
In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice Agreement

History has shown us that while the DPRK signatories to the Agreement were sincere in their belief that the Agreement meant an immediate ceasefire which would be honoured by all combatants, including the DPRK; and that there was to follow soon after, negotiations which would provide the basis for a lasting Peace; the leading opposing force, the United States of America and their South Korean allies had no such intention.

To all intents and purposes the Armistice provided the United States with a smokescreen behind which it was able to consolidate its armed forces in South Korea and carry on with the planning for a prolonged “war” against the DPRK with the aim of toppling the Government in the North if at all possible with the minimum of cost to American lives while at the same time having no regard for the welfare of the people of the DPRK. Indeed this policy of attrition was intended to create widespread hunger and chronic poverty leading, if necessary, to a bloody uprising of the masses who would sheet home the cause of their suffering to the Government.

What became known as economic sanctions have been a significant part of the US war effort against the DPRK to this day, with the sanctions’ devastating effect on the health and mortality statistics for the nation. This has far outweighed the cynical provision of minimum amounts of US food aid which is intended to create intense confusion and unrest amongst the hungry poor.

In their integration of the sanction’s policy the US deliberately sabotaged the sacred demarcation between humanitarian aid for non combatants which is distributed to civil society on the basis of need, and supplies to support the military. The US declared that it was impossible to distinguish the two categories and treated all DPRK citizens as being part of the military. This meant that humanitarian aid could be defined as part of the war and as such needed to be reduced or more often than not, cancelled.

This policy is nothing short of a War Crime Against Humanity and deserves international condemnation. With the US able to exert its power over international bodies such as the United Nations’ Security Council and the International Court of Justice western civil society has been silenced while the DPRK people especially in the rural areas and Provincial towns have suffered chronic malnutrition. Hard working and dedicated DPRK farmers and farm workers have created miracles in crop output but have been hamstrung in their effort to produce the surplus in rice and other grains so necessary for the food needs of the population living in the grey zone between life and premature death, caught in the never ending suffering of chronic malnutrition with its negative effects on the immune system transforming colds into deadly diseases affecting babies, expectant mothers, and the elderly.

Despite a proud history of supposedly caring for the workers, the marginalised, the poor, through a Welfare State which is now being deconstructed US allies such as New Zealand have callously participated in the US led sanctions against the DPRK and have concocted excuse after excuse as to why the Food Basket of the South Pacific would not respond to international aid organisations’ repeated requests for emergency food aid to be granted to the DPRK so that they could distribute life saving food to the desperately needy and hungry citizens.
New Zealand, led by the current National Party coalition has become a collaborator in the potential genocide of swathes of defenceless DPRK citizens. A signatory to the Armistice Agreement New Zealand has been in reality a consistent enemy of the DPRK.

Even before the signing of the Agreement the US military had plans to use nuclear weapons against the North Korean population ostensibly targeting strategic military sites. These plans have never been taken from the table and have been given serious consideration by a number of US Presidents. In this year’s massive US –ROK offensive April military exercise on the borders of the DPRK it was a matter of American pride to have nuclear capable Stealth bombers flying deep inside the DPRK. These birds of war were intended to create the maximum amount of fear and disquiet amongst the population and to engender pride among the US troops and American citizens back in the US.

While making an international reputation for itself as a Champion of the global Anti nuclear movement behind the scenes New Zealand has been a hypocritical supporter of the use of nuclear weapons in the ongoing war against the DPRK. Not once has New Zealand made a public stand against the US proposals to use nuclear weapons in a renewed deliberate military offensive against the DPRK. NZ had friendly observers standing alongside US troops undergoing exercises of invasion of the DPRK. NZ is participating in the US inspired RIMPAC military exercise which has an identifiable DPRK as ‘THE ENEMY’. NZ troops have been training with US troops on the American west coast and are holding joint training exercises with US troops in NZ. New Zealand has been a silent partner in the establishment of a US military base in Northern Australia. NZ has responded to the US call to send troops to Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The NZ Government is being subservient to the US to such a degree that it is changing legislation to allow the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB), which already serves as a South Pacific listening post for Washington, to extend its surveillance to domestic spying. Individual New Zealanders, and organisations such as the NZ DPRK Society, which have links to countries which the US considers hostile, will come under increased American surveillance, courtesy of the NZ government.

All these developments impact on the potential success of the DPRK call for the Armistice Agreement with a Peace Treaty, the holding of Peace negotiations with the US, the withdrawal of foreign (US) troops from South Korea, the convening of Reunification Talks with South Korea – goals which have been on the DPRKs agenda since President Kim Il Sung first introduced them.

As a sovereign nation which has not participated in global wars of Imperialism these goals have been accepted by the people as rational and achievable. The problem is that the DPRK has to negotiate with a foreign culture in a foreign language who have as an ideology the expansion of its culture, theoretical values, an economic system of exploitation and competition based on the individual, a government whose form of democracy is controlled by oligarchic power blocks of American corporate business corporations operating throughout the world for their own profits controlled by some of the wealthiest men in the world, who are supported by a military empire spanning the entire country with hundreds of bases throughout the world, who has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world and who has an irrational belief that America is the sacred nation called by the Christian god to save the world from the evil nations including the DPRK...Most of all the DPRK has to deal with a nation based on fear of the stranger.

For Peace, and the Reunification of Korea to occur, for the Armistice Agreement to become a Peace Treaty the voice of KORYO must be heard by the peoples of the majority in the world, the Korean wisdom be respected and supported as the path for the Korean future of the Peninsula, Regional Economic and political agreements established to serve the North West Asian Region while mutual communication links with American Civil Society are established and strengthened through face to face understanding of the dreams of working people and minorities including other small nations such as New Zealand and the island nations of the Pacific.
Don Borrie
Chairman
New Zealand Democratic Republic of Korea Society
Chairman
Oceania Committee