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KOREA

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## A GOVERNMENT DELEGATION OF THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN KOREA

On the invitation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a Government Delegation of the Rumanian People's Republic, led by Chivu Stoica, President of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Korea on April 10 on a friendly visit.

The Korean people accorded warm and cordial welcome to the honoured guests and expressed once again their heartfelt gratitude for the material and moral assistance rendered to us by the Rumanian people during the war time and in the arduous period of the post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of the national economy.

During their stay in Korea, members of the Rumanian Government Delegation inspected the successes we have achieved in the short post-war period.

Talks were held between the delegations of the D.P.R.K. and R.P.R. and a joint statement was issued.

*Above: Talks between the Government Delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Rumanian People's Republic*

*Centre: The delegates visiting the Pyongyang Textile Mill accompanied by Premier Kim Il Sung*

*Below: Pyongyang citizens giving a warm welcome to the delegation*



# NEW KOREA

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## CONTENTS

Withdrawal of U.S. Army — Prerequisite for Peaceful Solution of Korean Question . . . .	3
KIM SANG HAK: Economic Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea . . . . .	6
CHOI JAI WOO: Korea's Machine-building Industry . . . .	12
SUH HONG RIN: Kaima Plateau . . . . .	16
YUN JANG RYUL: Li Ki Yung and His Literature . . . . .	19
In the Korean Press . . . . .	23
KIM SEUNG HYUNG: Facts Condemn Aggressors . . . . .	29
Drop the Gun! . . . . .	31
HAN SHI YOON: Factory Trade Unions . . . . .	34
A Review of South Korean Economy . . . . .	36
SONG BONG RYUL: Some Aspects of Juvenile Literature . .	39
AN PA YUNG: My Protest . . . .	41
LI JA UNG: Heritage of Korean Fiction . . . . .	44
In the News . . . . .	49

FRONT COVER: Spread the tidings of peace

Photo by Kim Seung Kyoon

BACK COVER: *Lotus Flowers and Fish*

Painting by Jang Seung Up (1843-1897)

Preserved in the State Fine Arts Museum

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

## Withdrawal of U.S. Army — Prerequisite for Peaceful Solution of Korean Question

**J**UNE 25, 1950! Eight years ago today the U.S. imperialists unleashed the Korean war by instigating the Syngman Rhee clique to start a surprise attack on the North across the 38th parallel.

Every year, the Korean people mark this date with an ever firmer resolve not to let the American aggressors scheme another war.

Mobilizing their vast ground, sea and air forces for the war the U.S. imperialists calculated on making the whole of Korea theirs at one stroke. But their scheme was shattered by the heroic resistance of the Korean people who enjoyed the full support of the entire peace-loving peoples of the world. Even the unprecedented atrocities committed by the American invaders, which have no parallel in the annals of war history, could not bring the Korean people to their knees.

In the period of a little over three years the American aggressors poured 20 billion dollars into the Korean war and their loss in man-power was enormous. But, at the end, they had no choice but to sign the Armistice Agreement at the very place where they had started the invasion. Consequently, even the U.S. weekly, *World News and U.S. Report*, had to admit that the Korean war was the first one in which the U.S.A. could not win victory.

The Korean war fully testified to the unconquerable might of the Korean people led by the Workers' Party of Korea and the great vitality of the people's democratic system in the North.

The Korean people, who had heroically met the ordeals of war, set about immediately after the cease-fire rebuilding the national economy on the ruins of war. And they have scored miraculous achievements, so miraculous that the people themselves are amazed at the results. The Three-Year Plan (1954-1956) for the Rehabilitation and Development of the Post-war National Economy was carried out in two years and eight months.

Today the Korean people are successfully carrying out the second year of the First Five-Year Plan (1957-1961) for consolidating further the economic foundation of socialism in the northern part of the country and solving basically the questions of food, clothing and housing for the people.

In the North, socialism has won a decisive, all-round victory. Our country today faces a great turning-point in the nation's history and a socialist paradise has come into view.

The Korean people who experienced the horrors of war know well that their abundant life and a brighter future are

inseparable from stable peace. And that is why the people of Korea want peace and insist on the country's peaceful unification.

But the U.S. imperialists who occupy South Korea today are not only hindering the peaceful unification of Korea but threatening peace by aggravating tension in Korea.

In August 1953, immediately after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement, they concluded the so-called "US-ROK Mutual Defence Pact" with the Syngman Rhee clique in order to prolong their occupation of South Korea and tighten their colonial rule. With this pact the U.S. imperialists "legalized" their hold on the puppet army and made an excuse to "rationalize" their perpetual occupation of South Korea.

The ruling circles in Washington have reinforced, on the one hand, the aggressive U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and, on the other, expanded the Syngman Rhee puppet army on a wide scale. According to their own announcement, the puppet army has grown from 16 divisions in 1953 when the truce was signed to 31 divisions at present. To meet the demands of the U.S. imperialists for cannon fodder the Syngman Rhee clique are press-ganging right and left the South Korean youth and students into the puppet army. They drafted 246,000 last year and 230,000 are being forced into their army this year.

A large scale expansion programme of military bases in South Korea has been put into effect by the U.S. imperialists. They have either newly built or expanded military air fields, and a large fleet of F-100 Sabre Jets and heavy bombers suitable for carrying atomic bombs have been brought in. And the naval bases have been expanded on a wide scale.

Immediately following the signing of the truce, the U.S. side resorted to hostile acts and instigated the Syngman Rhee clique to hamper the activities of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and wreck the Military Armistice Agreement. Even the lives of the members of Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission were threatened. Subsequently, in June 1956, they suspended unilaterally the legal activities of the Neutral Nations Observation Teams, and on June 21, 1957, unilaterally abrogated the paragraph 13-D of the Armistice Agreement which prohibits the introduction of combat weapons into Korea.

Last July they transferred the "U.N. Com-

mand" to Seoul, and in October the U.S. First Armoured Division was brought into South Korea from Japan to combine with the U.S. 24th Division to form a new "Atomic Division" like the U.S. 7th Division. In January this year the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique conducted the provocative mobile atomic manoeuvres along the military demarcation line. Moreover, they announced openly that the 280 mm atomic cannons had been brought into South Korea. And news dispatches from Seoul and foreign sources report that the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites are frenziedly equipping the South Korean puppet army with modern weapons.

The war policy of the U.S. bellicose elements and Syngman Rheeites is also seen clearly in their rocketing war expenditure. Aside from the direct military aid given by the U.S.A., the military budget of the puppet regime increased rapidly. From the figure of 1953 it went up to 152 per cent in 1955, 221.7 per cent in 1956, 251 per cent in 1957, and 282 per cent in 1958. And the military expenditure runs from 63.9 to 74 per cent of the total budget of the puppet regime. Furthermore, even the remaining portions were in the main earmarked for military purposes in such fields as railways, communications and military roads, etc.

