

KIM IL SUNG

**TALK TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE EDITORIAL
COUNCIL OF THE
MEXICAN NEWSPAPER
*EL DIA***

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Originally, I had intended to meet you in Pyongyang, but after my guidance tour to North Hamgyong Province I came to this place, so I have to see you here.

I am very glad to meet you.

This region is where I fought against Japanese imperialism for a long time. For more than 15 years I waged an armed struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors in the Changbai area centring on Mt Paektu. Therefore, even now I feel very refreshed when I visit this region. This area is thickly wooded. Here live the people for whom I have retained my affection ever since I began the fight against the Japanese imperialist invaders.

In those days when I was carrying on the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle the local people helped us a great deal. At that time the Japanese imperialists controlled them rigidly lest they should send food to the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. But they did it covertly.

Although I am closely involved with all our people, I am even closer to the inhabitants of this region.

Probably you are the first Latin American to have visited this place. Even Checa, who paid a number of visits to our country, could not come here.

Not long ago I met a delegation of the Popular Action Party of Peru headed by its Deputy National Secretary General in charge of administration, but they, too, could not climb Mt Paektu. You are the first of the guests from

Latin America who has climbed the mountain.

It is still cold here. The climate here is delightful after the middle of July. It is not until then that the ice melts completely in this region. So does the ice of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu.

The nature of this mountain is grandeur. The lake there is very deep.

The water of Lake Chon flows out into the Amnok and Tuman rivers in our country and into the Songhua River in China. The Songhua River is famous in China and a very long one. The Amnok is the longest river in our country. The one that flows westwards from Lake Chon on Mt Paektu is the Amnok and the one that runs eastwards is the Tuman.

Mt Paektu is immensely high and magnificent. Because of its height, elderly people may have a hard time climbing it but young people very much like to climb it.

In the past when the Japanese imperialists had occupied our country nobody could climb the mountain to see Lake Chon. But now a large number of our people ascend Mt Paektu.

Well-furnished houses for Children's Union members, for university students, for working people and for others who visit this mountain have now been built here and very many people come to see the revolutionary battlefields every year. This is a comfortable place because it is not hot even in summer.

There are many revolutionary battlefields in and

around Mt Paektu. This is because we fought the Japanese imperialist invaders for a long time in this region. Therefore, our young people make frequent tours to these battlefields.

They are fond of tours to revolutionary battlefields. This is very laudable. In the course of these tours they get to know clearly how revolutionary fighters battled against the Japanese here in the past, and make a firmer resolution to acquire the revolutionary traditions achieved by the anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans and to carry them forward brilliantly.

I am pleased with your visit to our country and accord you a hearty welcome.

Although I have met you today for the first time, I have been told much about you. I am deeply grateful for the positive support and encouragement you are giving to our people's struggle for socialist construction and national reunification with good feelings towards our country. Today I receive you with a feeling of meeting an old acquaintance.

I am glad that we have a comrade-in-arms like you in Mexico.

At present many Latin-American countries maintain state relations with our country. We have these relations with Cuba, Guyana, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Mexico, Jamaica and other countries in Latin America. Our country also had diplomatic relations with Chile, but they were broken off after the overthrow of the Allende government. I had maintained a good, intimate relationship with Allende, the

former President of Chile. He visited our country. We have trade relations with Peru.

We have many friends in Latin America, but we still do not establish contact with a number of countries there, and a multitude of Latin Americans do not know much about our country.

Our country is not widely known on that continent because of the obstructive moves of the US imperialists and the south Korean puppets. It is also due to the lack of state relations between our country and many Latin-American nations and to the very few visits of people from both sides.

With the recent establishment of diplomatic relations with Mexico we have a greater number of friends in Latin America.

I am sure that the friendly relations between our country and Latin-American states will develop still more in future.

I consider it to be a good thing that many friends from Latin America visit our country. It is preferable that friends visit each other and support and cooperate with each other in preserving world peace, a common desire, and in building a prosperous independent and sovereign state.

You might have been unable to travel around many local areas during your present stay in our country, but you will be able to inspect many places in the future when you come again.

I am very happy to hear that you have good impressions

of your visit to our country.

I am grateful to you for your pleasing statement made on us and for your high praise for our undertakings.

We shall prove ourselves worthy of your encouraging words by carrying out our work more successfully in the future.

