Talk to the Officials of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea

October 29, 1971

Before long we will celebrate the 60th birthday of the leader. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, since shouldering the destiny of the country and nation and embarking on the revolutionary struggle in his early days, has devoted his whole life to the fatherland, to his fellow people, and to the revolutionary cause of the working class. The leader led the 20-year-long anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory thus brilliantly realizing the historic cause of national liberation. He defeated the US imperialist aggressors, who had boasted of being the strongest power in the world, during the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War, thus defending our fatherland honourably. He has given wise leadership to the socialist revolution and the building of socialism and established in this land—a socialist country that is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence. Today our people enjoy a happy, contented and worthwhile life under the guidance of the leader, having attained the dignity of a fully independent nation in the eyes of the world. His life has, indeed, been a life of devoted service for his fatherland and people, a highly creative life that has brought about an epoch-making change in Korea’s struggle for the transformation of nature and society. Our prosperous socialist fatherland as well as the great honour and happiness our people enjoy today are due to his life-long efforts. That is why they are unanimous in wishing to celebrate with loyal hearts the leader’s 60th birthday and to make it their most auspicious and the greatest national holiday. This is only natural.

Last February the Political Committee of our Party Central Committee made a decision to celebrate the leader’s 60th birthday as the most important national holiday, thus reflecting the unanimous desire and loyal feelings of all the Party members and people. The Committee called on all the Party members and working people to display a high degree of revolutionary enthusiasm on the occasion of this auspicious day so as to make a new upsurge in socialist construction. Since the decision of the Political Committee was circulated, the whole country has thrown itself into enthusiastic preparations for celebrating the leader’s 60th birthday, and at the same time the working class and all other working people are making great innovations in production and construction. It cannot be said, however, that the schemes conceived and inaugurated by the Party are all being implemented satisfactorily. We have set about many projects, but few have been finished, and we have a great deal more left to do.
We must set about preparing for the celebration of the leader’s 60th birthday in a grand manner and concentrate on political and ideological work among the Party members and working people, so as to inspire them to a new revolutionary upswing.

On the occasion of his 60th birthday we must channel our efforts, first, into conveying the leader’s great revolutionary achievements for ever and adding lustre to them.

To do this is a major requirement if we want the coming generations to inherit his revolutionary cause. It is the cardinal task facing our Party and our people, all of whom are loyal to his leadership. From the point of view of revolutionary ethics, this is a natural obligation of our officials. Party members and working people—the revolutionary fighters of the leader.

On the occasion of the leader’s 60th birthday we are now erecting his bronze statue on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang, the revolutionary capital, flanked by grand monuments with group sculptures carved on a background of red banners. Simultaneously, we are constructing a large new revolutionary museum. It is essential to set up the great leader’s bronze statue properly. Erecting his statue is an undertaking to ensure his great authority and prestige, to safeguard and defend them, and to hand down the image of his greatness and nobility to posterity. Therefore, the bronze statue must be an eloquent portrayal of his magnificence as the outstanding leader and of his benevolent image as the father of the people, and it must be created with utmost care so as to reflect his august presence. It must be well situated from the topographical point of view: the site must be free from congestion, have a large, open field of vision and be surrounded by a carpet of green. Mansu Hill is the best place in all respects as the site for the leader’s bronze statue. The statue must be erected on the strength of intense loyalty by the Party members and working people; in other words, the project must not be the technical concern of a handful of officials. We must see to it that the statue is erected on the strength of the loyal minds of the Party members and working people and through their devotion and efforts in order to turn this work into a process of increasing their loyalty.

