

KIM IL SUNG



OFFICIALS MUST BECOME TRUE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE

Talk to Officials of Party, Administrative and Economic Organs
December 28, 1992

As I always say, cadres are the pivotal body of the Party and the leading officials in the revolution. The Party's quality depends on cadres' preparedness, and all its activities are ensured by their role. It is none other than cadres who manage and administer the state, economic and cultural organs. In the final analysis, cadres decide everything. Therefore, it can be said that the destiny of the Party, the revolution and socialism depends on how we train them and raise their role. In the whole course of leading the revolution and construction the working-class party must always pay close attention to properly training cadres and encouraging them to play their role satisfactorily.

Ever since we started building a new society our Party defined it as an important task to solve the problem of native cadres and has put a great effort into this work. Immediately after liberation, there was an acute shortage of native cadres in our country. At that time we had a great deal of work to do, but we had few university graduates. Veterans of the anti-Japanese armed struggle had a strong revolutionary spirit and had been good at fighting against imperialists, but they had no experience either in building and administering the state or in economic construction and cultural development. In this situation, we could not build a new society successfully without solving the problem of native cadres.

Though the situation in our country was difficult shortly after liberation, we made up our minds to solve this problem by ourselves and began to build a university and Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. Using, as construction funds, the rice which Kim Je Won and other peasants had donated to the country out of patriotism after their first year in farming on the land they had been distributed, we built a university and Mangyongdae Revolutionary School

and gave education to the sons and daughters of the revolutionary martyrs, workers and peasants. Moreover, we set up the Higher Party School and the University of National Economy and, as the economic situation in the country improved, we established various training centres and many universities and colleges and trained cadres in a planned way.

Even during the grim Fatherland Liberation War when we had to wage a life-and-death struggle against the enemy, we continued to train native cadres. I think that among those present here there are some who, while fighting at the front line, were recalled by the Party to study at the universities and colleges.

As we trained native cadres in a planned way, overcoming every kind of difficulty while tightening our belts since immediately after liberation, we could fully solve the problem of cadres which was an extremely difficult one in our country. We now have a large army of 1.6 million intellectuals.

This army of intellectuals trained by our Party is the most precious of all our wealth. It is a source of great pride for our Party and people to have a great army of competent native cadres who are armed firmly with the Juche idea and possess knowledge of modern science and technology. This is a sure guarantee of the victorious advance of the Juche revolutionary cause. Foreign visitors to our country greatly envy the fact that we have a large number of qualified cadres. They say that Korea can have nothing to fear because we have many qualified cadres. Whenever I hear this, I feel proud and tell them about how we have trained our native cadres with tightened belts and say in praise of them. When I met a foreign party delegation several years ago, I told them: As we have a lot of competent native cadres, we can do anything once we are determined; I have trained our officials with much care; so they call me father and I do not object to this; I always tell them that they should obey their father's advice and be loyal subjects of the country and true servants of the people.

There are a large number of loyal subjects among the officials we have trained; those who have laid down their precious lives for the Party and the revolution, for the fatherland and the people, those who have performed feats of labour in socialist construction and who are working conscientiously devoting their whole life silently on the important positions of the revolution whether they are seen or unseen. I think it is highly commendable.

However, some of our officials fail to work loyally and prove themselves worthy of the trust and concern shown to them by the Party that has trained and held them up as cadres. Some are simply maintaining their present position without displaying enthusiasm in their work and some others are wielding their power and behaving bureaucratically, regarding their posts as birthrights. As they have been trained into cadres under the Party's care, they ought to work hard to repay its concern. Nevertheless, some officials are maintaining their present posts without showing enthusiasm in their work or are abusing their authority and behaving bureaucratically. This is wrong. Officials should never behave like this.

Bureaucratism is an anti-popular ruling method which is applied by bureaucrats in exploiting society to oppress and exploit people. It cannot be tolerated in socialist society where the working masses are the masters of the country. In socialist society the officials are not

bureaucrats but servants of the people. If they act in a bureaucratic manner in this society, it will bring about very serious consequences.

