

KIM IL SUNG

**THE US IMPERIALIST
ARMY OF AGGRESSION
MUST WITHDRAW
UNCONDITIONALLY
FROM SOUTH KOREA**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Speech at a Mass Rally in Pyongyang to Welcome
the Party and Government Delegation
of the Syrian Arab Republic

October 1, 1974

Your Excellency esteemed Mr. President Hafez Al Assad,
Esteemed guests from Syria,
Dear comrades and friends,

People of all walks of life in Pyongyang are gathered here today, greatly delighted to meet you, the envoys of goodwill from the Syrian people, who have brought with you warm friendly feelings towards the Korean people.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and all the Korean people, I should like once again to warmly welcome the Party and Government delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Your Excellency Mr. Hafez Al Assad, General Secretary of the Arab Bath Socialist Party and President of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Allow me also to extend, through you, the Korean people's warm and friendly greetings to the fraternal Syrian people.

Korea and Syria are both situated on the Asian continent; our two peoples are linked by a bond of firm militant friendship because of their common past when they were oppressed and maltreated under imperialist colonial rule and because of the common struggle they are waging at present to build a new life.

In the course of our meeting with you here on this occasion, we have felt keenly how close our two peoples are to each other as comrades-in-arms fighting against the common enemy and as brothers, although geographically they are far apart.

This bond of friendship linking the two peoples has been formed precisely through the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism.

We greatly admire the successes achieved by the Syrian people in building a new society and, in particular, the heroism and patriotic

devotion displayed by them in the October liberation war last year.

Under the correct leadership of Your Excellency Mr. President Hafez Al Assad, their outstanding leader, the Syrian people struck heavy blows at the Israeli aggressors in the October war last year and in continued fierce fighting on the Golan Heights. This humbled the pride of the Israeli aggressors and called a halt to their ambitious plan of aggression to occupy and dominate Arab territory for all time.

This also inspired the Arab peoples with the conviction that if a people rise up in a just cause in complete unity they can defeat any enemy, and marked a new turning point in the solution of the Middle East question.

We rejoice over the historic victory won by the Syrian people as our own and greet it warmly.

Everything clearly shows that in spite of temporary difficulties in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism for the independent development of their country and territorial integrity, the Syrian people are confidently winning victory and advancing.

During the October war last year, the Arab countries conducted joint military operations and took concerted economic action in imposing an oil embargo on the imperialists, thereby delivering unprecedentedly heavy blows against the imperialists and Zionists. This showed that if they fight in complete unity, the Arab countries can seize the imperialists by the scruff of the neck.

The Zionists are still continuing to perpetrate acts of aggression and military provocation against the Arab peoples with the active support of the imperialists and are seriously threatening peace and security in the Middle East.

But no matter what distracted efforts the imperialists and Zionists may make, they are merely the deathbed struggle of those destined to be ruined.

It is entirely because of the aggressive acts of the US

imperialists and Zionists that the Middle East problem still remains unsolved and that war breaks out repeatedly in this part of the world.

If the Middle East problem is to be settled correctly, it is necessary, above all, to put an end to the aggressive moves of the imperialists and Zionists in this area, force the Israeli aggressors to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and completely restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic maintain the firm revolutionary stand of resorting to every available means to liberate their lost land, and they are making every effort to achieve a fair solution of the Middle East problem.

The Syrian people are making great progress in their endeavours to heal the war wounds, to develop industry and agriculture and strengthen the armed forces.

As in the past, so in the future, our people will stand firm by the fraternal Syrian people fighting against imperialism and Zionism and for the building of a new society and strongly support their just stand.

The Korean people also express full support and firm solidarity for the Palestinian people's just struggle for the complete liberation of their homeland and the restoration of their legitimate rights and for the fight of all the Arab peoples to regain the occupied Arab territories and safeguard their national dignity.

Today the struggle of the Arab peoples against imperialism and Zionism is developing within the joint struggle of peoples the world over for peace and democracy, national independence and social progress.

