

SON OF THE PEOPLE

DPR Korea
Juche 107 (2018)

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Preface

Son of the people—this appellation befits a national leader who, as a paragon of virtue, respects and loves his people and works devotedly for their wellbeing.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the leader regards himself as the son of the people and devotes his entire life to their interests, while the people call him fatherly leader and support him with pure loyalty and obligation. This is a striking feature of Korean society that has formed a great harmonious family with the leader at the centre.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said:

“I will devote myself for the sake of the socialist country and its people, as I was entrusted by General Kim Jong Il.”

The Korean people have seen in their leader selfless devotion to their interests. Indeed, he is the outstanding leader of Kim Il Sung's nation, Kim Jong Il's Korea.

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Astonishment

The following is an excerpt from an article in the newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*, dated June 26, Juche 99 (2010):

“The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea has decided to convene early in September Juche 99 (2010) a conference for the election of its supreme leadership body in line with the new requirements of the Party and the developing revolution, when a decisive turn is being effected in carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Juche and the cause of building a powerful socialist country.”

As a herald of an auspicious event, the news hit the headlines worldwide.

Around this time some moving stories were spreading across the country: Young Kim Jong Un beat a world-famous foreign expert in a speedboat race; though in his teens, he set new standards for measuring cost-effectiveness in all aspects of work, on the basis of the revolutionary outlook on the leader. All the people

admired Kim Jong Un, calling him Young General.

An old saying goes that the voice of the people is the voice of heaven.

On hearing the news that the Third Conference of the Party would be convened, all the people in the country were filled with great emotion.

Rodong Sinmun, dated September 29, Juche 99 (2010), carried an article about the election of Kim Jong Un as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, together with a photograph of him. The photograph was reminiscent of the day when Kim Il Sung had made a speech on his triumphant return home after Korea's liberation or the day when Kim Jong Il had proclaimed the programme of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism. All the readers were fascinated by Kim Jong Un's ennobling personality.

On January 9, 2012, AP commented:

It is very surprising. Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un, the new young leader of north Korea, is one and the same with President Kim Il Sung in all aspects—face, smile, confident manner of walking, gesture, etc. It seems as if the President, founder of north Korea, were revived. Contrary to conjectures from the outside



Kim Jong Un is elected Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea at its Third Conference (September 2010)

world, the young statesman has begun to demonstrate his leadership abilities. Just as a north Korea specialist in south Korea said, Kim Jong Un seems fully convinced that he can steer his country towards the goal of building a powerful nation true to the intention of Chairman Kim Jong Il. According to the specialist, the image of Kim Il Sung in his youth is enshrined in the minds of the north Koreans and they will never forget the smiling face of their saviour who, as a young General, liberated the nation from Japanese colonial rule. Kim Jong Un looks similar to President Kim Il Sung. Whenever he smiles, it seems as if we were seeing Kim Il Sung in his thirties when he was leading north Korea after Japan's defeat. In October last year an AP journalist visited the Party Founding Museum in Pyongyang, where he saw the portraits and photos of Kim Il Sung, finding the young leader in the pictures quite similar to Kim Jong Un. His manner of walking, movement and gesture reminded the journalist of President Kim Il Sung.

Following the election of Kim Jong Un as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, an Internet homepage said in the following vein:

Upon taking office as the successor to Chairman

Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un was thrust into the international spotlight. He enjoys absolute trust and great admiration from the masses as he is the image of President Kim Il Sung who was respected as a peerlessly great man by peoples the world over, and of Chairman Kim Jong Il who is the most seasoned statesman in the present age. However, the similarity in appearance is not the major factor in his rise to world fame. Following his election, north Korea has regained vitality and achieved world-startling successes one after another. In a matter of three months since the young leader took office, the world has witnessed north Korea dealing adroitly with the US while strengthening its political system, stepping up national defence building and promoting economic construction. This augurs a better future of north Korea under Kim Jong Un.

After the Third Conference of the Party Kim Jong Un performed notable exploits in all realms of the revolution and construction as the sole successor to General Kim Jong Il and as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK.

General Kim Jong Il said:

“Even though it is not long after Comrade

Kim Jong Un took an official position of the Party and the state, he has since long ago followed me on the road of Songun, standing in the van in supporting the Party's Songun-based revolutionary leadership. In the course of this, he has been fully possessed of the ideological and theoretical wisdom, leadership ability and ennobling popular traits befitting the successor to our revolutionary cause."

Rodong Sinmun, dated December 23, Juche 99 (2010), carried a photo in which General Kim Jong Il, together with Kim Jong Un, stands among some officials of an industrial complex after being shown around it.

The photo caused a great sensation in the south Korean mass media.

Noteworthy in this photo was a signboard in the background, reading *The Vehicle-Assembling Workshop Visited by the Respected General Kim Jong Un on December 20, Juche 97 (2008)*.

The south Korean mass media commented: This signboard proves that Kim Jong Un is a longtime aide to Chairman Kim Jong Il for his inspection trips. His role seems to be inquiring beforehand about how matters stand at the units to be visited by the Chairman and making

necessary arrangements. This has not simply been a course of preparation for his inspection trips but a process through which Kim Jong Un has shown his leadership abilities by analysing the actual state of affairs and assessing the points in question.

The year Juche 98 (2009) was a watershed for the country. It launched its indigenous artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 2 and achieved many other remarkable successes. All these mega-events were unthinkable apart from Kim Jong Un's specific guidance.

Kim Jong Un displayed his outstanding abilities in leading civilian sectors as well.

The settling pond near the February 8 Vinalon Complex was full to the brim with 60 000 cubic metres of dirty mud, which had been piled up over the seven decades since its inauguration. This was a hindrance to the provision of clean water to the industrial giants in Hungnam.

On October 16, Juche 100 (2011), when General Kim Jong Il was inspecting the vinalon complex, officials in South Hamgyong Province told him that they would organize a shock brigade with workers from six industrial establishments in the province including the February 8 Vinalon Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and

Ryongsong Machine Complex. They assured him that the mud-removing work would be finished within October.

After thinking over this suggestion, Kim Jong Un judged that it would take much more days than the provincial officials expected. He decided to enlist the service personnel in this project in order to finish it in a week. The General agreed with this idea, stressing that the army should finish the project with no conditions attached.

Kim Jong Un specified tasks for carrying out the project at lightning speed and issued a directive on causing no inconvenience to the local residents while the project was under way.

Under his energetic guidance the service personnel worked day and night to remove the mud and turned the settling pond into something like a fish pond.

On the 26th, the General spoke highly of them and said: As Vice-Chairman Kim Jong Un enlisted the service personnel in the project, it could be finished in a matter of one week. It would be impossible for civilians to do so. He always supports me faithfully, striving hard to translate my plans and intentions into reality and leading the army to fulfil its mission as befits an army for the people.

Long before his election as the successor to the General and even in his childhood Kim Jong Un evoked public admiration for his extraordinary abilities, warm humanity and great personality, enjoying absolute trust and support from the people across the country.

The General said that Kim Jong Un, not with the backing of somebody but by means of his own abilities, would carry forward the Party's revolutionary cause of Juche, the revolutionary cause of Songun, true to the expectations of the people and expressed his full confidence in him.

As mentioned above, Kim Jong Un, with a high sense of responsibility for carrying forward the revolutionary cause, followed the road of the revolution as a faithful aide to General Kim Jong Il, leading several sectors of the revolution and construction by dint of his lofty loyalty, devoted service and extraordinary abilities. As they were being led by another brilliant leader, the Korean people were optimistic about the future of their country.

General Kim Jong Il said:

“As long as it is led by Kim Jong Un, the revolutionary cause of Juche is certain to emerge victorious and the future of our motherland is bright; I am fully assured of the good prospects of

our revolution and convinced of its victory. The revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Paektu will be brilliantly carried forward by Kim Jong Un and the history of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership will continue forever on this land.”

In the Freezing Cold

It was just before 12 o'clock on December 19, Juche 100 (2011), when all the people in the country were sitting at TV sets or radios as they had been notified that there would be an important broadcast at the hour.

By the close of the year they were engaged in an intensive campaign to bring earlier the bright future of a thriving socialist country by making continuous innovations and advance under the leadership of General Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un.

At just 12 o'clock the newsreader said:

“To all our Party members, service personnel of the Korean People’s Army and other people,

The Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, the Central Military Commission of the WPK

and the National Defence Commission, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea report in the bitterest grief that the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, passed away from a sudden attack of illness at 08:30 on December 17, Juche 100 (2011) during a trip for on-site guidance."

The news was a great shock to the entire population.

