

Toward Era of Independence, Era of Popular Masses

**—We Celebrate 75th Founding Anniversary of
Democratic People's Republic of Korea—**

**Ogami Ken-ichi,
Secretary General of the International Institute of the Juche Idea**

Esteemed Prof. Ramon Jimenez Lopez, director general, Board of Directors, International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI),

Esteemed Prof. Edmond Juove, director general, Board of Directors, European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea,

Esteemed Prof. Matteo Carbonelli, secretary general of the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea and others concerned, who have made a lot of efforts to make this seminar in Rome go well,

Dear comrades and friends,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our respected His Excellency Kim Jong Un for his warm encouragement and guidance to the Juche idea researchers throughout the world, and for his support in making this Seminar on the Juche Idea in Rome a success.

With the pleasure of being reunited with our comrades, I would like to discuss the current significance and the might of the Juche idea, and the study and dissemination of the Juche idea in the world on the new historical stage.

1. Ours Is the Era of Juche

Today, the wheels of history are moving strongly toward independence and self-reliance.

It is the Juche idea that drives the global tendency of independence and self-reliance forward and leads humankind to the future of socialism and communism, and it is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which greets now its 75th founding anniversary, that is the paragon of its practice.

After achieving their liberation in 1945, the Korean people founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 1948, and constructed socialism in a wonderful

manner and has become a world example for socialism today.

President Kim Il Sung described the future course of the countries that had achieved their independence as follows.

“The newly independent countries which have thrown off the yoke of imperialism are confronted with the very difficult and important tasks of defending their national independence, carrying forward the revolution and aiding the liberation struggle of the peoples still chained by imperialism. The peoples who have won their independence must fight to crush the subversive activities of foreign imperialism and the domestic forces of reaction, tear down their economic strongholds, strengthen the revolutionary forces, set up a progressive social system and build an independent national economy and national culture. Only in this way can they protect the gains of the revolution, achieve the prosperity of their countries and nations and contribute to the common struggle of the peoples of the whole world to bury imperialism.” (Kim Il Sung, “Let Us Intensify the Anti-imperialist, Anti-US Struggle,” August 12, 1967)

In the countries that fought against their respective colonial rules of imperialism and achieved their respective independence, there emerged an urgent need to correctly define the political course to be taken by those countries after their independence and how to promote their national development.

President Kim Il Sung stated that after achieving its independence, the DPRK had been advancing all the way along the path of socialism by firmly establishing political independence, economic self-sustenance, and national self-defense, in line with the Juche idea.

“The great victories and successes we have attained in our socialist revolution and construction over the past years are, indeed, the brilliant consequence of the great vitality of our Party’s idea of Juche and of our line of independence, self-sustenance and self-defence—the embodiment of that idea in all fields. We formulated our policies independently by creatively applying the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the prevailing conditions in Korea and enlisted the inexhaustible creative potential of our industrious and talented people and our rich national resources to carry out these policies. This has enabled us to build a socialist state in a short time, which possesses political independence, economic self-sustenance and national self-defence. (Kim Il Sung, “Let Us Embody the Revolutionary Spirit of Independence, Self-sustenance and Self-defence More Thoroughly in All Branches of State Activity,” December 16, 1967)

In order to build an independent, self-supported, and self-relianced socialist country,

the leading party must rely thoroughly on its own people and promote social construction creatively in accordance with the actual conditions in the country.

In newly independent and developing countries, it is an important policy to feed the people enough who have been starving under the colonial rule.

President Kim Il Sung stated that in the case of newly emerging countries where industry is lagging behind, it is better to solve agricultural problems primarily to stabilize the people's livelihood, and then develop industry after they have funds in reserve.

In the case of Korea, land reform took place in 1946.

Saying in those days that the wish of the peasants who had struggled under the Japanese imperialist rule was to cultivate their own land at least once in their lifetime, Kim Il Sung implemented land reform before anything else, distributed land to the peasants free of charge. Next, he made it possible for the peasants to improve their agriculture through cooperative labor, such as mutual aid in labor and the shared use of draft cattle, and led them to understand the superiority of collective farming and to voluntarily develop their agriculture in a cooperative way.

Many countries in the world are still waging struggles to solve their agricultural problems long after their independence. This is because of the adverse effects of single crop plantations imposed by imperialism before their independence, and the new crafty imperialist domination in the name of "food aid", which has kept them away from solving their own food problems by themselves.

