of the State as Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of our glorious country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and I pledge myself to work with devotion for the development and prosperity of the Republic and the happiness of our people.

Comrades,

Accomplishing the socialist cause under the unfurled banner of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is a great and historic task facing the

government of the Republic.

Modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the highest programme of our Party and the government of our Republic and the general direction and overall goal of the construction of a socialist State.

It is only when we thoroughly apply Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in State building and in State activities that we can develop our Republic into the eternal State of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and creditably satisfy our people's demands for and ideals of independence, true to the wishes and resolve of the great leaders.

The government of our Republic will achieve a decisive victory in implementing the socialist cause by conducting more vigorously the struggle for modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

1

Comrades,

The major fighting task facing us in our efforts to model the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is to accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country.

Building a powerful socialist country is a historic stage in the struggle for achieving the final victory of socialism, and it can be accomplished with credit only by thoroughly applying the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building.

The Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building contain in a concentrated way the ideas on, and exploits in,

State building of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who developed our Republic into the most prestigious and the strongest socialist State in history; these ideas also indicate clearly the ways and means for accomplishing the socialist cause with the State government as a political weapon.

With the great Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building as its immutable guiding principle, the government of the Republic should raise the country's strategic position and national strength to a higher level and bring about a fundamental turn in accomplishing the Juche-oriented socialist cause.

The revolutionary line of independence should be implemented in State building and State activities.

Independence is the political philosophy of our Republic, and it constitutes the core of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building. A socialist State can defend the country's prestige and the people's destiny, and build and perfect socialism as suited to its situation and by its own efforts, only by maintaining the principle of independence and a definite Juche-oriented stand in all its activities. The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il identified independence as the lifeblood of the Korean revolution and the cornerstone in State building, and they advanced the revolution and construction in our own way while categorically rejecting the worship of big countries, dogmatism and high-handedness and pressure from outside forces. Under their wise leadership our Republic has been built and has developed into a socialist State that is independent in politics, self-sustaining in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, and it continues to

demonstrate to the world its prestige and might as a powerful independent country. Its strategic position and influence are being enhanced on a daily basis, after it recently achieved the historic cause of developing the two fronts simultaneously amid a do-or-die confrontation with the imperialists, and it is leading the trend towards peace. Today the imperialists' wilful violation of the sovereignty of other countries is growing more undisguised than ever before, and several countries are being forced into a miserable plight as they have no strength with which to defend themselves; in this world it is hard to find a country like our Republic that is steadfast in its adherence to the principle of independence and is guaranteeing the security of the State and the happiness of the people by its own efforts.

Holding fast to the revolutionary line of independence in State building and state activities is the consistent and immutable stand of our Republic.

Geographically, Korea is sandwiched between major countries and its territory remains divided. Our Republic is carrying out socialist construction at a time when hostile forces are resorting to more vicious schemes in trying to contain, undermine and stifle it. On the other hand, the contradictions and confrontations among the great powers in their pursuit of hegemony are worsening, regionally and worldwide.

Given the special circumstances of our revolution and the complexity of the present international situation, our Republic should build up its strength from the firm standpoint of independence and seek independent development in order to defend its sovereignty and dignity and achieve true prosperity. In the past, too, when the

world socialist camp existed and the countries in it maintained cooperative relations to varying degrees, our Republic adhered to the principles of self-determination and independence in carrying out the revolution and construction, and it promoted socialist construction on the principle of self-reliance. Building socialism by its own efforts according to the revolutionary line of independence is the basic principle our Republic must always maintain in State building.

Whatever wind may blow and whatever challenges and difficulties may lie ahead, our Republic will, in the future, too, make no concession or compromise where the fundamental interests of our State and people are concerned. It will resolve everything on the strength of self-reliance and self-development, as it steps up the building of a powerful socialist country in our own way and by our own efforts.

A crucial factor in applying the revolutionary line of independence to the building and activities of our State is to strengthen the motive force of our revolution and develop every field of social life in our own way. We should consolidate the country's politico-ideological position to make it rock-solid by equipping the people fully with the great Juche idea and the spirit of national independence and rallying them firmly behind the Party and the government of our Republic. The government will develop all the realms of the economy, defence and culture from a steadfast Juche-oriented stand and in our own way, and will never tolerate in the slightest the way or fashion of others.

