

DPRK, Outpost of Socialism on the Globe

V.B. Zelikov,

Chairman, Belarus Association for the Study of Juche Idea

On September 9, 1948 founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the first socialist state in the region was proclaimed in the Korean peninsula of the northeast Asia. For this event, the Korean people waged arduous struggle for 40 years against the Japanese oppressors who established, in essence, a slavery against the people and maneuvered to root out the Korean culture from the people's spirit by plundering, oppressing and even prohibiting the use of the Korean language.

The Korean people's road to socialism was started by Comrade Kim Il Sung since he cherished a high aim of national liberation in his teens.

Kim Il Sung grew up in such a circumstance that Korea was suffering from the national tragedy under the Japanese imperialist's colonial rule. Kim Il Sung had an uncommon spirit of patriotism and resistance against aggressors since his childhood. He devoted his whole life to the revolution from his teens when he embarked on the road of revolution till when he passed away at the age of 82.

On October 17, 1926 he formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU), the first communist revolutionary organization in Korea, with the hard core young people he trained. At the meeting Kim Il Sung was elected the head of the Union by the unanimous intention of all participants.

Kim Il Sung held the Kalun Meeting in June 1930 and elucidated the independent path of the Korean revolution. At the meeting he elucidated that, in order to make the Korean revolution with success, it was important to wage the anti-Japanese armed struggle and rally the broad masses of anti-Japanese patriotic forces and make preparations for party founding.

Based on the preparations for the anti-Japanese armed struggle which was elucidated at the meeting, Kim Il Sung founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (Korean People's Revolutionary Army), the first revolutionary armed force, on April 25, 1932. In the latter half of the 1930s when hard core communists were prepared and the KPRA was strengthened into a steel-strong rank, Kim Il Sung saw that a guerrilla base was built in the Mt. Paektu area to develop the Korean revolution. On August 9, 1945 Kim Il Sung gave all commanding officers and members of the KPRA an order to launch a final decisive battle for liberation of the country at the same time

when the Soviet Union declared a war against Japan. Defeating the Kwantung Army by the Soviet army provided a favorable condition for liberating Korea from the Japanese colonial rule. The KPRA units led by Kim Il Sung annihilated the Japanese occupiers in the northern part of Korea. Brilliant victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle restored sovereignty of the Korean nation, achieved national independence and paved an avenue for bright life of its people.

Having penetrated deep into the situation created in the country owing to the occupation of south Korea by the US troops and the requirements of the revolution, Kim Il Sung said that a democratic and independent sovereign state should be built in liberated Korea and the immediate tasks of building the Party, the state and the army be carried out for the present. In his speech delivered to the military and political cadres on August 20, 1945, Kim Il Sung said.

“We must first found a Marxist-Leninist party which will be able to steadily guide the Korean revolution to victory.”

The Workers’ Party of Korea, the General Staff of the revolution was founded on October 10, 1945 thanks to his energetic activities.

After founding the Party, Kim Il Sung met 400 000 Pyongyangites who gathered in the Pyongyang public playground on October 14, 1945 and appealed to them to unite for the building of a new democratic Korea. By further developing the upswing enthusiasm and political consciousness of the people, Kim Il Sung saw that mass organizations of workers, peasants and other working people from all strata were formed.

Thanks to his strenuous activities, the Provisional People’s Committee of North Korea, a provisional central power organ, was established at the consultative meeting of representatives of the democratic political parties and social organizations, administrative bureaus and people’s committees in north Korea on February 8, 1946. Kim Il Sung was elected Chairman of the committee.

Under his leadership, the provisional people’s committee enforced the agrarian reform and other democratic reforms and adopted the Law on Nationalization of Industries, thus making workers and peasants masters of factories and land. The economy of the country began to develop dynamically.

Based on these achievements, Kim Il Sung saw that democratic elections, first in history of the Korean people, was held on November 3, 1946. The People’s Committee of North Korea, the supreme executive organ, headed by Kim Il Sung was established at the First Session of the People’s Assembly of North Korea. This was the first people’s government of democratic dictatorship in the Korean history.

