

To Commemorate 25th Anniversary of the LAIJI

Report to Congress

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Authorities of universities in Peru,

Directors of the Board of the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI),

Executive Committee members of the Latin American Institute of the Juche Idea (LAIJI),

Guests and all the participants,

Availing myself of this opportunity I would like to extend our welcome to all the participants in this congress to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the LAIJI.

Rejoicing over the fact that for the past 25 years we have studied and disseminated the philosophical principle of the Juche idea that inspires us to achieve our own objectives in the spirit of self-reliance by relying upon the organized popular masses with independent consciousness, just as this idea demanded of us and as it has been adhered to by the Korean people, we have come here to Lima, the capital of Peru. This is indeed an honor of us all.

The Juche idea was founded by President Kim Il Sung in the process of the Korean people's struggle to achieve their independence from the Japanese rule. Then, later on, this idea has been systematized, enriched and developed by the theoretical and practical contributions made by General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

For the people in each nation and country to study and disseminate the Juche idea and apply this idea to the reality of their own country and region is a guarantee for finding a correct path to achieve independence politically and economically.

Being convinced of the correctness of the principles clarified by the Juche idea, a group of intellectuals, university professors and politicians gathered together in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. It was 25 years ago. Those who came there discussed and came to realize that the Juche idea would be helpful to the development of the Latin American people's struggles for independence. So, we decided to found the Latin American Institute of the Juche Idea.

I hope this summing-up of the persistent activities performed for these 25 years will bring about a favorable result to us all.

For a long period of time since the old days, the Latin American people have been under the control of the economic power of the successive empires. In the 20th century in particular, they were under the rule of U.S. imperialism which regarded Latin America as its own backyard and controlled it at its free will. Imperialism conspired with anti-popular governments that had welcomed foreign governance, the rulers and ruling classes that had amassed wealth, whereas the majority of people were left out in poverty and distress.

The Juche idea teaches us all the time that what is the most precious thing in the life of human beings is independence; the independence of the people can not be realized in the society that does not ensure independence; and therefore, people are obliged to fight for the realization of independence to this end.

Similarly, the Juche idea teaches us that it is the conscious and organized popular masses that lead the society to become more independent.

Furthermore, the Juche idea teaches us that we should not look forward to receiving some help from others in this struggle but trust in their own strength.

Our struggles have not come to an end. Under the present circumstances that imperialism with its increasing armed forces has taken the form of state terrorism and is intensifying its exploitation of the world's people in an attempt to monopolize all the interests, the people's struggles have had to become more intense than ever before.

With their armed forces, the governments of many countries in the world have turned into those which only serve the superpowers that exert every possible effort to control the world's people on a worldwide scale by obtaining all the resources such as petrol, food, minerals, resulting in creating a situation in which each nation has become poorer and poorer.

Under these circumstances, enabling the world's people to understand the philosophical principle of the Juche idea is a prerequisite. In other words, it is necessary to enable the people to justify clearly their demand for independence, the rights of enjoying the wealth, manufactured products; the sovereignty; and the rights to control their own destiny. These demands and rights are fully persuasive in their struggle to defeat the superpowers and their allied traitors in the world with an ambition to grasp world hegemony.

It was 25 years ago that the LAJI started making its energetic effort to heighten the level of the consciousness of the Latin American people. And it can be said that we have made great successes in this work. However, we have still much more work to do than we have done. The more we focus on the realities where the people's enemies threatening the humanity with their mass destruction weapons still exist and are increasing their strength, the more we have to pay heed to the existence of the masses of conscious and brave people determined to encounter all the attacks by such people's enemies. In this sense, we are more obliged to unite and reinforce ourselves much more than ever before.

History records the fact that there has been no empire in the world that could maintain their existence, faced with the strenuous struggles of the popular masses for independence. This is the most important lesson in history that the Juche idea can put forward before us. Indeed, human history is one of people's struggles for independence.

With this viewpoint, we are now proudly looking back on our activities in the past 25 years.

It can be said that we have scored many successes in our work. All these successes were attributable to the positive efforts made by thousands or tens of thousands of people throughout Latin America. Similarly, they were thanks to the ceaseless instructions and warm care of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The teachings of both these leaders were conveyed to us in various ways. At first, by studying their theoretical works, we came to understand the social attributes of man, such as independence, creativity and consciousness. We also came to know of the importance of trusting in our own strength as well as the truth that masters of our own destinies are ourselves. Next, we regarded as our examples the Korean people's struggles for independence, their united, concerted and energetic efforts to get rid of all the maneuvers plotted by the dominant forces aiming at suffocating them completely.

No sooner had such forces of evil failed in all their machinations than they began to place severe economic sanctions against the DPRK, and have continued to do so for over half a century. They station in South Korea their 40,000-strong army that they boast of as the strongest in the world, deploying it along the 38th degree demarcation lines in South Korea and threatening North Korea with their military exercises. They are now

threatening the Korean people by speaking loudly about the possibility of a nuclear attack.