I think that you have heard about the state of affairs in our country from our officials and that you have learned about it through your personal touring. So I do not need to explain it any further.

Our country established state relations with Mexico recently. We greatly cherish friendly relations with her.

We shall make every possible effort to consolidate and develop the relations of friendship between Korea and Mexico still further.

We consider that the Mexican government is following a sound policy. I think it fine that the present President of your country maintains independence. His independent policy is making it possible for Mexico to develop into a progressive state.

As I said in the report to the Sixth Congress of our Party and on many other occasions, adhering to independence in the countries' policy is the most important matter. It is especially important for non-aligned and other developing countries to uphold independence firmly.

A principal criterion to decide whether a country is progressive or not is whether it is maintaining independence or not. If a country does not adhere to independence but

is subjugated to another country, it cannot be regarded as a progressive state, no matter how good a social system it might have.

We intend to build independent socialism; we are not trying to build socialism under subjection to another country. Construction of a subjugated socialism is quite meaningless.

If one is to maintain independence, one should oppose flunkeyism towards large powers.

Although surrounded by great powers our country has not adopted flunkeyism.

In the past the flunkeyist tendency was very evident in our country. When we were waging the national-liberation struggle, the flunkeyists worshipped various large powers, trying to make the revolution in the same way as these countries had done. As a result, they were deeply involved in unnecessary factional feuds.

At that time we, the young communists, opposed this flunkeyist tendency resolutely and held that the revolution must be carried out in our own way. In the process of opposing flunkeyism and working out a new road of our own for the revolution, we put forward the Juche idea.

Even during the period of working hard for the construction of a new society after liberation, the flunkeyists attempted to copy the example of another country. However, we opposed this and pressed forward with the revolution and construction in our own way.

Right after the country's liberation we had few

technical personnel for economic construction. Those who had been engaged in the armed struggle against the Japanese knew about politics and military affairs but were not well versed in economic matters. So we were obliged to send students abroad for study. When they returned home after finishing studying they tried to raise crops and construct industry in a foreign way.

I opposed this. I stressed that farming and all economic construction projects must be carried out in accordance with the prevailing conditions in our country.

As was explained in the *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country*, I set the tasks of the technical revolution in the country areas with the main emphasis on irrigation, electrification, mechanization and the use of chemicals, in order to develop agriculture, and stressed the need to give priority to irrigation. For rural technical organization, other countries effected mechanization first, but we undertook irrigation first to suit the situation in our country. As a result of putting irrigation first, we were able to increase agricultural production considerably, even though we were farming manually and could grow the crops on a sound basis without suffering from natural disasters.

We have created a farming method suited to the specific conditions in our country and thereby grow crops in a completely Korean way. We call our own way of farming the Juche farming method.

In building socialism we adopted the independent

policy conforming to our existing conditions. As a result, we have achieved brilliant successes. At present we do not import food; we are completely self-sufficient in food. Our people are enjoying a happy life, free from any worry. Everyone in our country studies as much as he pleases and receives free medical treatment. There is no taxation and no unemployment in our country.

If a country taps the creative effort of its own people properly and pursues a policy suited to its actual conditions, it can score great success in the building of socialism. If, on the contrary, it takes to flunkeyism or commits subjectivism against the will of its people, it cannot succeed in socialist construction.

Man is the master of everything and decides everything—this is the principle of the Juche idea. When the masses of the people are forcefully roused to action, nothing is beyond their power. If we are to enlist their creative strength and intellect correctly, we must oppose flunkeyism and subjectivism and enforce an independent policy. This is well demonstrated by the experience of many countries in the building of a new society.

Today very many countries throughout the world are demanding independence and following an independent path. For this very reason, we call the present time the age of independence.

A country without independence cannot really be called an independent state. Such a country cannot in any way represent the interests of the nation and defend

its independence.

Adherence to independence is the only means not only to defend national independence but also to rouse the people to efforts to construct a rich and strong country.

In addition, only the maintenance of independence prevents the war which the great powers want to ignite. If each country becomes an independent and sovereign state and refrains from acting under the control of any big power, the big powers will not be in a position to carry on a feud. Therefore, maintaining independence is also extremely important for global peace. When every country adheres fast to independence, no war will break out and global peace will be preserved for ever.

