

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG IL

LET US DEFEND AND ADD LUSTRE TO OUR STYLE OF SOCIALISM UNDER THE BANNER OF THE JUCHE IDEA

Talk to Senior Officials of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea
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Recently, the socialist countries in Eastern Europe have collapsed one after another, and the flag of socialism is slowly being lowered in the Soviet Union, too. It seems that the day is not far off when the Soviet Union will crumble and cease to exist owing to the moves of the modern revisionists who are siding with the US imperialists in their pursuit of an anti-socialist strategy. It was in Europe that the socialist idea was born along with the publication of *The Communist Manifesto*, which proclaimed that the spectre of communism was haunting, and it was also in Europe that the first socialist state in the world emerged. On that very continent socialism is now suffering a setback.

The imperialists and their ideological advocates are talking a lot about the situation in the European socialist countries. They are describing it as capitalism emerging “victorious” and socialism coming to an “end.” This distortion of the true situation is abject sophistry designed to create a negative image of socialism, cover up the reactionary nature of capitalism and justify their anti-socialist manoeuvres. The frustration of socialism in several European countries does not mean that socialism has failed; rather, it reflects the bankruptcy

of opportunism which has undermined socialism. Although it is crumbling in these countries due to the plotting by the imperialists and opportunists, socialism in our country, with its might and vitality becoming more evident in all spheres of social life, is winning victory after victory under the banner of the Juche idea.

Our socialism is different from that of the European countries.

It is people-centred socialism based on the Juche idea. The Juche idea created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is the one and only guiding ideology for the revolution and construction in our times, and its vitality is infinite. Our style of socialism is different from that of other countries because it is based on the Juche idea, a completely new and original revolutionary idea. In our society the masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them. Herein lies the essential feature of our style of socialism.

Our socialism is different from that of the East European countries in terms of how it has been constructed. The East European countries built the Soviet style of socialism with the help of the Soviet people, instead of adopting their own to meet the desire of their own people. However, this is not the case with

us, as we did it in our own way in compliance with the demands and will of our own people. Guided by the Juche idea, we have stuck to our own way in building our Party, army and state and carrying out the socialist revolution and construction; we have used our own heads to solve all the problems arising in the revolution and construction in our own way and in conformity with the actual conditions in our country and in the interests of our people. The East European socialist countries have been pursuing economic development in reliance on the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the linchpin of which was the Soviet Union, but this is not the case with us. We put forward the line of building an independent national economy and have developed the economy in our own way. When the Soviet people invited us to join the CMEA, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung politely refused, saying that our country was like a kindergartener compared to their university student. While carrying out the revolution and construction we have never worried whether others are smiling or frowning, nor have we ever sought to curry favour with anyone else. We have said what we wanted to and done what we wanted to. We have never bent our ideology and decisions in doing anything to our liking. Ours is our own style of socialism, which our

people chose in accordance with their desire and have built by their own efforts as required by the Juche idea. Our people support our socialism absolutely, regarding it as their lifeblood. Our country has built our style of socialism admirably on the basis of the Juche idea, and as a result it is now advancing dynamically along the road of socialism, unfazed by the rapid changes in the international situation.

Socialism is the lifeblood of our people and the banner of our revolution. Our people, who have had to endure much greater ordeals than others, have devoted their precious blood and sweat to socialism. By working with revolutionary enthusiasm and creative labour, they have built a socialist paradise where everyone lives happily without any worries on a land where centuries-old backwardness and poverty once prevailed. They have constructed impressive monumental edifices such as the Grand People's Study House, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the People's Palace of Culture and the West Sea Barrage. We should naturally be proud of and gain confidence from all the things we have achieved for our country and fellow people under the banner of socialism.

Today, the imperialists and other reactionaries are making vicious attempts to block the advance of those

people who are moving towards socialism, but it is a pointless endeavour. They are dreaming if they think they can check the advance to socialism. The tide of history is not determined by the will or desire of any individual, nor by any contingency or event. The advance of history is driven by the masses, its motive force, and is oriented to the realization of their demand for independence. Socialism is not something invented by any individual, but an idea chosen by the masses of the people themselves while living through history. Socialism reflects the desire of the masses to be equally well off without enduring exploitation and oppression. The only way to realize this desire and their aspirations is to advance towards socialism. Socialism is a paradise for the masses, whereas capitalism is their graveyard. To abandon socialism means to return to capitalism. Socialism will surely emerge victorious because it is consistent with the aspirations and will of the people. Socialism belongs to the people. Rejecting socialism means rejecting the masses themselves. Whatever they do, the imperialists and other reactionaries can never block the people's advance to socialism.

Socialism is genuinely a just cause aimed at realizing the independence of the masses, and it is a historical truth that the just cause of the masses is sure

to win. The future of humanity lies in socialism, and the future belongs to us. Our future is beautiful and our victory is inevitable. The socialist cause is suffering at the moment, but this is a temporary twist. Ordeal is temporary, victory is eternal.

However, a huge obstacle currently lies in the way of our revolution. Timed to coincide with the frustration of socialism in several European countries, the imperialists and other reactionaries are turning the spearhead of their anti-socialist manoeuvres on our country. Now, in fighting single-handedly against the imperialist allied forces, we are shaping the destiny of the whole of humanity. Ours is an arduous march.