It is important for those emerging countries to realize the three major tasks of political independence, economic self-sustenance, and national self-defense after achieving their independence, in accordance with the actual conditions of each country and the demands of the peoples of each country.

The DPRK's policy of advancing social construction in accordance with the socio-economic conditions of its own country, while raising the demands of the people, has its ideological basis in the Juche idea.

By thoroughly adhering to the Juche idea, the Korean Revolution has been successfully carried out with the unlimited power of the people.

Taking lessons from the challenges arising in the previous Korean revolutionary movement in the 1930s, President Kim Il Sung founded the Juche idea.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il stated the followings in connection with President Kim Il Sung's founding of the Juche idea.

“(Comrade Kim Il Sung clarified that) the masters of the revolution are the masses of the people and that when one goes among them to educate and mobilize

them one will be able to register victory in the revolution. This is one of the starting points of the Juche idea.” (Kim Jong Il, “On the Juche Idea,” March 31, 1982)

Kim Il Sung's motto throughout his life was "Believing in the people as in the heaven.”

With faith in the idea that the most powerful and precious beings in the world are the popular masses, Kim Il Sung led his revolutionary activities based on it, putting it into practice. He said that the masters of the revolution are the popular masses, and that the revolution will be victorious only if revolutionaries go among the people, organize and mobilize them, which is something like “fish cannot live apart from water, so revolutionaries cannot triumph apart from their people.”

Next, the second of the lessons that Kim Il Sung emphasized was that all problems must be solved by the Korean people themselves with their own effort in accordance with their own reality.

At that time when Kim Il Sung started the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Soviet socialism was born for the first time in history and communists in various countries were working under the leadership of the Comintern.

Korea was no exception, where some party activists who called themselves communists were competing each other to win the Comintern's approval, while not a small number of youth and students yearned to study abroad in the Soviet Union.

When young Kim Il Sung was recommended to study abroad in the Soviet Union by the thoughtful people surrounding him, he politely declined such a recommendation, believing that it was important for him to go among the Korean people to accomplish the cause, while relying on them.

In connection with the starting points of the Juche idea, Kim Jong Il stated that the revolution must be pushed forward independently and creatively.

“(Comrade Kim Il Sung clarified that) a revolution should be carried out not by anyone’s approval or instruction but by one’s own conviction and on one’s own responsibility and that all problems arising in the revolution should be solved in an independent and creative way. This is another starting point of the Juche idea.” (Ibid.)

Kim Jong Il further stated that in the current era, the people of individual countries are pushing forward their great struggle for independence, which implies more clearly the truthfulness and validity of the Juche idea.

“In our time the masses of the people have emerged as true masters of the world, and through their struggle the world is being changed more and more to

serve the masses. Today the position and role of the masses of the people as masters of the world are becoming stronger than ever before. This reality proves more patently the validity and vitality of the principle of the Juche philosophy that man is the master of everything and decides everything.” (Ibid.)

After World War II, many countries in the world became independent and began to build their own new nations in high spirits. People in those newly emerging countries paid attention to the DPRK, which had defied the aggression of the Japanese and U.S. imperialists and was vigorously promoting socialist construction based on the Juche idea, regarding President Kim Il Sung with high respect. This was reflected in their keen interest in the Juche idea, as the guiding idea of the DPRK.

In 1976, the International Scientific Symposium on the Juche Idea was held in Madagascar, attended by about 1,000 delegates and delegations from 50 countries and the then President Didier Ratsiraka.

Those delegates and delegations from the participating countries proposed the establishment of a permanent international research organization of the Juche idea.

The following year, in 1977, an international seminar on the Juche idea was held in Pyongyang with the delegates and delegations from 73 countries and 4 international organizations, and at the seminar it was decided to establish the International Institute of the Juche Idea. Based on the decision, the Preparatory Committee for Founding the International Institute of the Juche Idea was organized, and it was decided that the secretariat of the IJI should be located in Tokyo.

President Kim Il Sung received the Japanese Academic Delegation for Studying the Juche Idea, which attended the said International Seminar on the Juche Idea, and said as follows:

“... Many countries have asked us to share our knowledge and experience with the Juche idea.

“We believe that the failure of some newly independent and developing countries to devise a new path for social construction is due to the lack of new theories of social construction among their national leaders. The establishment of an international organization to study and disseminate the Juche idea at this international seminar on the Juche idea reflects this objective demand. It is essential to strive to meet this objective demand.” (Kim Il Sung, Conversation with the Japanese Academic Delegation for Studying the Juche Idea, September 25, 1977)

As a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was gaining momentum at that time, President Kim Il Sung sounded the alarm against the new imperialist aggression against the emerging countries and led those countries to follow the path of

independence by relying on their own people and to unite with other countries in a sense of unity based on broad common interests.