Our Republic has a bright, promising future ahead, as it is steadily developing on the strong basis of independence,

self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence, with the Party and the people achieving solid unity to form a powerful motive force of the revolution.

It is essential to apply the people-first principle to the letter in all aspects of State activities and social life.

This principle is a political ideal of regarding the masses of the people as masters of the revolution and construction, relying on them and making selfless, devoted efforts for their sake. It embodies the Juche-oriented revolutionary philosophy that the people are the most precious and powerful beings in the world; it reflects the unwavering commitment of our Party and the government of our Republic to love the people dearly and satisfy their demands and interests.

The people are the root of our socialist State and its foundation; and they are responsible for developing it. All the activities of our Party and government organs should be wholly oriented and subordinated to safeguarding and realizing the people's demands and interests and faithfully serving them—this is the way to promote the revolution and construction with success and bring the viability and advantages of socialism into full play.

Maintaining the viewpoint and attitude of prioritizing the people in the activities of the State presents itself as an important matter, in view of the fact that abuses of power, bureaucratism and other violations of their interests may appear among officials in the course of socialist construction. The negative practices of lording it over the people and abusing the authority granted by them will impair the prestige of socialism and its people-oriented character, and weaken the people's support for and trust in

the Party and the State. Ultimately, they may even threaten the very existence of our socialist system.

With a view to carrying forward and holding high the ennobling ideas and intentions of the great leaders, who believed in the people as in heaven and devoted their lives to the interests of the people, our Party defined the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the guiding ideology of our revolution, as the people-first principle; it then gave absolute priority to applying the Juche-oriented view on the people, a people-oriented philosophy, in the activities of the Party and the State.

The slogan “Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!” encapsulates the people-first principle maintained by our Party and the government of our Republic. In all spheres of State and social life we have given top and absolute priority to that which is oriented to the people and popular among them; and we have spared no investment in their wellbeing. In recent years our State has launched gigantic construction projects in a bold manner. This is not because there is a surplus of funds in the country’s coffers; these projects are aimed at providing our people, who are the best in the world, with better conditions for leading a happy, cultured life.

Our Party and the government of our Republic have acted resolutely in declaring war on the abuse of power, bureaucratism and corruption, which are infringing on the people’s interests, and waged an intensive struggle against such practices, having identified it as a matter with a vital bearing on the existence of our State.

In the course of the endeavour to apply the people-first principle in all the activities of the Party and the State and

in all fields of social life, the Party, the State and the people have formed a community in which they share the same destiny with one another; and our Republic has advanced dynamically along the orbit of its development, never flinching in the face of unprecedented trials and difficulties.

As socialist construction progresses, we should pay closer attention to applying the people-first principle. Then we can double the dynamic for the advancement of our revolution and continue to demonstrate the advantages unique to our style of socialism, those which other countries cannot imitate.

That the Party and the State make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, and the people support their Party and State whole-heartedly, entrusting their destiny and future entirely to them, is the genuine features of our State, which embodies the people-first principle.

The government of the Republic will invariably hold fast to the people-first principle as the core of its mainstay, and, by relying on the strength of the people, strive to hasten the bright future of socialism that they aspire after.

The overall affairs of the State should be subjected to Party leadership in every way possible.

Party leadership is an intrinsic requirement in the building of a socialist State and a lifeline of its activities. A party is the incarnation of the demands and interests of the masses, and only under its leadership can the socialist State perform its mission as their servant with credit and properly organize and undertake unified guidance over all realms of social life and all regions, as well as overall socialist construction. A socialist government, if it is not led by a revolutionary party, will lose its intrinsic nature and fall prey

to the reactionaries and plotters, with the result that the people cannot escape the pitiful plight of political orphans.

Our Party is the veteran and seasoned General Staff of the revolution, which has gained rich experience and outstanding leadership skills and abilities in the course of leading several stages of social revolution and socialist construction. Boundless dignity and confidence in sure victory is instilled in our people by the leadership of our Party, which is bringing about world-startling, miraculous achievements one after another while leading the gigantic campaign of creation for building a powerful socialist country amid an acute confrontation with hostile forces.