South Korea has now turned into a military bridge-head for the aggressive U.S. occupation forces. Reporting on today's South Korea, a U.P. correspondent wrote that today's South Korea looks like a huge army barrack. And a French reporter commented that South Korea has now turned into a slum with a parasite army.

The U.S. imperialists' contempt for the Korean people and their bestial hatred of human beings have reached a climax. Even after the infamous Paju incident of a U.S. M.P. battalion attacking in broad daylight a village in Paju County in April 1957, their diabolical savagery did not abate, but, on the contrary, became aggravated along with their high-pitched war-cry. To name a few of such cases: A Korean girl who was cutting grass was shot by a U.S. soldier in the vicinity of the Kunsan airfield. Another U.S. soldier robbed an elderly woman of her cow and let his dog bite her until she was unconscious. A pregnant woman was stabbed in Yangju with a bayonet because she refused to yield to an American soldier's advance. Another Korean

woman was killed on a pier in Pusan by a U.S. soldier who had raped her. And in Bup-yong a Korean boy was lynched by a gang of U.S. soldiers.

Today the alignment of forces within Korea and abroad is far more favourable for us compared with June 1950, when the U.S. imperialists started the Korean war. The forces of socialism and peace in the world today are predominant over those of imperialism and war. No longer can bellicose elements risk any aggressive adventure at will against the peace-loving people anywhere in the world, much less in Korea.

The Korean people are firmly holding the eastern outpost of the powerful socialist camp. Ever closely united politically and ideologically, they have firmly established the material guarantee for a lasting peace in Korea and the country's peaceful unification by strengthening further the revolutionary democratic base in every way. In South Korea, too, the number of those who support the country's peaceful unification is increasing day after day. And it is the firm belief of the Korean people that the Korean question can be solved only by peaceful means through negotiations, not by the "unification-by-force" which the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique clamour for.

As has already been reported, the D.P.R.K. Government Statement of February 5, 1958 proposed that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Korea; all-Korea free elections be held within a definite period after the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops (these elections may be conducted under the observation of a neutral nations organization); cultural exchange between North and South be realized at an early date; and the armies of North and South Korea be respectively reduced to the minimum.

Subsequent happenings have testified to the correctness and practicability of the measures proposed by the Government of the D.P.R.K. As clearly pointed out in the Korean-Chinese Joint Statement, the Chinese People's Volunteers decided to withdraw completely from Korea by stages by the end of 1958. And they carried out the first-stage withdrawal by the 25th of April.

This initiative taken by the Chinese People's Volunteers is of great significance in breaking the deadlock in the Korean question

and easing tension in the Far East. This is another manifestation of the positive endeavour and sincerity of the Korean-Chinese side.

The withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea is a prerequisite for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. Now the question resolves itself down to the withdrawal of the aggressive U.S. army from South Korea. The eyes of Korea and the whole world are focussed on the governments of the U.S.A. and other countries of the "U.N. Forces" in South Korea. Now is the time to put them under close scrutiny.

Five years have elapsed since the truce. There is no ground whatsoever for the U.S. army to remain in South Korea. The American side has so far used the stationing of the C.P.V. in North Korea as a pretext for retaining their troops in South Korea. They tried to justify the military expansion in South Korea under the ruse that "it is for maintaining the balance of military power between the two sides." But this no longer works.

The U.S. imperialists can no longer evade the demand of the Korean people that the U.S.A. withdraw its military forces from South Korea. If the U.S. rulers are really concerned about peace and the peaceful solution of the Korean question they should pull their forces out of Korea immediately. If they keep stubbornly rejecting the Korean people's demands, nothing can save them from their doom.

Denunciation and hatred of the colonial rule by the people in South Korea have never been so strong as today.

The angry voice of the 3,800,000 unemployed and semi-unemployed, more than 3 million foodless peasants, medium and small enterprisers who face total bankruptcy, and hundreds of thousands of military service evaders is growing louder day by day.

The South Korean people see a bright future in the brilliant achievements attained in building socialism in the North, and seek their deliverance from suffering in the country's peaceful unification.

Firmly united around the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K., the Korean people are resolutely determined to shatter every provocative scheme of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites, champion peace to the last, and attain the country's peaceful unification. And they are confident that they will be successful.

# Economic Policy of the Workers' Party of Korea

KIM SANG HAK

**C**ORRECT coordination in the development of heavy and light industries and of industry and agriculture in conformity with the specific conditions of each period in a given country holds a very important place in the economic policy of the Marxist-Leninist Parties which are building Socialism and Communism.

As Marxism-Leninism teaches, a priority development of the production of the means of production is in accordance with the economic law governing extended reproduction.

In the socialist society this law operates in all processes of economic development. The socialist economy will not advance and the requirements of the fundamental economic law of socialism will not be met unless priority is given to the production of the means of production. The characteristic feature of the economic policy pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea is not only the general application of the principles of priority development of industry, particularly heavy industry, in formulating correlations between heavy and light industries and between industry and agriculture.

Since the country's liberation in 1945, the Workers' Party of Korea, taking into account the specific conditions and actual needs in the development of our national economy, has pursued the policy of priority growth of heavy industry along with the swift development of light industry and agriculture. This signifies a creative application by the Workers' Party of Korea of Marxist-Leninist theory on reproduction. It has been the basic economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea in the post-war period. The successful carrying-out of the post-war Three-Year Plan (1954-56) was due to this policy.

Under the Three-Year Plan the living of the people, extremely deteriorated by the

protracted colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, and especially by the war, was restored rapidly and the severely damaged productive forces were swiftly restored. We were faced with difficult and arduous tasks, but the correct economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea ensured their successful implementation.

The basic tasks of our First Five-Year Plan (1957-1961) are to strengthen further the foundation of the socialist economy and solve in the main the problems of clothing, food and housing for the people.

During the current First Five-Year Plan period, it is envisaged that a foundation for socialist industrialization will be laid, agricultural co-operation will be completed; technical reconstruction of the national economy will proceed on a wider scale; and a self-supporting foundation of the national economy will be further consolidated in the northern part of the country. Thus the food problem will be solved completely, the clothing problem solved in the main; the housing problem in towns and the countryside will be improved radically.

It is necessary for the successful implementation of these basic tasks to continue to carry out persistently the economic policy which the Party laid down for the post-war period.

"In order to carry out successfully the basic tasks of the Five-Year Plan," read the decisions of the recent First Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea, "it is necessary to continue to carry through the economic policy of the Party for ensuring priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture."

\* \* \*

For the priority growth of heavy industry during the current First Five-Year Plan peri-

od, the Workers' Party of Korea, as it did during the Three-Year Plan period, lays stress on the branches of heavy industry that produce raw materials, power and machines necessary for developing further light industry and agriculture and for building houses, while attention is paid to other branches of heavy industry which will underlie the future progress of the national economy in order to solve the problems of clothing, food and housing for the population.