President Kim Il Sung stated that the International Institute of the Juche Idea has an important role to play with regard for the people of the emerging countries to understand the Juche idea and build their countries independently and creatively, relying on their own peoples.

“An international research organization on the Juche idea should never become a political organization, but rather an academic research organization. Under the condition that newly independent and developing countries are willing to learn from our experience in building a new society, it would be helpful for their construction of a new society if we share our rich experience with those countries.” (Ibid.)

It can be said that President Kim Il Sung had high expectations for the International Institute of the Juche Idea in the hope that the emerging countries would successfully promote the building of new countries.

Since the founding of the International Institute of the Juche Idea on April 9, 1978, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea has come to be activated.

During the past four years, even under the circumstances that the world was suffering under the COVID-19 pandemic and that it was impossible to hold international gatherings in such a way for the people to meet in person, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea has been carried out in countries and regions in close cooperation with our Institute.

For instance, in 2021 and 2022, with Mexico as the host country, the Online International Seminars on the Juche Idea were held, in both of which, with more than 70 research papers submitted, key office-bearers of the respective regional institutes of the Juche idea made speeches.

In April this year, on the occasion of the 111th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, along with the 45th founding anniversary of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, a grand Juche Idea Seminar was held in Tokyo with the delegates and delegations from Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The Director General of the IJI Board made an address online from Mexico.

Today, representatives of regional institutes of the Juche idea from Europe, Asia, and Africa are gathering at the seminar on the Juche idea taking place in Rome to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The role of the International Institute of the Juche Idea has become even greater in this new era of independence.

In order to make the Juche idea understood by the world people and to promote their cause of independence, as President Kim Il Sung said, we should constantly improve our study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

For Juche idea researchers in individual countries to study the Juche idea in depth and disseminate it widely, it is necessary for them to conduct their work in accordance with the actual situation in their own countries. It is important to learn from the experience of the Korean people. However, it is then important not to imitate or propagate the ways they do, but to study this idea in accordance with the actual conditions in their own countries and to apply this idea creatively for the progress and development of their own countries.

Furthermore, Juche idea researchers are requested to study the Juche idea in depth and disseminate this idea among the broad masses of the people in a frank and straightforward manner. It should be said that doing only amicable and friendship work with the DPRK cannot be substituted for the study and dissemination of the Juche idea. So, it is important for us to uphold aloft the Juche idea to the end.

2. Anti-imperialist Struggles in the New Era: the Rise of Global South

Strengthened anti-U.S. and anti-imperialist solidarity in various regions and the rise of the Global South symbolize a major current change in human history.

The era in which the imperialist powers invaded and dominated the world, forcing other nations to live unwillingly as colonial and dependent states, has come to an end.

However, imperialism will not quietly leave the stage of history, and it will surely make its last stand. Weakened U.S. imperialism is leading its few dependencies to interfere in other countries and provoke aggression and war.

President Kim Il Sung talked about the principled attitude toward the anti-imperialist struggle as follows:

“As long as imperialism exists, the world cannot have peace nor will aggression and war disappear. Without struggling against imperialism—US imperialism in particular—world peace cannot be safeguarded nor can national liberation and independence or the victory of democracy and socialism be achieved. There should be no illusions about imperialism; under the banner of revolution, we must intensify the anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle unremittingly, until imperialism is finally eradicated.

“In order to check U.S. imperialism and defend world peace, it is necessary to

also fight against the lackeys and allies of U.S. imperialism.

“We should not tend to underestimate or to overestimate the power of U.S. imperialism. Like all other imperialisms on the globe, it is also on the decline and nearing collapse. The increased aggressive manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists are not evidence of their strength but, on the contrary, proof of their vulnerability. The more barbarically the US imperialists act, the more precarious their position becomes. On the other hand, the struggle of the peoples against imperialism gains momentum and their fighting ranks are continually growing.” (The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Is the Banner of Freedom and Independence for Our People and a Powerful Weapon for Building Socialism and Communism, On September 7, 1968)

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance of U.S. and European imperialism, was formed; NATO existed as a military encirclement of the West against the then increasingly influential Soviet Union.

Later, when the Soviet Union collapsed and went the way of capitalism, the Warsaw Pact Organization, a military alliance with the East, was also dismantled. However, rather than being dismantled, NATO continued to expand eastward, incorporating former Eastern European countries and others, and has grown from 12 countries at the time of its establishment to 31 today.