We must also do a good job of building the Korean Revolution Museum. The Korean Revolution Museum is to be a place that comprehensively displays the leader’s revolutionary history and his revolutionary achievements, as well as his noble virtues. It will play the role of the central base for establishing the monolithic ideological system of the Party. To discharge its mission and role to the fullest, it needs good exhibition materials as well as a sizeable building. Unlike regional or sectional revolutionary museums, or those set up at revolutionary sites, the exhibits at the Korean Revolution Museum must be set up in the most impressive way possible, so that all the leader’s revolutionary activities can be shown chronologically and comprehensively. Officials are now concentrating on the construction of the building of the museum, assuming that there will be no major problem in the collection of materials for exhibition. Nevertheless, a large building is in itself not significant. You must
examine the layout system and contents of the exhibitions by period and by section, and discover shortcomings to fill in and supplement the insufficiencies. It is important to get together enough historical material and relics to offer a vivid picture of the history of revolutionary struggle in each period. I have been told that on a visit to the former revolutionary museum some time ago, an overseas compatriot saw a pistol on exhibition there and said that at the sight of it he seemed to hear the shots fired by the General on Mt. Paektu to destroy the Japanese imperialists. Officials must know clearly how great a role a single historical relic plays in educating working people. The officials in the sector concerned should call on the veterans who fought under the command of the leader in the past and visit the old revolutionary battle sites and the historical spots connected with the revolution. They need to do this in order to find and ascertain more materials that can testify to the leader's revolutionary struggle, both materially and scientifically, and display them at the museum.

We must lay out the battle sites and historical spots associated with the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and immortal traces of the great leader so that they play their proper role as the base of education in the Party's monolithic ideology and revolutionary traditions.

Education through the revolutionary battle sites and historical spots occupies an important place in our Party's ideological education. Revolutionary battle sites and historic spots have very great educational significance in that they show the historic facts through vivid materials and real things. A few years ago I asked an official what he had felt when he climbed Mt. Paektu, and he replied that he had felt with all his heart what a thorny path the great leader had trodden and what a great exploit he had performed. Seeing something once is better than hearing it a hundred times. If you visit the revolutionary battle sites and historical spots and see them with your own eyes, you will feel more and get an impression that is incomparably stronger than your impressions from reading books or hearing from others; moreover, you will strengthen your revolutionary resolve and determination.

In order for the revolutionary battle sites and historical spots to make a deep imprint on Party members and working people, they should be laid out strictly in accordance with historical facts and on historical and scientific principles. No matter how large in scale the revolutionary historic sites and how many revolutionary and historical articles on display, visitors will be left unimpressed if these materials are not arranged along historical and scientific principles. In the arrangement of revolutionary battlefields and historical sites, you must neither modernize the historical contents in disregard of historical facts, nor sacrifice the principles of science just to emphasize size and form. The revolutionary battle sites and historic spots must on all accounts be restored to their original state so that they show the glorious revolutionary history and revolutionary achievements of our Party truthfully. In addition, we should preserve
and manage the revolutionary sites and relics with care so that they are kept for ever and handed down to posterity in their original state. We must continue to put efforts into laying out the Mangyongdae revolutionary historic site in the best possible way. Mangyongdae is the place where the leader was born, a historic and revolutionary site frequently visited by our people and other revolutionary people of the world. Delegations and people from many countries now come to visit the Mangyongdae revolutionary site. They are unanimous in declaring that Mangyongdae inspires them to feel in their hearts the brilliant revolutionary history and greatness of the leader, and that they understand clearly why the Korean people respect and revere their leader so deeply. In Mangyongdae the historic sites and relics showing the leader’s childhood and his revolutionary family are displayed in their original state. These precious mementoes must be carefully treasured to prevent them from being weathered by the passage of time. The surroundings of the historic site must be laid out better so that it is always thick with foliage and full of beautiful flowers.

The revolutionary battle sites and historic spots in the provinces must also be laid out properly. The long history of our revolution cannot be all shown in just one or two historic spots and museums, and the contents of the presentation by the historic spots and museums are different from one another. In order to give the people a profound understanding of the 60-year-long revolutionary history of the leader, we must keep the specific features of all the battle sites and historical sites associated with his revolutionary activities while carefully preserving their contents. Monuments to his revolutionary history, such as those dedicated to the revolutionary and historical sites and historic events and those inscribed with poems dedicated to him, need to be erected at suitable spots in the revolutionary battle fields and historic sites so as to conform to historical facts.

In order to hand the leader’s revolutionary achievements down to the generations to come and add lustre to them, we must step up efforts to discover the written classics created by him during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and to turn them into films, novels and operas.