Such development of heavy industry will provide essential conditions for solving in the main the problems of clothing, food and housing for the population during the current Five-Year Plan period. Moreover, it will fortify the foundation of productive forces for carrying out bigger scale construction programmes to be undertaken during the periods of the first and second five-year plans, and for meeting the immediate demands of the national economy.

In order to meet the demands of the rapidly growing machine-building industry and carry out the large scale construction programme in towns and the countryside, the ferrous-metal industry will be greatly expanded under the First Five-Year Plan. And the steel production will be raised to satisfy the requirements at home.

One of the main features of the development of our national economy lies in the fact that full-scale technical reconstruction has started and a greater part of machinery and equipment needed for technical reconstruction is produced by our machine-building and metal working industries.

The First Five-Year Plan marks a new stage in the development of our national economy. This is the result of the decisive measures taken by the Workers' Party of Korea for the rapid progress of the machine-building industry since the country's liberation, particularly in the post-war period, and testifies to the correctness and wisdom of the Party's industrial policy.

One of the basic tasks of the First Five-Year Plan is to expand and strengthen the fuel and power industry to satisfy the rapidly growing demands of the national economy, especially of industry.

By 1961, coal output will reach upwards of 9.5 million tons which are sufficient for home consumption, with the exception of coking

coal, while electricity will amount to over 9.7 billion kwh.

In the field of chemical industry the production of chemical fertilizers and chemical fibres will be stepped up. And, at the same time, the manufacture of medicine will increase greatly and a good start in synthetic industry will be made.

\* \* \*

The successful fulfilment of these tasks during the First Five-Year Plan period will pave the way for a rapid advance of agriculture and provide fibre raw materials. Furthermore, it will also ensure the production of various kinds of consumer goods to promote rapidly the material and cultural well-being of the population.

The production of cement and prefabricated building parts will also be greatly increased during the First Five-Year Plan in order to carry out the vast programmes for a bigger scale capital construction and for building of towns and farm villages. Cement output in 1961 will be more than 1,750,000 tons. As stated above, along with the rapid development of heavy industry, swift progress is also envisaged in light industry in the First Five-Year Plan. The central task of light industry is to continue the expansion of the textile industry along with a radical improvement in the processing industry.

During the current Five-Year Plan period textile output will increase 2.3 times that in 1956, and by 1961 per-capita output of fabrics will reach over 18 metres. Agriculture will make a big stride during the First Five-Year Plan period. Agricultural co-operation will be completed and agricultural productivity will reach a new high.

The grain problem will be solved completely, and industrial crop cultivation, stock breeding, sericulture and fruit growing will make rapid development. Grain output will increase 1.3 times; cotton output 12 times; flax 6.8 times; meat 6.7 times; fruits 3.7 times; and cocoons 6 times.

Radical changes in agrotechnique are envisaged in the domain of agriculture; irrigation facilities will continue to be built for a sharp increase of farm products, particularly grain; the supply of chemical fertilizers and farming machines will increase; and advanced farming methods will be introduced extensively.

The great growth of the agricultural pro-

ductive forces, many-sided development of agricultural production and cultural and technical reforms in agriculture — all these will serve greatly to bring about a better coordination in the development of heavy and light industries and agriculture on the basis of priority development of heavy industry.

\* \* \*

Our national economy will make further progress during the First Five-Year Plan period. The general line of the economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture will be carried out in a new phase.

During the post-war three-year reconstruction plan we implemented the important task of restoring rapidly the war-ruined towns and the countryside, of raising the living standards of the people which had deteriorated to the extreme during the war, and of laying in the main a self-sufficient foundation for economic development. It must be pointed out that thanks to the policy with regard to priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea it was possible to cope successfully with these difficult tasks.

The Party and the Government, however, did not find it all smooth sailing in carrying out the economic policy, as rehabilitation and reconstruction had to be undertaken on the war-ruins.

However, the enormous material and technical assistance given by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries provided favorable conditions for the successful implementation of the economic policy of the Party.

But, during the First Five-Year Plan period such economic assistance from the fraternal countries will be far less than in the Three-Year Plan period. Therefore, the task of consolidating the socialist economic foundation and improving the life of people should be carried out with our own accumulations and resources. This will cause a new strain in our construction work. However, such is to be expected in the course of developing the national economy onto a higher level and exploring our economic potentials.

The successful conclusion of the Three-Year Plan gave rise to changes in our internal factors and conditions in developing our na-

tional economy. During the Three-Year Plan period the productive forces of industry and agriculture, the real wages of factory and office workers and the real incomes of peasants exceeded by far the pre-war level; colonial one-sidedness in industry was eliminated substantially; a foundation for the self-supporting national economy was laid in the main; and the socialist sector became dominant in all branches of our national economy.

These factors and conditions have provided favorable conditions for implementing the Party's economic policy — priority growth of heavy industry along with the rapid development of light industry and agriculture — chiefly with our own resources taking into account the international division of labour in the socialist camp.

What changes will take place in the rate of growth between heavy and light industries, between industry and agriculture, and between different branches of industry and agriculture during the First Five-Year Plan?

The gap between heavy and light industry in the speed of production will be narrowed down compared with the Three-Year Plan period. In heavy industry a greater part of increased production came from the reconstructed factories, whereas in light industry it came from the newly built or expanded factories. However, during the First Five-Year Plan period the rate of increase in production in the newly built or expanded factories of heavy and light industries will be balanced.

The gap between industry and agriculture in the growth of production will be narrowed down. That this is possible is proved by the fact that industry stands on a new footing and that organization of agricultural cooperatives will soon be completed to enable our agriculture to develop in a diversified way and to raise the yields radically.

Marxist theory on extended reproduction teaches us that the narrowing down of the gap between the growth of the production of means of production and consumer goods restricts the growth of reproduction in the national economy as a whole.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, light industry and agriculture, with priority for heavy industry, will make swift progress. In this case expanded reproduction in all fields of the national economy will proceed at high speed; tremendous achievements in economic construction and devotion of our la-

bouring masses to economization and increased production during the Three-Year Plan period make it possible to maintain such a high speed in extended reproduction during the current Five-Year Plan period.

Heavy and light industrial centres reconstructed or built on a large scale during the Three-Year Plan period play a significant part in large-scale economic construction during the First Five-Year Plan period.

Especially, in support of the decisions of the December (1956) Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which called for economization and increased production, the working masses tapped considerable latent potentials and reserves for production, which is another important factor in accelerating the growth of extended reproduction in all fields of our national economy. During the current Five-Year Plan period, colonial one-sidedness in our industry and agriculture will be entirely eliminated.

Firstly, the structural disproportion in heavy and light industries and agriculture will be rectified. Secondly, correlations between these economic branches will be strengthened.