The Israeli aggressors are boasting arrogantly, but they will be defeated for certain because they are entrusting their destiny to the moribund force of imperialism.

The Arab peoples will definitely win victory because they

possess vast territories, huge material and manpower resources and belong to the third world which is advancing from victory to victory as newly-emerging forces.

The victory won by the Arab peoples in the struggle against the Israeli aggressors backed by US imperialism is precisely our people's victory, and our people's victory is the Arab people's victory.

At the instigation of US imperialism the present rulers of south Korea have continued to perpetrate hostile acts against the Arab peoples, in collusion with Israel; they have threatened to attack our Republic by using so-called "Israeli tactics." But since these "tactics" have been smashed to smithereens by the heroic struggle of the Syrian people, the designs of the south Korean authorities have also come to nothing.

The struggles of the Korean people and the Syrian people support and complement each other and this relationship is being further consolidated and developed with the passing of time.

Dear comrades and friends,

The greatest national task confronting our people at present is that of reunifying the divided country at the earliest possible date.

In order to accomplish the historic cause of national reunification, we have put forward three major tasks.

They are: first, to give a powerful impetus to socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic; second, to strengthen the revolutionary forces of south Korea by actively supporting and encouraging the democratic movement of the south Korean people; and third, to increase solidarity with the international revolutionary forces.

Under the Party's leadership our people are now successfully carrying out socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic, applying the Juche idea.

Upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological,

technical and cultural—our people are all mobilized at present in grand socialist construction to fulfil the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule and reach the gigantic construction targets for the next long-term plan, and are bringing about a great revolutionary advance on all fronts by waging a vigorous “speed campaign.”

Our country has splendid prospects in socialist construction. We feel sure that in the near future the higher goals of socialist construction we have set ourselves will be attained.

Encouraged by the successes achieved in socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic, the south Korean people’s movement against fascism and for democracy is growing steadily.

In south Korea, recently, despite the harsh fascist repression, the anti-“government” struggle of the workers and student youth, intellectuals and religious believers and people of all other social sections has flared up again. They are calling for the democratization of society and the country’s peaceful reunification and demanding the abolition of the present military fascist ruling system.

This graphically illustrates that no amount of fascist suppression can break the people’s resistance.

The south Korean people’s courageous struggle against the present south Korean rulers is a just struggle for the right to existence and democracy, and is a patriotic struggle for the country and the nation.

Our Party and the Government of the Republic will always do all they can to give active assistance to the south Korean people’s just struggle and join with them in hastening the independent, peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

The most urgent problem in solving the question of our country’s reunification is to remove the “UN forces” helmet from US occupation troops in south Korea and force them to withdraw

completely.

It has become the unyielding demand of the times that foreign troops hiding under the cloak of “UN forces” should be withdrawn from south Korea.

On the joint proposal of 35 UN member states including Syria, the current 29th Session of the UN General Assembly is due to discuss the question of the withdrawal of all foreign troops stationed in south Korea under the UN flag.

Since the situation has taken an unfavourable turn for them, the US imperialists are now scheming to fool world public opinion and avoid troop withdrawals by using preposterous arguments. They are claiming that US troops in south Korea are not “UN forces” but troops staying in south Korea under the so-called “South Korea-US Mutual Defence Pact” and that if the “UN forces” are withdrawn, there will be a danger of war breaking out again.

When they find it advantageous to use the name of the UN to justify the occupation of south Korea by US imperialist aggressor troops, they call those troops “UN forces,” and when they find it disadvantageous to don the helmet of “UN forces,” they maintain that the troops are not “UN forces”. This is strictly in keeping with the criminal logic to which the US imperialists invariably resort.

It is an absolute historical fact that before the fabrication of the “South Korea-US Mutual Defence Pact” US troops had already come into south Korea under the guise of “UN forces.” Nothing can conceal this fact.

When the stationing of US troops in south Korea cannot be justified even with the name of “UN forces,” it is all the more foolish to try to justify it with what they call a “pact” connived at between the US imperialists and the traitorous clique in south Korea.

