

KFA TODAY

News from the Korean Friendship Association

January 2003

New year, new editor

Dan Brett from the KFA's UK branch has taken over as editor of KFA Today, see page 8. All articles, letters and news should be sent to him at kfa@union.org.za. Please send any constructive criticism to help improve the publication.

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NO SURRENDER TO IMPERIALISM!

Koreans in their millions have demonstrated on the streets of Pyongyang, Seoul and other cities against US interference in peninsula affairs.

In the South, Koreans have begun to question the presence of US troops and the direction of US policy following President Bush's proclamation of war against the so-called "axis of evil" states: Iraq, Iran and North Korea. In the North, Koreans are preparing for confrontation with the US, certain of victory due to the DPRK's army-based policy. Throughout the world, citizens of all nations are rejecting US hegemony and its imperialist designs. Opinion polls have consistently shown that most people on the planet's five continents view President Bush as the enemy of peace.

The confrontation between North Korea and the US was sparked by US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, who wrongly claimed in October 2002 that North Korea had begun a nuclear arms build-up and had broken the 1994 Agreed Framework. In fact, the US had already broken the agreement by failing to construct two light water reactors (LWRs). But the revelation that the US lies to achieve its aims has never stopped it from continuing its plunder.

The US and its vassal-states, such as the UK and South Korea, stopped fuel supplies in an effort to weaken North Korea ahead of an invasion. In December, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld revealed his government's true intentions when he said that the US could fight and win wars on two fronts: Iraq and North Korea. In the same month, the US attempted to discredit the DPRK and resorted to piracy by confiscating a North Korean merchant ship exporting missiles parts and building materials to Yemen, under a legal contract with the



Yemeni government. The boat was later released when it was acknowledged that North Korea had not broken international law. In fact, the only country guilty of law-breaking was the US.

Yet, the US was still above criticism. With the Framework Agreement torn apart by American arrogance, North Korea began to resume its nuclear power programme and asked the US-sponsored International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to leave its nuclear facilities.

In January 2003, the DPRK opted out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The move was not intended as a precursor to nuclear arms development, but the NPT had become redundant following the collapse of the Agreed Framework.

In the face of growing US hostility, the DPRK vowed to crush any foreign invasion and stepped up its defences, as outlined in a joint editorial published by the country's leading newspapers on New Year's Day

New Year brings fresh victories

New Year's Day 2003 saw newspapers *Rodong Sinmun*, *Josoninmingun* and *Chongnyonjonwi* publish a joint editorial, "Let Us Fully Demonstrate the Dignity and Might of the DPRK Under the Great Banner of Army-Based Policy", which set out DPRK's achievements in 2002 and its ambitions for 2003.

ANNIVERSARY

Last year, Juche 91 (2002), was a year of historic victory during which the dignity and might of Juche Korea were fully demonstrated in all domains of the revolution and construction, the editorial says. It goes on: Last year was a year of unity and grand political festivals which clearly bore witness to the politico-ideological might of our revolutionary ranks. Our army and people grandly commemorated the 90th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung and the 70th anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army amidst the jubilation of the whole nation.

STRENGTH

Last year was a proud year during which the authority and might of the DPRK were fully displayed. It was thanks to the foreign policy of our party and its dynamic activities that a favourable phase was opened for the building of a powerful nation and spectacular events took place drawing the attention of the world. The US's arbitrary and high-handed practices that struck the whole world with terror could not frighten us nor block our advance. Last year was a year of changes during which a new leaping advance was made in the building of a powerful nation.

New measures were taken to improve economic management and improve the standard of the people's living. Our style of socialism helped maintain sustainable economic growth.

NEW YEAR

The New Year, Juche 92 (2003), is a year of bold offensive and great change when a general advance should be made toward building a powerful nation under the banner of the army-based policy, stated newspaper editorials.

This year is a meaningful year which marks the 55th birthday of the Democ-



"Priority will be given to the army"

cratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), our glorious motherland. This year's drive to celebrate the country's anniversary will represent an important struggle to apply Juche ideology, giving top priority to the army in all fields of politics, the economy and culture. In order to increase the might of the DPRK, it is important to consolidate the unity of the party, the army and the people with priority given to the army. Our party's revolutionary idea is to prioritise the army as a bulwark against imperialism. We should cement the ideological position of socialism as an iron fist, fully determined to fight against imperialism to the last. We should also heighten the revolutionary vigilance against the imperialists' ideological and cultural poisoning and firmly preserve our ideology, morality and our noble socialist way of life.

