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North Korean Party Officials Warning on "Team Spirit"

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A Pyongyang report meeting commemorating the 60th anniversary of the 1st March popular uprising was held [on 1st March] at the People's Palace of Culture. Placed with due respect on the platform against the background of the flag of the DPRK was a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung.

It was attended by Kang Yang-uk, Vice-President; Yim Chun-chu, Secretary of the Central People's Committee; Kim Man-kum, Chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; Chong Chun-ki, Vice-Premier; Hwang Chang-yop, Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Chong Sin-hyok, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party; Ho Chong-suk, Director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [DFRF]; Hong Ki-mun, Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; and other leading functionaries of power organs and public organizations and working people in the city.

Comrade Kim Man-kum made a report at the meeting. He said: The 1st March popular uprising in 1919 was a nation-wide resistance in which the whole nation rose and struggled courageously against the brigandish Japanese imperialist aggressors to win the freedom and independence of the country. Though the just struggle of the people ended in failure, due to the Japanese imperialists brutal suppression, the history of the 1st March popular uprising left a serious lesson in the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle of the Korean people . . . The Korean people, who could not escape twists and turns and bitter setbacks in the struggle, craved for a great leader, an outstanding leader who would brightly indicate the road of the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle and the communist movement in our country, and confidently lead the whole nation to victory by firmly rallying it into a united force. This ardent desire of our people was realised when the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung started leading the Korean revolution . . .

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-sung has taught: "Even now, 30 years after the founding of the DPRK, our nation is left divided and the country's reunification remains the greatest national task of the entire people of Korea."

. . . In his historic report at the central celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK in September last year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung solemnly declared once again internally and externally that we keep open the door of dialogue. This fully reflected the desire of our people for reunification and marked an important occasion in opening up a new prospect for the North-South dialogue. [DFRF proposals of 23rd January]

At this juncture when contact has been resumed between the North and the South, the United States and South Korea are staging a joint military exercise of unprecedented scale in South Korea with the participation of warships of the US Seventh fleet, the Okinawa-based US Marines, and US aircraft in South Korea, Japan, Guam and the US mainland,

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from 1st March under the false pretext of fictitious "military threat from the North".

It is a grave challenge to our sincere efforts and peace in Korea to stage a large-scale military exercise when we are calling for an unconditional stop of all hostile military actions by both sides from 1st March, while taking appropriate steps on our own initiative for realizing mansided negotiation between the North and South as already proposed by us. The massive military exercise projected by the South Korean authorities at the very outset of the dialogue is a downright opposition to our proposals for peaceful reunification and, furthermore, an act of going back on their own words. The South Korean authorities are firing guns and rifles, giving off power smell, while continuing slanders and calumnies against the other party to the dialogue. What is it, if not an act intended to throw a wet blanket over the dialogue and, furthermore, lead it to a rupture?

The United States and the South Korean authorities should ponder over the possible consequences of their current military exercise and immediately stop this reckless clamour. The South Korean authorities should not seek another purpose behind the curtain of the dialogue, but stop doing things contradicting their own words, and show all sincerity so that the renewed North-South dialogue arranged with so much effort may bear a hoped-for fruit. If the United States truly want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, it should not obstruct the dialogue between Koreans but should give up the war racket and withdraw its troops from South Korea at an early date . . .

We will continue to make all efforts possible to create a climate of dialogue and negotiation and realize national reunification on the basis of the principles and idea of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, he declared.

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