The historical lesson of the international communist movement has clearly proved how grave the consequences of bureaucratism are. The collapse of the ruling socialist parties and the frustration of socialism in the Soviet Union and several East European countries in recent years were mainly due to the fact that officials misused their authority and behaved bureaucratically. This had the result that the parties in these countries lost the support of the popular masses. A party, divorced from the popular masses and forsaken by them, is doomed to collapse. Should this happen, socialism cannot maintain its existence. In the final analysis, bureaucratism does the evil work of destroying the mass basis of the working-class party and undermining the socialist system. The great danger of bureaucracy lies precisely here.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** has said that it is tantamount to taking a tonic for officials to mix themselves with the masses and work devotedly for them, but that it is like taking poison of their own free will if they wield their power and behave bureaucratically over the masses. I think he is right.

Overcoming the abuse of power and bureaucracy is vital to defending the cause of socialism. Our officials should correctly understand the harmful consequences of bureaucracy and never act in a bureaucratic manner, but must devote themselves solely to the people.

To serve the people faithfully is the noble mission of our officials who have grown up under the care of the Party. Nothing is more honourable and worthwhile for our officials, who are making the revolution in our people-centred socialist society, than to be true servants of the people. If they are fully aware of their noble mission and serve the people faithfully, they will enjoy the respect and love of the people and then the ties between the Party and the popular masses will become closer. A true servant of the people—this is really a noble appellation. No matter where they work and at what, officials should not forget even for a moment that the people are the masters of our society and that they themselves are the faithful servants of the people.

Recently, our Party put forward the slogan, “We serve the people!” This is a very good slogan. This slogan contains the Party’s intention and profound meaning to tighten the unbreakable ties between the Party and the masses and display the advantages of our people-centred socialism to a greater extent. Our officials should make this slogan their motto in and out of their work and serve the people in good faith.

They should value and love the people sincerely and take responsible care of their destiny and life. Whatever they do, they should first think of the interests of the people and work conscientiously for their realization. They should find the value and worth of their life in the realization of the people’s happiness and ideals without claiming any honour or acknowledgement.

I am most happy when I meet, on my tour of field guidance, those officials who strive to make the people still more prosperous. One year I directed a conference of agricultural officials in the field. At that time an official from a cooperative farm present there requested that rice

bowls be provided for his farmers instead of asking for more tractors or fertilizers, things which other participants wanted. Hearing him worrying about the rice bowls of his farmers, I thought I could feel easy about his farmers' lives. You should not neglect the problem of people's rice bowls. If you fail to provide people with sufficient rice bowls, they will be inconvenienced. Hearing his request, I thought he was striving for the improvement of his farmers' standard of living.

Whether officials discharge their duties or not as the faithful servants of the people is expressed by how they work to implement the line and policy of the Party.

Our Party's line and policy are the most popular. The popular masses' desires and demands are incorporated in our Party's line and policy. Therefore, in order for officials to perform their duties as faithful servants of the people, they should, above all else, carry out the Party's line and policy. They should regard the line and policy as most correct and absolute and implement them thoroughly and promptly by displaying unreserved devotion and a self-sacrificing spirit.

What is most important today in implementing the line and policy of the Party is to provide a full solution to the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people in conformity with the requirements of socialism.

From ancient times our people have wished to live on rice and meat or fish soup and in silk and tile-roofed houses. Some time ago we put forward, as the decision of the Central People's Committee, the task to fulfil this age-long desire of our people before the year 1995, the 50th anniversary of our Party's foundation. Officials should clearly understand the Party's intention and make every effort to provide a full solution to the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people.

Fundamental to these problems is the problem of food. In order to solve the food problem satisfactorily, we should raise good crops to increase grain production. Only when we have enough food by producing a large amount of grain, will we enable our people to eat their fill and build socialism and communism successfully. For this reason, I advanced the slogan, "Rice is socialism" already long ago and today I put forward the slogan, "Rice is, in effect, communism."

As it is very important to solve the food problem we designated this year as a year of large-scale farming and have decided to concentrate all our efforts on farming. Nevertheless, this year's farming results cannot be said to be satisfactory.

We must raise good crops next year by all possible means.