Under the prevailing situation in which the danger of national division was rapidly

increasing owing to the separate election held in south Korea at the instigation of the US imperialists, Kim Il Sung led wisely the struggle to establish a central government representing whole Korea to prevent the danger. Thus in August of the same year the general elections were held in north and south Korea. Kim Il Sung solemnly proclaimed the foundation of the DPRK on September 9, 1948.

The great leader Kim Il Sung was elected to the high position as the Premier of the DPRK Cabinet by the unanimous will of all the Korean people.

In order to build an independent sovereign state, it was necessary to settle the matter of the country's security. The DPRK had to build revolutionary armed forces of Juche-type that inherited traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. This was successfully realized by Kim Il Sung. February 8, 1948 was a historic day of weighty significance for the Korean people. On this day, founding of the Korean People's Army, the regular armed forces into which the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was strengthened and developed was solemnly proclaimed.

After the national liberation (August 15, 1945), tasks of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution were implemented in a very short span of time (1945-1948) with success, thus demolishing social and economic bases of exploitation and beginning to transit to socialism.

The Korean people had a powerful weapon for the revolution and construction thanks to the foundation of the Republic. Enemies of the Korean people were not satisfied with it.

Under the control of the US military administration, a puppet state headed by Syngman Rhee was established in the south of the 38th parallel in the Korean peninsula.

In order to check the socialist construction in the northern part of the country and stifle the struggle for national liberation in the southern part, the US imperialists and their puppet clique Syngman Rhee in the south started armed invasion upon the DPRK on June 25, 1950. The Korean Fatherland Liberation War of the Korean people began against the US imperialists and their stooges.

This was a harsh trial for the Korean people. The young Republic was exposed to danger of ruin. By the unanimous desire of the Korean people Kim Il Sung was elected the Chairman of the Military Commission and the Supreme Commander of the KPA. All power of the Party, the government and the army and leadership over the front and the rear was under his control. He organized and mobilized the entire people to the victory in the war.

Thanks to mass heroism and unparalleled bravery of the People's Army soldiers, devoted efforts of the workers and peasants in the rear and the wise leadership of the iron-willed brilliant commander Kim Il Sung, the DPRK people achieved victory in the

1950-1953 Fatherland Liberation War. The US imperialists enlisted millions of troops and lots of modern armed equipment including one third of their army, one fifth of their air force, most of their Pacific fleet and some of the Mediterranean fleet, troops from their 15 satellite countries, south Korean puppet army and Japanese militarist reactionaries in the Korean war but failed to reduce the DPRK people to submission. The US imperialists who suffered an irretrievable military, political and moral defeat concluded an armistice agreement with the DPRK on July 27, 1953.

After the war the DPRK people set out on the struggle to rehabilitate the national economy.

The 6th Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee was held on August 5, 1953.

At the meeting Kim Il Sung put forward the general task of laying foundations for socialism and the main direction of the postwar rehabilitation and clarified the basic line of economic construction to develop heavy industry primarily while developing light industry and agriculture simultaneously. Under the energetic guidance of Kim Il Sung, the tasks were successfully carried out in agriculture and all other sectors of the national economy. Agricultural cooperativization was completed with success in August 1958. A socialist system of the Korean style, in which the working masses of people become masters of everything and everything serves them, was established in the DPRK. The Standing Committee of the DPRK People's Supreme Assembly awarded the title of the DPRK Labor Hero upon Kim Il Sung for his exploits performed in establishing the socialist system, in September 1958.

The DPRK is a genuine people's country in which the people are masters of the state power and means of production and everything serves them and which is developed by dint of their united efforts and an independent socialist country that deals with everything with the Juche idea as a guideline.

State (all-people) ownership in the DPRK is the main in industry and cooperative ownership in agriculture. The cooperative ownership is a form of socialist ownership that develops in close links with the all-people ownership.

