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Let Us Live and Work in the Revolutionary Spirit of Paektu, the Spirit of the Blizzards of Paektu

Talk to Senior Officials of the Party and the Army
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Today I climbed Mt Paektu. On reaching its summit, I admired the majestic view of the mountain itself and its imposing appearance and fortitude in the howling blizzards.

Mt Paektu is our ancestral mountain, the sacred mountain of the revolution, which is associated with the soul of our nation and representative of the spirit and stamina of Songun Korea. It is the birthplace of the Juche revolution, the symbol of its victory and the eternal beacon guiding it.

It is a marvellous mountain which presents kaleidoscopic shifts. The Great Paektu Mountains starts on Mt Paektu, from which all other mountains on this land extend out. So the roar of this mountain echoes throughout the country.

This mountain is the source of dignity for the Korean nation, of pride for our people.

The great General **Kim Jong Il** said that all Korean revolutionaries should learn about Mt Paektu and cherish the revolutionary spirit of Paektu so that the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Paektu could be carried down through the generations. Bearing his precious instructions in mind, I climbed Mt Paektu for the first time over 20 years ago. Today I climbed it again in order to have a deeper understanding of how the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the fundamental source of the great mental strength of **Kim Il Sung**'s nation and **Kim Jong Il**'s Korea, was created and ensure that the whole country brims over with the revolutionary spirit and fortitude of Paektu.

Looking down on the mountains and rivers of the country from Janggun Peak, I was filled with deep emotion, since the sights evoked the majestic images of the great Comrades **Kim Il Sung** and **Kim Jong Il** who led the Korean revolution to brilliant victory, braving the storms of history with the soul and spirit of Paektu. Standing on the summit of Mt Paektu, I have hardened my resolve and will to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche that was pioneered on Paektu.

Mt Paektu is a witness to history. It embodies the immortal revolutionary history and exploits of our great leaders, their indomitable spirit and fortitude and their ennobling traits. It is the mountain of the great Comrades **Kim Il Sung** and **Kim Jong Il**.

It is the sacred place of the Juche revolution where Comrade **Kim Il Sung** organized and waged the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. For more than 20 years after he started the Korean revolution he crossed the rugged mountains of Paektu and fought bloody battles, leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory and thus achieving the historic cause of national liberation. The primeval forests and crags of Mt Paektu all bear the noble imprint of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**.

General **Kim Jong Il**'s birthplace is in the Paektusan Secret Camp on the mountain. As the birthplace of our revolution it assures its lineage; as the birthplace of Korea it is dear to the hearts of our people. It has enabled our army and people to travel a road resplendent with victory, enjoying the blessing of having great leaders and generals for one generation after another.

The General was born on Mt Paektu during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle; having experienced severe trials in his childhood, he grew up into a great revolutionary who embodied the spirit and temperament of Mt Paektu. He regarded it as his lifelong mission to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Paektu down through the generations, and he devoted his all to the victory of the revolution and to the country and people.

In the 1970s Comrade **Kim Il Sung** entrusted him with the overall affairs of the Party and the People's Army. As the General took direct responsibility for these affairs, a new revolutionary turn was brought about in the work of the Party and the army; the Party and the revolutionary ranks were further strengthened and a great golden age of socialist construction was ushered in.

The 1990s was a decade of trying ordeals, during which our people suffered the greatest national loss. They also had to undergo the Arduous March and forced march owing to a series

of natural calamities and the enemy's pernicious isolate-and-stifle schemes against our Republic. In this grim period when the Party and the revolution were facing severe difficulties, the General, shouldering the responsibility for the destiny of his country and nation by dint of his energetic Songun-based revolutionary leadership, wisely led the struggle to bring the Arduous March and forced march to a successful conclusion. Thanks to his sagacious leadership our army and people overcame manifold ordeals and difficulties, achieving one victory after another in the confrontations with the enemy; they built a powerful defence industry, laid solid foundations for economic development and demonstrated the dignity of Songun Korea to the whole world.

In the future, too, our army and people should regard his birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp as their spiritual mainstay, and strive hard to add eternal glory to his undying revolutionary exploits, build a powerful country and achieve the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Songun.

Today, in climbing Mt Paektu, we experienced the severity of its blizzards. The blizzards of Paektu, the severe snowstorms of the mountain, are symbolic of the revolutionary fortitude of Paektu. In this season, because of the biting cold and strong wind, those visiting the revolutionary battle sites do not climb the mountain, but we did, in order to have personal experience of the blizzards of Paektu. Only when one climbs Mt Paektu in the midst of a blinding snowstorm to experience the blizzards of Paektu at first hand can one appreciate the real "feel" and attraction of the mountain and harden one's determination to carry out the Korean revolution.