NATO's eastward expansion is aimed at disintegrating and weakening Russia, and it has become a major threat to Russia.

Furthermore, since Joe Biden took office as President of the United States, the scope of NATO's military operations has extended far beyond the North Atlantic to Asia and the Pacific. In July 2023, President Biden declared in a joint statement at the NATO Summit that "China's ambitions and coercive policies are a challenge to NATO's interests, security, and values," explicitly expressing his hostile intention toward China.

Furthermore, President Biden has insisted on every opportunity that a NATO liaison office should be established in Japan and that Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, and New Zealand should form a network to encircle China.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio has been working hard to place a NATO liaison office in Tokyo and has faithfully followed U.S. instructions by participating in NATO summits.

The Japanese government has taken a major step toward developing a domestic structure and expanding its military budget in order to be complicit in NATO's wars.

Immediately after his visit to the U.S. in December 2022, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio approved the three security documents in a cabinet meeting. The decision to

double military spending from the previous 1% of GDP to 2%, in line with U.S. intentions, and to increase total defense spending to around 43 trillion yen over the five years from FY2023 has been the largest increase ever, a 1.6-fold increase over the previous plan.

In June 2023, President Biden revealed at an election campaign event leading up to the 2024 presidential election that Japan's move to increase defense spending was the result of his efforts to persuade Prime Minister Kishida Fumio to do so.

The Kishida administration, flustered by President Biden's remarks, has tried desperately to cover up Biden's remarks by repeating that the decision about the increase in the defense spending was based on the Japanese government's own judgment.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio has been already complicit in the war in Ukraine and has provided huge amounts of military aid to attack Russia. U.S. troops and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces have been deployed throughout Japan, including the remote islands of Okinawa, and thus the Japanese military threats against China and the DPRK have intensified.

The Japanese government's over subjugation of the U.S. and its renewed militaristic ambitions are unacceptable for us, as they will lead the peoples of Asia, including Japan into war.

The world is now in the midst of a dynamic movement for anti-imperialism, independence, and peace.

In Latin America, leftist governments have continued to emerge, reaching 8 out of 12 South American countries as of 2023.

For instance, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, head of the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA) won the presidential election in Mexico, giving a birth to the first leftist government in Mexico in 2018. The following year, in 2019, a leftist took power in Argentina for the first time in four years; a leftist took power in Bolivia in 2020; Peru, Chile, and Honduras saw a shift of power to the left in 2021; and leftist governments were formed in Colombia and Brazil in 2022.

For more than 200 years, U.S. imperialism has dominated and exploited Latin American countries, calling them its “backyard” in contempt, and interfered in their internal affairs and even intervening militarily in their affairs. Furthermore, the U.S. has thoroughly strengthened economic sanctions against countries that have adopted independent policies.

In June 2022, at the Summit of the Americas (SOA), Mexican President Lopez Obrador strongly protested President Biden's blatant exclusion of the leaders of

Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, and countries, and got other countries with anti-US positions united to boycott the meeting. The attempt by the U.S. to regain influence over Latin American countries has resulted in further strengthening anti-U.S. sentiment.

In May 2023, a meeting of head of state class of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) was held in Brazil. The meeting was attended by heads of state and government from all 12 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela and Brazil.

President Lula of Brazil, the host country, said, "We can either unite for our mutual benefit or become puppets of the great powers," and insisted that the South American countries stand firm on their anti-imperialist position and strengthen their unity to achieve regional stability and prosperity.

Different from the Summit of the Americas (SOA), including the U.S. and Canada, the Latin American and the Caribbean region, 33 in all, have strengthened their ties by forming the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which has adopted the principle of "solving Latin American problems by Latin America Itself" and are working together to solve various problems in the region.

In recent years, Latin American and the Caribbean states have strengthened their commercial relations with Russia and China, and recently with Iran.

In June 2023, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to meet with his counterparts in those countries concluded new trade agreements with them, strengthening their anti-US solidarity ties.

This year has seen unprecedented major changes in the countries of the Middle East and a growing trend toward unity and solidarity in the Arab world.

In March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia reconciled and agreed to normalize their diplomatic relations, putting an end to the seven-year break-off of diplomatic ties. The fact that the two powers among the Middle East countries have begun to improve their relations with each other is of great significance for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Furthermore, in May 2023, Syria returned to the League of Arab States after 12 years interval. Syria's membership in the Arab League was suspended in 2011 due to U.S. interference. However, those Middle Eastern countries have parted from the U.S., which continued to impose economic sanctions on Syria, and have moved in unison to improve relations with Syria.