INNOVATION

If the DPRK's might is to be fully demonstrated under the banner of the army-based policy, it is necessary to bring about a fresh change in the economic and cultural situation.

Efforts should be made to effect fresh innovation in power, coal and metal industries and railway transport, considering these fields as a main link in the efforts to revitalize the national economy. The modernization of light industry should accelerate to increase the production of quality consumer goods.

In agriculture, the party's policies of bringing about a radical change in seed selection and potato farming and ensur-



In December 2002, South Koreans demonstrated in their hundreds of thousands against US military presence in their country. Despite opposition to US interference, the puppet government continues to allow the presence of foreign soldiers, who are responsible for raping and killing young Korean girls.

ing double cropping is strictly implemented to significantly increase food production.

In order to effect a great surge in socialist economic construction, rapid development of science and technology is necessary. We should manage and operate the economy in such a way as to ensure the high profitability while adhering to the socialist principles. It is essential to acquire advanced technology in earnest and actively introduce ultra-modern science and technology as required in the era of information technology.

ARMY-BUILDING

If the DPRK's dignity and sovereignty are to be firmly defended, it is important to strengthen our revolutionary armed forces in every way and decisively enhance their militant might and role. Our people's army will wipe out the imperialist aggressors with an unpredictable strike and mercilessly destroy their defenses if they dare attack us.

National defence and development of the military are essential to nation-building. Everyone should do their utmost to increase the national defence capacity and consider the strength of the military as a crucial aspect of the state.

UNIFICATION

Referring to the great progress made in the struggle for national reunification last year, the editorial says: All the fellow countrymen in the north and the south and abroad dynamically advanced, holding high the banner of the 15 June 2000 North-South Joint Declaration.

All fellow countrymen, north and south, should uphold the declaration as an invariable landmark for national reunification and bring about a decisive turn in the accomplishment of the cause of reunification with the might of the nation's driving force.

The success or failure of the movement for national reunification depends on how to preserve and implement the idea of "By Our Nation Itself", the basic spirit of the north-south joint declaration. All Koreans should give further momentum to the movement for national reunification under the uplifted slogan "Let Us Bring Earlier the Independent Reunification by the Concerted Efforts of Our

Nation".

Cooperation between compatriots is a short-cut to reunification. We should place the common interests of the nation above anything else, subordinate everything to them and achieve national unity in the spirit of national independence and patriotism. The anti-national moves to seek "cooperation" with outside forces, blinded by greed for power and comfort, should be thoroughly rejected.

IMPERIALISM

It is necessary to avert war and preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula. As reunification progresses, strains between north and south will diminish. However, there is a growing confrontation between the Koreans in the north and the south and the US. The US is now becoming all the more frantic in its moves to stifle the DPRK, openly declaring its intention to bring nuclear war to the peninsula. This is spoiling the atmosphere of reconciliation between the north and the south and posing a grave threat to peace.

All Koreans in the north and the south and abroad should oppose US imperialism and work towards its defeat. The US should end its bellicose statements, realise that its strategy to dominate Korea is a pipe-dream, stop military provocation and withdraw its aggressive forces from South Korea without delay. The great army-based policy is a policy of attaching importance to the nation as it is aimed to defend the sovereignty of the whole nation and a patriotic policy for its common prosperity. Whoever is concerned for the destiny and future of the nation should support and defend the army-based policy and remain true to it with ardent patriotism wherever they are

VICTORY

The DPRK has greater victories in store. We are sure to win so long as there is the invincible revolutionary army of Mt. Paektu and the steel-strong single-hearted unity of the party and the people. Under the banner of the great army-based policy, our army and people will glorify forever the proud history and traditions of our republic which has always emerged victorious in confrontation with imperialism.

Korean Central News Agency, January 2003

*"It is necessary
to avert war
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peninsular"*

**Polish Communist
Party sends
greetings to DPRK**



As members of the Polish working class, we are sending greetings an best wishes to Dear Leader Comrade Kim Dzong Ill and the Korean People. We wish you success in your fight for happy future for your beautiful, socialist country.

Korean heroes remembered

December 2002 saw North Korea celebrate a number of anniversaries. Kim Jong Il's election as supreme commander of the KPA in December 1991 was marked as a proud event which gave steady continuity to the history and tradition of the victorious Korean revolution.