In order to defend the people-centred socialism of our own style and advance the socialist cause dynamically amid the political upheavals in the world, we must brave the adversity of history with a firm faith and will to overcome the trials and difficulties. There are inevitably severe challenges and unexpected storms on the road of revolution, so revolutionaries must be accustomed to overcoming trials and difficulties. Without an unwavering faith and will, we cannot overcome the trials and difficulties or follow the road of revolution to the end. For revolutionaries, it is a worthwhile life to climb the

peak of victory, overcoming trials and hardships. As the saying goes, you can appreciate sweetness only after tasting bitterness; so, revolutionaries will be able to feel the real worth of victory only after winning it through trials and hardships. Only those who have faith in victory, the will to win victory and the belief in sure victory can accompany our Party on the road of revolution and launch a grand march in the '90s. We should bravely overcome all the trials and difficulties with an unshakable conviction in victory and a strong revolutionary will. Then we can write a new, brilliant history of the '90s by safeguarding and further strengthening our socialism.

In order to defend and add lustre to our style of people-centred socialism, we should live our own way under the banner of the Juche idea.

Socialism, which had been winning victory after victory as the champion of the future of humanity, is now suffering a setback in Europe. This is largely due to the fact that the parties in the East European socialist countries failed to adopt their own stand in the revolution and construction and instead blindly followed the Soviet Union. In the past, rather than striving to pursue their own policies in the revolution and construction, they obeyed Soviet instructions

and mechanically followed the experience of the Soviet Union. As a result, when the Soviet Union turned to revisionism, they followed suit; by doing so, ultimately they derailed the revolution and ruined their countries. Socialism presupposes independence, not subordination. Making the revolution would be meaningless if we were to depend on other countries and live under their fetters of a new form, on the pretext of building socialism. Looking back through the annals of the international communist movement, our Party renewed its firm determination to do everything in our own way under the banner of the Juche idea; it raised high the strategic slogan, *Let us live our own way!* This slogan represents our Party's faith. Our own way precisely means the Juche-orientation. Our own way is based on a people-centred philosophy and people-centred politics. Ours is the best style. No matter how closely we look at the world, we can identify no better way than ours. We should live our own way under the banner of the Juche idea, no matter what storm may arise.

If we are to live our own way, we should maintain our own ideological viewpoint, our own way of thinking. By our own ideological viewpoint, I mean an independent and revolutionary ideological viewpoint—

one which is fundamentally opposed to outdated ideas of all hues, including worship of big countries and dogmatism. Adopting our own ideological viewpoint means taking the view of thinking and judging everything as required by the Juche idea and solving all problems by our own efforts and in conformity with the actual conditions in our country and the demands of our people. We should ensure that every Party member and all the other working people acquire a deep understanding of the principles of the Juche idea and our Party's lines and policies that embody them, and arm themselves firmly with the Korean-nation-first spirit. Then we can ensure that they live our own way in all aspects, guided by our own ideological viewpoint and our own way of thinking.

In order to defend and add lustre to socialism and accomplish the cause of socialism, we must strictly observe socialist principles in the revolution and construction.

Obviously, we should maintain a creative approach in developing lines and policies that are in keeping with the advance of the times and the changing circumstances and conditions of the revolutionary struggle, but in no case must we abandon the revolutionary stand or break from socialist principles.

If we abandon the revolutionary stand and give up our socialist principles in the face of the changing times, we will end up disrupting the revolution and construction and losing everything. To apply individualism, contrary to socialist principles, to socialist society, which is based on collectivism, would be tantamount to taking poison. Socialism should be built not by reformism but by revolution. The fiercer the manoeuvres become to make our country capitalist and the harder the wind of “reform” and “restructuring” blows in other countries, the more firmly we must adhere to socialist principles and defend them without the slightest concession. We must, whatever the circumstances and conditions, strengthen the Party, firmly maintain its leadership over the revolution and construction, and defend and steadily develop the socialist system. Holding higher the banner of anti-imperialist struggle, we must smash the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists.

It is essential to pay special attention to strengthening the Party organizationally and ideologically and enhancing its leadership role.

The Party represents the destiny of our people, and its leadership constitutes the lifeline of socialism. In our country the Party is strong and all the people faithfully support its leadership, united solidly around

it with a single mind and purpose. So, there is no “peaceful transition to capitalism” here and socialism is advancing to victory, unlike in the European socialist countries. And yet this does not mean we should rest content with our work to strengthen the Party. We must continue to build up our Party and enhance its leadership role, and thus defend our style of socialism centred on the masses and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

We should intensify Party members’ and the other working people’s organizational life and ideological education.

This is an important requirement for strengthening the Party and defending socialism. The European socialist countries failed to intensify the organizational life and ideological education of their party members and the other working people; at the same time, capitalist ideas infiltrated, with the result that the parties have fallen and socialism has collapsed. With the imperialists’ schemes and moves to stamp out socialism becoming more blatant with each passing day, it is impossible to strengthen our Party and defend our revolutionary gains, which we have won with our blood, unless we intensify the organizational life and

ideological education of Party members and the other working people. We must improve this work so that every Party member and all the other working people bear in mind the historical lessons of the class struggle and fight to the end for the victory of the socialist cause, frustrating the challenges from the imperialists.

We must see to it that there is not the slightest chance of capitalist elements infiltrating our ranks. At present, the imperialists and other reactionaries, in concentrating their attack on the revolutionary countries which are advancing under the banner of socialism, are making vicious attempts to destroy people's faith in socialism and undermine socialism from within. If we give capitalist elements even the slightest chance to infiltrate, they will contaminate the public with potentially serious consequences in the long run. We must not allow even the slightest opportunity for capitalist elements to infiltrate our ranks, but deal a telling blow at them promptly and wipe them out as soon as they appear.

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