To this end we must increase investment in agriculture and accelerate the comprehensive mechanization and application of chemicals in agricultural work. The review of this year's farming shows that sufficient fertilizers were not supplied so that we could not increase the per-hectare yield, which otherwise would be possible. We must increase fertilizer production radically and provide sufficient fertilizers for the countryside. Crop yield depends on the amount of fertilizer applied. As we have completed the project of enlarging and modernizing the equipment of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, we will be able to increase fertilizer production

by far from next year onward. The Ministry of the Chemical Industry and other institutions concerned must carry out the plan of fertilizer production for the current annual fertilization period without fail. Moreover, as decided at the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council, tractors must be completely repaired and kept in good condition by the end of March next year.

We must step up the green revolution and obtain many varieties capable of ensuring a high and stable harvest. Last autumn I visited the Jangchon Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang City and met the agricultural scientists who had achieved remarkable success in their research. Senior officials should provide the agricultural scientists with good conditions for their research so that adequate varieties of rice and maize can be obtained.

We should also put great efforts into developing stock breeding and poultry farming to increase the production of meat and eggs. In our country there are a large number of bases for the production of meat and eggs such as pig farms as well as chicken and duck farms. Nevertheless, they do not prove their worth to the full because of the shortage of feed. We must solve the problem of feed in every possible way so that these farms can be run at full capacity. Rural households should also raise large numbers of poultry and livestock such as pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. These animals breed fast; they are highly productive, consume a small amount of feed and are easy to raise. If rural households set to it with determination, they will be fully able to raise a lot of such animals.

Officials in light industry are responsible to a large extent in solving the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people. The existing foundation of our light industry is not weak at all. Our country has almost all the necessary light-industry factories such as textile mills, garment factories, footwear factories and foodstuff factories. The point is with what standpoint and attitude officials work. When they work hard with strong allegiance to the Party and the people, we can satisfactorily solve the problem of clothing for the people. If we are to find a full solution to this problem, we must radically increase the production of chemical fibres. Officials must take positive measures to put production on a steady basis at vinalon factories and other chemical fibre mills.

We should continue to build a large number of modern houses in cities and rural areas. In the next three years we are going to build 150,000 to 200,000 dwellings in cities and rural areas annually.

Comrade **Kim Jong Il** is putting in great efforts to solve the problem of housing for Pyongyang citizens despite the pressure on his time guiding all the affairs of the Party and the state. On his proposal and under his guidance, modern houses for 50,000 families were already built in Pyongyang City on the occasion of my 80th birthday. He has again suggested building dwellings for 30,000 families in Pyongyang City before the 40th anniversary of our victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. In support of his intention, you should organize the work scrupulously to finish the construction of these houses in time.

Officials should bring the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous effort into full play in implementing the Party's line and policy.

Self-reliance is the fighting spirit peculiar to the communists. A man without the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance cannot make the revolution and break through obstacles and difficulties facing him in the way of progress. It is because our people rejected dependence on others and displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work to a high degree to implement the Party's line and policy thoroughly that they could get over numerous difficulties and trials after the war and build a socialist country which is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in its defence. As the historical experience of our revolution shows, when we rely on our own efforts, we can break through difficulties and create "things" out of "nothing".

Today the international circumstances of our revolution are very complex. The imperialists and reactionaries are intensifying an economic blockade as well as political and military pressure as never before in order to isolate and stifle our socialism. In this situation, there is no other way but to rely on our own efforts if we are to defend, safeguard and advance the cause of socialism by implementing our Party's line and policy.

Self-reliance and strenuous effort—this can be said to be the criterion of officials' loyalty to the Party and the revolution. Officials' loyalty to the Party and the revolution should be displayed not in words but in practice. An official loyal to the Party and the revolution is one who implements the Party's policy to the letter by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous effort with the spirit of absolute and unconditional regard for the Party's line and policy.

Our officials should never complain about bad conditions in implementing the Party's line and policy. They should make strenuous efforts to carry out the Party's line and policy, by finding out what is in short supply and producing anything that is not available with a firm conviction that when the Party is determined, they can do anything. In particular, they should make active endeavours to realize more satisfactorily the Party's plan and strategy to raise the standard of living of the people. The officials of the Jonchon County Commercial Agency in Jagang Province created a splendid model in implementing the Party's line and policy by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and strenuous effort. Comrade Jong Chun Sil and the other officials there are very persistent in carrying out the Party's policy. They have not only been efficient in their commercial service, their basic duty, but have also created mulberry fields and raw material bases by their own efforts. They succeeded in the raising of silkworms and maize farming and raised many beavers and silver-grey foxes. They have thus made a great contribution to improving the standard of living of the people in their county.