Party leadership over State activities should always be based on political guidance, policy-oriented guidance. The Party is the guiding force that provides the guidelines to be followed by the socialist government and guides all State activities so that they are conducted properly; and the State is the executor and performer of the Party's lines and policies. Proceeding from these interrelations between the Party and the government, our Party has shown close concern for encouraging its organizations to exercise unified control over the affairs of their sectors and units and to give political and policy-oriented guidance to them in the efforts to realize its leadership over State activities. If the Party, a political leadership body, is involved in administrative work and resorts to technical methods, it will not only deviate from its main principle, but also paralyse the functions of the administrative organs and, by impairing its authority, end up harming the revolution and construction.

At present, the government of our Republic is effecting satisfactory unified leadership over the State and society by

relying on the revolutionary guiding ideology and scientific strategy and tactics advanced by the Workers' Party of Korea. In the future, too, it should remain faithful to the Party's ideas and leadership, so that it can perform its mission of representing the rights of the masses of the people to independence, organizing their creative abilities and activities, taking care of their lives and protecting their interests.

When it strictly adheres to the ideas and principles, elucidated by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, for building a socialist State our Republic will be built more splendidly as an independent powerful State that no one would dare provoke, a people's State in which the people's ideals are fully realized, and a great State that leads the world by giving full scope to its unlimited potential for development; then the victory of the socialist cause will be brought closer.

2

Comrades,

The core task facing our Republic at the present stage of the struggle to build a powerful socialist country is to consolidate the material foundations of socialism by concentrating all our national resources on economic construction.

Economic self-sufficiency is a material guarantee and prerequisite for building an independent State. Only with a dependable independent and strong economic capability is it possible to defend the dignity of a State and steadily increase its political and military might.

The present political situation demands that our State hold higher the banner of self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

Recently, the United States has been growing uneasy about the security of its mainland in the face of our rapidly-developing nuclear armed force. At the negotiating table, it has talked a lot about improved relations and peace; but at the same time, it is resorting to every conceivable scheme to prolong economic sanctions, with the aim of preventing us from following the path we have chosen and of disarming us first in order to create the conditions for realizing its ambition of overthrowing our social system. As a prerequisite for lifting sanctions, it is raising demands that run counter to the fundamental interests of our State, and as a result, the confrontation between our country and the United States is bound to be drawn out and the hostile forces' sanctions will persist. We have built socialism in the face of their persistent sanctions, but we must neither become accustomed to the situation nor slacken the speed of our revolution's advance. For those who cannot thwart us by force, sanctions are a last resort. However, they are an intolerable challenge for us; we must never connive at or remain indifferent to sanctions, but act resolutely to frustrate them. Just as we put an end to the prolonged nuclear threat by dint of our own nuclear armaments, so we must frustrate the hostile forces' sanctions on the strength of our self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

We have the capabilities and foundations for independent development to revitalize our national economy and raise it to the advanced international level in the shortest possible time. The foundations of our self-sustaining economy that have been laid for several

decades, our able scientific and technical personnel, and the creative strength of our heroic people who have made self-reliance part of their mental qualities and are brimming with patriotic enthusiasm—these constitute our valuable strategic resources. By making the most of these enormous and unlimited potentialities, we can create another legend of world-startling, miraculous successes and advance ahead of others by making a greater leap forward.

When we adhere to the line of building an independent national economy and give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, we can achieve remarkable development with a strength that others can neither fathom nor imagine.

The strategic policy pursued by our Party and the government of our Republic in promoting socialist economic construction is to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific.

The independence and Juche character of the national economy should be consolidated in every way possible.

We must strive hard to achieve self-sufficiency in energy, fuel and raw materials, which constitute the basic guarantee for independent economic development.

The electric-power industry should, by maintaining and strengthening its existing bases, maximize the production of electricity, put power supply on a scientific and rational basis, and actively develop the hydraulic, tidal, atomic and other promising sources of energy so as to create greater generating capacity.

Coal and other mines, which stand at the primary front for economic development, should give precedence to prospecting and tunnelling, and concentrate their efforts on

mechanizing extraction and transport; in this way they can significantly increase the production of coal, the food of industry, and minerals.

