



BULLETIN

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History of Love Permeated in Popular Public Health System

The glorious 70-year-plus history of our republic is permeated with warm love and devotion of the peerless great men who created and perfected popular public health system.

After the founding of the country, there were lots of things to do. But President **Kim Il Sung**, taking account of the status of people who had suffered from poverty and maladies and their pressing needs for healthcare, pushed ahead with the work to establish a democratic public health system without delay and apply popular public health policies.

Before liberation, there were only 9 state-run hospitals with 450 hospital beds and the total number of doctors amounted to only a few hundreds.

These scarce medical facilities were concentrated only in cities so that rural population could not have access to any medical care.

President **Kim Il Sung** put forward a revolutionary policy to establish a democratic public health system on September 1945 and clarified the main policies - the introduction of insurance system, expansion of state-run hospitals, extermination of epidemics and free medical care for the poor - that should be adopted to conform with genuine democratic public health system serving for people.

Then, he set up public health department within the North Korean Provisional People's Committee in February 1947, thus reinforcing the state guidance on public health services and establishing well-organized public health administrative structure covering provinces, cities and counties.

He consecutively enacted and promulgated new popular public health laws and regulations and increased state investment so as to build state public health facilities.

Thus, the number of state hospitals increased to 58 – more than 6 times that of the period before liberation (there were only 9 of them). First-aid stations were newly set up in the provincial seats and many state-run health establishments of different kinds were built throughout the country, including 2 quarantine hospitals.

In January 1953, in the middle of war, the universal free medical care system was introduced and the 7th Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in 1960 announced complete universal free medical care system. As a result, the new medical care system was introduced where household doctors provide medical service such as prophylactic treatment, hygienic propaganda and vaccination to the households in charge according to the section doctor system, regardless of distance, be it a remote mountain village or sea village.

Chairman **Kim Jong Il** consolidated and developed the vitality of the popular healthcare system which was established thanks to the wise leadership of President **Kim Il Sung**. He also saw to it that the Party's policy on prophylactic medicine is thoroughly implemented and the medical service and medical science and technology are further developed.

Today, the socialist healthcare in our country has entered a new stage thanks to the excellent leadership of the respected Comrade **Kim Jong Un**.

In recent years alone, Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, Medical Oxygen Factory, Pyongyang Dental Sanitary Goods Factory were newly built and a large number of medical facilities such as Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory and Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory were modernized, and the scope of application of the telemedicine system based on advanced science and technology is extending, making a big contribution to the promotion of people's health.

The key to the successful control of infectious disease in only 90-odd days and favorable turn of events during the health crisis that broke out in last May owes its full credit to the sincere devotion and service of the respected

comrade **Kim Jong Un** who puts the life and health of the people as the most important affair of state. The vitality and popular character of our public health system also contributed to the success.

Today, our people have heartfelt gratitude toward our country's public health system which is engrained to them through their daily lives and they deeply love our social system.

Main Culprit in Prolonged Instability

Recently, a fierce clash took place in Libya between armed forces hostile to each other killing around 20 and injuring as many as 140. In Iraq, too, hundreds were killed and injured in a bloody gunfight between religious groups, raising great concern of the international society.

Such incidents have long been frequent occurrences in Libya and Iraq, causing international concern.

The protracted internal war and conflict in these countries are the direct after-effects of the U.S. infringement on sovereignty.

As it is known, the U.S. killed a lot of civilians through indiscriminate air strike under the pretext of putting down the internal disturbances in Libya more than ten years ago and caused collapse of the legitimate government. Furthermore, the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq under the pretext of removing weapons of mass destruction in the beginning of the 2000s, thus throwing this country into an unprecedented turmoil.

As a result, Libya and Iraq turned into sheer hell and they are still caught up in the vicious cycle of the aggravated situation.

Nevertheless, the U.S. has again harped on about the so-called "concern" and "self-restraint" this time and made a nonsensical talk that each party should observe the international law and hold peaceful talks.

The U.S. has never ever taken account of the "observance of international law".

It is now posing as if it has some interest in stabilizing the situation of these countries, but it is no more than a height of impudence and brazenness and trickery to hide its heinous crimes committed against numerous civilians.

The U.S. is none other than the main culprit that has driven Libya and Iraq into prolonged instability.