However, such forces of evil are faced with a political and ideological encirclement by the heroic Korean people who, believing in their leaders and being reinforced by the Juche idea, are determined and ready to defend the sovereignty of their beloved country at the risk of their lives, without being shaken by any threat of the imperialists.

Under the recent difficult situation, General Secretary Kim Jong Il has put the army-first policy into practice and thus has given the whole Korean people the conviction of victory. Speaking of what this revolutionary idea has taught us, it can be said that people in each country are obliged to find a "Juche" idea for themselves. It is true that we have known much of the exemplary achievements made by the Korean people. However, this does not mean that we can imitate them as they are. This is because there are great differences in political climate between the Korean people and ourselves.

The tasks of the Latin American people themselves lie in arming themselves ideologically, heightening the level of the masses' consciousness and finding their own "Juche" or a way to solve their problems in accordance with the reality and the political climate of their own. Those are the things that we have learned from both these leaders, President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

There is the reason why we talk about the warm care of President Kim Il Sung. It was President Kim Il Sung who met some 70 persons in different walks of life and 33 delegations of Juche idea study groups from some ten countries of Latin America in 25 years. In his meetings with them, the President explained the correctness and vitality of the Juche idea and its embodiment in details, and showed explicitly the path of the Latin American people to follow in conformity with the realities of their respective countries, encouraging those people who had waged their struggles for independence.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il systematized the theoretical principles of the Juche idea in his treatise entitled "On the Juche Idea". This work made a lot of contributions to the study of the Juche idea by tens of thousands of the Latin American people. Furthermore, we exerted our effort to make a deep theoretical understanding of the Juche idea and discussed how to apply this idea to the Latin American continent.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il made public a great deal of works on various occasions. All such works of his have been published in the world including Latin America and are being studied and disseminated among those who aspire after independence.

Here I would like to put emphasis on the fact that the General Secretary has introduced the army-first policy into the Korean people's struggle on the theoretical basis of the Juche idea. The army-first policy has been applied splendidly in the DPRK which is faced with a hard threat of powerful enemies, a policy which has now become the guarantee for the victorious cause of independence in the 21st century.

Thanks to the warm care extended by President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the dream of some 1,000 persons in various walks of life from various countries of Latin America, who had had an intention to visit the DPRK, to make a deep study of the Juche idea and see many successes attained there with their own eyes, came true.

Those visitors from Latin America who found that the Korean people were very much proud of all the successes attained by themselves in the fields of ideology, culture and politics, came to realize that it was essential for them to find their own "Juche" for Latin America, if they had to make similar successes in their own struggles in the future.

Today, when we greet the 25th anniversary of the LAIJI, on behalf of all the Latin American visitors to the DPRK, I would like to express our deep thanks to President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il for their warm hospitality to us so that we might not feel any inconvenience during our stay in the DPRK or our interest in and our concern about things and matters in the DPRK might be stimulated.

We must also mention the warm care extended to us by the Korean people when some of us fell ill during their stay in the DPRK. The Korean people made it possible for us to visit the places we wanted to visit, to attend special and individual lectures given by distinguished Korean social scientists, to watch excellent art performances, to visit scenic spots like so many paradises, to have opportunities to see how priority is given to educational work for children and youth in the DPRK and so on. Out of so many things I have to mention here, allow me to confine myself here to expressing our thanks to President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and the entire Korean people.

The visitors from Latin America to the DPRK sent by the LAIJI in the past 25 years all returned home with deep impressions of the DPRK the superiority of Korea's socialist system where the entire people were enjoying equal rights among themselves; great monuments and elegant culture; not only such impressions of the state itself but also warm care and affection shown by those who directly got in touch with us Latin American visitors.

Moreover, the Korean people may have thought that Korea was too far from Latin America for all our friends and comrades to visit there. In this respect, President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il dispatched some 30 Korean delegations of social scientists to various countries of Latin America. These social scientists with deep knowledge taught us directly the essence of the Juche idea, and the cause of Korean people's independence with vivid examples such as the fact that Korea as a nation which had been backward once in the past and had suffered from starvation under the long-continued Japanese rule, stood up again in the Korean War, the prolonged National Liberation War (1950 to 1953) shortly after its liberation, and won victory in the war at the cost of 5 million Koreans' lives, that they moved on in the direction of building an advanced state without shrinking whenever their enemies imposed economic sanctions and ceaseless aggressive machinations against them, and that they overcame recent consecutive natural disasters that continued to hit the DPRK several years ago, with their loyalty to their nation.

Next, I would like to refer briefly to the past activities performed in Latin America that produced very good results.

In some 20 countries, several hundreds of Juche idea study groups of teachers, of students, of working people and of farmers were formed. Members of the respective study groups made a study of the Juche idea and deepened their understanding of this idea. Similarly, many of these Juche idea study groups did not confine themselves to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea but exerted their effort to prove its correctness and effectiveness, applying this idea to life.

In some 20 countries of Latin America the works of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il were published. This provided several thousands of Latin American people with opportunities to get in touch with the profundity of the Juche idea and thus discuss a possible application of this idea.