The metallurgical industry should establish a new, modern and large-scale iron production system suited to our actual conditions by solving the scientific and technological problems arising at the Juche-oriented iron production bases and operating them properly. The chemical industry should turn itself into a Juche-oriented, energy- and labour-saving industry that is wholly reliant on locally-available raw and other materials. By doing so, it should meet the domestic demand for fertilizer, chemical fibre, synthetic plastics and various other chemical goods.

Supplies of food and consumer goods, which are decisive to improving the people's livelihood, should be improved as a matter of urgency.

The agricultural sector should pay special attention to ensuring the supply of seeds, fertilizer and water and securing the land under cultivation. It should introduce scientific farming methods and raise the rate of mechanization of farm work, and thus attain without fail the grain production target set by the Party. Modern stockbreeding bases such as chicken and pig farms should be built and existing ones renovated, domestic animals should be raised in a scientific way, and a mass movement should be launched to raise ruminants. Also, a turn should be brought about in the production and processing of seafood by consolidating the material and technical foundations of the fishing industry.

Light industry establishments should strictly carry out

recycling as one of their strategies, along with the strategy of relying on locally-available raw and other materials; they should also step up the modernization of their production lines and put great efforts into developing new products. In this way, they should ensure that a larger quantity and variety of quality consumer goods are supplied to the people.

We should undertake grand construction projects more vigorously to provide the people with more affluent and cultured living conditions. The construction sector should make innovations in its architectural design and construction methods and raise the standard of technical equipment at construction units in order to build world-class structures in larger numbers. The building materials industry should bolster the capacity of cement production and decisively raise the proportion of domestically-produced finishing materials.

The transport sector should adopt revolutionary measures for improving rail and water transport in conformity with the actual conditions in our country, and find unique solutions to the problem of passenger transport in the capital city and provincial seats.

We should improve the structure of the national economy still further, develop all its branches in a harmonious way and attain an international competitive edge in the magnesia and graphite industries and other promising economic sectors.

We should make proactive efforts to put the national economy on a modern and IT footing so as to transform the country's economy decisively into one that is knowledge-based.

We should work out strategies and targets for developing the machine-building and electronics industries and such hi-tech sectors as the information, nano-technology and biological industries, and concentrate investment on them. Every sector should build a parent, standard factory where science and technology are integrated with production and all production lines are remote-controlled, intelligent and fully automated, and by generalizing its experiences, raise the overall economy to the advanced world level.

We should develop the local economy and reenergize our external economic work.

Provinces, cities and counties should build and develop the local economy with its own characteristics by giving full scope to their natural and geographical advantages and properly sustaining their economic, technical and traditional features. The State should empower local authorities to stand on their own feet and develop by themselves, and take practical steps to this end.

The external economic sector should conduct international economic cooperation, technical exchanges and trading activities in a multifaceted, proactive and tactical way on the principle of strictly abiding by the line of building an independent national economy and in the direction of reinforcing the fields and links essential for strengthening the country's economic foundations.

In order to give full play to the potential of our self-sustaining socialist economy, comprehensive measures should be adopted for enlisting all the human and material resources and potentialities of the country in a coordinated way and utilizing the new elements and

driving force for economic development.

The country's economic work should be conducted under the State's unified control and supervision, and in accordance with its strategic plan and command.

We should adopt a scientific and practical strategy and phased plans for the economic development of the State and execute them without fail. The structure and work system should be adjusted so that enterprises can arrange and conduct production and management activities smoothly while fully satisfying the needs of the State's unified guidance over and strategic management of economic work.

The State's institutional and legal conditions and environment relating to economic affairs should be improved and iron discipline established so that economic organs and enterprises give priority to the national interests and the promotion of the people's wellbeing, and observe law and order strictly.

We should further improve planning in line with the essential requirements of the socialist economy and deal with pricing, monetary and financial matters—key links in the chain of economic management—in accordance with economic laws and principles and in such a way as to reap a profit in reality. By doing so we can encourage enterprises and producers to work with great interest and enthusiasm. Steps should be taken to conduct economic management on the basis of scientific calculations so that it can be done as appropriately and effectively as possible. Raw and other materials, funds and manpower should be used as economically as possible and expenditure should be cost-effective so that all the resources of the country can

contribute fully to the development of the State.