All the people writhed in agony over the loss of the General who had been their spiritual pillar.

Kim Jong Un felt the greatest sorrow over his sudden death.

On December 17 he summoned the members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee to tell them that the General passed away on a running train bound for a site for his field guidance. At the news the officials all broke into tears. Keeping back his tears, Kim Jong Un said that they should take good care of the people, whom the General had valued and loved so much, on their full responsibility. Even at the moment when he was feeling an

indescribable sorrow, he thought of his people.

The following day, the officials of the Party Central Committee received a report on the arrival of fishes at a port on the east coast. The delivery was made according to a measure adopted by the General on the night of the 16th. At first they were hesitant about informing Kim Jong Un of it as he was grieving over the General's sudden death.

The fishes were associated with the General's warm affection for his people. That night he ratified a document on providing Pyongyang citizens with Alaska pollack and herring on the eve of New Year's Day. This document was the last of those he had ever ratified in his lifetime.

Upon being informed of the delivery, Kim Jong Un said that the fishes should be supplied to Pyongyang citizens as quickly as possible as they were brought in according to the General's benevolent measure. He had them transported to the capital city by chartered train.

The following happened on the day when the General passed away.

A senior official of the Korean People's Army Art Studio was instructed by his superior to bring the portrait of the smiling General. He guessed that Kim Jong Un wanted to see the portrait, because they had already reported

to him that the portrait was prepared at the highest level.

There was a moving story about how this portrait was created. It was quite long ago that Kim Jong Un assigned the art studio to the task.

Later, recalling how the portrait was created, Kim Jong Un said: I directed much concern to creating the portrait of the smiling General. Previously, he regretted not having the portrait of the smiling President produced in his lifetime, saying that he chose the photo of him for the portrait after he passed away. So I decided to produce the portrait of the smiling General in his lifetime and guided the creative work in person.

The official of the art studio was pleased to think that he could show the portrait to Kim Jong Un. He arrived at the designated building and placed the portrait in a room.

After a while, as he expected, Kim Jong Un stepped into the room with some officials.

As he was still unaware of the General's death, the official of the art studio wondered why Kim Jong Un and his entourage were down.

Kim Jong Un shook hands with the official and came up to see the portrait.

He took a close look at it and had a talk with the

accompanying officials. He then instructed the official of the art studio to carry the portrait to the Mansudae Art Studio.

That day, before coming to the building, he said to the members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee at the then Kumsusan Memorial Palace:

“A portrait of the smiling General should be used for the upcoming national memorial service. I had the Korean People’s Army Art Studio prepare such portrait for use at the celebration of his 70th birthday.”

Kim Jong Un’s intention was to show the portrait of the smiling General to the people, who would be depressed by the news of his death.

He went on to say:

“We are grieving over the death of General Kim Jong Il, the great father of our nation whom we have firmly trusted and followed as our spiritual mainstay, but we must never lose courage.”

Out of consideration for Pyongyang citizens who were yearning so much for their leader, Kim Jong Un had the portraits of the smiling General set up in the outdoor mourning places across the capital city.

On the 20th he looked round the outdoor mourning

places such as Kim Il Sung Square.

On the 23rd he gave relevant officials instructions to the effect that Party organizations at all levels and their officials should not merely sit at their desks, worrying about the people who were out at night in the winter cold, but go to the mourning places in shifts day by day and hour after hour, consoling the mourners and sharing sorrow with them, and that they should give top and absolute priority to the comfort of the people, bearing in mind that the General would have been worried if he had known that the people were trembling outside in the dead of winter. That day he issued directives on allowing the mourners in the outdoor mourning places, including those who were standing guard beside the portraits, to wear caps, scarves, gloves and earmuffs and on ensuring that they did not get frostbitten or suffer any inconvenience in the freezing cold.

On the 24th he had tens of thousands of devices worn for warmth sent to the mourners who were standing guard. The following day he had large quantities of foodstuffs, including sugar, honey, milk powder, bread and biscuits, sent to the mourning places, saying that hot, sweet water would be better in cold winter. He also had medical measures adopted to prevent the mourners, including

those who were standing guard, from getting frostbitten or catching a cold in the freezing weather.

On the 26th, upon being told that taking a bath or having a haircut in the mourning period was wrongly perceived as something immoral, he ensured that welfare service facilities including public baths and the barber's were reopened. The next day he had thousands of earmuffs sent to the people standing guard and service workers in the outdoor mourning places. He also took steps for sending large amounts of sugar again to those places to serve the mourners with hot, sweet water.

December 28 dawned, the day of bidding the last farewell to General Kim Jong Il.

All the people, young and old, men and women, were weeping and wailing.

Kim Jong Un, even though he was suffering the bitterest sorrow, adopted benevolent measures for the sake of the people. When the last-farewell ceremony was over, he said that those who passed out during the ceremony should be promptly sent to the central hospitals and other medical centres for intensive treatment and officials should visit the families of those who died of grief and help them prepare for the funerals and resolve problems in

their living conditions.

Indeed, Kim Jong Un's warm affection was a source of fresh strength and courage for the people. In the mourning period they grew firmer in their resolve to overcome their grief and support Kim Jong Un with pure loyalty.

Two days after the above ceremony, Kim Jong Un was appointed as Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, according to the instructions General Kim Jong Il gave in his lifetime and true to the ardent desire of the people.

Viewpoint of the People

Kim Jong Un's viewpoint of the people is based on the lifelong motto of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il—"The people are my God."

He said:

"True to the noble will of the President and the General, who regarded 'The people are my God' as their motto, we should regard the people as our God, boundlessly respect them, give prominence to them and conduct every undertaking with their demands

and interests at the centre.”

The General once said that like the President's, his motto was “The people are my God” and this was also Kim Jong Un's.

During the celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the Party held on October 10, Juche 104 (2015) Kim Jong Un stated: True to the ennobling intentions of the President and the General who implemented for the first time in history the politics of loving the people and devoted their all throughout their lives to the good of the people, our Party will, in the future, too, strive to add glory to the sacred history of the people-first principle.

Kim Jong Un's viewpoint of the people and his people-centred philosophy are founded on his boundless loyalty towards the great leaders and his noble sense of responsibility for the future of the country and nation.

On December 31, Juche 100 (2011), all the people in the country were in deep grief as they were to greet the new year after the death of the General, fatherly leader of the nation whom they had believed in as in heaven. On this New Year's Eve Kim Jong Un was having talks with the commanding officers of the Korean People's Army.

He looked haggard as it was some ten days after the

General's death. An officer told him that he must not overwork as the people were worried about his health, and another said that he should take a good rest and have regular meals.

He thanked them all for their concern about his health, and then said that as he was young, he could endure several sleepless nights.

He continued: The General went through all manner of hardships for the sake of the country and the people throughout his life; he worked at his office until 3 or 4 o'clock every morning, greeting dawn before anybody else. As I am entrusted with all affairs of the Party, state and army today, I can fully understand why he did not take a rest in comfort even for a single day and had to continue his super-intensive forced march. Thinking that I am shouldering the destiny of the country and the people as I was entrusted by the General, I am not content with what I have done, and I wish a day had more than 24 hours.

He stressed that he would follow the General's mode of revolution and lifestyle all his life and he would be the first to greet dawn in place of the General.

One spring day he said to officials: You are worrying about my health as I often burn the midnight oil. I am

intent on finding solutions to economic problems and improving the people's livelihood. We are sons of the people. As such, we should devote our all for the sake of the people. As befits sons and daughters of this country we should brave the current trials. By bolstering up the country's economy and improving the people's livelihood, we should develop our country, our motherland, into a thriving socialist power where the people are well off and everything prospers. Now our people are undergoing difficulties but the day will surely come when they will lead a happy life recollecting today.

A great ideology gives birth to a great era—this is what the General said long ago.

The Best People

General Kim Jong Il said:

“During the Arduous March, the most trying period in our revolution, Comrade Kim Jong Un shared weal and woe with the people and gained a lot of life experiences. Braving ordeals and difficulties with them he cherished deep trust in his revolutionary comrades

and other people, and conviction in the validity of the revolutionary cause of Juche. In the course of this, he has come to realize the iron truth that for a revolutionary, trust is greater, more valuable and more powerful than love. Perhaps, he will not forget the days of the Arduous March forever.”

Kim Jong Un’s trust in his people is based on his conviction that they are members of Kim Il Sung’s nation, Kim Jong Il’s Korea, whom the leaders brought up and valued, i.e., that they are the people of the great leaders.

Kim Jong Un said:

“I will carry out the revolution by relying on the broad sections of the masses, the best people in the world who were brought up, raised to prominence and treasured by the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.”