Early in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle the leader wrote many classic pieces with which he vigorously inspired the people to carry out the revolutionary struggle. Thus he established a classic model of Juche-orientated art and literature. Our leader is therefore not only an iron-willed and brilliant commander who defeated two imperialist powers?US and Japan, the most formidable?but also a great creative artist who opened up a new era of Juche-orientated revolutionary art and literature. Only when his classics are adapted properly to different forms of art and literature can the traditions of the Juche-orientated art and literature be inherited and developed with credit.

Most important in the adaptation of immortal classics to films, operas and novels is that the adaptors must be faithful to the original works. Fidelity to the original is the most important principle in adapting the
classics to different genres. New characters not found in the original must not be introduced at will, nor the contents of the originals be altered to suit the adaptation. Such defects came to light when the classic The Sea of Blood was being adapted to opera, so I pointed them out. Creative workers must pay great attention to this matter. By fidelity to the original I do not necessarily mean that the entire contents of the original should be transcribed mechanically. In adapting classics to films, operas and novels, the central idea of the originals must be understood correctly, the ideological contents of the originals preserved, and the characteristics of the new works sustained. Their adaptation also involves other matters of principle, including the need for a truthful portrayal of life to express contemporary feelings fully. The classic The Flower Girl, created by the leader in his early days of revolutionary activities, is being adapted to the screen, but the above-mentioned problems of principle are not yet resolved satisfactorily. As I also said yesterday, when I was watching the rushes of the film The Flower Girl, the creators and artists had not selected costumes suited to the historical period. In future, the sector of art and literature must implement the principles of artistic creation set by the Party and bring about a new advance in the production of films, operas and other art works.

We must also pay close attention to creating art and literary pieces about the leader. To portray the leader is the burning task facing our art and literature today. It is also a historic task that should be carried on permanently in the development of socialist art and literature. Thus far the leader has been described on a very small scale by individual creators. Our Party, on the basis of scientifically elucidating the leader's position and role in the revolutionary struggle for the first time in history, has put forward a policy on stepping up artistic and literary efforts to portray the leader in keeping with the requirements of our situation in which the establishment of the Party's monolithic ideological system is developing in depth. The portrayal of leader is as yet at the beginning stage, with a number of ideological, theoretical and methodological problems awaiting solution. But I think if our creators and artists make their efforts with a high sense of loyalty and creative enthusiasm, they will, under the leadership of the Party, produce many excellent works portraying the great leader.

Next, we should launch a more aggressive campaign for ideological education aimed at closely rallying the Party and all the people around the leader on the occasion of his 60th birthday. While doing the work now in hand, we must properly conduct ideological education to unite all the people solidly behind the leader. To intensify the ideological education of the Party members and working people so as to rally them firmly behind the Party and the leader is the task that should always be the main concern of Party ideological work. If Party ideological work goes well and unites the Party and all the people more solidly behind the leader, this will be the most precious present to be offered to the leader on the occasion of his 60th birthday.
Ideological education of Party members and working people must be concentrated on instilling the leader’s greatness deeply in them so as to encourage them to be loyal to him. Party ideological education is, in essence, an undertaking to reeducate people to be true revolutionary fighters of the leader. We must give the Party members and working people a clear understanding of the greatness of the leader’s ideology, his leadership and his virtues, so that they all grow into revolutionary fighters unfailingly loyal to the leader. Equipping themselves thoroughly with the Juche idea is the most important requirement for the Party members and working people to be genuine revolutionaries faithful to the leader. To be thoroughly armed with the Juche idea, they must study the works of the leader thoroughly. Some officials, on the excuse of being busy with work, are not participating in group study actively, nor studying seriously themselves; they are failing to study the original texts of the leader’s works sincerely, and instead read only explanatory books in a superficial way. Unless one studies the leader’s works deeply, one will be unable to think and act on his intentions, nor can one identify the practices contrary to the Party’s monolithic ideology in time nor fight against them. Party organizations should organize and conduct an intensive and regular study of the leader’s works in a planned and substantial way, and hold effective seminars in combination with revolutionary practice, thus helping Party members and working people to acquire a profound knowledge of the essence, validity and vitality of the leader’s revolutionary ideas and theories.

