

Congratulatory Message

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Dear friends,

9th of September, which this year will mark the 75th anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's proclamation, is approaching and we, foreign friends of the DPRK people, all eagerly want to celebrate the day. Not without a reason.

Firstly, this day is extremely important for dear to our hearts the people of DPRK. Seven and half decades ago, when President Kim Il Sung founded the DPRK, 3 years after the liberation of the nation from colonial rule, fundamental turn was brought about in shaping Koreans' destiny. Not very long before that date, they had been forced to live like slaves under foreign occupation, but with the birth of the independent and democratic socialist state in Korea they became proud masters of their own country.

Secondly, establishment of the DPRK has great significance also directly to us, though we are foreigners. This is because the country constitutes a symbol of independence, justice and unyielding fight for the interests of the people, a beacon of light and hope, a source of incredible inspiration for progressive-minded human beings of different parts of the world.

The DPRK's enemies never cease their constant propaganda attacks against it, allocating millions of dollars to this smear campaign. Unfortunately these shameful efforts to defame the country have not a small impact and a lot of individuals, especially those from Western nations, built their views about the DPRK on heaps of propagandist lies. They were deceived. However, on the other hand, in spite of propaganda hostile toward the DPRK people, there are also ones who have more reliable knowledge. There are ones who did some objective research, ones who personally visited socialist Korea and their opinions on the issue are based on facts. Thus, there are many people around the globe who deeply admire the DPRK. And it is really very well-deserved admiration.

Today at the helm of the country stands, truly revered by his people and by friends of Korea, respected President of the State Affairs, Marshal Kim Jong Un. His outstanding, energetic leadership, hard, devoted work and politics that he practices, I would say are particularly worth noting. What can be said on the topic of his politics? Surely infinitely more than I can include in my short statement, but now I will briefly talk about some important points in this context.

At the start it definitely must be pointed out that all actions and activities that

Marshal Kim Jong Un pursues as the leader of the country are visibly and genuinely the ones for the good of the people. The respected Marshal repeatedly emphasized that the people's demands and interests should serve as the criteria for all undertakings. Those are not just words, as all honest observers can clearly see that he also strongly ensures that this principle is realized in practice. Thus his politics are called by the DPRK people politics of love for the people.

As we all know, the guiding ideology of the DPRK is Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism formulated by Marshal Kim Jong Un with Juche idea as its quintessence. When we talk about the respected Marshal's people-loving politics, the Juche idea, the idea of independence that calls man the master of his destiny, who has the power to carve it out, is surely crucial. Springing from the principles of applying creative methods and maintaining the independent stand, which are being constantly and skillfully put into practice in the DPRK, enable the country to do wonders.

The DPRK long ago became the most sanctioned country on the face of the earth. As country's foreign trade and cooperation got totally blocked by the harshest economic sanctions ever, many Western pundits were predicting time and again its "imminent collapse". Of course, such predictions never materialized, but instead the socialist Korea showed to the world how powerful are its principles of independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence.

Taking into consideration for example past decade, we can see that in this period the DPRK accomplished a lot of brilliant and impressive successes. Great advance was made in achieving sustained economic development and improving living standards of the people in the country. Numerous stunning grand projects have been realized in the economy, science, culture and other fields. Plenty of modern and beautiful constructions have been built for the people, including streets, villages or charming town of Samjiyon, as well as factories and enterprises furnished with cutting-edge equipment, innovative large-scale farms, all kind of magnificent public facilities serving various purposes, from healthcare and education to leisure. To remove the constant nuclear threat posed by the forces hostile toward the DPRK, self-defence capabilities of the socialist Korea have been elevated to highly advanced level. What is crucial here, its national nuclear forces have been perfected and it gave to the nation effective deterrence against foreign aggression. This great achievement guarantees that the DPRK people will never again have to experience the tragedy of war.

In this context it is important to note that the last decade was also the time when the enemies of the DPRK intensified their efforts to stifle it and hit the country with multiple new sets of unprecedentedly barbarous economic sanctions. Nevertheless, it seems that politics based on adhering to genuine independence and on love for the people, pursued by Marshal Kim Jong Un, is much stronger than imperialists' politics of

arrogance and domination.

Let's get back for a while to the topic of DPRK's development regarding construction projects, it can be an example.

In October 2015 I visited the DPRK for the first time. I was strongly and positively impressed and also extremely excited to see with my own eyes the reality of the country, that I have been interested in getting to know better for a long time. During evening walk in Pyongyang I looked at colourfully illuminated apartment buildings of the Changjon Street and commented to my friends that I really liked the appearance of the place. We started to talk about beautiful architecture of the city and wonder how much it will change in the next 10 years. Less than 8 years have passed since then, but I recall this moment as I am much fascinated with new residential streets and other constructions that meanwhile have been built in Pyongyang, as well as in other parts of the country.

Marshal Kim Jong Un said that the Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people.

It is apparent, indeed, that in the DPRK architecture serves the masses of the people.

For instance, today the realization of the project of building 50 000 flats is underway in Pyongyang. Over 20 000 of them already have been built in the form of fabulous, modern, harmoniously composed streets of high-rise and super-high-rise apartment blocks, streets that have also all necessary public buildings and welfare service facilities, moreover much of the nice greenery around.

Foreign observers can be especially amazed by the fact that this kind of apartments were given to citizens by the state free of charge – after all, in other countries one would have to pay enormous sum of money to get such a pleasant space to live in. However, the DPRK stands out as a country that provides its people with free housing doesn't it sound like a dream for families living in capitalist countries around the world and struggling to gather money for a flat?

The construction boom can be witnessed also outside of the DPRK's capital city. New lovely rural houses are appearing in all parts of the country, giving joy to people receiving them from the state. Modern, colourful villages placed in the DPRK's mountainous and hilly landscape look delightful and delight of their residents is even more heartwarming. These all can be given to the people thanks to the DPRK's self-reliance, that make it possible for the country to energetically move forward, despite many roadblocks thrown in its path by formidable enemies.

The socialist Korea with its own resources and technology created and launched artificial earth satellites, produced indigenous plane, subway train or nice smartphones. It seems that the DPRK people can do anything they want, not only without any external

help, but even in the harshest circumstances created by the forces hostile to them.

When I think of the horrible injustice of blockades and sanctions introduced against the Korean people – only because they chose their own way, because they want something better than the imperialists offered to them and are determined to defend it and to defend their country—I get emotional and feel bitter.

Obviously I am angry at these brigandish economic aggressions toward Koreans. Their country's legitimate foreign trade and cooperation is impeded by these heinous measures intended to hurt them. And the world undoubtedly is losing much without wide economic cooperation with the well-educated, creative and talented people of the DPRK. However, I am absolutely sure that the DPRK will always remain victorious, no matter how desperately its foes try to obstruct its development. Under the outstanding leadership of Marshal Kim Jong Un, the country has turned the enemies' sanctions into a good opportunity for bolstering up the self-development capabilities and the internal driving force.

Observing the present reality, I think that it can be safely said that ahead of the DPRK people lies happiness and success, as they have Marshal Kim Jong Un as their leader and he leads their socialist country of Juche to the brightest future.