One December day in Juche 100 (2011) he said: As the General often said, our people are good indeed. He brought them up to be the best people in the world. Officials should make tireless efforts for the good of the people. We should work harder for our people in the spirit of devoted service to them.

Through the ceremony to bid the last farewell to the

General, which was held on December 28, Kim Jong Un grew firm in his trust in the people.

Witnessing the moving scenes of that day, he said that Pyongyang citizens attended the ceremony with ardent yearning for the General and they all longed for him, adding that their ideological and mental state was laudable.

On February 19, Juche 101 (2012), recollecting the day of the last-farewell ceremony, he said that the moving scenes unfolded on the 40-odd-km route in the capital city could not be found elsewhere in the world and that such scenes could neither be directed nor reproduced.

He continued: During the mourning period our people shed tears of blood with the bitterest grief over the death of the General whom they had believed in as in heaven, and they, out of yearning for their leader, stood guard beside his portraits despite the biting cold; in this period I felt more keenly how great the General was and how our people supported him with a pure conscience; he brought up such excellent people; only a great leader can train a great people.

He emphasized: I am going to conduct the revolution, not merely by relying on officials. I will carry out the revolution by relying on our people who are the best in

the world, the people whom the General trained, raised to prominence and valued.

This was an expression of Kim Jong Un's deep trust in the people.

It happened on May 1, Juche 101 (2012) when Kim Jong Un visited the Kangsong Health Complex in a factory.

The health complex is a comprehensive service centre built in a splendid fashion in a northern area of the country, a mountainous area formerly known as being unfit for human habitation. He was pleased to see factory workers leading a civilized life like city dwellers. He said that the General would have been very happy to see them.

True to the lofty intention of the General who loved these workers in his lifetime, Kim Jong Un had such a wonderful complex built in the area. He said that whenever he came there, he felt a yearning desire to see the General, adding that as they were workers trained and treasured by him, he wished he could turn the compound of their factory into a flower garden.

On July 19, Juche 104 (2015), he visited the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex. Looking round the complex, he said that it was important to make the people

well off and ensure convenient railway service for them. Then he emphasized that officials should faithfully serve the people as wished by the great leaders.

After specifying how to modernize the railways on a long-term basis, he said, **“It is correct to call our working class the heroic working class of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, rather than the advanced working class.”**

He added that workers across the country, including those in the railway sector, should demonstrate once again the revolutionary stamina of the heroic working class of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in the dynamic struggle to put the railway sector on a modern basis.

He paid close concern to training young people into loyalists true to the great leaders’ intentions.

On August 30, Juche 101 (2012), those attending the celebration of the Youth Day in the first year of the new century of the Juche era, were told that Kim Jong Un was coming to have a photo session with them.

In fact, the delegates never dreamed of such an honour because Kim Jong Un was inspecting army units on the frontline to cope with the acute situation in which the enemy was stepping up their war exercises. Even on the

Youth Day he could not afford time to participate in the celebration.

Despite the fatigue from the previous day's inspection tour, he came for the photo session. He acknowledged the enthusiastic cheers of the participants and had a photo taken with them.

After the photo session was over, he said to officials: Our young people are excellent indeed. They have not been infected with any alien ideology and firmly believe only in our Party and follow it. They are not only excellent in their political and ideological quality but also in organization, fighting efficiency and unity.

Then he went on:

“The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il brought up such excellent people. Thanks to them we now have a large contingent of excellent young people. This is a source of our great might, dignity and pride, a weapon that is more powerful than nukes.”

In August Juche 105 (2016) he attended the Ninth Congress of Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League. At the congress he conferred the flag of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, presented an important



Kim Jong Un at the venue for a photo session with those attending the celebration of the Youth Day (August 2012)



Kim Jong Un conferring the flag of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League at the Ninth Congress of Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League (August 2016)

programme for the development of the youth movement of Korea and had a photo session with the delegates. It was at this meeting that the youth league was renamed the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

In his speech delivered at the military parade and public procession of Pyongyang citizens held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, he used the word, *people*, many times from beginning to end.

The following is an excerpt from the speech.

“Our Party has been able to propel the revolution forward over the past 70 years without flinching, whatever the storms, achieving only victory and glory, because this great people have entrusted their destiny entirely to it and followed it in faithful support of its cause.

“The history of our Party is the path travelled by our great people, its might is their might, its greatness is their greatness, and its victory is the victory they have won.”

“In the whirlwind of history, our Party has trusted our great people alone, and they have been its only supporters, advisers and assistants.”

“Our Party will cherish the people’s sincere loyalty

to it as the greatest asset of the revolution and bring earlier everything splendid in the future by shouldering all the burdens and clearing a thorny path for the sake of our brave, resourceful and beautiful people.”

“The Korean revolution is advancing not by dint of any mysterious divine power but on the great strength of our people, including the heroic working class of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who are following and safeguarding their Party with a single mind.”

“I appeal to all Party members.

“Let us all make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of our great people.

“Long live the great Korean people, united single-heartedly around the invincible party, the Workers’ Party of Korea!”

On January 28, Juche 104 (2015) Kim Jong Un said: Our people are waging an intense struggle to build socialism, despite the difficulties created by the confrontation with the enemy; this being the situation, they are still not able to lead a comfortable life to their heart’s content. I cannot sleep at night, whenever I am reminded of my failure to provide a rich life for these praiseworthy people who, in spite of their difficult living conditions, trust in and



Kim Jong Un delivering a speech at the military parade and public procession of Pyongyang citizens held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (October 2015)

follow our Party and remain faithful to their pure sense of moral obligation to the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. And whenever I receive a report that a difficulty the people have been experiencing, however insignificant, has been solved, or they have been supplied with something they need, however small the quantity, I am absolutely delighted. Our people entrust their all to the Party and stand by it in braving every manner of trial and hardship together with it, so we should provide them as soon as possible with the most comfortable and the happiest life in the world.

In a talk with a senior official of a provincial Party committee on December 19, Juche 104 (2015) he said, **“Officials should have a proper viewpoint of the people. Our people are the best in the world, who trust in and follow our Party with a single mind and share the same destiny with it.”**

His trust in the people is grounded in his hope that they will become the most dignified, happiest and most valiant people as befits the great people trained in the embrace of the great leaders and the great Party.

On July 13, Juche 101 (2012) he told senior officials of the Party Central Committee that the Party had carried

on the revolution not by relying on others but led the revolution and construction to victory by relying on the people and their spiritual strength.

Then he said:

“We should, in the future, too, believe in the strength of our people and brave all difficulties by relying on them.”

Absolute trust in the people is an element of his faith.

This is illustrated by what he said before: I want to raise our best people to worldwide prominence. I take pride in making the revolution with such excellent people. I will become their guardian and true servant who would go through fire and water for their interests.

Such trust is a source of strength for the people who are working world-startling miracles for national prosperity with unshakeable loyalty to their leader.

My Grandfathers and My Fathers

On July 21, Juche 101 (2012), some days before the 59th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, Kim Jong Un said to officials:

“I respect and value war veterans not merely out of a sense of moral obligation to them. Personally, I regard them as my grandfathers and my fathers.”

When the Day of Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War comes round, Kim Jong Un takes benevolent steps for giving prominence to them.

In July Juche 101 (2012) the war veterans gathered in Pyongyang, all in military uniforms wearing medals and orders.

According to Kim Jong Un’s instructions, they participated in the celebration of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, each with a certificate stamped with the image of Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung in the



uniform of Marshal of the DPRK standing on the platform of the square for the celebration of war victory.

The participants enjoyed a splendid fireworks display and posed for a photo with Kim Jong Un. At the time of the photo session they raised enthusiastic cheers for Kim Jong Un, who approached them and shook hands with them. It was really a moment of glory for them.

He, together with the old veterans, saw a performance given by the Moranbong Band.

Put on the stage were such wartime songs as *To a Decisive Battle* and *Advance and Advance*. Projected on the large screen on the backdrop was the scene of Kim Il Sung standing on the platform to review the parade in celebration of war victory. During the performance the recording of his speech that day was played. This reminded the viewers of the unforgettable period when they had fought fierce battles amid a shower of bullets and bombs, and of the day when they had raised loud cheers for their Supreme Commander in the square.

Kim Jong Un also had spreads prepared for the veterans who greeted their birthdays during the celebration and sent his gifts to them.

Learning that the delegates were due to leave for home



Kim Jong Un meeting those attending the Second National Conference of War Veterans (July 2012)

in bad weather, he had the celebration postponed for one day. He also took steps for giving them a large-scale send-off.

