

Kim Il Sung and His Spirit of Independence



President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) maintained the principle of independence throughout his life.

Rehe Expedition and Principle of Independence

In the mid-1930s the Comintern gave a directive to the anti-Japanese armed forces operating in northeast China to advance towards Rehe. The content of the directive was that first, these anti-Japanese armed forces must advance towards Liaoxi and Rehe and conduct joint operations with the Chinese Worker-Peasant Red Army to contain the Japanese imperialist aggressor forces advancing towards the China proper, and second, realize integration of the anti-Japanese struggles in the Chinese mainland and in northeast China and bring about a fresh upsurge in the overall anti-Japanese movement.

According to this directive, the anti-Japanese armed units operating in northeast China, abandoning the principle of guerrilla warfare, advanced to the open areas, in the course of which they suffered heavy casualties. The result was that the anti-Japanese movement in northeast China faced grave difficulties.

Seeing through the adventurous line of the Comintern, Kim Il Sung refused to blindly follow the line, and maintained the line of independence of Korean revolution to the last. As a result, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army commanded by Kim Il Sung played a great role in eliminating the aftermaths of the Rehe expedition and revitalizing the anti-Japanese armed struggle in northeast China.

Rejected Demand of Joining CMEA

When a delegation of the DPRK government visited the Soviet Union in 1956, there were held government-level talks between the two sides. At the talks the Soviet side officially proposed that the DPRK join the CMEA (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance), stressing that the DPRK should carry out industrialization by machines supplied by the Soviet Union instead of building machines by itself and that it would not be cost-effective to establish the machine-building industry.

Seeing that, if his country joined the economic bloc of socialist countries it may lose independence in its economic construction and be subordinated to the big country politically, Kim Il Sung rejected the demand.

Later, he said: The CMEA is not right theoretically; it exerts a negative effect to other socialist countries; joining the CMEA means that our country will be subordinated to the Soviet Union. Is it necessary to wage a revolution to be subordinated to another country again after making the revolution, and what is difference between being subordinated to a capitalist country and being subordinated to a socialist country—this was his stand.

The justness of his insight and judgement and his thoroughgoing stand of independence was clearly proved by the former socialist countries in Eastern Europe, which had been members of the CMEA and later lost their political and economic independence.

Production of Steel with UHP Electric Arc Furnace

When presiding over an important meeting in May 1988, President Kim Il Sung said that the country should abandon steel-making by relying on coking coal and adopt the super electric steel-making method.

At that time, the DPRK was making steel by relying on imported coking coal.

At that meeting, Kim Il Sung said: The process of producing steel by making pig iron with coking coal is outdated; this process requires three types of furnaces—a coke oven, sintering furnace and blast furnace—as well as a blower and a variety of large auxiliary facilities; therefore the metallurgical industry must abandon this process and adopt the process of making steel with super electricity. He added that if we manufactured the equipment necessary for this process on our own, like pitch electrode, large-capacity transformer and facilities for automation through computer, we would fully be able to establish the Juche orientation in our metallurgical industry.

Just after the liberation of the country (August 1945), he had already said that we should study the process of making steel by relying on coal deposited in abundance in our country.

Later, the country built UHP electric arc furnace that does not use coking coal.

In recent years, it has built the oxygen converters and the oxygen-blown blast furnaces, thus establishing a new iron-making system. These are the result of the line of independence of Kim Il Sung who stressed the need to put the metallurgical industry on a Juche-oriented basis over half a century ago.

Stalin's Toast



Nearly 25 years have passed since the demise of President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994). However, he still lives in the memory of the progressive peoples of the world.

In early 1949, a few years after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation (1905-1945), Kim Il Sung visited the Soviet Union, leading a government delegation. A grand banquet was held in honour of the delegation. Participating there were also high-ranking figures of the Soviet party and government and diplomatic representatives of many countries resident in Moscow.

At the banquet, Stalin made a speech, in which he said: Comrade Kim Il Sung organized and led the anti-Japanese guerrilla army that played the role of a standard-bearer in the long-drawn-out struggle against imperialist Japan; he is a genuine proletarian internationalist

who defended the Soviet Union with arms and at the cost of blood from the imperialists' aggression in the East.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Kim Il Sung created an internationalist model of defending the socialist Soviet Union by force of arms, sharing life and death with its people.

He put forward the slogan "Let us defend the Soviet Union with arms!" and roused the soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army to the struggle for defending with arms the first country of the proletariat in the world.

Under his leadership, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army dealt telling political and military blows to the Japanese aggressors through many battles and harassment operations whenever the Soviet Union faced a military threat, thus smashing their aggressive moves.

At the times of the 1938 incident of Lake Khasan and the 1939 incident of Khalkhin-Gol, its harassment operations in the rear made a positive contribution to forcing the Japanese imperialists to abandon their ambition for a "war" against the Soviet Union.

The genuine spirit of internationalism Kim Il Sung had displayed in the days when the Soviet people were undergoing trials, greatly moved the leaders of the Soviet party and government, including Stalin.

Stalin continued, "The Soviet Union is able to build socialism in peaceful circumstances today, because genuine communists like Comrade Kim Il Sung struggled for defending my country. Availing myself of this significant opportunity and as a reflection of the unanimous feelings of mine and the comrades and friends present here, I propose to extend heartfelt thanks to Comrade Kim Il Sung with warm applause."

This was an unprecedented event for him, who had never before revealed his feelings in front of others. It was beyond imagination that the respected veteran of the world revolution extended gratitude to the leader of a state, who was more than 30 years junior to himself, at a banquet attended also by many foreign diplomatic representatives.