Revolutionaries should have a "feel" of the blizzards of Paektu. For revolutionaries, the blizzards of Paektu are a warm wind which sharpens the edge of their revolutionary faith and assures them that they can achieve miracles and victory, whereas for renegades of the revolution and traitors, they are a biting blast which deals them a crushing blow. Those who have appreciated the "feel" of the blizzards of Paektu become revolutionaries, and those who have not, renegades. In retrospect, those who were unwilling to climb Mt Paektu and gave in for fear of the blizzards of Paektu, degenerated into renegades and traitors. When renegades and traitors appeared and challenged it in the past grim days, our Party punished them without mercy by dint of the blizzards of Paektu.

We should cherish the blizzards of Paektu which sharpen the edge of our revolutionary faith and inspire us with firm confidence in final victory, and follow the road of revolution to the end.

Our army and people should always live and work in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu.

This spirit is, in essence, an unyielding attacking spirit of braving obstacles and difficulties and a staunch fighting spirit of rising up again no matter how often one may fall and fighting to the last. It is an ennobling spirit which our army and people should cherish forever in their hearts and the most precious spiritual wealth that must not be bartered for anything in the world, however valuable. When we live in this spirit, we will have nothing to fear and nothing will be beyond our strength.

To be fully equipped with this spirit is all the more important for our young people of the new generation who have emerged as the main force of the revolution. Only when these people, who have not experienced the severe trials of the revolution, live in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, can they fully understand the greatness of the Party and the leader and how precious is their country, and creditably perform their mission as successors to the revolutionary cause of Juche, the revolutionary cause of Songun.

The country is still in a tense situation. The US imperialists and their vassal forces are making a last-ditch attempt to stamp out the people-centred socialism of our style and haul down the red flag of revolution which our army and people are holding high. They are resorting to more vicious schemes in trying to obliterate our country politically, isolate it economically and attack it militarily. On the other hand, they are clinging to the anti-DPRK “human rights” campaign and the despicable psychological smear campaign, in a foolish attempt to tarnish the prestige of our dignified country and shake the revolutionary faith of our army and people who fully trust and follow their Party alone.

In the future the situation may become more serious, compelling us to undergo even greater difficulties than we did during the Arduous March and forced march. However, whatever ordeals and difficulties we may encounter on the road of revolution we will advance along the road of independence, Songun and socialism, as we have chosen, and achieve without fail the final victory of our revolution. In order to win final victory in the showdown with the enemy we should ensure that the service personnel and people have a deep understanding of Mt Paektu and that in life and work they cherish the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, until it courses through their blood.

It is important to make proper arrangements for visits to the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area.

These revolutionary battle sites are bases for education in the revolutionary traditions associated with the sacred history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle led by Comrade **Kim Il Sung**. Visits to these revolutionary battle sites are very important in educating the service personnel and people in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and inspiring them to live and work in keeping with the requirements of this spirit. Making proper arrangements for such visits will help them to broaden their knowledge of Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s immortal revolutionary history and achievements and the indomitable revolutionary spirit of their forerunners who fought a bloody war against Japanese imperialism under his command. It will also be effective in giving them a correct understanding of the historical roots of our revolution and encouraging them to wage a staunch struggle to continue the revolutionary cause of Juche that was pioneered on Paektu.

In March this year I had a visit organized to the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area for the commanding officers of the combined units of the People's Army and went there myself to meet and encourage them. The Party's intention in organizing this visit was to make these officers experience the blizzards of Paektu and feel to their marrow how our Party's

revolutionary traditions were established. The officers must have keenly felt the severity of the blizzards, marching through the virgin snow and bivouacking in the open.

This was followed by visits by senior Party officials and officials of working people's organizations from across the country. Several sectors and units are currently arranging visits to the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area, with the aim of acquiring the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu. In the future, such visits should be organized more often so that all officials, service personnel and working people are equipped with the great leaders' revolutionary ideas and undying exploits and our Party's brilliant revolutionary traditions. The visits should be organized on an extensive scale in combination with regular national tours and ordinary ones.

We should give full play to the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, in order to raise the fierce flames of a leap forward in the struggle for defending socialism and on all fronts for building a powerful country.

To wage a bold offensive sailing with the blizzards of Paektu is a tradition of struggle for our army and people, and it constitutes an ideological and spiritual characteristic of theirs. When we advance dynamically with our hearts burning with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, we can achieve miracles and transformations in all sectors, thus hastening final victory in building a powerful country.