When the celebration was over, he said: To mark the 59th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, I invited the war veterans to Pyongyang, had a photo session and enjoyed a performance by the Moranbong Band with them. I was very pleased to see their happy smile.

He also directs concern to establishing a climate of giving social prominence to war veterans.

One day he said: The Party's intention in celebrating the day of war victory on a large scale is to establish a climate of giving social prominence to the revolutionary forerunners. They are heroic people who defied death during the Fatherland Liberation War to defend their country. These revolutionary forerunners performed great exploits in the war and became standard-bearers in supporting the President in various sectors during the postwar rehabilitation period.

Similar celebration took place to mark the 60th anniversary of war victory in Juche 102 (2013).

Kim Jong Un also had the Fourth National

Conference of War Veterans held in Juche 104 (2015) to mark the 62nd anniversary of the victory, and came to the venue of the conference to make a congratulatory speech.

In the speech he said: There can be neither today without yesterday nor tomorrow without today; our war veterans are witnesses to the strength of heroic Korea and its history that is resplendent with victory; they are also the country's priceless treasures representative of the era named after the great leaders; they are laudable heroes of our nation and genuine patriots, who dedicated their youth and even their lives to defending the Party, the revolution, the country and the people.

Home for the Elderly

Kim Jong Un's feeling of kinship with his people is expressed in putting forward the elderly as the revolutionary forerunners and providing them with excellent accommodation.

The Pyongyang Old People's Home is a good example.

The instances of taking good care of the old people with

nobody to support them are commonplace in the country. The state looks after the health and living conditions of the elderly on its own responsibility, and the people respect and give prominence to them—this has become a social trend.

While inspecting the construction site of the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage on June 24, Juche 103 (2014), Kim Jong Un said that he was planning to have the Pyongyang Mirim School and the Pyongyang Old People's Home built so that orphans and the elderly with nobody to support them could live in comfort. He stressed the need to make taking good care of them a society-wide climate and a family tradition around the country.

He proposed building the Pyongyang Old People's Home and resolved all problems arising in the construction processes from designing to the supply of building materials. In hearty response to his order, the soldier-builders launched a dynamic campaign despite the cold weather, thus finishing the excavation and framework in a matter of 40 days.

On the folk holiday of Jongwoldaeborum (the fifteenth day of the first month by the lunar calendar) in

March the next year Kim Jong Un visited the construction site. He said smilingly that it was not long after he issued the order on starting the construction but the framework of the old people's home was already built.

That day he said in the following vein:

We should build the Pyongyang Old People's Home as a model for other provinces to follow, so that the old people across the country can live happily free from worries. All the rest homes in the country should be built so well that the elderly can spend the remainder of their life in comfort. We should make sure that they lead a worthwhile life, enjoying public respect as the revolutionary forerunners and seniors under the concern of the Party, state and society.

With a bright smile Kim Jong Un enjoyed the view of the old people's home. The scene reminded officials of May in Juche 37 (1948) when Kim Il Sung visited a rest home in the then Mandal-ri, Sungho County, in spite of his tight schedule, and showed close concern for such items as the quilts and rice bowls used by the old men. That day he had underlined the need for the state to take good care of them on its own responsibility.

On August 1, Juche 104 (2015), Kim Jong Un visited the completed Pyongyang Old People's Home. He was greatly

satisfied to see the panoramic view of the Korean-style structure with a gabled roof on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River.

While looking round the rest home, he was pleased that the building was furnished as suited to the physical conditions of the elderly and their ages and psychological features. The rooms with a floor-heating system or beds and the dining halls were all designed to accentuate a family atmosphere. Hydroponic greenhouses and kitchen gardens were built for the sake of promoting their health.

That day Kim Jong Un was also glad about the location of the rest home. As it sits beside the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage, a large family was formed in the area; the old people now spend their remaining years, seeing the children grow happily.

Thanks to Kim Jong Un's noble obligation to the revolutionary forerunners, the elderly across the country have reached the pinnacle of glory and happiness.





Kim Jong Un at the Pyongyang Old People's Home
(August 2015)

Love the Future

Kim Jong Un's ennobling view of the younger generations is expressed in his parental affection for Korean children.

General Kim Jong Il said:

“Comrade Kim Jong Un is very attached to children including pupils. This is a manifestation of his ennobling view of the younger generations, as well as his inborn trait.”

With warm affection for children Kim Jong Un formulated bringing them up and loving the future as the revolutionaries' view of the younger generations and the revolution.

On November 30, Juche 104 (2015), during his visit to the renovated Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, he said:

“We should continue to uphold the great leaders' ennobling view of children and the revolution generation after generation. To love the future and bring up children is our revolutionaries' view of the

younger generations and the revolution.”

As President Kim Il Sung said, a revolution, which does not love the younger generations or cares little about them, has no prospects, and it is foolish to expect that such a revolution will attain any lofty goal.

One day, recollecting the great leaders' warm affection for children, Kim Jong Un said that he inherited the view of the younger generations from the great leaders.

He then stressed that in order to carry forward the revolutionary cause of Juche from one generation to the next, it was important to value and love the younger generations and train them into dependable successors to the revolution.

On January 24, Juche 101 (2012), on the occasion of lunar New Year's Day, he visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School.

He said to officials at the school:

Greeting the holiday, I had many places to go but I have come here first.

It is because I thought that the children of this school would be yearning so much for General Kim Jong Il.



Kim Jong Un at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School
(January 2012)

This is the first lunar New Year's Day after the General's death.

So who else but I should greet the holiday together with them on behalf of their parents?

Then he walked towards the photographing stand where the children were cheering in tears.

He wiped away tears from the eyes of a child and stroked the cheek of another, saying that if they wept they would look badly in the picture.

In the refectory he asked a child about his favourite dish and tasted the soy sauce.

Under such warm care the children at the school are



growing up into reliable heirs to the revolution who would inherit the lineage of Paektu.

The following is an excerpt from an article titled *Eternal Spring in February*, which was carried in *National News*, an Internet newspaper run by a Korean compatriot resident in the United States:

“On TV we saw Kim Jong Un visiting the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. He consoled the students in tears before having a photo taken with them. In the refectory he asked a child something, stroking his head. It looked as if he were their father. The scene was really moving. One of us said, ‘Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is warm-hearted like Chairman Kim Jong Il. He is really kind, modest and honest. Though young, he is attentive, benign and considerate.’ We could understand that the history of his predecessors’ revolutionary activities and benevolent affection continues and all the people in the country have a boundless respect for their leader.”

During his visits to the Changjon Primary School, Central Zoo, Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park and other places, he showed close concern for the coming generations.

After visiting the Kyongsang Kindergarten, he had amusements sent to it.

The celebration of the 66th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union was held from June 3 to 8, Juche 101 (2012).

Kim Jong Un suggested celebrating the anniversary as a mega-festival unprecedented in the history of the country, and took necessary steps to this end.

It was quite unusual that the sons and daughters of ordinary working people numbering over 20 000 were invited to the capital city for tours and other colourful events, which were scheduled to last several days. In fact, it is not so simple to bring together such a great number of children who need constant care.

However, Kim Jong Un arranged such a large-scale celebration for children, regarding them as kings of the country.

He is steadfast in his viewpoint that everything should be subordinated to children.

Delegates to the celebration were selected from among students at primary, secondary and branch schools across the country, even in remote mountainous villages and far-flung islands.

Chartered planes, trains and buses carried the delegates to Pyongyang.

A certificate bearing the image of Kim Jong Un was conferred on each delegate. This symbolized the warm love for them shown by the Party and the state that treasure, trust and give prominence to them.

Kim Jong Un attended the Joint National Meeting of the Korean Children's Union Organizations held in celebration of the 66th anniversary of its founding. At the joint meeting he made a speech, in which he stressed that to the Party and country, members of the KCU are treasures more valuable than billions of tons of gold and they represent the hope and future of the country. This speech illustrated his optimism about the future of the country and his great trust in and expectations of the children.

He enjoyed a concert together with the children, had a photo session with them and sent his gifts to them.

The celebration was a grand festival which demonstrated the single-hearted unity of the Korean people, including the KCU members, around their leader and portended a bright future for the country.



Kim Jong Un making a speech at the Joint National Meeting of the Korean Children's Union Organizations held in celebration of the 66th anniversary of its founding (June 2012)

We Are the Happiest in the World

Kim Jong Un spares nothing for children and strives hard to make them live happily without cause for envy.

He said:

“True to the intentions of Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il who treasured and loved the rising generations and the future, we should bring them up into excellent people and make them the happiest in the world. We have nothing to spare for the good of our children who will be the masters of the country in the future.”

