THE SUPERLATIVE EDUCATIONAL THEORY

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Foreword

—Significance of the "Theses on Socialist Education"

At the 14th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, President of the DPRK Kim Il Sung, the well-known world revolutionary leader, published the "Theses on Socialist Education."

This Theses, I believe, is the summation of the educational theory founded on President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea and of the experience gained in the education conducted in the DPRK on the basis of this, theory. Formulated in it are the principles of education, the content and methods of education and the educational system, that is, the educational work as a whole.

I am studying the Theses now and, therefore, have not yet had full understanding of it. However, I should like to set out the following points on the basis of my initial study:

First, how was the "Theses on Socialist Education," the

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first consummate theory on socialist education in the world, published in the DPRK?

Secondly, the guiding theory of the Theses is President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea;

Thirdly, it has brought socialist pedagogy to a new, higher plane;

Fourthly, it has provided a scientific and ideological foundation for sweeping criticism on capitalist education.

The significance of the Theses is by no means confined to these points.

Viewed from these points alone, however, I am sure that it has an international and world historic significance.

Formulation of the Theses

—Its Necessity

The "Theses on Socialist Education" is the first perfect system of the theory on socialist pedagogy in the world. Some years ago President Kim Il Sung said:

"Nobody has ever advanced a perfect theory on socialist pedagogy. And no country has provided a model of socialist pedagogy which we can follow.... Moreover, we should not try to copy from the outworn feudal and capitalist theories and methods of education. The pedagogy of an exploiter society was
formed for the purpose of defending the exploiting system, and so we have nothing to borrow from it. We must reject it entirely and create a new socialist pedagogy."

When other socialist countries, to say nothing of the capitalist countries, failed to advance a perfect theory on socialist pedagogy the DPRK alone could systematize and generalize the theory on socialist pedagogy in the form of the "Theses on Socialist Education." Let's consider the reason.

We should find it within the Republic.

President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea and the experience in the revolution and construction carried out in the DPRK, on the basis of that idea, experience in the educational revolution and construction in particular, gave birth to the Theses.

None of contemporary politicians has ever directed such a profound concern to education as President Kim Il Sung has done.

The "Kim Il Sung's Works" (*Miraisha's* edition, Japan) and "KIM IL SUNG, Selected Works" contain a lot of articles on educational work. We have learned from them that the Juche idea is a man-centered idea attaching special importance to man's ideological consciousness and that the educational work is of great importance.

The recently published "Theses on Socialist Education" also points out: "The socialist state should give definite priority to educational work over all other work."
This quotation brings me to think that President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea is certainly the idea which attaches importance to educational work.

The Republic has made a rapid stride in educational work, following the road illuminated by the Juche idea.

From right after liberation efforts were made for universal compulsory education. As a result, the universal compulsory primary education system was introduced in 1956, the universal compulsory secondary education system in 1958, then universal nine-year compulsory technical education in 1967. And universal compulsory eleven-year education has been in force since 1972. Moreover, since 1959 all the educational establishments have been giving universal free education.

All this shows that the Republic's is the most progressive educational system in the world.

Workers and peasants are learning while working. The Theses points out: "In our country today there is no one without education and none gives up his studies halfway; everyone continues his study all through his life."

It seems to me that the Korean nation under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung is really the "people enjoying learning."

As for the Theses, it did not come into being suddenly in a day. I feel deeply that it was the due outcome of the researches on and development of the educational
theory based on President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea and the excellent educational practice in the DPRK. In other words, there seems to be a sufficient reason and necessity for the founding of the perfect theory on socialist pedagogy, the first of its kind in the world, in the DPRK, not in any other country.

The Theses serves as the landmark marking the culmination of the contemporary world pedagogy. As Marx's *Capital* and Lenin's *Imperialism as the Highest Stage of Capitalism* brought political economy to a higher plane in the past, so President Kim Il Sung's "Theses on Socialist Education" has undoubtedly raised world pedagogy to a new high. This was thanks to President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea and proved a great victory for this idea.

Here I will not enlarge on the content of the Theses, but I would like to add that it gives clear-cut formulations as to the educational work in general as follows:

1. the fundamental principles of socialist pedagogy
2. the content of socialist education
3. the methods of socialist education
4. the socialist educational system in our country
5. the duty and role of the educational institutions, guidance and assistance to education.

Through the study of the Theses we can see clearly that it is run through with President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea.

In the foreword, reference is given to the necessity to conquer the ideological fortress. The idea of taking this fortress was enunciated by the Juche idea for the first time, which constitutes the main content of the Theses.
The Theses covers a wide range of problems concerning educational work in general. For the correct understanding of it, I think it necessary first of all to deepen our knowledge of the Juche idea which serves as its guiding doctrine.

Through the study of the "Theses on Socialist Education" we will learn the educational thought and theories which are the embodiment of President Kim II Sung's Juche idea, the culmination of the contemporary communist thought.

A New Pedagogy

—With Regard to Ideological Remoulding

The consummate theory on socialist pedagogy was evolved for the first time by President Kim I1 Sung's Juche idea. Never before had there been advanced such a systematized educational theory as the "Theses on Socialist Education." The Theses serves as a signal document opening up the future of education in the world.