The main forces that propel a self-sustaining economy are talents and science and technology.

We should make it part of our national traits to set store by talents and science and technology, and identify and appoint talents to suitable posts so that they can take the lead in production and the development of technology; and we should also steadily increase State investment in the field of science and technology.

We should reach proper decisions on major scientific and technological tasks and projects which are strategic, pivotal, profitable and economically important, and concentrate our forces and funds on them to ensure that science and technology can render a decisive service to reenergizing the overall economy and developing the hi-tech industry.

We should build up the political and military might of our Republic.

Our political and ideological might is founded on the advantages and stability of the political system of our socialist State. We should provide all the people with genuine political rights and dignity and give full play to the political and ideological advantages of our system, in which the whole country, united in ideology, purpose and moral obligation, is making uninterrupted progress.

The government of the Republic should regard the people's interests as the absolute standard and give primary consideration to their will and desires in formulating and carrying out its policies; in this way, we can encourage broad sections of the working masses, including workers, farmers and intellectuals, to take an active part in the

management of the State and society as befits the genuine masters of State administration.

The government should give definite precedence to political and ideological work as required by the intrinsic nature of socialist society, so as to train all the members of society into true advocates of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and further consolidate the political and ideological unity and cohesion of our State.

The government of the Republic should perfect the legal system of the State and intensify the role of law in State and social life.

The laws of the Republic are powerful weapons for defending the gains of the revolution, consolidating and developing the socialist system, and championing and guaranteeing the people's rights and interests. In line with the intensification of the revolution and construction, laws and regulations should be subdivided and specified on the basis of the requirements of the Party's policies and reflecting the prevailing reality, so as to legislate and perfect them in a scientific way; they should be modified and supplemented whenever it is necessary, so that they can reliably guarantee the administration of the people-oriented politics of the socialist State. We need to thoroughly establish a habit of socialist law observance throughout society so that all the people respect the State laws out of a noble sense of duty and abide by them on a voluntary and obligatory basis; law-enforcement organs should enhance their role, never permit double standards of discipline in enforcing laws, and strictly adhere to scientific accuracy, objectivity, impartiality and prudence in applying laws; in this way, we can create the most advantageous

socialist law-governed State in which laws safeguard the people and the people observe the laws.

Our self-reliant defence capability is a powerful and valuable weapon for defending the sovereignty of our Republic.

The peaceful atmosphere that has begun to be created on the Korean peninsula is not stable, and the hostile forces have not abandoned their attempt to invade our Republic. Always keeping in mind the absolute truth that peace can be guaranteed only by powerful military strength, we should hold fast to the principle of self-reliant defence and continue to build up the country's defence capability.

The government of the Republic will provide, on a preferential basis and in full, the human and material resources necessary for strengthening the People's Army, arming all the people and fortifying the whole country; it will steadily raise our national defence capability by putting the defence industry on a highly Juche-oriented and modern footing.

We should develop our own unique socialist culture.

It is important to create a climate of giving top priority to education throughout the country and bring about a radical improvement in education in our own way so as to overtake the educational level of the developed countries. The education sector should strengthen the ranks of teachers, improve the quality of education as demanded by the trend of developing modern education, and thus train larger numbers of talented personnel who will shoulder the scientific and technological development of the country and socialist construction.

Upholding the slogan of making all the people well

versed in science and technology, we should enrol all the working people in the study-while-you-work system and prepare them as intelligent workers.

The government of the Republic should pay special attention to the socialist health service. By further improving medical services, raising medical science and technology to the cutting-edge standard and consolidating the material and technical foundations of the health service sector, it can ensure that people enjoy even greater benefits from our country's socialist healthcare system.

The sector of culture and arts should create larger numbers of masterpieces representing the demands of the times and aspirations of the people, and the sector of cinematic art, in particular, should kindle the flames of an upsurge in film-making in the new century, thus playing the role of pacesetter in opening up a new golden age for the development of socialist culture.

Sports play a vital role in consolidating a nation's strength and exalting its resourcefulness and prestige. A nationwide effort should be directed to developing sports science and specialized sporting techniques and organizing mass-based sports activities on a wide scale. At the same time, sports facilities should be increased in number and the existing ones renovated with an eye to satisfactorily hosting even international games.