Last year I met Comrade Jong Chun Sil on my tour of field guidance in Jagang Province. At that time she told me about how she had worked. Indeed, she had taken great pains and done a lot of work. When I met her first, she was a 17-year-old girl with bobbed hair and was working as a shop assistant, but she is now a Twice Labour Heroine. It is not at all easy to become a Twice Labour Heroine. She is a faithful servant of the people and a true communist. She does not claim any fame or reward. I have endorsed her admission to the Party; however, it is Comrade **Kim Jong Il** who has brought her up to be a true servant of the people.

I think it would be desirable if there were at least one faithful servant of the people like Jong Chun Sil in each county. Then, they will go some way towards solving the problem of the people's well-being by implementing the Party's policy. Our officials should make every effort to become a true servant of the people like her.

Recently the Party put forward the policy on conducting a campaign to follow the example of Comrade Jong Chun Sil, and it is good to undertake a campaign to follow the example of those who work well. What is important in conducting the "Jong Chun Sil Movement" is to follow the example of devotion, self-sacrifice, setting personal examples and self-reliance shown by her in work to improve the people's standard of living as required by the Party policy.

In order for officials to be true servants of the people, they should have a revolutionary viewpoint on the masses. The revolutionary viewpoint on the masses is the conception that the motive force of the revolution is the popular masses. The masters of the revolution and construction are the popular masses; they are also the driving force of the revolution and construction. There can be no revolution divorced from the interests of the popular masses. They are the possessors of inexhaustible strength and are most intelligent and sagacious. If there are almighty beings in the world, they are the popular masses; they are the great teachers of the revolution. One who does not have the revolutionary viewpoint on the masses considers oneself a special being, looks down upon the masses and takes an overbearing attitude, resorting to subjectivism and arbitrariness and showing off one's small wisdom.

I wrote "The people are my God" in my reminiscences and this means that I regard them as Heaven. That "The people are my God" is my constant view and philosophy. Throughout my life, since I embarked on the road of revolution up to now, I have considered the people as Heaven, served them and made the revolution drawing on their strength. Revolutionaries will win the whole world and always emerge victorious when they believe in the people and rely on them, but they will always fail when they keep away from and are forsaken by the people—this is a truth which has been clearly proved by the practice of the long-drawn-out revolution.

Our officials should have the revolutionary viewpoint on the masses and thoroughly apply in and out of their work the idea that "The people are their God." They should go among the masses at all times to lend ear to their voices and learn from them with an open mind. When they are assigned a hard and difficult task, they should not trust to luck but find the ways and means of its fulfilment relying on the strength and wisdom of the popular masses.

Officials should acquire noble and perfect popular traits.

An official who lacks popular traits cannot win the confidence of the masses no matter how hard he may try. People do not open their hearts to such an official. When officials approach the masses with popular traits, their authority in work will increase and the masses will trust them more deeply.

Our officials should always treat the people as their true comrades. In our society the relationship between senior officials and the people is a comradely relationship of trusting in and leading each other forward. Though their posts differ, they are revolutionary comrades who

share the same idea and purpose and fight on together as the masters of the country. Officials should be modest and polite to the people at all times and in all places and treat them kindly as their revolutionary comrades without discrimination no matter where they work, and at what.

Officials should share life and death and good times and bad with the people. They should not divorce themselves from the latter and seek any privileges and special favours. They should be with the masses at all times and eat at the same table with them and also share good times and bad with them. It should become ingrained into officials.

Integrity and uprightness is an important popular trait of officials. If officials are to share life and death and good times and bad with the people and are to work as befitting their faithful servants, they should be honest and upright in their economic and moral life. They should never abuse their authority to encroach upon the interests of the people or pursue their selfish desires. They should particularly guard against a thirst for a high position and worldly desires. Love of material gain is like opium. When officials are blinded by it, they will unconsciously be infected with bourgeois ideology and a corrupt mode of life; they will seek their own selfish desire and, in the long run, they will even unscrupulously commit the crime of betraying the Party and the revolution. Officials should never be blinded by love of material gain but must always be upright.