Consequently, the Workers' Party of Korea can carry into effect measures for strengthening the correlations between heavy and light industries and agriculture in accordance with priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture.

During the Three-Year Plan period, our heavy industry has taken the line of developing light industry and agriculture. But heavy industry was under reconstruction and its level was not high enough to carry out its task. In addition colonial one-sidedness hindered to a considerable degree the strengthening of the correlations between heavy and light industries and agriculture.

During the Three-Year Plan period, a substantial amount of equipment and material required by light industry and agriculture were imported from abroad.

It is envisaged that during the current Five-Year Plan heavy industry will play a still greater part in the advance of our national economy, especially in the progress of light industry and agriculture. Our heavy industry will supply in quantities chemical fertilizers, insecticides and various types of farm machines to the countryside so as to accelerate

the development of agricultural productive forces and turn out various types of construction machines for large-scale building in rural villages.

By the end of the current Five-Year Plan, the amount of chemical fertilizer per unit area will be nearly on a par with the developed countries.

During the current Five-Year Plan period, our heavy industry will also supply various kinds of machines and vessels to light and fishing industries; and production of chemical fibres will be expanded on a large scale to make good the shortage of raw fibres, for the textile industry.

Great upsurge in the rural economy and diversified agricultural production will provide sufficient conditions for the development of industry.

\* \* \*

The ultimate solution of the grain problem and development in the cultivation of industrial crops, stock-breeding, sericulture and fruit growing will provide essential conditions for epoch-making progress in the textile and foodstuff industries. Our rapidly developing light industry will supply large quantities and great varieties of consumer goods to agriculture during the current Five-Year Plan period.

The strengthening of economic ties between industry and agriculture leads to the further consolidation of the political relations — worker-peasant alliance.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, the further progress in industry and agriculture, and the expansion and strengthening of socialist relations of production in our national economy will serve to strengthen ties between industry and agriculture.

During the current Five-Year Plan period, agricultural co-operation will be completed in the countryside and consequently the socialist economic sector will dominate the whole of our national economy so as to operate an overall planned economy. The extensive planning of agricultural production makes it possible to develop agriculture effectively and in a diversified way. Especially it is easy to regulate the development of agriculture in relation to other branches of the national economy.

On the condition of giving priority to heavy industry, the three branches of our national economy, heavy industry, light industry and agriculture, form an organic whole in the

development of the national economy and maintain interpenetrating relations between themselves.

\* \* \*

The economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, the policy of maintaining correlations between heavy and light industries and agriculture, signifies a creative application of Marxist-Leninist theory on extended reproduction in conformity with the objective conditions of the development of our national economy.

The past Three-Year Plan aimed chiefly at reconstruction; a foundation for industrialization was being laid on a big scale.

This is a characteristic feature of our industrial development. During the Three-Year Plan the building of a foundation for industrialization started. In this period the Party continuously carried out the economic policy on priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture, and will continue to do so in the First Five-Year Plan period when the laying of the foundation for industrialization will be completed.

The economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea was motivated by the fundamental need to improve rapidly the material and cultural standards of the people who suffered severely during the protracted Japanese colonial rule and especially in the recent war.

The Workers' Party of Korea set as one of its most important tasks, the task of developing swiftly the backward agriculture and eliminating quickly the backwardness of light industry which is evidence of colonial on-sidedness in our industry.

The economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea was successfully carried out in the post-war period of reconstruction. What conditions were there for the successful implementation of the Party's economic policy in the difficult conditions of post-war reconstruction?

First, Korea's industry has been making progress under condition in which socialist international division of labour was in existence and in the post-war period huge economic and technical assistance from the peoples of the fraternal countries was available.

Secondly, the Korean people, who have been tempered in their fight in defence of their homeland and people's government since liberation from the protracted Japanese colonial

rule, are closely united around the Party and Government, and the correct guidance of the Party is leading the people to victory.

In carrying through the priority growth of heavy industry in the post-war period of reconstruction, the Workers' Party of Korea took into consideration the facts that in our country there had been a basis for heavy industry, though not self-supporting. And we are provided with natural and economic conditions favourable for the development of heavy industry.

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The economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to be carried out during the First Five-Year Plan period will lead our national economy to a higher level. And during this period the structure of our national economy will undergo radical changes.

When the First Five-Year Plan is carried out, our country will develop into a self-supporting industrial-agricultural country from a backward agricultural country.

The ratio between industry and agriculture in the total output value of the national economy in 1956 was 60 to 40, but in 1958 65 to 35

Development of the country into a self-supporting industrial-agricultural one will also be manifested in foreign trade during the current Five-Year Plan period. In export items, raw materials, semi-finished goods and especially ores will be reduced considerably, whereas finished and semi-processed goods will increase greatly. Import of machinery and equipment will be reduced much, whereas import of raw materials, fuel and other productive materials will increase.

With the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, an end will be put to the century-old backwardness of our national economy left by the Japanese imperialists.

By 1961, per capita output of major products including power, coal, pig iron, cement, and chemical fertilizers will exceed the 1956 level of Japan, the most developed capitalist country in Asia, not to speak of the major farm produce such as grain, industrial crops and animal products.

However, it must be mentioned that the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan will not mean the accomplishment of socialist industrialization, but only the laying of its foundation. Moreover, our industry will be still lagging behind the industries of advanced coun-

tries in variety of goods, and especially in production of finished goods.

Our country is now catching up with advanced countries in per capita output of the above-mentioned major products. The production centres of raw materials, fuel and power essential for the further development of industry will be reinforced. Thus wide prospects are opened up for economic development.

\* \* \*

In our country socialist economic construction proceeds in the midst of a bitter class struggle—struggle against the reactionaries at home and abroad, struggle against the imperialist aggressors. The American imperialists who are occupying the southern part of Korea and the Syngman Rhee clique continue to clamour for another war and smuggle into the North spies, wreckers and subversive elements with the aim of undermining our socialist construction. And the overthrown reactionary classes are perpetrating hostile acts overtly and covertly.

In the past, within the Party the counter-revolutionary, anti-Party factionists led by Choi Chang Ik and Pak Chang Ok distorted and vilified the correct economic policy of the Party.

These dirty careerists levelled slander against the Party's economic policy of priority growth of heavy industry, and tried to ignore the swift development of light industry and agriculture, an important aspect of the Party's economic policy, and to obliterate the tremendous economic achievements. The Party and the people dealt a telling blow to these anti-Party factionists.

The great vitality and correctness of the Party's economic policy will be confirmed once again during the First Five-Year Plan period.

Thanks to the correct economic policy of the Party, during the current Five-Year Plan period a great upsurge will mark our national economy, and the foundation for the self-supporting economy will be further strengthened, and consequently, tremendous changes will take place in the life of the Korean people. Under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean people are displaying a high degree of political and labour enthusiasm in their struggle for the successful carrying out of the First Five-Year Plan which promises them a happier life and brighter future.