The US imperialists also argue that if the “UN forces” withdraw from south Korea without any guarantee for the implementation of the Armistice Agreement, the danger of war will increase. This does not stand the test of reason at all.

The maintenance of the armistice in Korea is not guaranteed by US troops, but by the consistent, peaceable efforts of the Government of our Republic.

If the foreign troops, which have obstructed the peaceful reunification of Korea and caused a constant danger of war in Korea under the cloak of “UN forces,” withdraw in accordance with the resolution of the UN General Assembly, this very fact will provide a firm guarantee for the preservation of peace in Korea and the question of any other guarantee will not arise.

If any question does arise after the withdrawal of foreign troops, it will not be a problem for any third party to meddle in, but will be the internal affair of the Koreans themselves—a matter of such a nature that it should be settled through negotiations between the parties concerned in north and south. The firm basis for such negotiations is provided by the North-South Joint Statement.

If any question arises during the withdrawal of foreign troops, it can be dealt with through negotiations between the DPRK and the US, the parties directly concerned.

Since we have already proposed to the US authorities that a peace agreement be concluded, there will be no problem here.

Nonetheless, the US authorities, while giving no reply to our proposal on a peace agreement, are only clamouring for some sort of guarantee with regard to the withdrawal of US troops from south Korea. This is designed to prevent the withdrawal of US troops from south Korea at any cost and to keep Korea permanently divided and retain hold of south Korea at least.

In fact, if US troops remain in south Korea, this will constitute a constant danger of war, and once war breaks out, it

could easily develop into a total war.

If the US does not want to suffer a heavier defeat in Korea and Asia, it must change its policy towards Korea and stop trying to bolster the present south Korean rulers who are in difficulties because of the people's fierce resistance and distrust.

Since the south Korean authorities are following the path of selling out the country and betraying the nation, while persisting in the policy of dependence on foreign forces and in the attempts to perpetuate the national division and intensifying their fascist repression of the south Korean people, it is impossible to solve the question of the country's reunification through negotiations with the present south Korean authorities alone.

Therefore, it is necessary to convene a Great National Congress broadly representing people of all levels and different political parties and social organizations in the north and south and hold negotiations in the spirit of great national unity irrespective of different ideologies and religious beliefs so as to remove division and confrontation in Korea and discuss the question of reunification seriously on the principles of unity and collaboration.

Korea is one and ours is a homogeneous nation; therefore, it cannot be split into two or divided into two countries for ever.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity must be maintained in the spirit of the North-South Joint Statement.

First of all, foreign troops bearing the emblem of "UN forces" must quit south Korea as soon as possible in order to ease tension in Korea.

Once foreign troops pull out of south Korea, a wide avenue will be opened for the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea.

As time passes, the general situation is turning in favour of our people's struggle to reunify the country independently and

peacefully.

US imperialism and its lackeys are being isolated and rejected more and more by the people of the world and international support and solidarity for our revolutionary cause are being strengthened as never before.

Taking advantage of this opportunity today, I should like to extend my warm thanks to Your Excellency Mr. President and the Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic for the active support and encouragement given by the Syrian Government and people to our people's just struggle for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, and express deep thanks to all the peace-loving countries and peoples of the world for their support and encouragement for our cause of national reunification.

Dear comrades and friends,

Today imperialism is being hit harder and driven out everywhere in the world and the people of the third world, who were oppressed and maltreated in the past, have emerged in the arena of history and are marching ahead along the road to independence.

The international balance of forces has fundamentally changed. Now the final say in the world arena belongs to the peoples who were once exploited and oppressed.

In Asia today there are many revolutionary and fighting countries and the vast area of Asia from Korea to China, Indochina and the Middle East has become the theatre of the anti-imperialist, revolutionary struggle.

The Cambodian people continue to wage a courageous struggle against US imperialism and its lackeys and for the complete liberation of their country; the South Vietnamese people, in company with the North Vietnamese people, are fighting strongly to ensure the strict implementation of the Paris

Agreement and defend the gains of the revolution; and the Laotian people are fighting to build a reunified and prosperous, new Laos.