By now, international seminars on the Juche idea were held in Latin America with the attendance of delegates from the world. In such international seminars, those who took part in them, paid keen attention to the discussion of the then situation in Latin America.

Latin American regional seminars were jointly held 13 times with the attendance of delegates from all the continents of America. Some of them were participated in by delegates from pro-American countries.

National seminars on the Juche idea were held some 50 times in various countries of Latin America. Present at those seminars were representatives of district or local study groups in various countries. Since the Juche idea had been studied not only in the capitals of those countries but also in areas remote from them, the venues of national seminars were either in the capitals or in provincial cities.

Study meetings, political workshops, lecture meetings, university lectures, circle meetings and so on were held several thousand times. Journals and bulletins were published by the LAIJI and Juche idea study groups in various countries. The Juche idea was also taught as part of the curriculums of universities in Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and Panama. Book exhibitions, sports and cultural events also took place.

After overcoming various hardships that occurred several times in the 1990s, newly formed Juche idea study groups to study and disseminate this idea revitalized their activities in Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela.

Thus, it can be said that we are satisfied with all the work we have done up to now. It is time for us to step up our activities to open up a new phase after summing up all these fruitful activities we have done.

In the future, we will be faced with a more important work of applying the Juche idea to life on a larger scale. The task of connecting the study and dissemination of the Juche idea with the work of political parties, social bodies and trade unions, has already begun. Now, it is time for us to formulate this work.

We are obliged not only to study the Juche idea but also to disseminate this idea among the broad masses of people including youth in particular. To this end, it is necessary for us to take into consideration a way of thinking of the rising generation and innovate our work style to respond to their demand. Similarly, it is essential to take a measure to establish a new work style in conformity with the drastic change taking place in real life at the outset of the 21st century.

We should make it certain that the new era requires of us to apply the principle of the Juche idea to the realities of different countries.

Before ending my report, I can not help pointing out the current threat the Korean people are confronted with.

The United States did not carry out the US-DPRK Agreed Framework concluded in 1994. According to its agreement with the DPRK, an alternative light water reactor was supposed to be set up in the DPRK by 2003, in ten years after that. However, even the early stage of its foundation construction has not been accomplished. The U.S. neither dissolved its economic sanctions against the DPRK, nor has it kept its promise not to make it a target of its preemptive nuclear attack. On top of that, it has stopped the supply to the DPRK of fuel oil to generate electricity, violating its agreement.

Under these circumstances, as a legitimate measure to cope with them, the DPRK declared to withdraw from the N.P.T. (Nuclear Non - Proliferation Treaty) and took the measures to make all the inspectors of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) discontinue their work there. Then it took necessary steps to resume its nuclear energy production for the use of people and industry.

While violating the agreement, the U.S. high-handedly urged the DPRK not to pull out of the N.P.T. and abandon its project of resuming its nuclear reactor development.

However, the DPRK demands the U.S. sign a DPRK-US nonaggression treaty. This proposal was supported by other superpowers like China and Russia.

The U.S. deploys its armed forces to surround the DPRK on a large scale, threatening it with a preemptive

nuclear attack. The DPRK warns the U.S. by saying that they are ready to fight against such a threat to independence and sovereignty, although it does not want war. What is more, the DPRK says that although the Korean people do not want war at all, they are fully militarily prepared to counter any kind of attack.

It is needless to say that the Korean people do not want to lose any of the achievements attained by their own efforts and resources. However, it is clear that they are ready to sacrifice themselves for more valuable things, that is, independence and sovereignty.

In this situation, it is natural for us to express our support for the Korean people, defying the terrorist superpower under the guidance of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

What we have to do is to oppose false information about the Korean issue, spread by newspapers and news agencies, and inform the masses of the reality of the DPRK by various means familiar to ourselves. We should appeal to the United Nations about our solidarity with the Korean people who have been struggling for independence and sovereignty.

We will make every possible effort to hold various gatherings such as congresses, conferences and meetings to express our solidarity with the fraternal Korean people and condemn U.S. imperialism and its allies. These actions will also serve to defend our own rights.

I am sure that in the closing session of this congress, a resolution will be adopted unanimously. Our message in the resolution expressing firm solidarity with the Korean people will reach General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

Availing myself of this occasion, allow me to express my thanks to President Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Juche idea; to General Secretary Kim Jong Il who has provided us with theoretical means and shown an example to energize the common struggles of all the people for the cause of independence; to the Korean people who have demonstrated their revolutionary spirit with their heroic endeavours; and to you, all the participants present here.

In closing this speech, I would like to express my gratitude to all the companions who, in sympathy with the Juche idea that shows the correct path to independence, have made every possible effort to study and disseminate this idea, sharing difficulties and hardships up to now.

In Latin America, we have several thousands of comrades and companions who believe in the Juche idea, developing struggles for independence against all kinds of oppression and exploitation. So numerous is the number that I cannot mention all their names.

Regardless of the difference in our positions and social status, let us continue to wage our struggles toward the ultimate victory with the same enthusiasm and devotion !

Long live the Juche idea !

Long live an independent Latin America !

Long live all the world's people fighting for independence and peace !

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