On April 20, Juche 103 (2014) he visited the Songdowon International Children’s Camp prior to its re-opening after the end of the renovation project.

He said that it looked as if it had been freshly built, not renovated.

He resumed that it was like a scroll of picture, adding that the palace of a king in olden times must have been inferior to the children’s camp.

He continued to say that “We Are the Happiest in the World” is a good slogan and the slogan reminded him of the image of the President and the General.

Listening to what he had to say, the officials recollected how much concern he had directed to renovating the camp, sending a large unit of soldier-builders and guiding all the processes from designing to construction work.

He said to them:

“It is our Party’s determination and will to ensure that our people including children are well off without cause for envy in order to make their laughter



of happiness and cheers for the Workers' Party reverberate. The mere thought of the slogan 'We Are the Happiest in the World' encourages me to do even a difficult work cheerfully. We, in the future, too, should ensure that the sound of the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* resounds on this land."

That day he looked round several places of the camp to learn in detail about the construction work.

In November Juche 104 (2015) he visited the renovated Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

He praised that the interior of the building was splendid and the children would be very happy.

In particular, he was pleased that the theatre in the palace was furnished in such an excellent fashion that professional art troupes would envy it, saying that the children, kings of the country, were worthy of such a theatre.

He made the rounds of the palace for a long time and came outside.

Then he said to officials:

You should tell me all what are needed for the operation of the groups here.

We should furnish the palace with a full complement

of equipment for the extracurricular activities of the children.

As this must be done in the future, we should do it stage by stage from now on.

We should not spare anything for the children but make sure that they always smile happily.

I am sure that the sound of their laughter in such a trying period as today will be the sound of cheers for the victory of socialism in the distant future.

True to his lofty view of the rising generations the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* is now resounding more loudly at the palace.

His warm love, benevolence and meticulous care for the rising generations permeate the schools, orphanages and baby homes across the country, as well as the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, amusement parks and zoos.

He holds that children should be provided with the best things in the world.

Under his close concern many establishments for them were renovated or built.

Examples are the Mangyongdae Children's Camp, Pyongyang Children's Department Store, Okryu Children's







Hospital, Pyongyang Baby Home, Pyongyang Orphanage, Wonsan Baby Home, Wonsan Orphanage, Pyongyang Middle and Primary Schools for Orphans, and Natural History Museum.

The following happened when Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the Okryu Children's Hospital.

He instructed the accompanying officials to make good preparations for the import of medical equipment.

Then he asked an official if CT and MRI scanners were included in the import list.

The official replied that the MRI scanner was not included in the list.

Kim Jong Un told him that the hospital must be equipped with the scanner, however expensive it might be.

He continued:

I decided to build the hospital into a comprehensive medical centre for our children.

It must be equipped with the MRI scanner even if a large fund would be needed.

I spare nothing for the health of our children; I will have the CT and MRI scanners purchased.

I am planning to obtain a full set of vehicles, including

ambulances, which are needed in managing and operating the hospital.

There might be some missing equipment.

You should hold a consultation about what else are needed and submit the list.

He showed close concern for bringing up parentless children.

On February 3, Juche 103 (2014) he visited the Pyongyang Orphanage.

The orphans felt buoyant as if they were seeing their own father.

With a satisfied look he saw the orphans singing songs.

Then he said:

“Seeing the children singing a song in a clear voice, I have hardened my determination to take good care of them so that they feel not an iota of gloom.”

He went on:

What orphans long for most is the parents’ love; parental affection should be shown for them.

Then they will always live cheerfully without feeling the sorrow of being parentless.

Now they are too young to feel that sorrow, but when



Kim Jong Un at the Pyongyang Baby Home
(February 2014)

they are grown up, they will be envious of other children with parents.

If they are not looked after with parental affection, they might become timid persons.

At the education room he felt the room temperature and he was greatly pleased that the snack storehouse was full.

He then inquired about the heating condition in the bedrooms, the supply of electricity and the provision of meat, eggs and fish.

The next leg of his field guidance trip was the Pyongyang Baby Home.

In the room for nursing babies he felt the room temperature and touched the foot of a 6-month-old baby who was sleeping under a blanket.

On June 1, Juche 103 (2014), he made a phone call to an official of the Party Central Committee in the afternoon.

He said, **“Today is the International Children’s Day. What about the children at the Pyongyang Orphanage?”**

In the morning that official went to the orphanage to congratulate the children, as instructed by Kim Jong Un.

He told Kim Jong Un what he saw when he went to the orphanage .

The children had breakfast, which was prepared with various foodstuffs sent by Kim Jong Un, and enjoyed the holiday with the officials of several units and many residents in Pyongyang who visited there to congratulate them.

The above official told Kim Jong Un that the children grew taller and stronger, adding that they all had a fair complexion and they were happy with the gifts from him.

Then Kim Jong Un asked, **“What did the children eat for lunch?”**

The official replied that the Okryu Restaurant brought noodles and some cooks from the restaurants and other public catering services in the district came to prepare different kinds of dishes for the children.

Kim Jong Un was not happy with the reply and said, **“I am afraid if the children liked noodles.”**

He then asked what the menu was for supper.

The official was unable to answer, because he failed to inquire about the menu after seeing a sumptuous feast at lunchtime.

He replied that he did not pay concern to the menu for supper and he would ask about it soon.

Kim Jong Un changed the subject, asking him the number of the teachers and children at the orphanage.

The official was unable to give him a correct answer.

Kim Jong Un said the number, adding that it might not be exact and he should inquire about it.

With a feeling of guilt, the official asked about the teachers and children at the orphanage. He was greatly surprised to see that Kim Jong Un remembered the exact number.

Some hours later, Kim Jong Un visited the orphanage. He told officials about how to feed children honey and manage their nutrition, saying that taking honey before a meal is good for weak children.

He continued:

I was told that the children ate noodles for lunch. Children usually don't like noodles.

The fact that the children at the orphanage ate noodles for lunch weighed down on his mind, so he visited there bringing with him pheasants and yogurt.

After explaining how to cook eggs, he said that the

children should be given not merely boiled rice but snacks as well and yogurt should be taken after a meal.

Officials were greatly impressed by his tender care. They repented of failing to fully comprehend his lofty intentions.

Upon seeing him, the children rushed towards him, calling “Father!” or “Fatherly Marshal!”

He told them that they should not be in haste, or they might slip over. He stroked their cheeks and then watched them singing a song.

He personally put a straw into each yogurt pot and gave them to the children.

In the evening he saw the children having supper in the refectory.

That day he made a promise with them to meet again at the newly-built orphanage.

He continued to say that children’s laughter would enliven the mood of the whole country.

Soon afterwards, he had the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage built in an excellent fashion on the bank of the Taedong River, and visited them on January 1, Juche 104 (2015).

The officials of the baby home and orphanage



Kim Jong Un at the Pyongyang Orphanage (June 2014)

extended New Year greetings to him.

He said to them:

In my New Year's address I said I hoped our lovely children would have a brighter future.

After that, I wanted to see the children at the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage.

He stressed that the baby home and orphanage built by the Party should be managed properly so that the sound of the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* could resound from there.

With a bright smile, he saw the children playing cheerfully.

He then looked round the playroom, washroom, wading pool, intelligence game room and others.

At the room of Junior Class No. 2 he saw the children singing a song to the tune of their teacher's accordion.

He then asked the accompanying officials if it was time for the children to take a nap, saying that they should take a nap immediately.

The children said that they would sing more songs.

Dissuading them, he told officials that they should be taken to the bedroom and he wanted to see them while in sleep.

A breach of the children's daily routine for a single day was not a big problem.

But he was worried that his visit might cause an impediment to the growth and nursing of the children.

It was well past lunchtime that he left there.

He said smilingly:

I am very happy today.

I am pleased to see the children singing a song and dancing without an iota of gloom to greet New Year's Day at such an excellent house.

Seeing their bright smile, I feel as if I were relieved of all my fatigue.

I have enjoyed a very pleasant time today.

One July day in Juche 105 (2016) he visited the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans.

He noted that recently the Party set it as an important policy-oriented task to bring up orphans well and ensured that the nurturing conditions and environment of the baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans were improved.

He emphasized that this was the greatest of the successes the Party had achieved over the past three or four years.

He continued:

Now people say that this is an ideal land for parentless children as the baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans have mushroomed across the country.

These children are not parentless.

They are all my sons and daughters; now I am blessed with many children.

Thanks to his lofty view of the rising generations all the children in the country are growing happily.





Kim Jong Un at the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans
(July 2016)

Naming a Baby during a Conference

The following happened when the First Conference of Pilots of the Korean People's Army was drawing to a close.