Establishing a socialist way of life and moral discipline is a serious political struggle and an acute class struggle for safeguarding and adding lustre to our ideology and system.

We should encourage all members of society, with a high sense of pride and self-confidence that our culture, our way of life and our morality are the best, to give full play to

the collectivist way of life and moral traits; and we should also encourage them to play an active part in creating and enjoying the revolutionary and optimistic cultured way of life of our own style that suits the aesthetic sensibilities of today for aspiring after cultural development. We should firmly defend the ideological and cultural position of our State by strictly guarding against the slightest expression of immoral and alien phenomena that poison the people spiritually and degenerate and debase society, intensifying legal sanctions against them, and improving ideological education and struggle.

In order to carry out the enormous revolutionary tasks facing the government of the Republic successfully, people's government organs should enhance their functions and roles.

They should further intensify their unified guidance over the whole society as required by the developing revolution.

They should consolidate and develop the socialist political system and continue to accelerate economic and cultural construction. In particular, they should give precedence to economic work and concentrate on improving the people's living standards. They should bring every realm of social life and every region under their supervision and provide unified guidance over them, while giving free rein to the creativity of individual sectors and units.

People's government organs should, as appropriate to their basic duty, establish the trait of making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

They should always pay heed to the people's opinions, plan and organize their work to reflect their demands, find out what can be done for them and carry it through to

completion, and enlist them in carrying out the Party's lines and policies. They should give top priority to the people's interests and comfort, and take responsible care of their livelihood.

They should properly enforce the advantageous people-oriented policies, including free compulsory education and free medical care, which General Kim Jong Il pursued invariably even in the most trying days, so that the people can feel keenly the benefits of the socialist country in their daily life and turn out in working for its prosperity.

People's government organs should maintain it as their iron rule to work only under the Party's leadership.

They should organize and carry out all their work with the Party's ideas and policies as their yardstick; by proactively defending the Party's policies and implementing with credit the revolutionary tasks advanced by the Party, they can give full play to the validity of our Party's policies. Party organizations at all levels should step up the collective guidance over the activities of government organs in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution, and actively encourage all their officials to fulfil their responsibilities and perform their basic duties for the revolution.

The officials of people's government organs at all levels should enhance their sense of responsibility and their roles.

The present stirring reality urgently demands that our officials take the lead in the general offensive and wage a vigorous struggle in order to discharge their duties as befits the leading personnel of the revolution.

The officials of people's government organs should

possess a high degree of the Party spirit and revolutionary principles and conduct their work in a daring and proactive manner, with the attitude that they are fully responsible for it. Courage and action arise out of trust in the Party, whereas timidity and acts of basing their actions on how people look at them result from a lack of trust in the Party. The officials of people's government organs should decisively root out the passive approach of expediting their work only when the Party throws its full weight behind them, and nurture the staunch revolutionary work style of carrying through the tasks set by the Party even though their bodies are torn to pieces. They should constantly cultivate their abilities to conceive, organize, supervise, guide and develop their work in order to become versatile workers who are capable of carrying out all tasks with credit. They should acquire our Party's methods of working with the masses, set personal examples in all their undertakings and work tirelessly for the good of the people. Cherishing deep in their hearts the true meaning of our Party's affection for the people, they should be infinitely courteous to them and become their faithful servants, at all times sharing weal and woe with them and working with devotion for them.

3

Comrades,

Our historic struggle for national reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation, has now entered a new phase.

We have adopted a succession of momentous measures to improve inter-Korean relations and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula, with a firm resolve to achieve without fail the cause of national reunification, to which the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il devoted their heart and soul for their entire life.

Last year we held three rounds of historic north-south summit meetings and talks, and we adopted inter-Korean declarations, thus bringing about a dramatic turn in the relationship. They were events of great significance which transformed the grave situation that was teetering on the brink of war breaking out at any moment, and which heralded the start of a new journey to national reunification.

The entire nation is now ardently hoping that the historic Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration will be fully implemented so that the peaceful atmosphere on the Korean peninsula will continue and inter-Korean relations will improve without interruption.

The south Korean conservative forces, however, are responding to the aspirations of the nation and the unanimous expectations of the international community with perfidious words and behaviour, and are battling to return inter-Korean relations back to what they were in the period before the publication of the Panmunjom Declaration.