## NEW PYONGYANG STATION

New Pyongyang Railway Station opened on April 11. The old railway station in Pyongyang built by the Japanese imperialists was quite obsolete. Already in 1948, therefore, the Party and Government laid a large-scale construction plan to build a new station, but the work had to be suspended owing to the war provoked by the U.S. imperialists.

The work was resumed after the truce and was completed within a short space of time. The new station covers an area of 3,520 square metres with 13,000 square metres of floor space.

The building is 47 metres high with the octagonal clock tower. There are 187 halls and rooms for the convenience of the passengers.

The main building and the platforms are connected by underground corridors. Incoming passengers can come out to the station plaza directly from the train without going through the station.

The new station is fully equipped with every convenient and modern facility. A big hall supported by eight marble columns nearly 20 metres high, waiting-rooms, a reception hall, a big restaurant, a barber shop, and two hotels on the second and third floors, a clinic, and many other facilities are to be found in



*The newly-built Pyongyang Station*

the station. It also has a library with an area of 80 square metres and house of culture equipped with a stage and movie projectors. On the second floor there is also a waiting-room for mothers, to which are attached a sanitation room, a bath room, a clinic and a children's play-room.

# Korea's Machine-building Industry

CHOI JAI WOO

*Minister of Machine-building Industry*

**K**OREA's national economy before liberation was under the complete colonial control of the Japanese imperialists.

There was no machine-building industry worth mentioning under Japanese colonial rule. As a matter of fact, in 1944, the share of the machine-building industry in the total industrial output was only 1.6 per cent. Its backwardness found expression in poor equipment and small scale.

As the Japanese imperialists could rake in big profits with cheap labour power, they were not concerned about the introduction of new industrial technique.

In 1939, medium and small factories employing less than 200 workers made up 98 per cent of the total number of factories, but 60.7 per cent of the entire workers were employed in medium and small factories.

Especially, the machine-building factories were small in scale, no bigger than a blacksmith or repair shop. Moreover, the distribution of small scale industry of colonial type was disproportional—heavy industry chiefly in the North and light and processing industries in the South.

In addition an enormous obstacle was thrown in the way of the self-supporting national economy because of the artificial division of the country into two parts after liberation from Japanese rule.

Under such conditions, the Workers' Party of Korea ensured a balanced development of the national economy in the North and set about building a new machine-building industry.

The path of building the machine-building industry was not smooth.

A severe fight against the enemy at home and abroad had to be waged; the technical foundation of our industry was weak; management and technical personnel was short.

The Workers' Party of Korea established the people's democratic social and economic system; enforced nationalization of key industries; and creatively applied the principles of a planned, balanced development of

the national economy in conformity with the specific conditions of Korea.

Accordingly, even during the peaceful construction period before the war, large sums of money were appropriated for the huge capital construction of the machine-building industry.

Consequently, industrial production grew sharply: the output of machine-building and metal working industries in 1949 was 5.1 times that in 1946, while the proportion of these two industries in the composition of industry as a whole increased to 8.1 per cent.

Peaceful construction of industry, however, was interrupted by the war. Under the slogan issued by the Workers' Party of Korea "All for victory in the war!" everything was reorganized to meet the war situation. As many machine-building factories as possible were switched over to produce war supplies, and new munitions plants were built. At the same time, work started on laying a new basis of the machine-building industry.

In the face of severe war conditions, patriotic workers and technical personnel in our machine-building industry worked assiduously in response to the call of the Party to turn out more war supplies. As a result, in 1953, the total output of our machine-building industry was 24.8 per cent greater than the pre-war year of 1949.

The urgent task of rapidly rehabilitating and developing the war-ruined national economy was raised before the Korean people, when they emerged victorious from the stern war.

The three-year-long war destroyed factories and industrial facilities. And the material and cultural standards of the population sharply dropped.

But, the entire workers and technical personnel of the machine-building industry rose in a body for the post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction. Encouraged by the technical and economic assistance from the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries, they overcame every difficulty and hardship such as the dearth of technical personnel and the shortage

of building and production materials.

The Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, held in August 1953, laying down the basic line for the post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of the national economy, took measures for organizing and enlisting the entire people for its realization.

It called for a swift reconstruction and development of the war-ravaged industry, especially, for the priority reconstruction and progress of heavy industry and simultaneously for the development of light industry and agriculture in order to improve rapidly the living conditions of people which deteriorated during the war.

It must be pointed out that reconstruction did not mean a simple restoration to the pre-war status but the elimination of colonial one-sidedness and disproportion of the national economy. And it also meant building a foundation of self-sufficient national economy and laying a basis for socialist industrialization.

The Party paid special attention to the development of the machine-building industry during the three-year reconstruction period. Technical and economic assistance from the brother countries enabled our machine-building industry to make a good start.

Many new factories furnished with the latest equipment were built: the Hichun Machine-Tool Factory, Koosung Mining Machine Factory, Hichun Precision Instruments Factory, Woonsan Tool Factory and others. Bookjoong, Rakwon and Ryongsung Machine-building factories, Pyongyang, Daian and Joowul Electric Appliances Factories, Chungjin Shipyard and many other factories were restored.

Besides, the construction of a machine-tool factory in Koosung, an auto-parts factory in Hichun and a weighing and measuring instruments factory in Pyongyang started.

Thus, many industrial establishments were built during the Three-Year Plan period to develop the machine-building and metal working industries. In 1955, our machine-building industry accounted for 17.9 per cent of the whole industry.

Output in the machine-building industry in 1956 was six times that in 1953, or three times that in the pre-war year 1949.

During the Three-Year Plan period, we turned out for the first time in our history the

latest type of lathes, shapers, engine boats, large-size electric motors, direct current generators, special high-tension transformers, gas generators, rock-drills, air compressors, animal-drawn seeders, chain conveyors, turret cranes, internal combustion engines, tools and many other products. An end was put to irrationality and colonial defects in the distribution of the machine-building industry during the Three-Year Plan period. It was put on a new basis.

A foundation of machine-building industry was laid for meeting the demands of other branches of the national economy for various kinds of machinery and equipment. To this end, industrial technique was modernized; scale of production was expanded; and the latest equipment was installed. Such material and technical achievements have opened up wide vistas for the grand First Five-Year Plan (1957-1961).

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The basic tasks of the First Five-Year Plan outlined by the Party are to strengthen further the foundation of the socialist economy in the northern part of the country and to solve in the main the problems of clothing, food and housing for the population.

For the successful fulfilment of these tasks, the Party formulated the economic policy with regard to priority growth of heavy industry along with the development of light industry and agriculture.