The same month also marked the 30th anniversary of the Socialist Constitution, which guarantees employment and the right to free healthcare and education. Rooted in Juche ideology, the Constitution provides the people with a solid legal guarantee to enjoy independent and creative living. It was celebrated by the people of the DPRK as a powerful weapon to achieve the ultimate revolutionary victory of Juche and to speed up the building of socialism.

The celebrations also reminded the Korean people that they are faced with one of the most ferocious challenges and provocations ever from the US imperialists and that it is vital to rally around the Supreme Commander. The anniversary celebrations held in December 2002 were a display of unity in defiance of US imperialism.

"The celebrations held in December 2002 were a display of unity in defiance of US imperialism."



*Comrade Kim Jong Suk:
Korean revolutionary heroine*



ance of US imperialism.

The month also saw the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

Comrade Jong Suk was born into an oppressed peasant family which witnessed the oppression of the Korean people by the Japanese imperialists. The Japanese forced thousands of Korean women and girls into forced sexual slavery, using them as 'comfort women' for army officers who routinely raped them.

Jong Suk joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army at a young age and became a loyal soldier of the great revolutionary leader General Kim Il Sung, the commander of the KPRA.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk defended the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung with her own life. She became known for her great military skill and was a pioneer of the Korean communist women's movement, playing a great role in liberating women.

After liberation in 1945 she devoted herself to the work of building a new people's democratic country. She worked hard without a thought for her own comfort. She passed away at the early age of 32 in 1949.

She always embodied the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's Juche-oriented view on women; namely that women are equal with men but at the same time must retain their feminine qualities.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk was a great paragon of communist womanhood and a true revolutionary soldier of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Her exploits will be enshrined forever in the hearts of the Korean people and world progressive people.

Submitted by KFA UK branch

The spy who hates us: Koreans fight 007

Koreans from both north and south were united in their condemnation of the latest Bond film, "Die Another Day", which was released in South Korea on New Year's Eve amid mass anti-American demonstrations.

The film follows the US imperialist line that North Korea is part of the so-called 'axis of evil'. The plot sees British spy James Bond foil a North Korean plan to invade the South, a notion rejected by most Koreans on both sides of the demilitarised zone.

South Korean civil organisations have urged a boycott of the film, which they believe is demeaning and damaging to relations between north and south.

South Korean actor Cha In Pyo had turned down the much-coveted 'bad guy' role, claiming the film was insulting. Many have accused Washington of using Hollywood to push its foreign policy agenda.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) stated that "Through the show of the film the U.S. seeks to strain the situation on the Korean Peninsula



which has favourably developed since the publication of the June 15 joint declaration.

"If the U.S. continues showing the movie despising the Korean nation, all the people will turn out in a fiercer anti-US struggle."

The film also sees Bond having sex in a Buddhist temple and portrays Koreans as uneducated peasants. The government of North Korea has condemned the "corrupt sex culture" promoted in the film which "malignantly desecrates religion" and "slandorous to the Korean nation".

Breaking the ice in Norway over nuclear cold war

The Norwegian KFA group took the local press to task at end-December 2002.

KFA's official delegate to Norway, Bjørnar Simonsen, wrote to the *Dagbladet* newspaper challenging an article by Anne Thurmman-Nielsen which claimed that the DPRK had broken the IAEA's seal on the nuclear production facility, and that "This is in violation with the Agreed Framework agreement with the US in 1994." Comrade Bjørnar correctly pointed out that it was the actions of the US which prompted the break-down of the agreement.

The agreement was intended to replace the DPRK's nuclear energy programme with an alternative source of electricity generation and prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms on the Korean peninsula.

However, the US failed to keep to its

side of the bargain by delivering two light-water reactors and maintain oil supplies to the DPRK. The US's actions were a deliberate attempt to sabotage the North Korean economy and provoke military confrontation. Consequently, North Korea decided to restart its nuclear energy programme.

Nevertheless, the Western media has been keen to portray the DPRK as the aggressor, regardless of the views of Koreans both in the north and south. Comrade Bjørnar has shown a lead by challenging these perceptions and bringing journalists to account.

Bjørnar's letter writing campaign paid off. In her reply, Ms Thurmman-Nielsen admitted that the information in the story should could have been better research. She had also pressed her editors to give more balanced coverage of events affecting the DPRK.

A letter writing campaign by a Norwegian KFA activist saw a national newspaper change its editorial policy towards the DPRK.