Kim Jong Un, who was presiding over the conference, gazed around the auditorium as if he were trying to find someone. He said that not long ago he inspected a unit of women pilots, where he promised to name a son of a pilot. He added that he was sorry for not keeping the promise.

The pilot couple, who were present at the conference, were surprised to hear that, as well as others attending it.

A month ago, when inspecting the unit, he was told that a pilot couple had a son. Very pleased at the news, he promised with them to name their son. In the meantime, the couple waited impatiently for any news from Kim Jong Un, but they knew that he was very busy with his inspection trips. For this reason their son was still nameless.

When Kim Jong Un recalled his promise in the venue of the conference, the participants were somewhat surprised. However, nobody knew why he brought up this subject in the midst of the meeting.

That day, coming out of the venue of the conference in the morning, he said that he had yet to keep the promise he had made with the pilot couple a month ago. He added that in the meantime he was too busy to think about it and he would think it up without fail.

That afternoon, coming back to the hall, he talked with officials about the baby's name.

“I thought a lot about the name of the pilots’ son at lunchtime. What about including Do in his name?”

The officials thought over its meaning and agreed. Pointing at the letter, Do, which an official wrote down on a piece of paper, Kim Jong Un resumed, **“Then the letter Do is good. What is your opinion about another letter?”** Receiving no reply, he said, **“What about Chung? Ri Chung Do. What’s your opinion?”**

Calling the name repeatedly to themselves, the officials answered that the name was very good. Chung Do meant the road of loyalty.

Walking towards the platform, he told an official that



Kim Jong Un presiding over the First Conference of Pilots of the Korean People's Army (April 2014)

it would be better to announce the name of the baby at the meeting.

At the meeting he was told by a commanding officer sitting on the platform that the woman pilot had entrusted her son at the Okryu Children's Hospital and attended the conference and the baby had no name yet.

Kim Jong Un said in the following vein: As the couple has not named their son yet, I will name him now. I am not sure if their son would become a pilot. But I want to name the baby Ri Chung Do in the sense that either as a pilot defending the sky of the country or as any other worker, he should faithfully support the Party with a pure conscience and unswervingly follow the road of loyalty for the prosperity of the country, cherishing patriotism all his life.

When he said this, all attending the meeting gave a loud applause.

He asked the woman pilot if she liked the name.

When she and her husband mounted the platform, the sound of applause grew louder, reflecting the pilots' hope that the baby would become a pilot of Kim Jong Un's Air Force. It was also an expression of their pledge to repay his benevolent affection in devotion and loyalty.

Expressing His Gratitude

One December day in Juche 103 (2014) Kim Jong Un, together with the participants in the Second Conference of Active Officers' Wives of the Korean People's Army, saw a performance given by amateur art groups of officers' wives of the units, which had been rated excellent at the fifth round of the Second Contest of Amateur Art Groups of the Wives of the KPA Officers.

To the conference he sent a letter titled, *Officers' Wives Should Become Reliable Assistants to Their Husbands*.

In this letter he said that the officers' wives helped him a lot in former years and it was a source of great pride for him to have a large contingent of officers' wives with unfailing loyalty to the Party, stressing that he would trust the service personnel and the officers' wives before anybody else. Listening to the letter, all the participants were moved to tears.

Kim Jong Un had a photo session with them and enjoyed their performance, which expressed their yearning

for the great leaders and admiration for the Supreme Commander, as well as their resolve to support his revolutionary leadership with loyalty.

After the performance was over, he congratulated the performers and waved back to the cheering audience. When he stood up and was moving off, the cheers grew louder.

To their surprise, he came onto the stage.

Silence reigned.

After a while he spoke to the audience: Today, during the photo session, I received enthusiastic cheers from you, wives and mothers of my dear and beloved comrades-in-arms. I felt grateful to you for trusting and following the Party faithfully. I was impressed by your extraordinary zeal for the revolution and revolutionary optimism. I have come onto this stage to express my gratitude.

His speech continued in the following vein:

You are strong-willed, tender-hearted and dependable comrades. You are the wives of my beloved comrades-in-arms, warm-hearted mothers of our children who will shoulder the future of our great nation, reliable assistants to your husbands who are defending our revolution on the same trench as them and eternal “cooks” for our



Kim Jong Un making a speech in front of the participants in the Second Conference of Active Officers' Wives of the Korean People's Army (December 2014)

revolution. This thought has convinced me that victory in the revolutionary cause of Songun is guaranteed.

From your eyes I can read your expectations. As Supreme Commander, I have made up my mind to lead our revolutionary armed forces, or your beloved husbands and children, to victory to live up to your trust and expectations.

It is a source of great pride for our Party and country to have an army of iron-willed women revolutionaries like you.

Though unassuming, you are supporting your husbands and working with a pure conscience for the prosperity of the country, thereby giving a strong impetus to our revolution and hastening a brighter future for us.

I extend my heartfelt thanks once again to you for invariably trusting and supporting our Party rain or shine.

The service personnel of our People's Army, your husbands and children, are my comrades-in-arms who cannot be bartered for anything valuable in the world. I entrust their living conditions to you, our Party's daughters and daughters-in-law.

The officers' wives were all in tears. They took it quite natural to devote their all to their husbands and children

and soldiers. Now they felt more keenly how much the Supreme Commander cared for them all.

Kim Jong Un concluded his speech by saying that he wished them good health and harmony in their family life and hoped they would support their husbands and children better.

Some officers' wives raised loud cheers, some others merely weeping all along.

The moving scene of that day was inscribed in the minds of the officers' wives and all other people in the country.

“Glad to See You”

It happened one November day in Juche 103 (2014), when Kim Jong Un visited a fishery station.

Entering the compound of the fishery station, he said with a smile on his face that all over the compound hanged a smell of fishes. He was very pleased to see cascades of fishes in the unloading area. Then he got on a vessel with a full load and beamed at the sight of fishes in the hold. And he said that he felt as if his year-long fatigue had gone.

At the outdoor fish-processing area he saw the employees and their wives sorting out fishes.

He said to officials:

“Look. Even the employees’ wives have turned out in the effort to carry out the Party’s fishing policy. It is praiseworthy that they are making sincere efforts for the interests of the collective.”

Gazing around at the accompanying officials, he spoke highly of the women and then came closer to them.

He said to them, **“Glad to see you.”**

Showing his thumb up as a sign of praise, he said that the employees and their wives were all steadfast in implementing Party policy with patriotism and this was the original feature of socialism.

Moving towards the hall of culture, he saw them shedding tears of gratitude and asked officials of the fishing station to convey his regards to them.

Greetings to the People

On the morning of January 1, Juche 102 (2013), Kim Jong Un made his first New Year address.

Watching TV, all the people in the country felt as if they were seeing President Kim Il Sung who used to extend New Year greetings to the people with a bright smile.

Kim Jong Un began this address by saying:

“I extend my warm greetings to the service personnel and people who are striving with devotion for the prosperity of the country firmly united around the Workers’ Party of Korea, and sincerely wish all the families across the country harmony and greater happiness.”

Listening to his address, all the people were moved to tears.

Later, on every morning of New Year’s Day, all the families in the country sat in front of their TV sets, waiting for his address and visualizing a more promising future for them.

The following are excerpts from his New Year addresses.

- Juche 103 (2014)

“I extend tribute also to the martyrs who dedicated their precious lives to national defence and socialist construction last year, and offer New Year greetings

to all service personnel and people who are opening a new era of national prosperity following the leadership of our Party.

“And as we greet the new year I hope that homes across the country will be overflowing with greater happiness and joy.”

- Juche 104 (2015)

“I extend New Year greetings to all our service personnel and people, who are striving with devotion for the dignity and prosperity of the country with revolutionary faith and patriotic enthusiasm, and I wish that homes throughout the country will overflow with warm affection and our lovely children will have a brighter future.”

“Greeting the hope-filled new year 2015, I wish all the families across the country happiness.”

- Juche 105 (2016)

“My New Year greetings also go to all the service personnel and people, who are working devotedly for the prosperity of their socialist country with a firm determination to follow the road of Juche to the end together with the Party, and I wish that all the families will be filled with harmonious feelings and the happy

laughter of our dear children resound more loudly.”

“Greeting the hope-filled new year, I wish the people across the country good health and happiness.”

- Juche 106 (2017)

“Availing myself of this meaningful opportunity, when we look back with dignity upon the great year filled with proud miracles wrought by our great people, I, with the noblest mind, offer warm greetings to all the Korean people, who overcame with optimism trials of all hues unprecedented in history, sharing weal and woe with the Party and throwing in their lot with it by forming an integral whole with it in ideas, intention and will, and extend glory and blessing of the hope-filled new year to them.”