It is important to publish the works of the great leader properly. Much has been improved in this work since the 15th Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Party Central Committee; but due to the insufficient number of collections of leader’s works intended for different sectors, as well as of the copies of the works, the demands of the Party members and working people for them are not satisfied as yet. Collections of works, such as The Selected Works of Kim Il Sung, and pamphlets, must be published in larger volumes. In addition, explanatory books of the works should be published as well, properly edited to be helpful to those studying the works.

It is also important to intensify the study of the revolutionary history of the leader among Party members and working people. Only when one studies the leader’s revolutionary history can one understand his imperishable revolutionary achievements and his noble personality as the father of the people. We must organize and conduct the study of the leader’s revolutionary history widely among Party members and working people so that they may acquire knowledge of his history of revolutionary struggle systematically, ranging from his revolutionary family and the early period of his revolutionary activities, to today. In this way we can make sure that they fully assimilate his brilliant intelligence, outstanding leadership and noble virtues. Party organizations should furnish the ‘Hall for Studying Comrade Kim Il Sung’s Revolutionary History’ well and run it effectively. This hall, being the place for studying the leader’s revolutionary ideas and history, must be properly equipped and
efficient?ly run so as to suit its educative purpose. For the hall to play its role satisfactorily as an important centre for arming Party members and working people with the leader’s revolutionary history and ideas, it is essential to furnish it with the pictorial records of the leader’s revolutionary history, as well as with many political books, including the leader’s works, together with the necessary references for studying them. The study hall must be run in such a planned way as to deal with matters included in the curriculum for the study of the leader’s revolutionary history; it must also be ready to use various forms and methods, such as organizing seminars on his revolutionary ideas and symposiums for the study of his virtues. Anticipating the 60th anniversary of the leader’s birthday, we must launch a vigorous propaganda and agitation campaign to rouse the Party members and working people to the struggle for socialist economic construction.

Upholding the grand programme for socialist construction set by the Fifth Congress of the Party, our working people are now working hard to fulfill the two years’ quotas of the Six-Year Plan by April 15 next year. Some factories and enterprises have already fulfilled the quotas for this year, the first year of the Six-Year Plan, three months ahead of schedule, and are continuing with their strenuous efforts to attain the high target they have set of fulfilling the two years’ quotas of the Six-Year Plan by the end of this year. It is highly commendable to do the two years’ assignment of the Six-Year Plan before the leader’s 60th birthday. The propaganda officials must go widely among the working people and conduct an energetic political and ideological campaign to work up their enthusiasm by kindling their loyalty to the leader, to enhance their sense of pride and responsibility as socialist constructors, to encourage them to rid themselves of obsolete ideological viewpoints, such as fear of technology and conservatism, and to bring about a new innovation in carrying out a technical revolution.

Agitation for increased production must be pushed forward forcefully. It is a powerful means of inspiring the masses with revolutionary enthusiasm and of encouraging them to carry out their revolutionary tasks successfully. It should be done with the use of vivid materials that can touch people’s heartstrings. It should also be done in a mobile and militant way, by employing various methods at production sites, such as using a variety of propaganda and agitation means—factory gazettes, field bulletins, propaganda vehicles, and so on. The Propaganda and Agitation Department must send out the artists of the central art troupes to areas recently emphasized by the Party, such as coal mines and machine-tool factories, to conduct a vigorous campaign of mobile propaganda. It should show many films at the production sites in these sectors so that the workers there are stimulated to a greater enthusiasm for production.

From now on you must make good preparations for the functions that are to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the leader’s birthday. A variety of these celebratory events will take place, the most important of which will ensure the leader’s high prestige, add lustre
to his immortal achievements and widely demonstrate the unbreakable unity and cohesion of our Party and people behind the leader. We must make sure that his birthday is celebrated on the highest political and ideological level, and make scrupulous preparations for the events from now on so that the celebrations will fully display the revolutionary resolve of our Party and people to hold the great leader in high esteem for ever and accomplish the Juche revolutionary cause pioneered by him through the generations.

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