As it is a form of transitional characters, the cooperative ownership is gradually converted into the all-people ownership as material and technical foundations of socialism get strengthened (through the state investment) for agriculture continuously and the ideological and cultural level of the peasants gets promoted.

There also exists private ownership in the DPRK. Private ownership is composed of socialist distribution by the state and society and their additional benefits and products from not so big individual vegetable gardens. Private ownership is protected by the DPRK law and secured by the rights to inheritance.

8-hour working system is applied in the DPRK according to its constitution. 7- or 6-

hour working system is applied in individual sectors of production. Women who have three children work for 6 hours a day and are paid as same as those who work for 8 hours a day. 16 is working age of its citizens. Labor of those under the working age is prohibited. Income tax is not applied to the DPRK citizens' salary.

Citizens have freedom of speech, publication, gathering, association, demonstration, religious belief and freedom to conduct anti-religious propaganda.

All the DPRK citizens are provided with the rights to labor, dwelling house, paid leave, free education, free medical care and have freedom and rights to scientific, literary and artistic activities according to their likings and abilities. Revolutionary veterans, families of revolutionary martyrs and deceased patriots, the dependents of the People's Army servicemen and honored wounded soldiers are provided with special care by the state and society.

Women have the same social position and rights as men do. The state provides women and their children with special benefits.

Citizens' rights and freedom constantly extend with the development of the socialist society.

Concern and care of the state and the WPK for the posterities are emphasized particularly. Children enjoy love from all people. Irrespective of where they live--in big cities or small villages, their personalities and talents are developed creatively, their health protected and every condition provided to give them access to every kind of sport. Every condition for the children to every sport is provided. Parents do not pay for sending their children to nurseries and kindergartens. Nurses and kindergarteners are those who received professional education. Children's health is under constant observations. There are children's palaces and halls in every part of the country. In summer the Children's Union members have holidays in Children's Union camps. They spend holidays often with those from friendly countries in the Songdowon International Children's Camp and during those days a fine friendly relationship is established between them. In the DPRK the younger generation is educated in high patriotism and noble moral traits and is brought up into those with high standards of culture and education.

Despite the severe economic blockades, constant imprudent sabotages and threats of preemptive nuclear attack of the US which, in fact, started since its founding, the DPRK has been building a socialist country wonderfully, developing the economy and strengthening the national defence. The "newly born" and not so big DPRK defeated the US in the Fatherland Liberation War. This proved that the great spirit of the citizens in a new Korea, the strength of them united around their leader and their high sense of patriotism is more powerful than any other modern weapons.

The state guides and administers the economy and culture which develop in a planned way (planning includes all fields of industry, agricultural production, scientific and technical development, education, public health, industry and house construction, etc.). Detailed planning considers all factors of production in a concrete way and ensures continuous development in the economy. Particular role is given to the scientific and productive activities related to the munitions industry complex, the prerequisite to the building up of the national defence capabilities. It is of an important significance in such a situation that, for 75 years, the DPRK has stood in confrontation with the US that has made ceaseless threat of preemptive nuclear attack against it. The DPRK scientists' research and development activities, the recent manufacture of nuclear-tipped ICBM (also developed by the DPRK scientists) which can strike the US mainland remarkably cooled the fever of American military adventurists, thus enabling the DPRK people to carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—and to live and work more peacefully in order to achieve complete victory of socialism.

There are several political parties and social organizations in the DPRK. The Workers' Party of Korea is the ruling party. This is the great Party of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, a revolutionary party of Juche-type. At present, General Secretary of the WPK is Comrade Kim Jong Un who is the successor to the cause of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The WPK consists of workers, peasants and working intellectuals who struggle for the victory in the cause of socialism and communism. The WPK inherited glorious revolutionary traditions established in the period of heroic anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. The WPK's foremost task is to constantly improve the people's livelihood, strengthen the might of the country and reunify the Korean nation.

The WPK is a political General Staff that organizes and guides the revolutionary struggle and socialist construction in the DPRK and takes full responsibility of the entire people's destiny.