In addition to these New Year addresses, he extended warm greetings to the people in his speeches including those at the Joint National Meeting of the Korean Children’s Union Organizations held in celebration of the 66th anniversary of its founding, at the Fourth National Conference of War Veterans and at the military parade and public procession of Pyongyang citizens held to mark the 70th anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

“I extend warm congratulations to you delegates and other KCU members across the country, who are greeting the KCU founding anniversary amid the great concern and blessing of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the Korean people in this hope-filled period when the dawn of a thriving socialist country is breaking.

“My warm greetings also go to your teachers and parents who are striving to bring you up as excellent persons.”

“Respected veterans,

“Other veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War and people who performed meritorious wartime service all over the country,

“I wish you a long life in good health, and happiness for your families.”

“Availing myself of this significant opportunity, I extend to all the builders, including the members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade and the service personnel of the People’s Army, who have performed great feats of labour in the building of the power station, warm thanks and militant greetings in the name of the Workers’ Party of Korea, as well as the

blessing of General Kim Jong Il, who valued young people and gave prominence to them.”

“On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Party, I, on behalf of the Workers’ Party of Korea, extend warm thanks and make a deep bow to all the beloved people who have infused our Party with inexhaustible strength and courage and remained faithful to it in even the gravest period of the revolution, sharing weal and woe with it in overcoming the harsh trials of history by dint of their unyielding willpower.”

Other examples include his congratulatory message to all the workers and technicians of the Sangwon Cement Complex who surpassed the level of peak year in the cement production by launching a death-defying struggle in hearty response to the Party’s militant appeal, his congratulatory message to the sportspeople who won the championship in international games, and many other congratulatory letters and letters of thanks. These are all overflowing with his warm affection for the people.

His greetings to the great Korean people represent the harmonious whole of Korean society in which the leader and the people are united with a single heart.

Photo of a Sailor

Kim Jong Un said:

“All the officers and men of our army are precious comrades-in-arms of the Supreme Commander.”

The following happened when the Supreme Commander was shown around the tomb of the officers and sailors of the submarine chaser No. 233, who had fallen in the performance of their combat duty.

He took a close look at the photographic images that were carved on the tombstone, saying that they were of good quality and he felt as if the martyrs had been welcoming him.

Here is Un Chol.

He said this in front of a photographic image.

An official in his company reminded him of the fact that the image had been sent by him.

Kim Jong Un said that he could recognize it, adding that the soldier's eyes were closed in the original photo.

Then he recalled how the photographic images were prepared after the death of the combatants.

According to his instructions the officers of the relevant unit obtained the photos of the deceased, which they had edited to be of better quality. But Kim Jong Un was not satisfied with the images and said that he needed the original photos, however small.

The officers were at a loss because the photos were of varying sizes and poor quality. Particularly, in one of them a sailor called Un Chol was closing his eyes.

The sailor hailed from Anbyon County in Kangwon Province.

During his military service he spent most of his time onboard the ship, so no other photo of him was available at his unit.

The officers could not but send Kim Jong Un this photo as well as those of other martyrs.

The Supreme Commander was still in deep grief over the loss of his precious soldiers. When he was looking at one photo after another, the photo of Un Chol, 19 years old, caught his attention.

He was lost in thought for a good while and summoned an official to tell him about the photo in question. He asked him to find the photo, which he had



Kim Jong Un looking round the tomb of the Korean People's Army navy officers and sailors who fell in the performance of their combat duty (November 2013)

taken with the service personnel of Un Chol's unit during his visit the previous year.

Regrettably, the sailor's face in that photo was too small. Kim Jong Un took pains for the editing of the image, examining it even six times. As for the photos of other fallen soldiers, he dispatched officials of the Party Central Committee to their birthplaces to obtain suitable photos. Then he had them edited in larger sizes and colours. For several days he burned the midnight oil checking the quality with scrupulous care.

When the photos were prepared, he put them into frames and wrapped them in red cloth bearing the Party's emblem. Then he made arrangements for sending them to the combatants' families.

Recalling those days, he stood long before the photographic image of Un Chol.

Seeing him grieving over the loss of the sailors, the officials accompanying him felt how much he cared for the service personnel, regarding them as his genuine revolutionary comrades. They were certain that the martyrs would be immortal in the warm embrace of their Supreme Commander.

A New History of Nature Transformation

Flood fell upon the Sinuiju-Uiju area in the summer of Juche 99 (2010). A provincial seat located lower than the water level of the Amnok River, Sinuiju was prone to flooding. Long ago President Kim Il Sung underlined the need to move the provincial seat to South Sinuiju and took steps for building a double embankment to protect the area against flood damage.

That year, because of the poor quality of the embankment project, the area was facing the risk of being submerged.

Informed of the danger, Kim Jong Un ordered the KPA units to take precautions against flood. Accordingly, a guidance team was organized, even helicopters and patrol boats being seconded and dispatched to the affected area.

Kim Jong Un asked a senior official of the province about the water level of Lake Suphung, telling him that the service personnel had already left for the spot. And

he inquired about the measures they had taken against flood damage.

He said that General Kim Jong Il was worrying about the danger, stressing that the service personnel should be enlisted in the effort to save civilians and their property and the embankment project should be carried out at one go.

The soldiers saved numerous residents from the jaws of death. Even airplanes and amphibians were seconded to the rescue operation. On the other hand, the embankment project proceeded day and night, the commander and the political commissar carrying sacks alongside the soldiers despite heavy rain. The residents were deeply moved to see this dynamic campaign.

When the embankment project was over, they prepared a meal for the soldiers early in the morning. Then the commander and the political commissar came and said that their unit withdrew at dawn and they came to notify officials of this fact.

The officials were stupefied for a while and then said angrily that the residents were waiting for the soldiers and their sincerity must not be ignored.

The officers explained that the unit withdrew upon

order of Kim Jong Un.

The night before, he was informed of the meal and ordered the unit to leave the area immediately, saying that he felt thankful to the residents but the army must not lay a burden on civilians.

At the news the residents shed tears of gratitude to the benevolent leader.

In late July Juche 101 (2012) the Joyang coal-mining area under the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex was hit by heavy rain.

The building of the Joyang Station was severely damaged by landslides; locomotives, wagons and equipment were buried underground; and the coal yard was turned into a mountain of earth.

In particular, the 250m-long railway section between Kaechon and Joyang was covered with 3m-deep mud and hundreds of metres-long rails were ripped up, leaving the railway service suspended. The restoration work was estimated to take more than three months at the shortest.

On the night of August 6, after being briefed on the natural calamity, Kim Jong Un issued the order of the Supreme Commander No. 0012 on seconding a brigade

of the KPA to restoring the Kaechon-Joyang railway section and removing the debris. Even the name of the brigade commander was specified in the written order.

Upon receipt of this order, the brigade moved to the spot, arriving at dawn on August 7. They immediately started to rebuild the roads as motor traffic was paralyzed by landslides. A loop road, dozens of kilometres long, was built in less than one hour since the launch of the project. As a result, heavy-duty trucks and heavy machines could move freely along the road.

Encouraged by frontline-style political work, the officers and men alike carried mud in sacks day and night. On the first day, with the help of effective equipment, they restored the station and a dozen or so kilometres-long railway section to their original state.

A train loaded with coal left the station in 36 hours. Three days later, tens of thousands of cubic metres of debris was removed, the railways in the compound of the station restored and roadbed reconstruction finished.

The railway tracks and the embankment were strengthened, and the station and public buildings

were spruced up. Houses were repaired or built and kindergartens, nurseries and schools restored.

This was a fruition born of the soldiers' revolutionary spirit of accepting and carrying out the Supreme Commander's orders promptly and death-defyingly.

When the project was over, the soldiers inscribed the letters *For the People, August 11, 2012* on a new wall and left Joyang.

On August 22, Juche 104 (2015), 300mm of rain fell upon the city of Rason for several hours, causing heavy flooding. It razed the area, destroying apartment buildings, rooting out trees and covering streets with mud. Thousands of houses were levelled, railways destroyed, communications and power lines cut off, and the supply of drinking water suspended. In the Sonbong area the dam burst and landslides submerged public buildings and thousands of houses.

The natural calamity caused enormous losses, both human and material. Moreover, to cope with the enemy's reckless moves to ignite a war, the combined units of the KPA on the frontline entered into the state of war readiness and a state of semi-war was declared for the frontline areas. The residents in Rason

were at a loss what to do.