We actively support the struggle being waged by the peoples of Indochina, the struggle of the Chinese people to liberate Taiwan, an inseparable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, and the struggle of all Asian peoples against US imperialism and Japanese militarism.

The battle of the peoples against imperialist aggression and intervention to defend their national independence and sovereignty, to protect the resources of their countries and to achieve economic independence, is gaining momentum with every passing day in Africa and Latin America, as well as in Asia.

We strongly support the efforts of all the African peoples to sweep away imperialism, colonialism and racism and achieve the complete liberation and unity of Africa and express firm solidarity with the fight of the Latin-American peoples against US domination and control, and in defence of national sovereignty, natural resources and the territorial waters limit.

Imperialism is toppling and peoples are winning their liberation struggle. This is the irresistible basic trend of our era.

The Fourth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned States held last year and many other subsequent international meetings, including the Sixth Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Problem of Raw Materials and Development and the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, vividly demonstrated the great influence exerted by the third world countries on present international relations and their united might.

Everything shows that if the third world people unite more firmly and fight with concerted action, they can smash any aggressive moves of imperialism and precipitate its final

destruction and rapidly build an independent and prosperous new Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Korean people will, as in the past, continue to fight resolutely for the victory of the common cause against imperialism, in solid unity with the peoples of the socialist countries, the peoples of the third world and all progressive peoples of the world and will strongly back and inspire the struggle of all peoples against imperialism and colonialism.

Bound by revolutionary solidarity and friendly ties, the Korean and Syrian peoples are fighting together and advancing together on the same Asian continent.

The present visit to our country by Your Excellency Mr. President and the Syrian Party and Government delegation forcefully demonstrates that the friendship and solidarity between our two Parties, two countries and two peoples have reached the firmest and highest stage.

We are immensely satisfied with this; and we shall exert every effort for the further expansion and development of friendly relations between our two countries in various spheres.

The Korean people will fight on, always firmly joining hands with the fraternal Syrian people, for the triumph of our common cause under the noble revolutionary banner of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Long live the unbreakable, militant friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Syrian peoples!

Long live the solidarity of the progressive peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the rest of the world!

I wish Your Excellency Mr. President Hafez Al Assad and the Syrian people great victories in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for territorial integrity and the independent progress of your country.

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Esteemed guests from Syria,
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The south Korean people’s courageous struggle against the present south Korean rulers is a just struggle for the right to existence and democracy, and is a patriotic struggle for the country and the nation.

Our Party and the Government of the Republic will always do all they can to give active assistance to the south Korean people’s just struggle and join with them in hastening the independent, peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

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completely.

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We strongly support the efforts of all the African peoples to sweep away imperialism, colonialism and racism and achieve the complete liberation and unity of Africa and express firm solidarity with the fight of the Latin-American peoples against US domination and control, and in defence of national sovereignty, natural resources and the territorial waters limit.

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Everything shows that if the third world people unite more firmly and fight with concerted action, they can smash any aggressive moves of imperialism and precipitate its final

destruction and rapidly build an independent and prosperous new Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Korean people will, as in the past, continue to fight resolutely for the victory of the common cause against imperialism, in solid unity with the peoples of the socialist countries, the peoples of the third world and all progressive peoples of the world and will strongly back and inspire the struggle of all peoples against imperialism and colonialism.

Bound by revolutionary solidarity and friendly ties, the Korean and Syrian peoples are fighting together and advancing together on the same Asian continent.

The present visit to our country by Your Excellency Mr. President and the Syrian Party and Government delegation forcefully demonstrates that the friendship and solidarity between our two Parties, two countries and two peoples have reached the firmest and highest stage.

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The Korean people will fight on, always firmly joining hands with the fraternal Syrian people, for the triumph of our common cause under the noble revolutionary banner of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Long live the unbreakable, militant friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Syrian peoples!

Long live the solidarity of the progressive peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the rest of the world!

I wish Your Excellency Mr. President Hafez Al Assad and the Syrian people great victories in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for territorial integrity and the independent progress of your country.