On May 19, 2023 representatives from 22 countries and organizations gathered at an Arab League Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to welcome Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The conference adopted the "Jeddah Declaration," affirming that the member

states of the League of Arab States would take a joint action on the basis of common foundations, values, and interests.

On the contrary, the U.S. has decisively weakened its political and economic influence in the Middle East region as well. President Biden personally went to Saudi Arabia last year to improve relations, but his arrogant response only served to amplify the opposition of Saudi Arabia.

So, those Middle Eastern countries have reviewed their relations with the external forces that have caused antagonism and conflict in the region, and have taken a step forward to cooperate and develop within the region.

The Global South is attracting attention as a force shaping the global trend toward independence and peace. The Global South has transcended the conventional framework of developing countries and has become a presence that cannot be ignored in the international community, both economically and politically.

The Global South's existence came into the spotlight in the wake of NATO's unjust war against Russia.

The countries of the Global South share a history of being invaded and plundered by imperialism. The Global South, which is well versed in the methods of imperialist domination, sees the Ukrainian conflict as a war provoked by the US and Europe to attack Russia, and has made a fair judgment on the war in Ukraine.

More than two-thirds of the Global South countries voted against or abstained from voting on the U.S.-European-led resolution to sanction Russia in the U.N. General Assembly. In addition, U.S.-European resolutions in the UN Security Council have continued to be scrapped due to the opposition from China and Russia, resulting in dysfunction.

The Global South is united through online and in-person meetings, confirming a common direction.

In January 2023, the “Voice of the Global South Summit” was held online with the participation of 124 countries. On behalf of the host country Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India said, "We from the Global South have the greatest stake in the future. Three-quarters of the world's population lives in the countries of the Global South. We should also have a proper voice. Therefore, at this time when the old model of global governance that have continued for 80 years is slowly changing, we are requested to strive hard to create a new order.”

Now imperialism fears the growing influence of the Global South on the world.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, President Biden proposed dividing the Global South into three parts and renaming them. What is transparent in the Biden's

proposal is a manoeuvre to divide the Global South. Nevertheless, the Biden's proposal was not taken seriously by anyone there.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un emphasized the need to achieve unity and cooperation among the independent forces of the world and said as follows:

“The political parties, organizations and progressive countries that champion independence should unite and cooperate with one another under the banner of anti-imperialist independence.

“The imperialists are currently leaving no stone unturned in their effort to stamp out the anti-imperialist forces of independence. They are scheming to prevent the countries and nations that aspire to independence from achieving unity by sowing seeds of distrust and discord and provoking antipathy among them; they are also meddling in ethnic and regional disputes in a bid to complicate matters further.

“The revolutionary parties, organizations and progressive countries should unite under the banner of anti-imperialist independence; they should refrain from feuding with or being hostile to one another, deceived by the crafty imperialists, and turn the spearhead of their attack against their common enemy, the imperialists.

“It is important to create conditions favourable for advancing the cause of global independence by strengthening continental and regional cooperation on the principles of independence, equality and mutual respect.” (“Report to the Seventh Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea on the Work of the Central Committee,” May 6 and 7, 2016)

There is a definite trend toward independence, self-reliance, and cooperation in opposition to imperialist rule. Based on this premise, it has been raised a further task of waging struggles for realizing a society where the popular masses’ independence are fully safeguarded.

In order for the peoples of each country to fully realize their independence, it is necessary not only for one nation to make itself independence, but also for all the countries in the world to achieve global independence.

The subject of making each nation independent is the people of that nation, and their target is U.S. imperialism.

Since the collapse of the system of the Cold War, U.S. imperialism has attacked those countries that uphold aloft independence in an attempt to achieve unilateral world domination.

In January 2002, President George Bush named Iraq, Iran, and the DPRK as "an axis of evil" to be attacked, and in 2003, Iraq collapsed and its leader was killed by the U.S.

imperialist attack. U.S. imperialism has also strengthened economic sanctions against Iran and increased military tensions in the Middle East.

US imperialism has also persistently engaged in a plot to suppress the DPRK, by readying itself for attack on the DPRK through subordinating Japan, and by dispatching nuclear submarines equipped with nuclear weapons to the ROK in search of an opportunity to attack. President Biden has even vowed to eliminate the Korean leadership.