The United States is openly trying to force “speed adjustment” on the south Korean authorities and doing everything it can to subordinate the implementation of inter-Korean agreements to its anti-DPRK policy marked by sanctions and pressure.

As a result, a grave situation has been created, in which we must decide whether to ease the tension on the Korean

peninsula and maintain the atmosphere of inter-Korean rapprochement, or to return to the past when the tension was spiraling towards catastrophe with the danger of war looming large.

We cannot sit back with folded arms and ignore the current situation, which is causing serious concern over the destiny and future of the nation and peace and security in the region; instead, we must take proactive measures without delay to resolve it in line with the unanimous aspirations of all the fellow countrymen.

To this end, it is necessary above all to take a proper stand and attitude of invariably adhering to and implementing the inter-Korean declarations, which embody the unanimous will of the nation, whatever the difficulties and obstacles in the way.

I would like to make it clear once again that, as I have already declared, it is my firm determination to turn, together with the south Korean authorities, inter-Korean relations into a lasting and durable relationship of reconciliation and cooperation and write a new history of the nation that achieves the peace and co-prosperity desired by all the countrymen.

In order to untangle the prevailing unsavoury situation, heighten the positive atmosphere for improved relations the north and the south created with so much effort and ensure that it bears significant fruit in the form of peace and reunification, it is important to put an end to the big-power worship, which mars the spirit of independence, and to the policy of dependence on foreign forces, which encroaches on the common interests of the nation, and to subordinate everything to improving relations.

I think that if the south Korean authorities truly want improved relations, peace and reunification, they should return to the original intention they had at the time of the Panmunjom summit and the September Pyongyang summit, and fulfil the responsibilities they have assumed before the nation by sincerely implementing the north-south declarations.

They should not waver in their attitude depending on how they see the wind blowing, nor pose as a meddling “mediator” and “facilitator” wasting time on foreign trips; instead they should be a responsible party in defending the interests of the nation and speaking up with the firm mentality of members of the nation.

It is our consistent assertion that it is imperative to smash the underhand schemes of the hostile anti-reunification and anti-peace forces at home and abroad in order to sustain the atmosphere of improved inter-Korean relations.

It is essential to realize before it is too late that neither progress in inter-Korean relations nor any fruit of peace and prosperity can be expected if the hawkish forces in the south Korean military, who persist in their veiled hostility by resuming jointly with the United States the military exercises, under a different name which it had previously been agreed would be discontinued, continue to be allowed to make reckless moves, and unless the anachronistic arrogance and hostile policy of the United States, which is creating artificial obstacles in the way of the improved relationship by presenting arbitrary outrageous demands, are eradicated.

All the fellow countrymen in the north and the south and abroad should, for the sake of the destiny and future of

the nation, resolutely check and foil the moves of the United States and south Korean conservative forces that are acting contrary to the historic tide towards improved inter-Korean relations and peaceful reunification.

If they are truly willing to work for the improvement of north-south relations, peace and reunification, the south Korean authorities should sympathize with our stand and resolve, keep pace with us and make the courageous decision to show their sincerity through practical action, not through words.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will continue to work with sincerity and perseverance to achieve the sustained development of north-south relations and the peaceful reunification of the country, solemnly cherishing the aspirations and desires of the nation in the future, too.

Comrades,

The first-ever DPRK-US summit talks, which were held in Singapore in June last year in the world's spotlight, were a momentous occasion that brought the hope of peace to the Korean peninsula where fire had been exchanged; and the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement was a historic declaration announcing to the world that the two countries, which had been hostile to each other from one century into the next, would write a new history in their relationship, and therefore it won the full support and approval of the peace-loving international community.

The DPRK voluntarily took crucial and significant steps, including the discontinuation of nuclear testing and the test-firing of intercontinental ballistic missiles, thereby making the first move towards confidence-building, which is the key to the removal of bilateral hostile relations, and it

also adopted the broadminded measure of realizing the repatriation of the war remains of US soldiers, something that had been requested by the US President, as a show of its resolve to sincerely implement the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement, which is a milestone in the development of a new bilateral relationship.