However, priority growth of heavy industry does not mean the development of heavy industry in general, but stress is laid on the solution of the problems of clothing, food and housing for the population; on the key branches of heavy industry such as ferrous metal, machine-building, chemical and building materials industries; on the continuous expansion of fuel and power industry; on the rapid development of the textile, foodstuff and fishing industries for a sharp increase in production of consumer goods.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, according to the decision of the First Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea the total industrial output will increase every year by an average of 21.5 per cent, and the total industrial output value in 1961 will increase 2.6 times that in 1956. Moreover, the total output value in the machine-building and metal-working industries is to increase by over 2.6 times.

A good start was made in building and developing the machine-building industry even during the severe war. Now it has wide prospects of development in accordance with the First Five-Year Plan. During the current First Five-Year Plan period stress will be laid on the advance of medium and small scale machine building in conformity with the level and peculiarity of our national economy, and especially, on meeting in the main the big domestic demands for electric motors, mining, farming and construction machines, vessels, processing equipment for light industry and various kinds of accessories with the exception of some special machines.

In addition to the manufacture of accessories our machine-building industry will produce complete sets of industrial equipment. It will also equip completely some factories and mines to be opened during the Five-Year Plan.

The tasks for 1957, the first year of the current Five-Year Plan, were successfully carried out. Responding to the call of the December (1956) Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea for increased production and economization, the entire working men and women in our machine-building industry topped their assignments for 1957 by 9 per cent.

In 1957, large quantities of new products were turned out. They include large size winches of 100 h.p., coal loaders, crushers, rolling equipment, ore crushers—all are badly needed in mines—as well as special high-tension contact-breakers of 66,000 volt, internal combustion engines, large size transformers, SU-50 lathes, TP-4 rock-drills, fishing boats, and silk looms. And various other kinds of new machines will be produced.

In 1957, we turned out ahead of schedule equipment and machinery, equipment for coke-ovens necessary in restoring the Hwanghai Iron Works, rolling equipment for the Kangsun Steel Works, and accessories for use in the Heungnam Ammonium Nitrate Factory. Much other machinery and equipment were also turned out.

The increasing variety of machinery and growth of production came from the advance in technology in many branches.

Advanced industrial techniques such as hardening the surface of tools were introduced, while stamping began to replace gradually cutting.

In metal casting, improvement has been made on wooden moulds in order to use a maximum of metal; spouts of moulds have been standardized; hot wind blowers are attached to the foundry to raise the smelting temperature by over 30 degrees. As a result, in 1957 per square metre output in the foundry increased by 11 per cent over 1956.

Labour productivity has also risen. In 1957, it was 26.7 per cent higher than in 1956, while the production cost was lowered by 16.3 per cent. As a result, the monetary wages of factory and office workers increased remarkably. At the end of 1957, average monthly wages of factory and office workers were 53.9 per cent higher than in 1956.

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Great results were attained in the machine-building industry during the Three-Year Plan period and in 1957, the first year of the current Five-Year Plan. Consequently, a foundation has been laid for meeting the demands of the other branches of the national economy for machinery and accessories. Now our machine-building industry has bright prospects.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, our machine-building industry will turn out machinery and accessories needed to develop the ferrous-metal industry in order to increase by leaps and bounds the production of structural steel. Machinery and equipment including rude steel transports, and cranes will be produced for reconstructing a large size blast furnace with a capacity of 200,000 tons, and open-hearth furnaces as well as for building coke-ovens and rolling metal shop. Rolling equipment and converters needed for expanding steel mills as well as all the equipment necessary for steel smelting will also be made.

With the growing metal industry many new mines are to be exploited and expanded. Quantities of crushers, boring and milling machines, ore dressing equipment, electric cars to be used in pits, coal loaders, chain conveyors, equipment for making briquettes, large size winches, and compressors, all needed for mechanizing the processes of production or work in mines and for increasing production capacity will be turned out. A complete set of equipment for ore dressing shops will also be produced. Electric equipment will be produced during this period so as to ex-

pand power centres. In 1958, 4,023 kva generators and turbines for power plants will be produced. 6,000 kva generators and turbines are to be produced for new power plants during the current Five-Year Plan period. Production of generators to be installed in small power plants as well as equipment for thermo-power plants will be started.

Various metres such as voltametres, amperemetres and wattmetres will be produced from 1960, while the production of cable wire will begin in 1961. During the current Five-Year Plan period, our machine-building industry, it is envisaged, will meet fully domestic demands for various sizes of motors and transformers.

To implement the Party's policy with regard to industrialization of construction, our machine-building industry will turn out in quantities various size cranes, which will play an important role in the construction of prefabricated houses. Cranes with hoisting capacity of five tons will be produced. Auto-cranes, vertical winches, plastering pumps, machines for laying concrete and excavators will be manufactured.

In the field of ship-building, small iron-clad vessels will be built and preparations will be made for building medium size iron-clad vessels. During the current Five-Year Plan period, all-purpose fishing boats, angler net boats and engine vessels of 3,000 tonnage will be built. And various kinds of diesel engines needed at home will also be turned out.

Mass production of latest lathes, milling machines, radial boring machines and other machine tools will begin. Variety of cutting and measuring instruments will increase.

As for the items of everyday use, sewing machines, bicycles, watches and radio sets

will be produced. Accessories needed for the chemical industry and double-rank ball bearings will be produced.

Our light industry, which plays a significant part in solving the problems of clothing, food and housing for the population, will receive quantities of machinery — machines and equipment necessary for the reconstruction and building of textile mills, new chemical fibres factories, sets of corn processing machine with a capacity of 220,000 tons, refrigerators, meat grinders, and meat processing machines.

Quantities of machines will be supplied to agriculture for socialist transformation. Machines needed for irrigation projects in Kiyang and Uhjidon and in other districts covering an area of more than 400,000 hectares — excavators, irrigation pumps, motors and copper wire — will be produced in quantities.

And other machines needed for land construction as well as modern farming machines such as ensilage cutters, universal crushers and petroleum motors will also be produced on a large scale.

During the current First Five-Year Plan period, the number of machines in operation at the machine-building factories under the Ministry of Machine-building Industry will more than double; the area of foundries will double, and the casting capacity will increase over 1.8 times.

Tremendous progress will be made in the machine-building industry during the current Five-Year Plan period. It will mark a turning point in the development of our industry.

The Korean people are marching vigorously ahead along the path shown by the Workers' Party of Korea for the successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan.

### TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN KOREAN AND BRITISH BUSINESS COMPANIES

On April 22, a trade agreement was signed between the representatives of the Korean Machinery Export and Import Corporation, Korean Mineral Export and Import Corporation and the Korean Electric Equipment Export and Import Corporation, on the one hand, and the representatives of the En-

tores Ltd, London, England, on the other.