It has marked a new stage in socialist pedagogy.

Let us examine it in relation to the idea of conquering the ideological fortress.

In the foreword to the "Theses on Socialist Education" President Kim II Sung pointed out the need to take both the ideological and material fortresses of communism and said: "...it is of greater importance to conquer the ideological fortress." The idea of conquering the ideological fortress constitutes the main content of the Theses.

In his classical work "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country,"
President Kim Il Sung gave an exposition of the technical, cultural and ideological revolutions. In particular, laying stress on the ideological revolution, he said: "...the ideological revolution is the most important and most difficult revolutionary task that must go ahead of all other work. It would be a grave error to put the accent on the technical and cultural revolutions alone and neglect the ideological revolution."

The idea of the ideological revolution was not raised previously by Marxism-Leninism. President Kim Il Sung was the first to clarify that this revolution, unlike the technical and cultural revolutions, plays a peculiar role and has domineering importance.

He brought out certain limitations of, Marx and Engels as well as of Lenin. Lenin's proposition on communism— "Soviet power plus electrification"— has acquired an important meaning thanks to President Kim Il Sung. The President construed Soviet power into the dictatorship of the proletariat, and electrification into the all-round automation of production processes through the technical revolution, that is, the conquest of the material fortress. Moreover, pointing out that Lenin's proposition did not contain the idea of conquering the ideological fortress, he made clear that "In order to build a socialist and communist society, we must conquer the ideological fortress by revolutionizing and working-classizing all members of society, at the same time capturing the material fortress by developing the productive forces."

The idea of conquering the ideological fortress through the ideological revolution has brought socialist pedagogy to a new, higher stage, and it also serves as the basis for the principles of socialist pedagogy enunciated in the Theses.
President Kim Il Sung said:

"The fundamental principle of socialist pedagogy consists in revolutionizing, working-classizing and communizing men. In other words, it is to equip men with the revolutionary ideas of communism and, on this basis, to ensure that they acquire profound scientific knowledge and build up strong bodies."

The Theses gives an exposition of the content and methods of socialist pedagogy, its conditions and means, together with its fundamental principles. It clarifies that remoulding of men is in essence ideological remoulding and makes clear: "Socialist education...should naturally be the process of the ideological revolution to revolutionize and working-classize men.... The content and method of socialist education should be geared to the purpose of revolutionizing and working-classizing people, and all conditions and means of education should tend to the remoulding of their thinking." All these—principle, content and method of education, its conditions and means, the educational work in general—were construed anew from the stand-point of ideological remoulding essential for capturing the ideological fortress. This is indicative of new stage of socialist education.

Here we should not overlook that it not only remains a mere theoretical issue but has realistic and practical significance.

President Kim Il Sung said:

"In some socialist countries, a dissipated and indolent way of life is now in evidence among the youth due to the neglect of ideological work with the working people.... This lazy, dissipated and non-class way of life provides favourable soil
for the growth of revisionist ideology, and under the influence of revisionism, people are degenerating all the more." If an unsound way of life and revisionist tendency, as mentioned above, are now in evidence in some countries, it can be said that it is due to the bourgeois influence as well as to the neglect of the ideological revolution from lack of theoretical understanding of its importance and necessity.

The Theses serves as an incisive weapon for struggling against revisionism and examining one's own idea. It is because the Theses is of academic and theoretical importance as well as of practical revolutionary significance as it is written proceeding thoroughly from the communist idea, the Juche idea, on the basis of the requirement of a new higher stage of socialist education.

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Criticism on Capitalism

—Establishment of Its Starting Point

The "Theses on Socialist Education" authored by President Kim Il Sung provides a scientific and ideological groundwork for thorough criticism on capitalist education and its out-growth, capitalist pedagogy.

We have grown up receiving capitalist education and are tinder its harmful effect. Nevertheless, as we are accustomed to it, we tend to justify it, misunderstanding it as natural or predetermined.

The "Theses on Socialist Education" advanced by President Kim Il Sung helps us
to form a new judgement for thorough reperception of capitalist education.

In his work "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People" President Kim Il Sung sharply criticized the main defects and mistakes of capitalist education and clarified the superiority of socialist, communist education.

President Kim Il Sung taught that unlike the education in capitalist society which is reduced to a corrupt education that makes one beat others down and seek only one's personal advancement on a competitive principle, communist education aims at cultivating among the children and young people the spirit of love for people, friends, the organization and the collective.

President Kim Il Sung said:

"Collectivism is the basis of social life under socialism and communism and a principle of action for the Communists. We should educate all students to rid themselves of individualism and selfishness, and work, study and live on the collectivist principle of 'One for all and all for one,' and struggle devotedly for the interests of society and the people, for the interests of the Party and the revolution."

We should study this teaching in earnest and scathingly criticize capitalist education. And we should draw wisdom and strength from the Theses to equip ourselves with the idea of hating imperialism and the landlord and capitalist classes and resolutely fight the class enemies and the exploiter system. In particular, we must struggle relentlessly against Japanese militarism.