However, the second DPRK-US summit talks held in Hanoi last February raised strong doubts over whether the steps we took as a strategic, courageous decision were right, and they were an occasion that gave us a sense of caution concerning whether the United States is genuinely interested in improving bilateral relations.

At the talks we expressed our resolve to establish the essential stages and course to be followed without fail for implementing the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement in the interests of both sides, and to take more prudent and trustworthy steps, and looked forward to a positive response of the United States.

But the United States came to the negotiating table with only completely unrealizable approaches in its mind.

In other words, without any definite orientation or methodology, they were not prepared to solve problems with us at the negotiating table.

With that sort of thinking, the United States will not be able to move us an inch or get what it wants, even if it sits with us a hundred times, a thousand times.

It has recently conducted a test for the simulated interception of our intercontinental ballistic missiles and resumed the military exercises the US President had committed himself to suspending, while making other hostile moves contrary to the spirit of the June 12 Joint

Statement in a more undisguised way. We find this seriously antagonistic.

I am extremely displeased with such a trend.

As waves rise when the wind blows, so the more pronounced the hostile US policy towards the DPRK becomes, the tougher our counteraction will become.

Although it is strongly hinting at the settlement of issues through dialogue, as it considers a third round of DPRK-US summit talks, the United States still pays no attention to the withdrawal of its hostile policy, which would be the basic way of establishing a new bilateral relationship; instead, it mistakenly believes that it can subdue us by exerting maximum pressure on us.

We, of course, attach importance to settling issues through dialogue and negotiations, but the US-style dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands does not suit us, nor are we interested in it.

Although the United States calls for a negotiated settlement to issues, it is stirring up hostility to us day after day, which is an act that is as foolish and risky as attempting to put out a fire with oil.

Given the deep-rooted animosity between the DPRK and the United States, in order to implement the June 12 Joint Statement both sides should abandon their unilateral terms and seek a constructive solution that meets the interests of both.

To this end, it is essential above all for the United States to adopt a new approach towards us with a new way, after abandoning the current one.

The United States talks a lot about holding the third round of bilateral summit talks, but we are neither happy

nor willing to see a repeat of talks like the Hanoi summit.

However, as President Trump regularly observes, the personal relations between him and me are not hostile like the relationship between the two countries, and we still maintain good relations; if we want, we can send and receive letters enquiring about each other's health at any time.

If the United States were to ask for a third round of summit talks, it must be on the condition that the United States has the right attitude and finds a methodology that can be shared with us; then we are willing to have another try.

But in my opinion, at this moment, it comes to my mind that there is no need for me to be obsessed over the summit talks with the United States out of a desperate desire for the lifting of sanctions.

Anyway, we will be patient and wait until the end of this year to see whether the United States makes such courageous decision or not, but it will obviously be hard to get a good opportunity like the last time again.

In future, I will put my signature on an agreement without hesitation only when it contains fair clauses which conform to the interests of both sides and which are acceptable to each of them, and this depends entirely on the stand the United States adopts and its approach to us.

What is obvious is that if it sticks to its current political way of calculation, the prospects for problem-solving will be bleak, and the situation very dangerous.

At this crucial time, I hope that the United States will reach a well-advised judgment and the second hand of the clock of DPRK-US showdown which was stopped with so much difficulty will never move again.

The government of the Republic will strengthen and

develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation with all the countries of the world that respect the sovereignty of our country and are friendly to it, and will advance hand in hand with all the peace-loving forces of the world to establish a lasting and durable peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

Comrades,

As I have just said, I will no longer be obsessed with such a trivial issue as the hostile forces lifting sanctions, but will open up the way to prosperity by our own efforts.

Although the goal of our struggle is demanding, and challenges and difficulties stand in the way of our socialist construction as ever, our Party and the government of our Republic are steadfast in their resolve to open a new phase of prosperity and achieve the ideal and goal of building a powerful country by our own efforts under the unfurled banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The road of independence leads to prosperity and victory. Nothing can reverse or stop the dynamic advance of our State and people that have an unshakable faith and resolve to pave their own way by themselves with confidence in their own strength.

Let us all join the general advance to successfully accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country, holding higher the banner of great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and firmly rallied behind the Party and the government of the Republic.