Since the collapse of the system of the Cold War, imperialism has propagated falsehoods as if they were facts to justify its hostile attitude toward the relevant country.

Especially in the modern and contemporary times, U.S. imperialism has used propaganda to deliberately create civil wars around the world, to bring down independent regimes, and then to back up its puppets to rule those countries. The political upheaval in Ukraine is the prime example.

The propaganda warfare waged by the U.S. is mainly manifested in the use of AI to induce public opinion in favor of the West by writing huge amounts of propaganda in a short period of time. In the Ukrainian conflict, they have persistently repeated propaganda that Russia killed many civilians, used depleted uranium (DU) bombs, and fired missiles at nuclear power plants, among other things. However, it has been exposed that the "barbaric acts" allegedly committed by Russia were staged by Ukraine.

The Ukrainian conflict was a special military operation by Russia to prevent NATO's eastward expansion, to defend itself, and to protect the Ukrainian people.

U.S. and European imperialisms have continued to spread propaganda and drop massive amounts of weapons to enlarge the war at the sacrifice of the Ukrainian people.

Today, the power of independence forces in the world is greater than ever before, and U.S. imperialism, which is weakening and falling down the path of destruction, is waging desperate struggles of a drown man.

The people's struggle for anti-imperialist independence, combined with the strengthening of unity in individual countries and regions, will become a greater force and bring about a new world at a rapid pace.

3. The Superiority of Socialism and the Example of Socialist Construction

Ours is the era of independence, the era of the masses of the people, and those of each country are waging their struggles for the progress and development of their own society with the pride in themselves.

What is most necessary for the people of each country who have risen up with the awareness of being the masters of their country is to know about the correct direction of social development and about the future society.

President Kim Il Sung clarified that socialism and communism is a society which fully realizes the independence of the popular masses.

“History confirms that when a people throw off the colonial yoke of imperialism they must take the socialist path. A people who have won their independence must resolutely crush the subversive manoeuvres of foreign imperialism and domestic reactionary forces, and tear down the imperialists’ colonial ruling apparatus and destroy the economic foothold of imperialism and domestic reaction. They must zealously strive to reinforce the revolutionary forces, establish a progressive social system, and develop an independent national economy and national culture. Only by doing these things will they be able to hasten along the course to freedom and happiness, national independence and prosperity, bypassing the bitter history of misery and distress which capitalism has inevitably undergone.” (Kim Il Sung, “The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Is the Banner of Freedom and Independence for Our People and a Powerful Weapon for Building Socialism and Communism,” September 7, 1968)

“The cause of building socialism and communism is sacred and will provide the masses of the people with complete independence. It is the age-long desire and the highest ideal of the people to achieve complete independence. If they are to realize their cherished desire and ideal, the people must transform the exploitative system of the old society in a revolutionary manner and advance along the road of socialism until they consummate the cause of building socialism and communism.” (Kim Il Sung, “For the Complete Victory of Socialism,” December 30, 1986)

There is no other than but Kimilsung-Kimjongilism that gives the ideo-theoretical basis for making the world, including one’s own country, independent, and building a socialist and communist society in the contemporary world.

Marx, seeing the reality of the severe exploitation of the working class, clarified the ideology for overthrowing a capitalist society and building a society for the working class in Europe in the middle of the 19th century.

Lenin won the Russian Revolution and established a socialist government amidst the social conditions of imperial Russia, where political corruption was rampant and the people were suffering from starvation in October 1917.

In its early years, the Soviet Union was an agrarian state with a majority of peasants rather than workers, and solving the peasants’ problems became a challenge to deal with.

However, Lenin died before he had enough time to work on the construction of a new society after taking power.

Although Marxism-Leninism was formulated as a progressive ideology for the emancipation of the working class, it did not clarify how to promote the revolution after the establishment of the socialist government.

The collapse of socialism in the Soviet Union and East European countries can be attributed to the failure to back up the popular masses as masters of socialist construction and to produce cadres who would serve and rely on the masses.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il said that the preceding revolutionary theory of the working class had not clarified a systematic theory of leadership method, and that the ideas and theories for the continuous development of socialism and the realization of communism after the establishment of the socialist system were clarified for the first time only by the Juche idea founded by President Kim Il Sung.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il said as follows:

“Comrade Kim Il Sung said that after the Party’s line and policy are precise and the means to carry them out are correct, whether the revolution and construction goes well or not depends on what working method and working style the cadres have. To establish the leadership method is of significance in conducting the political leadership of the working class party.