DPRK statement on NPT withdrawal

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) issued a statement on 10 January 2002 on the issue of its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The full verbatim English language version of the statement reads as follows:

A dangerous situation where our nation's sovereignty and our state's security are being seriously violated is prevailing on the Korean Peninsula due to the U.S. vicious hostile policy toward the DPRK.

The United States instigated the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to adopt another "resolution" against the DPRK on January 6 in the wake of a similar "resolution" made on November 29, 2002.

Under its manipulation, the IAEA in those "resolutions" termed the DPRK "a criminal" and demanded it scrap what the U.S. called a "nuclear program" at once by a verifiable way in disregard of the nature of the nuclear issue, a product of the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK, and its unique status in which it declared suspension of the effectuation of its withdrawal from the NPT.

Following the adoption of the latest "resolution", the IAEA director general issued an ultimatum that the agency would bring the matter to the UN security council to apply sanctions against the DPRK unless it implements the "resolution" in a few weeks.

This clearly proves that the IAEA still remains a servant and a spokesman for the U.S. and the NPT is being used as a tool for implementing the U.S. hostile policy towards the DPRK aimed to disarm it and destroy its system by force.

A particular mention should be made of the fact that the IAEA in the recent "resolution" kept mum about the U.S. which has grossly violated the NPT and the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework, but urged the DPRK, the victim, to unconditionally accept the U.S. demand for disarmament and forfeit its right to self-defence, and the agency was praised by the U.S. for "saying all what the U.S. wanted to do." This glaringly reveals the falsehood



and hypocrisy of the signboard of impartiality the IAEA put up.

The DPRK Government vehemently rejects and denounces this "resolution" of the IAEA, considering it as a grave encroachment upon our country's sovereignty and the dignity of the nation.

It is none other than the U.S. which wrecks peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and drives the situation there to an extremely dangerous phase.

After the appearance of the Bush administration, the United States listed the DPRK as part of an "axis of evil", adopting it as a national policy to oppose its system, and singled it out as a target of preemptive nuclear attack, openly declaring a nuclear war.

Systematically violating the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework, the U.S. brought up another "nuclear suspicion" and stopped the supply of heavy oil, reducing the AF to a dead document. It also answered the DPRK's sincere proposal for the conclusion of the DPRK-U.S. non-aggression treaty and its patient efforts for negotiations with such threats as "blockade" and "military punishment" and with such an arrogant attitude as blustering that it may talk but negotiations are impossible.

The U.S. went so far to instigate the IAEA to internationalize its moves to stifle the DPRK, putting its declaration of a war into practice. This has eliminated the last possibility of solving the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful and fair way.

It was due to such nuclear war moves of the U.S. against the DPRK and the partiality of the IAEA that the DPRK was compelled to declare its withdrawal from the NPT in march 1993 when a touch-and-go situation was created on the Korean Peninsula.

"The NPT is being used as a tool for implementing the US's hostile policy towards the DPRK and destroying its system by force"

(Continued on page 7)

Bush is the greatest threat to world peace

North Korea has faced condemnation from the West for pulling out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), after the US reneged on its obligations under the 1994 Framework Agreement. Yet, the US under President George W. Bush has continually defied world opinion by ripping up a number of treaties designed to ensure global security and environmental protection. Since 2001, the US has pulled out of the the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the process of strategic arms reductions with Russia. It also refuses to sign up to the Kyoto Agreement, which sets targets for carbon emissions, for fear of damaging the profitability of its all-powerful trans-national corporations.

Although North Korea is facing war over unfounded allegations over nuclear weapons development, at least three US allies—Israel, Pakistan and India—have developed nuclear missiles and have repeatedly threatened to use them in combat. Sanctions imposed on Pakistan and India were lifted in 2002 after they pledged to support the US invasion of Afghanistan. Reacting to the US's foreign policy, one senior British security advisor told the BBC in January that "President Bush's policy has swept away the achievements of decades in building global controls on the worst of weapons and replaced an effective policy with nothing more than bombast." In its imperialist drive, the US has become the greatest threat to world peace.

DPRK statement on NPT withdrawal



(Continued from page 6)

As it has become clear once again that the U.S. persistently seeks to stifle the DPRK at any cost and the IAEA is used as a tool for executing the U.S. hostile policy towards the DPRK, we can no longer remain bound to the NPT, allowing the country's security and the dignity of our nation to be infringed upon.