Next year is a significant year, in which we will mark the 70th anniversaries of the liberation of the country and the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The grand celebration of these anniversaries will establish a historic milestone in adding eternal lustre to the exploits the great Comrades **Kim Il Sung** and **Kim Jong Il** performed in liberating and building the country and founding and developing the Party, as well as in bringing forward under the leadership of the Party the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche, the revolutionary cause of Songun, pioneered on Paektu.

All service personnel and people should, by carrying forward the spirit of defending the leader to the death, the spirit which pervaded the forests of Paektu, safeguard the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and the Party Central Committee with their very lives, share one purpose with our Party and throw in their lot with it forever.

The officers and men of the People's Army, bearing in mind the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, should establish an atmosphere of intensive training as befits the army of Mt Paektu, and make full combat preparations so that they can play a major role in the struggle for defending socialism and in the great war for achieving national reunification.

Officials, Party members and all the other working people should, by emulating the indomitable revolutionary spirit, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, of the anti-Japanese fighters, overcome the difficulties and trials by their own efforts and work world-startling miracles. Sportspeople should win every competition by applying guerrilla-style offensive tactics embodying the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu. Holding high the slogan "Let us produce, study and live like the anti-Japanese guerrillas!" all sectors and all

units should learn from the work attitude and lifestyle of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, and live and work in a revolutionary and militant manner so that the whole society overflows with animation and ardour.

An aggressive ideological offensive should be launched to imbue the whole society with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu.

Ideological education is an important undertaking that should be carried on constantly in the whole process of building a powerful socialist country, just as today when we are in acute confrontation with the enemy. Even in the future when everything prospers and our people are well-off, we should intensify their ideological education. We should educate and awaken the people ceaselessly and assiduously.

Party organizations and working people's organizations should conduct effective ideological education of Party members, service personnel, and youth and students in various forms and by various methods, including education through visits to revolutionary battle sites and other historic sites.

Artistic and literary works on the theme of Mt Paektu should be produced in large numbers. A good song should be created about the mountain. This song should reflect the unshakeable determination of Party members, service personnel, and youth and students to have a "feel" of the blizzards of Paektu, firmly arm themselves with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and carry the revolutionary cause of Juche through to the end, down through the generations, following the Party.

The Mt Paektu area should be laid out well. As an eternal treasure of our revolution associated with the great leaders' revolutionary history and imperishable exploits, it should be laid out in the best possible fashion as befits the sacred place of the revolution, and firmly defended.

General **Kim Jong Il**'s birthplace is in Samjiyon County. We should not merely shout a slogan to the effect that we must carry forward the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Paektu through the generations. We should lay out Samjiyon County well to add eternal lustre to the General's revolutionary career and exploits and ensure that cheering for the Workers' Party and for socialism starts resounding in the first village under Mt Paektu, the sacred place of our revolution. This is also necessary in ensuring that foreign tourists visit the Mt Paektu area. It is imperative to press on with all the ongoing projects, including those for the renovation of the Samjiyon Schoolchildren's Palace, the Samjiyon County Hall of Culture, the Hostel for Visitors to the Samjiyon Revolutionary Battle Site and the Sports Village in the Mt Paektu area, and ensure the high quality of the projects. The hostels for visitors to this area should be refurbished as befits lodgings for the visitors to revolutionary battle sites, in line with the requirements of the new century. As the Party is determined to lay out Samjiyon County in the best possible fashion, high quality should be guaranteed in all construction projects.

To this end, the problems of electricity and transport need to be resolved. Nationwide efforts should be directed to the construction of the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station so as to complete it as soon as possible. The youth league has taken charge of this construction project;

after finishing it, the electricity should be supplied to Samjiyon County. If the supply of electricity to the county is inadequate, the public buildings and other structures that are now being renovated cannot be managed and operated on a regular basis, much less the underfloor heating in the local houses.

The construction of the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station should be accelerated on the strength of army-people joint operations.

The key bottlenecks in the construction of the power station are the production and transport of cement and the manufacturing of power generators for its units 2 and 3.

The Cabinet, State Planning Commission, ministries, national agencies and Party organizations at all levels should be fully conscious of the importance of this project and concentrate their efforts on it.

At the same time as stepping up the efforts to build the power station, the laying of power-transmission lines from it to Samjiyon County should be pushed forward.

A broad-gauge railway leading to the county should be built. This is essential in developing it into a modern locality.

Next year, in which we will mark the 70th anniversaries of national liberation and the founding of the Party, the whole country, Ryanggang Province in particular, should be stirred up.

We should ensure that all service personnel and people live and work in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, so as to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, the revolutionary cause of Songun, pioneered on Paektu, true to the instructions the great leaders gave in their lifetime.