Under the agreement the Korean corporations will send to the British firm electrolytic zinc, electrolytic copper, zinc concentrates, bismuth, molybdenum concentrates, electrolytic lead and copper concentrates, etc.

The Entores Ltd. will export to the Korean corporations iron and steel products; ferro-alloys, flat rolled products, wire products and welded tubes as well as nonferrous products and mining machinery and equipment, flotation machines in particular.

# Kaima Plateau

SUH HONG RIN

**R**YANGGANG Province is notable for the deep mountains and highlands. Kaima Plateau, more than 1,000 metres above sea-level, was once a most out-of-the-way place and its economic foundation was very weak. In the days gone by this plateau was known as a place where people were "exiled" to. But, today, the whole place is seething with joy of a new life. The picture is changed entirely!

Despite the severe frost last year Ryang-gang Province made a leap forward in the production of grain, potatoes, industrial crops and, especially, in animal husbandry. Consequently this grain-deficient area had a grain-surplus of more than 7,300 tons. Last year, taking the province as a whole, each co-operative household received an average of 1,660 kg of grain and 33,000 won in cash.

Moreover, a good start has been made to turn the province into a stock breeding centre. The average number of domestic animals per peasant household, collectively and privately included, jumped from 2.3 in 1956 to 4.2 last year. And each household owned 2.2 head of pigs on average.

These tremendous achievements were possible only thanks to the agricultural policy of the Workers' Party of Korea which put emphasis on animal husbandry and the cultivation of industrial crops in the mountain areas, while seeking increased grain production.

Introduced below is the life of agricultural cooperative members on the Kaima Plateau:

## Mountain Peasants of Yesterday

**T**HESE days old man Kang Ki Yup, a member of the Singaidong Agricultural Cooperative in Bochun County, is busier than ever with his work.

One day he returned home pretty late after potato sowing in a co-op field. Seeing him finish supper, his granddaughter Kye Ok

put down the pictorial which she was reading aloud, and asked:

"Grandpa, what's a 'mountain peasant'?"

Old man Kang could not answer immediately. Her question carried him back to the grim days of the past.

"I myself was a 'mountain peasant' and all our villagers too," he said after a long pause.

"Really?"

The granddaughter stared at him in surprise.

Nodding, the grandfather told her the tearful story about the past life of the mountain peasants.

The peasants toiled many years in sweat to upturn mountain slopes but by the time the soil got fertile, it fell into the hands of landlords. The peasants were forced to tenant the very land which they themselves had reclaimed. And the old man Kang also remembered that once he had to run away into a deeper mountain because he had no way of paying a fine of four won. He was caught by a forest keeper, while felling trees to reclaim a mountain slope and was fined four won. Finding no help for it, he fled.

This was the gist of his story about the mountain peasants.

The granddaughter said as though she was drawing a conclusion:

"The mountain peasants were poor and pitiful people, weren't they?"

"Right you are," he answered. "But, there's not a miserable mountain peasant in our village or throughout the country now. Guided by the Workers' Party of Korea the peasants have organized co-operatives. Today, they are well off, sowing more maize and potatoes and breeding many cows, pigs and sheep with the help from the State."

The living standard of the Kangs is a little above the average among the co-op members.

Last year his share was 25 bags of grain, 100 bags of potatoes and 30,000 won in cash.

His brother, his two married sons and relatives received no smaller shares in grain and cash.

At present he has a family of seven members. His youngest son, grandsons and granddaughter are in school.

Through his long sixty some years Kang Ki Yup has never enjoyed such a happy life as today.

In the autumn of 1957, tractors made their first appearance on the plateau and electricity reached there. Electricity has enabled the co-operative members to build a rice-clearing mill — their long cherished desire.

Through a staunch labour struggle for building a new life, the people have done away with poverty once and for all even on this remote plateau which rises above the clouds.

### Right Crop on Right Soil

**L**AST year the Maidaikkol Agricultural Cooperative in Daijinyung-ri, Bochun County, planted potatoes on 102 hectares and harvested 14.2 tons per hectare on an average and a maximum of 24 tons.

At the end of the 1957 farm season, 12.3 tons of potatoes went to each member household, in addition to grain and cash. This success was attributable to the application of the principle of right crop on right soil and the bold liquidation of old farming methods as indicated by the Workers' Party of Korea.

To open the eyes of some co-op members who persist in old methods, the co-op set up an experimental farm of 300 hectares in 1956. And various crops which needed special care were raised. Such crops were chosen to give answer to a series of questions being discussed among the co-op members. The result was most gratifying. It proved the superiority of advanced farming methods.

Drawing on the past year's experiences, the managerial committee of the co-op decided to plant potatoes on 70 per cent of the entire cultivated land and selected frost-and-blight-resistant potato seeds. In the past, in order to solve the food and clothing problem, the people here had to sow various crops including fibre crops, never heeding whether they were suitable to the climate and soil conditions of this plateau.

But today, it is possible for them to raise their living standard by the intensive cultivation of profitable and high-yielding crops on the principle of right crop on right soil.

"Our life would be as good as the peasants on the plains, should we keep the land well fertilized, take a good care of crops and organize a many-sided economy suitable to the mountain areas," say the peasants here in unison. This is their confidence which they attained through their practical experiences.

### Modern Farm Village

**B**ONGDOO-ri, Woonheung County, is situated at the centre of the Kaima Plateau. Now this ri has a junior middle school, an elementary school, a clinic and a veterinary hospital, besides restaurants, stores, a public bath and barber shop.

Last year, an average of 1.7 tons of grain and 34,000 won were distributed to each co-op member household in Bongdoo-ri.

At present, each household raises an average of four domestic animals — cows, pigs and sheep.

With the material standard of the people rising, the Ri People's Committee is pushing forward its programme of modernizing the farm village.

As a first step, the houses scattered around on the hills were brought down to the level land and many old huts were torn down to build new modern houses. Every house in the ri is now tile roofed.

Along with its construction programme the Ri People's Committee, in response to the initiative of the entire village people, has expanded hygienic establishments.

The enthusiasm of the peasants for modernizing their village is surging higher and higher. They are planning to build this year the house of culture, and a day nursery, to expand public baths and move scattered houses to the Ri seat or densely populated villages.

"We are no longer a mountain people. As you see, we are now living in a modern village," said Kim Doo Hyun, Chairman of the Ri People's Committee.

"In the three years of co-operative life, a signal development has been noted in the animal husbandry of our co-operative," thus began Li Jai Yang, the stock-breeding team leader of the Kwangpyung Agricultural Co-operative in Samsu County.

When the co-operative was formed, it had only two cows, but today there are 520 sheep, 71 Korean cows and 30 some pigs. Each household raises on an average three pigs.

Until 1956, efforts were made in increasing the number of livestock but last year quantities of wool and meat began to come off. From stock breeding alone, each member household got last year over 25,000 won in cash.