Under the grave situation where our state's supreme interests are most seriously threatened, the DPRK Government adopts the following decisions to protect the sovereignty of the country and the nation and their right to existence and dignity:

Firstly, the DPRK Government declares an automatic and immediate effectuation of its withdrawal from the NPT, on which "it unilaterally announced a moratorium as long as it deemed necessary" according to the June 11, 1993, DPRK-U.S. joint state-

ment, now that the U.S. has unilaterally abandoned its commitments to stop nuclear threat and renounce hostility towards the DPRK in line with the same statement.

Secondly, it declares that the DPRK withdrawing from the NPT is totally free from the binding force of the safeguards accord with the IAEA under its article 3. The withdrawal from the NPT is a legitimate self-defensive measure taken against the U.S. moves to stifle the DPRK and the unreasonable behaviour of the IAEA following the U.S.

Though we pull out of the NPT, we have no intention to produce nuclear weapons and our nuclear activities at this stage will be confined only to peaceful purposes such as the production of electricity.

If the U.S. drops its hostile policy to stifle the DPRK and stops its nuclear threat to the DPRK, the DPRK may prove through a separate verification between the DPRK and the U.S. that it does not make any nuclear weapon.

The US and the IAEA will never evade their responsibilities for compelling the DPRK to withdraw from the NPT, by ignoring the DPRK's last efforts to seek a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue through negotiations.

Korean Central News Agency, January 2003

"Though we pull out of the NPT, we have no intention to produce nuclear weapons and our nuclear activities will be confined to peaceful purposes"

New editor, new look

The phenomenal growth of the Korean Friendship Association (KFA) in 2002 has meant an expansion of activities and an overhaul of the members' newsletter, KFA Today.

In January 2002, KFA President Alejandro Cao de Benos appointed Daniel Brett as KFA Today's editor.

Said Daniel: "KFA Today provides an essential link between the DPRK and its supporters worldwide. I hope to enhance the KFA's newsletter and eventually make it a monthly publication."

Solidarity with the DPRK is essential at a time of growing international aggression, said Daniel.

"King Jong Il has drawn a line in the sand, over which the US would be foolish to cross. It is essential that a strong North Korean state resists US hegemony, not just for the sake of its own people but

also for peace and self-determination of all peoples.

"Mass demonstrations against US imperialism in Europe and elsewhere are limited in their impact. As socialists, we should rally behind Kim Jong Il's defiance, for only the DPRK has the strength, unity and will-power to hit back at American arrogance.

"KFA Today is a forum for socialists to display their solidarity with the DPRK, challenge media falsehoods and learn what is happening behind the headlines." Comrade Alejandro praised the new look of KFA Today, saying that the design was modern and "the contents are spoken in a language easy to reach the capitalist brain"

KFA members should send their reports and articles to Daniel at kfa@union.org.za

The Nuclear Crisis and Some Media Myths

Of course it goes without saying that the DPRK has never been a darling of the Western mass media and that coverage of the DPRK has usually been hostile. However, ever since the DPRK nuclear industry has been reactivated and the so called UN Inspectors sent packing the media's hostility has increased 100 fold. Lets look at some distortions and myths put forward in the British media:

"North Korean President Kim Jong Il says 'sanctions mean war'". The words, which were supposedly quoted from a KCNA report of an editorial in the Rodong Sinmun Newspaper, were not said by Kim Jong Il. Moreover, Kim Jong Il is not president of the DPRK, he is chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander. The constitution states that Kim Il Sung is the Eternal president of the DPRK and the post of chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Peoples Assembly is held by Kim Yong Nam.

'North Korea is the first country to withdraw from the NPT' Maybe be true but this does not mention the fact that

some countries—India, Pakistan and Israel—never signed it all! What about the US pulling out of the ABM and refusing to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

'North Korean Army of 1 million troops'. The Korean Peoples Army was 500,000 strong in the 1980s and some 100,000 troops were de mobilized in 1985.

'Millions have starved in north Korea'. This has never been proved. It comes from a sleight of hand with DPRK population statistics. The South Koreans claimed falsely that the DPRK population reached 25 million in 1995 and then was found to be 23 million in 1998. In fact, DPRK population was 21 million in 1993 and its annual rate of increase estimated by the UN was 3 per cent per year, so 23 million in 1998 is more or less within population growth forecasts. I saw no signs of 'mass starvation' during my April 2002 visit. So German Juche website for a perspective on the 'famine' issue

<http://www.kdvr.de/english/famine.html>

Dermot Hudson, KFA UK branch