In upholding independence it is important for developing countries to build an independent national economy. Countries which have failed to do so cannot defend national independence and political sovereignty successfully. A country which is economically subjugated to others cannot but be subjected to them politically.

In order to build an independent national economy it is necessary to strengthen economic cooperation between non-aligned and other developing countries.

At present there are few advanced countries, but developing countries number more than a hundred. If each of these developing countries contributes one technique, they can exchange more than a hundred techniques. Therefore, if they succeed in economic and cultural exchanges and technical cooperation, they can

develop rapidly and catch up with developed states.

Developing countries can learn technology from developed countries. It is not bad to learn science and technology. Of course, they should not accept any conditions attached in learning techniques from advanced countries. Such conditions are aimed at subjugating other countries. For this reason, one must oppose any attempt to impart techniques to other countries with conditions attached.

The essential principle one must observe in learning foreign experiences and techniques is to uphold independence. One should not attempt to accept these experiences and techniques without reservation, on the grounds that they are good. As for foreign things, one should, above all, chew them before swallowing them if they are palatable, or spitting them out if they are not.

Both our country and Mexico are in the process of developing. So it is necessary to promote technical cooperation between our two countries. I consider it a very good idea that we teach you what we know and vice versa. I think it necessary to develop friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries in economic, technical, cultural, trading and many other spheres since diplomatic relations have already been established between them.

I hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Mexico will be further developed in the future.

Now I shall speak briefly about the international situation.

Some of the large powers are now aggravating the international situation. We cannot but worry about the fact that great powers are increasing international tension. It is extremely important to ease this tension and safeguard world peace and security.

In order to relieve international tension it is imperative to expand and develop the non-aligned movement before anything else. At present two big military blocs stand opposite each other on a worldwide scale, but the non-aligned movement, as an independent political force outside the blocs, demands the dismemberment of all military blocs. If this movement is expanded and developed so as to allow more countries to become members, the Eastern and Western military blocs which are confronting each other will become quite meaningless.

I think that the non-aligned movement should strive to dismantle all the military blocs, create nuclear-free, peace zones in many areas of the world, abolish foreign military bases in many parts of the globe, withdraw foreign armies in other countries, and peacefully settle the international disputes which could give rise to a new world war. This alone makes it possible to defend the people of the world against another war holocaust and to create the conditions for the people to live well and peacefully in their independent states.

The non-aligned countries must cooperate closely

with each other in the economic sphere and work hard to destroy the old international economic order. If they destroy this order and establish a new one and promote economic and technical cooperation, they will be able to build a new society where the people will live in happiness and plenty.

The Mexican government is attending the summit conference of non-aligned states as an observer. This is very good.

We consider that the expansion and development of the non-aligned movement will help ease international tension, preserve global peace and security, and enable each of the developing countries to build a prosperous, independent and sovereign state.

A large number of countries in the world are now calling for independence. The voices demanding independence are growing louder, not only in the non-aligned, but also in developed capitalist countries.

Some time ago the left-wing forces in France won the presidential election and took power. This can be regarded as a victory achieved by the people in their efforts for independence.

The Japanese people also demand independence. They are criticizing the present Japanese government which is following the United States blindly, and thus striving to realize independence.

That the peoples of more and more countries are calling for independence is very advantageous to the non-aligned

movement and to the developing countries. This shows that the current international situation is developing favourably in the direction of the people's requirement.

If non-aligned and developing countries work together in close unity, they will be fully able to check and frustrate the moves of the great powers to aggravate international tension.

We support the policy which the Mexican government adopts towards non-aligned countries.

I am confident that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Mexico will develop more favourably in future.

I hope you will convey our position to the Mexican people and government.

You told me that you wanted to know my view on the disputes between some socialist countries about which much ado is being made by the press on the payroll in capitalist countries. Naturally, no disputes can arise between socialist countries. Because they are all the people's countries in which the working masses have taken power, there cannot be any dispute between them. No conflict exists between their peoples. No disputes can arise and must exist between socialist countries in each of which the people are its master.

I consider the differences now existing between some socialist countries to be a temporary phenomenon caused because their leaders have different views on one thing or another. The appearance of differences, though

temporary, between socialist countries is regrettable; it can in no way be considered to be good. I think that these differences will disappear in the future.

I hope that upon your return home you will convey my greetings to the President of Mexico.