“However, the preceding revolutionary theory of the working class had not yet clarified a systematic theory on the method of leadership. The doctrine of Marx and Engels did not contain any theories on the method of leadership. Lenin proposed some ideas about the method of leadership, but they were fragmentary and not theorized.

...The popular masses have unfathomable power and wisdom. There is no one in the world with more power and wisdom than the popular masses. If we draw on the strength of them, we will be able to accomplish any difficult revolutionary task with distinction.

“Comrade Kim Il Sung said that since the revolution is a project done by the popular masses themselves as well as that for the popular masses, so that in order to win victory in the revolution and construction, it is necessary to make them awakened before anything else and lead them correctly to the revolution and construction. Therefore, Comrade Kim Il Sung paid special attention to the question of the leadership method to unite the popular masses around the Party and make them rise up for the revolution.

“The question of the leadership method was perfectly clarified by Comrade

Kim Il Sung's elucidation of the Chongsangri spirit and the Chongsangri method.”
(Kim Jong Il: “Let Us Equip Ourselves Well with the Chongsangri spirit and the Chongsangri method,” February 10, 1962)

The validity and vitality of the Juche idea and the superiority of Korean socialism guided by the Juche idea brightly illuminate the path of the world people in their struggle for the full realization of the independence of the people.

Likewise, from the very beginning of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, Kim Il Sung had the vision not only to carry out the struggle for the immediate national liberation, but also to have a prospect to carry out the socialist-communist revolution in the future.

Kim Il Sung delivered a speech entitled "The Path of the Korean Revolution" at the Kalun conference on June 30, 1930.

In his speech, Kim Il Sung made it clear that the immediate task of the Korean revolution was the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and proposed to rally all anti-Japanese patriotic forces to overthrow Japanese imperialism and to carry out preparatory activities to found a revolutionary party by building party basal organizations to start with.

In view of the socialist and communist revolution, President Kim Il Sung, who continued the revolution even after the Korean people achieved their national liberation, said as follows:

“We must not just mark time after carrying out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, but press on with the revolution to build a socialist and communist society, and, further, carry through world revolution, too.” (Kim Il Sung, “The Path of the Korean Revolution.” June 30, 1930)

After the establishment of the socialist system, President Kim Il Sung clarified theoretically how to realize the independence of the popular masses and how to win the complete victory of socialism, and at the same time he steadily promoted the construction of socialism and put it into practice in an effort to bring about a complete victory in socialism.

What President Kim Il Sung clarified in his works such as "On the Transitional Period from Capitalism to Socialism and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" and "For the Complete Victory of Socialism" are the guidelines for the complete victory of socialism and communism.

President Kim Il Sung set it as the general line of socialist-communist construction to strengthen the people's government, to constantly improve its functions and role, and to thoroughly carry out the three revolutions of ideological, technological, and cultural.

Carrying out the three revolutions of ideological, technological and cultural makes it possible to eliminate various differences among the people, strengthen and develop socialism, and build up communism.

Under the circumstances that Korea is divided into the north and the south, and is not able to realize its reunification immediately, President Kim Il Sung clearly put forward a policy of building socialism first in the DPRK, the northern half of Korea.

Even in the midst of severe military tension, President Kim Il Sung made clear his standpoint and determination to unswervingly advance the struggle of the Korean people for building socialism for the sake of the people's well-being and said as follows:

"We are waging a struggle for the complete victory of socialism even under difficult conditions with heavy military burdens because our country is divided and we are directly confronted with US imperialism." (Kim Il Sung, Conversation with the Secretary General of the IIJI, January 19, 1987)

General Secretary Kim Jong Il formulated President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thought as Kimilsungism, an integral system of the idea, theory and method of Juche, and said as follows:

"Kimilsungism is a new and original revolutionary idea that has been elucidated in response to the demands of the era of Juche."

"In a nutshell, Kimilsungism is a system of the idea, theory and method of Juche. In other words, it is an integrated system of the Juche idea and the theory and methods of revolution and construction clarified by the Juche idea." (Kim Jong Il, "On Some Immediate Tasks of Party Ideological Work for Modeling the Whole Society on Kimilsungism," February 19, 1974)

Through Kim Jong Il's ideo-theoretical work, the world people were able to study Kimilsungism and hence to understand the idea, theory and method of Juche for winning a victory in the revolution.

After the demise of President Kim Il Sung as well, General Secretary Kim Jong Il carried forward the revolutionary achievements made by President Kim Il Sung, and consistently worked hard to build a thriving socialist country.