Ki Jong Hyok
Member of Korea-Arab Association

Main Culprit in Aggravation of Regional Situation

The U.S. military moves in the Asia-Pacific region are now on the increase.

One of its good examples is the joint military exercise "Pacific Vanguard" which was recently conducted by the U.S. together with Canada, Australia, Japan and the south Korean puppets in the Philippine Sea.

Even actual war drills such as missile-launching have been conducted in this exercise where various warships such as USS "Barry", the "Arleigh Burke"-class Aegis destroyer were mobilized.

Prior to this, the U.S. has also staged the largest-scale joint military exercise "RIMPAC" in the Pacific with the participation of more than 20 countries as well as the ballistic missile detecting and tracking exercise "Pacific Dragon".

The U.S. is reeking of the powder fumes of successive joint military exercises under different codenames in the already-sensitive Asia-Pacific region. Its ulterior purpose is to maintain its military supremacy in the region.

According to the open sources, with more than half of world population and newly emerging economic nations concentrated, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 60% of the world GDP and two thirds of global economic

growth, and it is called as “political and economic center of 21st century” for its rich resources, big market and major marine trade routes.

Extending its influence to such geostrategically important region cannot but be a vital issue to the U.S. which is dreaming of global dominance.

Since the U.S. has long coveted this region, it devised pivot to Asia-Pacific strategy, Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy and Indo-Pacific strategy, and ran high fever in various military exercises and arms buildup in the region under the signboards of “counter-terrorism”, “disaster rescue”, and “freedom of navigation”.

The reckless military moves of the U.S. are becoming an important factor in aggravating the regional situation to extremes as it constitutes an open challenge to the international peace and security.

The dark clouds of a new cold-war are hanging heavily over the Asia-Pacific region due to the anachronistic external policy of the U.S. to maintain its hegemony through “supremacy of power” and its perilous military acts.

The international society is now raising voice of concern, saying that the U.S.-led joint military exercises are acting as a fuse setting off military confrontation in the Asia-Pacific, where the strategic interests of countries collide with each other.

The countries in the Asia-Pacific region should apprehend the seriousness of situation and put a stop to the reckless military moves of the U.S. which completely undermines the peace and stability of the region.

Chinese Media Censure Japan For its Moves towards Military Power

A few days ago, major Chinese media censured Japan for being hell-bent on becoming a military power while raising an alarm about the security threats by its neighboring countries.

“People’s Daily” pointed out that Japan, as a part of moves to dash towards a military power, is in a bid to remove the ban on the exercise of

right to collective self-defense and amend the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation guiding principle so as to turn on the green light to the expansion of overseas activities of its "self-defense forces" and so on, under the pretext of countering to the threat from other country.

"China Daily" revealed in its comment that the Japanese politicians are loudly talking about "Chinese threat" in recent years to make an excuse for its military expansion. It also expressed its concern, saying that continuous increase in Japan's military expenditure for the last decade is a clear signal of the revival of militarism and a projection of resurgence of Japanese military specter and that such moves are regarded as an act that incites arms race in the region and casts dark cloud over the regional peace and stability.

"Global Times" also criticized Japan for its attempts to amend the guiding principles to be applied to "three principles of defense equipment transfer" in pursuit of the export of offensive weapons as it is giving rise to concern among its neighboring countries. It continued that the Japanese right wing forces are becoming undisguised day by day in their moves to advocate for law amendment and remove the ban on the exercise of right to collective self-defense.

Meanwhile, the CCTV network reported on the writings of a Japanese scholar in which he evaluated the constant promotion of constitutional revision and increase in defense expenses as grave errors as the Japanese government is now facing with serious problems such as economic stagnation, hike in price and disruption of medical care system. He also stressed that the neighboring countries and world's peace-loving people should be vigilant against Japan's attempts to rise once again as a military power.

Japan had invaded Korea and other Asian countries in the last century and drenched them in blood. Instead of reflecting on its heinous past, it rather attempts to embellish it and grow again as a dangerous aggressive force.

There is no guarantee that there will be no repetition of those terrible and bloody massacres and plunder that took place in Asia in the first half of 20th century if Japan is allowed to rise as a military power.

All the countries in the world should never tolerate the dangerous moves of the Japanese reactionaries to become a military power and staunchly oppose and denounce them.