Upon being informed of the flood damage in the city, Kim Jong Un ensured that officials in the city kept up-to-date with the damage and took a series of necessary steps, while the Cabinet, ministries and central agencies dispatched officials to the affected area for the supply of materials.

He also phoned the then chief secretary of the Rason Municipal Party Committee and said that the houses of the victims should be rebuilt by the 70th anniversary of the Party so as to make them live in their own houses in winter.

Busy as he was leading to victory the acute political and military confrontation with the enemy, he called an enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Party on August 27, in which the problem of restoring flood damage in Rason was discussed as a major item of the agenda.

At the meeting he informed the participants of the actual situation in the city, issued an order of the Supreme Commander on entrusting the army with the restoration work and finishing it by the 70th anniversary of the Party, and organized a headquarters for



Kim Jong Un presiding over an enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea (August 2015)

the direction of the project.

The service personnel could understand why their Supreme Commander set the restoration work as a major item of the agenda for the meeting, which was expected to discuss strategic matters related to national defence.

Upon receipt of the order, the service personnel left for Rason in the northern tip of the country.

The restoration work continued day and night, officers blowing whistles for guidance because of their hoarse voice and their soldiers doing plastering with bandaged hands and having a meal while at work.

Kim Jong Un kept up-to-date with how the project was going on in the flood-stricken area and took a series of measures for the prompt supply of cement and other materials on a preferential basis.

In mid-September that year he visited Rason, 800km away from Pyongyang, by plane, by boat and then by car to guide the restoration work on the spot.

He said to officials there: The most valuable wealth is the people's trust. We should live up to their trust in the spirit of selfless devotion, with a viewpoint that we have nothing more to wish as long as we enjoy their



Kim Jong Un in the city of Rason to learn about the restoration of flood damage (September 2015)

trust. The service personnel should not leave here after building houses. They should partition the residential areas and build roads where necessary for the convenience of the local people. At the second stage of the project they should put up public buildings including school, kindergarten, nursery and clinic.

That day he made the rounds of the dusty construction site, encouraging the soldier-builders.

The service personnel launched a dynamic struggle to carry out his order, thus finishing the construction of houses and the landscaping work by the date set and on the level demanded by the Party.

Being informed of the fact that Rason was transformed into a socialist fairyland, Kim Jong Un visited it again on October 7.

Arriving at the then Paekhak-dong, he said: I was told that the army has completed the restoration work in Rason. I have come here because I will feel relieved to look round new houses before anybody else.

Inquiring about the construction of houses and the preparations for moving to them, he said: The soldier-builders have restored this flood-inflicted area well in the same manner as they would build their own homes



Kim Jong Un visiting the then Paekhak-dong in the Sonbong area in the city of Rason (October 2015)

and villages. Through this campaign they have fully demonstrated the ideological, spiritual and moral traits of our People's Army which serves the people. What remains to be done now is to let the local people move to the new houses. The service personnel should return to their units after helping them move to the new houses and doing everything necessary for them.

Under Kim Jong Un's close concern Rason was transformed beyond recognition.

Having seen the streets submerged and the houses washed away by the flood, a foreign entrepreneur returned to his own country as he estimated that the restoration work would take several years. But he was greatly excited to see the wonderful city and said, "I have heard that the Korean army is very powerful. I saw it with my own eyes. In other countries armies are often mobilized for the restoration of the areas hit by natural calamities, but the Korean army has brought about a great transformation at lightning speed. Such a powerful army could not be found elsewhere in the world."

To cite another example, heavy flooding befell the northern part of North Hamgyong Province in Juche 105 (2016).

For the restoration of the affected areas all resources in the country—human, material and technical—were mobilized.

At that time the Korean people took the first step towards attaining the ambitious goal of building a socialist power, which had been advanced by the Seventh Congress of the Party. Despite the slander and blockade by the enemy, they were making devoted efforts by racing against time. For example, at the construction site of Ryomyong Street the construction of a 70-storey skyscraper and other high-rise apartment blocks were going full steam ahead.

The above natural calamity began on August 29. Torrential rain lasted two days, causing the Tuman River to burst its banks. Landslides and flooding engulfed six cities and counties along the river. The disaster was the severest of its kind since the country's liberation.

In particular, Musan County fell into ruin. It looked like a war-torn area. Turbulent muddy streams washed away houses, public buildings, railways, roads, bridges and farmland. Communications and power lines were cut off everywhere.

Taking mean advantage of this misfortune, the hostile forces said that the calamity was worse than the disaster that befell Rason and it would be virtually impossible to restore the affected areas in a short period. They asserted that the north Korean government would be driven into perplexity as it invested too much in the ongoing project for building Ryomyong Street.

However, this slander turned out to be a far-fetched claim.

At that time even the relatives of the flood victims were unaware of the misfortune because of interrupted communications.

Upon being informed of the news, Kim Jong Un called an emergency meeting and gave the following directives to the officials concerned.

“As heavy flood hit the areas, we should be scrupulous in pushing forward the restoration work which involves house construction and river improvement. For now, we should adopt prompt measures for stabilizing the living conditions of the flood victims who have been left homeless.”

“The project for restoring the affected areas in the northern part of the country should be

finished by November.”

“The army and people should make concerted efforts to complete the project as soon as possible.”

“All sectors and all units in the national economy should put forward the restoration of the flood-stricken areas in the northern part of North Hamgyong Province as the central task for the ongoing 200-day campaign and concentrate efforts on it.”

“The whole Party, the entire army and all the people should bend all energies on finishing the restoration work in a short period, thus demonstrating once again the might of our great army-people unity and the integrated whole to the world.”

The following day the Party declared its important resolution. *Rodong Sinmun*, dated September 11, Juche 105 (2016), carried an appeal to Party members and all other people, calling upon them to achieve miraculous victory in the restoration project on the strength of their single-hearted unity.

Accordingly, all resources, both human and material, were directed to the restoration work in the northern part of North Hamgyong Province. An increasing number of

people arrived there, with a full determination to finish the project in the same mettle as had been displayed during the Fatherland Liberation War under the slogan, **“Go All Out for Victory in the War!”**

The soldiers, who built one storey in 16 hours for the 70-storey skyscraper on Ryomyong Street, achieved a world-startling success in the restoration work, too.

The service personnel carried on their tasks at lightning speed, while volunteering to do things beneficial to the locals under the slogan **“Help the People!”**

They often said to the residents, “Air and water are all what we need.” This was a reflection of their desire to build durable and fine homes for the locals in the northern part of their socialist country without causing them any slight inconvenience.

Soon afterwards, fine streets and cozy houses sprang up. The residents, totalling tens of thousands, moved to the new houses and laughter of happiness rang out in the new schools, kindergartens and nurseries.

On November 13, Juche 105 (2016), the Party Central Committee congratulated the people in the flood-afflicted areas for braving the natural calamity and



moving to new houses. It also extended militant greetings to the heroic service personnel, shock brigade members and all other people across the country who turned out with one accord in the effort to build a fortress of socialism on the banks of the Tuman River.

The transformation of the affected areas was a fruition of the Party's tender care for the people and the great army-people unity unique to the country.

In the period of the restoration work over 11 900 houses were built in 60-odd days and scores of streets and villages sprang up, thus turning the affected areas—the city of Hoeryong and Musan, Yonsa, Onsong, Kyongwon and Kyonghung counties—into a socialist fairyland.

Conclusion

Not long ago an Antarctic explorer from Western Europe hit the world headlines by reaching a spot that had never been trodden by any human being and so was not marked on the world map.

The news came as a big surprise, partly because the explorer planted the national flag of the DPRK on the spot to hype his feat as a historic milestone.

The focus of mass media attention was on how the famous Westerner chose to take the flag of the Eastern country on his expedition.

A news service in the West dubbed this a reflection of public opinion that the DPRK represents the world. It held that the planet, inhabited by mankind, can be an ideal place for their eternal wellbeing and harmony only when all countries and nations uphold the principle of treasuring people and subordinating everything to their interests.

Kim Jong Un said:

“As the working people exists eternally, so lasting justice and victory will be ensured by the struggle for the people and together with the people.”

The Copernican system gained global recognition centuries after it was published, but it took a few years for the people-centred principle of the Juche idea to grasp the hearts of mankind.

The world progressive peoples aspiring after independence, peace and socialism are growing louder in the praise of the DPRK, in which the people-centred socialist system is being consolidated under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

The Supreme Leader makes selfless, devoted efforts for the benefit of his people, regarding himself as their son, and the people support him faithfully with a single mind. This is just a true feature of the DPRK, the country of the people.

SON OF THE PEOPLE

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