Officials should acquire the trait of setting examples for others. Only the official who throws himself into difficult work before anyone else and applies himself to it setting an example for others can enjoy the affection and respect of the masses and fulfil his duty as the servant of the people. Officials should always stand in the vanguard of the masses, climbing a mountain ridge or carrying a burden on their backs before anyone else if it comes to doing something for the people. If they achieve a breakthrough in the vanguard of the masses, everyone will follow them and nothing will be impossible.

In order to fulfil their duty as the faithful servants of the people, officials should continue to improve their political and practical qualifications in step with the developing situation.

Success in their work depends on their qualifications. The present developing situation requires that officials work with higher political and practical qualifications than ever before. Our country's economy has now achieved unprecedented growth and its technical level is high. Even a university graduate cannot properly manage the modern and large-scale economy and organize and direct production efficiently if he does not strive continuously to improve his qualifications. At present, some officials are wielding their power and behave bureaucratically; this is largely due to the low level of their qualifications. Officials should work hard to improve their political and practical qualifications so that they can master their work and know the answers to everything.

In order to improve their political and practical qualifications continuously, officials should make a study of their everyday routine and regular habits. They should establish the revolutionary habit of studying and study hard. They must study at least two hours a day, however busy they may be and attend every Saturday study session and public lecture and learn with sincerity.

First of all, they should study hard the Party's policy. The Party policy is a guiding principle to which officials should always adhere in their work. Our Party's policy elucidates the tasks facing every field and the ways and means for their implementation. If one is firmly armed with Party policy, one can fulfil any task with confidence and conduct all work as the Party intends. Officials should intensify the study of Party policy so as to know well the policy it sets from time to time and, in particular, to be well informed of the Party policy with regard to their individual branches of work.

Officials should also strengthen study to acquire the knowledge of socialist economic management and equip themselves with a knowledge of modern science and technology. If one is ignorant of them, one cannot guide economic affairs properly. Officials should study economic management in real earnest so that they have a clear understanding of the Juche-oriented system and method of economic management and their superiority and are kept well informed of the socialist economic laws and categories. In addition, they should have a good knowledge of world trends in modern science and technology and the latest breakthroughs in these fields, not to mention the scientific and technological problems arising in their respective branches of work. If they avail themselves of the Grand People's Study House, they will be able to learn a great deal. This study house is an important place for the education of all people. There are a lot of books on modern science and technology there. Officials can read these books to their heart's content and receive lectures on scientific and technological matters.

We should continue the reeducation of officials through cadre-training institutions at different levels. Our Party has long established the system under which officials leave their posts to study in the training institutions for six months, so that they can work reliably without lagging behind the developing reality. They should be sent for study in a planned way to the six-month course either of the Higher Party School or of the University of National Economy, the course of which is for the officials. Six months is not a short period of time at all. If they study hard during this period, they can learn a great deal. Officials who study in the six-month course should work hard to gain more knowledge by making the best use of their time.

The one-month course is also an important way of raising the political and practical qualifications of officials. They should attend the annual one-month course without exception to temper their Party spirit and improve their political and practical qualifications.

Officials must intensify their Party life.

Party life is a furnace for tempering the Party spirit and a good school for revolutionary education. Only when officials intensify their Party life will they not become degenerate ideologically; they will be more inclined to work invariably and faithfully for the Party and the people.

Officials should have a proper appreciation of the Party organization and take part in Party life willingly and faithfully so as to steadily enhance their Party spirit and cultivate themselves. They should, at all times, entirely rely on the Party organization in work and life as rank-and-file members and strive purposefully to subject themselves to its leadership and control.

You have resolved to work invariably and faithfully for the Party and the people keeping in mind the Party's trust and solicitude. Your determination should not be for its own sake. Officials should not forget for one moment the great trust and care of the Party and should become true revolutionaries and faithful servants of the people working devotedly for the Party and the revolution, the fatherland and the people.