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea is a powerful mass political organization that trains workers and union members into the Kimilsungists-Kimjongilists who are faithful to the Party and the leader and organizes and mobilizes them to the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche. Its main duty is to educate and remould the workers and the union members, so that they can be united firmly around the Party and mobilized to the revolutionary struggle and construction work.

The Socialist Patriotic Youth League is a mass political organization of young people that was organized on January 17, 1946. As a militant youth organization that should succeed to the revolution, it is a reliable reserve and supporter of the WPK. Its

members are about 5 million.

The DPRK has traversed every difficult but glorious road to defend its sovereignty and independence against hostile policies of the US and its vassal countries. Today the DPRK is a developed industrial state that possesses nuclear weapons, the only practical factor that enables to guarantee the reliable national defence under the condition that systematic crises of whole imperialism gets worse day by day and the US economy deteriorated.

Attitude of respecting and valuing their own national cultural wealth and history is predominant over socialist Korea. It has many museums and exhibition halls. In the DPRK, wonderful monuments which enable its posterities to have a good understanding the arduous struggles for achieving liberation and establishing socialism, a new socio-political system, are being erected.

The important political task which the DPRK leadership pays special attention to is reunification of the north and the south, the reunification of the Korean nation.

The DPRK people have the Juche idea which was authored by Kim Il Sung as their invariable guide in building socialism. The Juche idea consists in foundations for radical changes made in shaping out the Korean people's destiny. Later Comrade Kim Jong Il further developed the Juche idea and its contents are reflected in his works.

As Kim Il Sung said, the Juche idea is based on the philosophical principle that man is master of everything and decides everything. The Juche idea studied the fundamental question of philosophy with man as the main.

That man is the master of everything means that he is the master of the world and of his own destiny; that man decides everything means that he plays the decisive role in transforming the world and in shaping his destiny.

The Juche idea raised big interests among progressive forces and was appreciated in many countries and propagated extensively.

Socialist Korea has broad international political ties. It has diplomatic missions in most countries of the world. In particular, the international prestige of the DPRK has been enhanced recently thanks to its political lines and incomparably thoroughgoing independent foreign policies. The DPRK is a member state of many international and world organizations. The International Institute of the Juche Idea (its headquarter is in Tokyo.) has regional institutes in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa.

The IJI disseminates Kim Il Sung's works, holds international seminars, lectures, seminars on the Juche idea, publishes the institute organ *Study of Juche Idea*, organizes gatherings to exchange experiences gained in the study of the Juche idea in several countries of the world, arranges libraries and reading rooms for the dissemination of the Juche idea, holds book exhibitions, etc.

Different Juche idea study groups and organizations are active now in more than 100 countries. Association for the study of the Juche idea is active also in Belarus.

On the day marking the 80th birth anniversary of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Pyongyang Declaration “Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism” was published in Pyongyang and today over 300 political parties and movements have signed it. Proving that socialism is an ideal of mankind and appealing progressive parties in the world to struggle in unity for restoration and fresh development of the socialist movement, the Pyongyang Declaration promoted and developed the world socialist movement in a fresh way.

Ruling communist parties in the Soviet Union and some European and Asian countries abandoned the Marxist-Leninist stand in the period between the late 1980s and the early 1990s. As a result, socialism collapsed temporarily and the world socialist system was destroyed. The imperialists in the world took advantage of this opportunity to realize their aim of aggression.

However, there still exists on the globe the DPRK, a world socialist outpost, which was founded and led by Kim Il Sung and it advances with success. The Juche idea authored by Kim Il Sung made the ideological foundation of the ruling WPK not moved by anything and, accordingly, the DPRK could defend the socialist system reliably.

The brilliant history of socialist construction in the DPRK led by Kim Il Sung was continued by Kim Jong Il. The helm of socialist Korea is now run by Kim Jong Un, leader of the people. Recent events tell that any changes, desired by the US, are not possible in the DPRK political lines. The DPRK adheres firmly to the socialist construction line, put forward by the Kim Il Sung and applied successfully by great Kim Jong Il, and speeds up the building of a rich and powerful socialist country, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.