The DPRK was in the difficult situation in the early 1990s under the circumstances such as that socialism in the Soviet Union and East European countries had collapsed, and heavy successive natural disasters hit this country, whereas U.S. imperialism aroused the military tension with its armed forces in an attempt to attack and destroy the DPRK.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il stood face to face with the U.S. imperialists' military actions through pushing forward Songun politics by possessing nuclear armed forces

and long-range ballistic missiles.

Songun politics is a politics in which the People's Army of Korea carries out national defense, while undertaking the tasks in the most difficult sections of socialist construction and thus bringing about an upsurge in socialist construction.

In those days, General Secretary Kim Jong Il called the people for building a thriving socialist country by any means even under the difficult situation, and for living a day today for a tomorrow when the popular masses will be able to live more happily.

Now, saying that Kim Il Sung's thought and Kim Jong Il's thought is inseparable, but integrated, General Secretary Kim Jong Un formulated Kimilsung-Kimjongilism and clarified that it is, in essence, the people-first principle.

About the essence of the thoughts of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, both of whom devoted their all to the realization of the happiness of the people, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said as follows:

“The great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first principle, and the mode of existence of our Party is serving the people.” (Kim Jong Un, Speech Delivered at Military Parade and Public Procession of Pyongyang Citizens Held in Celebration of the 70th Founding Anniversary of the WPK, October 10, 2015)

The people-first principle is a political concept that requires to back up the popular masses as the masters of the revolution and construction, to work relying on them, and to serve them selflessly.

The Workers' Party of Korea has set up a slogan entitled “Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!” as the principle of the Party work and its mode of existence.

Today, in the DPRK, socialist construction with the perspectives of the complete victory of socialism together with a communist society is being promoted at a rapid pace.

The politics of backing up the popular masses as the masters and bearers of socialism has gained the support and trust of the people, and is generating more strength and wisdom of them.

In his letter to the 10th Congress of the Korean Socialist Patriotic Youth League held in April 2021, General Secretary Kim Jong Un announced his visionary plan to realize a powerful and prosperous socialist country where all the people are living happily within the next 15 years or so.

Then, General Secretary Kim Jong Un described the characteristics of a socialist society based on the people's ingenious feelings and desires as follows:

“The powerful country, the socialist society, we are aspiring after is a society in

which all the people live in comfort, harmony and good health without any worries about food, clothing and housing, a people-oriented society in which communist traits and virtues prevail, where all the people share good times and bad while helping and leading one another forward. All our Party's activities are oriented and subordinated to bringing this happy society to reality at the earliest possible date.” (Kim Jong Un, Letter to Those Attending the Eighth Congress of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, May 25, 2021)

Not changing the subject, but under the circumstances that U.S. imperialism continues its manoeuvres to crush the DPRK, General Secretary Kim Jong Un has made a successful test-launch of “Hwasong-18,” an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) with a range of the U.S. mainland.

The DPRK's ICBMs are supposed to protect the Korean Peninsula from imperialist aggression. Both the DPRK's nuclear-testing and ICBM test-launch are for the sake of its own defense and are legitimate exercises of its right to self-defense under the circumstances of repeated joint Japan-US-ROK military exercises.

President Kim Il Sung described the DPRK's attitude toward an imperialist war as follows:

“The Korean people do not want war but are not afraid of it. If the enemy forces a new war upon us, all our people will rise as one in a heroic struggle to defend the great socialist gains in the northern half of Korea, to win the complete liberation and reunification of our country and safeguard peace in Asia and the world, and they will deal the enemy an annihilating blow.” (Kim Il Sung, “The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Is the Banner of Freedom and Independence for Our People and a Powerful Weapon for Building Socialism and Communism,” September 7, 1968)

The DPRK has made successful test-launches of ICBMs with a high level of science and technology, and U.S. imperialism has been helpless in the face of such power and has repeatedly made empty accusations.

The successful test-launches of ICBMs by the DPRK up to now is a joy and a great encouragement not only to the DPRK but also to all the peoples of the world who are striving for independence and socialism.

* * *

The future of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, founded by President Kim Il Sung, developed by General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and led to a new stage by

General Secretary Kim Jong Un will be bright.

The DPRK is the only country in the world that is advancing along the path of the complete victory of socialism.

I would like to conclude my speech by enthusiastically congratulating the 75th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and by extending my pledge to make an effort to further enhance our study and dissemination of the Juche idea throughout the world in order to realize the independence of the people of the individual countries.