

The Declaration for Independent Reunification, Peace and Prosperity

In October six years ago the leaders of the north and the south of the Korean peninsula met and had talks in Pyongyang amidst great expectation and concern of the Korean people and the peace-loving people all over the world, and on October 4 the Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity was announced.

The summit meeting and the publication of the October 4 Declaration were an epoch-making event that showed once again the aspiration, wish and will of the Korean people to reunify their country independently and peacefully.

Ever since the country's division, the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have exerted all possible efforts to achieve national reunification making proposals for reunification with the keynote of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

Thanks to their endeavors, north- south summit talks were held in June 2000 for the first time after national division, resulting in the adoption of the June 15 Joint Declaration whose basic idea is to achieve reunification "by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation themselves"—abbreviated to "by our nation itself."

The declaration was a precious fruition of the unanimous aspiration and positive efforts of the Korean people determined to achieve national reunification independently and peacefully by the concerted efforts of the nation against foreign intervention and domination.

Following the adoption of the declaration, the railways and roads between the north and the south that had been blocked for decades were opened, north and south Korean sportspersons formed joint teams to participate in international games, and inter- Korean cooperation and exchange became lively.

The separatists at home and abroad including the US imperialists, however, tried to bar the development of the inter-Korean relations on the absurd pretext of "nuclear issue."

In this situation, another north-south summit meeting took place and the October 4 Declaration was adopted and published. This demonstrated once more the strong will of the Korean people to shatter all kinds of obstructive moves of the anti- reunification forces and achieve the country's reunification under the idea of "by our nation itself."

The October4 Declaration is a working programme showing the way to successful implementation of the June 15 Declaration.

The June 15 Declaration specified an important task to solve the question of reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean people who are the sole interested party. Korea's reunification rests with the Korean people themselves, and so the Koreans in the north and the south should solve the problem of reunification by joint efforts in accordance with their

own wishes and interests, transcending the difference in ideology and social system.

To this end it is necessary to put an end to the prevailing situation of distrust and confrontation that has lasted so long between the two parts of the country, establish a perpetual peace mechanism, and change the inter-Korean relationship into relations of mutual respect and trust.

The October 4 Declaration addresses the matters of upholding and positively implementing the June 15 Joint Declaration, of converting north-south relations definitely into those of mutual respect and confidence, and of ensuring détente and peace on the Korean peninsula, thereby showing the way to solving the problem of national reunification independently and peacefully under the idea of “by our nation itself.”

The October 4 Declaration also refers to all practical problems arising in carrying out the matters mentioned in the June 15 Declaration, such as of the north and the south developing the national economy in a balanced way through economic cooperation, stepping up cooperation and exchange in all fields of social affairs, culture, public health, and environment and building mutual confidence.

The October 4 Declaration representing the Korean people’s desire for independent reunification and peace and prosperity is now trampled under foot by the anti reunification forces.

But the aspiration of the Korean people to achieve reunification under the idea of “by our nation itself” is turning higher than ever before. History shows that the anti- reunification forces can by no means check the aspiration and desire of the nation, however desperately they may try.

Source: by email from DPRK Embassy, Jakarta, 3 October 2013