As for animal husbandry, special attention has been paid to securing fodder resources and improving breed. Last year, 114 Mongolian sheep were hybridized into the cross-breed of the first generation, 26 into that of the second generation and 4 into that of the third. Whereas a thorough-bred Mongolian sheep gave an average of 890 grams of wool the first generation cross-breed gave 2.6 kg, the second 3.2 kg and the third 4 kg at maximum respectively. The third generation produces no less wool than the corriedale and merino brands.

The native breed of pigs has been completely eliminated.

The co-operative is now planning to plant more pasture land, expand fodder fields and produce one ton of meat and 100 kg of wool per hectare of fodder field.

The cooperative has set itself the goal of increasing sheep to 900 head next year and to roughly 1,700 by 1961.

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**T**HE labour struggle of the builders of socialism promises new victory. The co-op members in Ryanggang Province, inspired by the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea with regard to mountain peasants, are resolved to overfulfil the state plan by 24.1 per cent in grain, 43 per cent in potatoes, 4 per cent in Korean cows and 11.5 per cent in pigs and exceed the state plan by far in other crops and animal raising.

When a year of this struggle closes, the Kaima Plateau will become a place of a happier life.



## MORE IRRIGATION FACILITIES

Korean peasants, who have resolved to harvest more than 3,950,000 tons of grain this year, are striving for the expansion of irrigation facilities, the decisive guarantee of stable and high yield.

By the end of March already some 21,600 co-op-run small and medium irrigation facilities were built by the peasants themselves. More than 29,000 irrigation projects are planned for the year.

Among the completed are 210 pumping stations and 180 reservoirs, which are already watering the fields.

The Government gave the peasants active guidance in building these projects. It has supplied them with 1,000 motors, 800 pumps, 900 transformers, 20,000 tons of cement and several tens of thousands of cubic metres of lumber.

This spring was a particularly

busy one for the peasants. Cold-bed seedlings and planting cotton in humus-pot were to be introduced widely throughout the country. Then there was the extensive programme of building irrigation facilities. But everything went through without a hitch in their farming. Labour enthusiasm of peasants, and enormous help from machine-hire stations made the farmers till and sow successfully.

# Li Ki Yung and His Literature

YUN JANG RYUL

Li Ki Yung is one of the most prominent writers in today's Korean literature.

He was born on May 29, 1895, of a poor peasant family in Asan County, South Choongchung Province. As a child he only knew extreme poverty. In the spring of 1910, he finished primary school but gave up going to a school of higher grade as the family could not afford school expenses. So he stayed home and helped his father in farming.

Just then the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea and set out to intensify their political oppression and economic plunder in Korea. Untold sufferings and pains befell the Korean people. And the cruel reality forced young Li Ki Yung to leave his native village. This was the beginning of his wandering life, tasting bitters of life. For five years he roamed from place to place in South Korea witnessing the hardships of the Koreans under Japanese occupation. Indignation and anger swept his mind.

Everywhere he saw the wretched life of the people — the poverty-stricken tenant-farmers and the urban slum-dwellers. The toiling masses — workers and peasants — were groaning from oppression and exploitation under the whips of the Japanese imperialists. And Li Ki Yung himself was no exception. He, too, suffered from cold and hunger and was persecuted.

The great event of the March First Popular Uprising of 1919 moved him very deeply. He was still leading a wandering life. He then determined to tell the people what he had seen, heard and what he had thought.

In the spring of 1922 he went to Tokyo to continue his schooling. He worked as a copyist at a mimeograph service in the daytime and attended the evening course of Seisoku English School. In Tokyo he read many books of foreign literature. Particularly he was impressed by Russian literary works.

Recollecting those days spent in Tokyo, he wrote later: "I acquainted myself with Russian literature for the first time in Tokyo. To be frank, until then I was not sure of what

course I should take. But reading into the works of Russian literature made me feel as if I got out of a labyrinth. It seemed I found a new world and truth." (His travel notes "The Soviet Union — A Great Friend of the People" published in 1949)

He devoured the works of Turgenev, Tolstoy, Chekhov and Gorky. He was particularly inspired by the works of Gorky.

His stay in Japan was not long. He returned home in September 1923, after the big Tokyo earthquake. Upon his return he set his mind to serve the homeland and the people as writer.

## A Cry For Struggle

When Li Ki Yung entered the literary world, Korea was undergoing a new period of historic change in her struggle for national liberation and in the development of Korean literature. The national liberation movement of the Korean people led by the working class entered a new historical era under the influence of the great October Socialist Revolution and the impact of the March First Popular Uprising which erupted from the unbearable conditions existed in Korea.

From this time on the ideas of Marxism-Leninism began to spread more widely and the labour and revolutionary movements of the masses gained in scope and strength. It was in November 1922 that the Yungoon-sa, the first association of proletarian art and literature in Korea, was formed by the writer Song Yung and others. In September 1923, another progressive literary association "Paskyura" came into being, to which the poet Li Sang Hwa belonged. In the meantime, such able young writers as Jo Myung Hi, Choi Su Hai, and Han Sul Ya appeared on the stage, upholding the banner of proletarian literature and setting themselves squarely against bourgeois literature. All this represents an historical trend of the new times.

Li Ki Yung emerged as a leading literary figure of the time which was marked by an epochal advance in Korea's literature. Basing himself on true realism, he was guided in

literary creation by patriotism and proletarian humanism sprung from his wishes for future happiness of the working people, national freedom and liberation, and from his love and respect for man. Through his works, he came out resolutely against the unjust social system and reactionary bourgeois literature, demanding an end of exploitation and colonial oppression.

Particularly, the fate of the toiling peasants — he himself was a son of farmer — was cause for his deep concern. From his pen came a true-to-life depiction of the miserable life of the impoverished peasants. He shared their sufferings and told them the noble ideals of socialism. In 1924, his maiden work, "A Secret Letter of the Brother", was published, which was followed by a number of short stories — "The Poor," "A Humble Village," "A Story of Mice," "The Peasant Chung Do Ryong," "Canvasser and Lady Missionary," etc.

He, together with the writer Han Sul Ya and others, played a leading role in founding the Korean Association of Proletarian Literature and Art (KAP) in August 1925.

"The Poor" (May, 1925) and "A Humble Village" (November, 1925) are outstanding works of his early writing. In these works, he gave a living portrait of the people who were awakening to class consciousness.

"... So! This world is for devils. If one wants to live, he must become a devil... Kill the devil of devils who grinds down the others to guarantee his own well-being! Yes, kill him! Kill him!" These are the angry words of Sung Ho, the hero of the short story "The Poor," an unemployed intellectual of peasant origin, who is watching his family being perished from starvation. The tragic fate of a peasant girl is told in his "A Humble Village." She is sold as a concubine to a son of the landlord Pak, a veritable fiend. And there is a woman from Seoul who explains the social cause of the tragedy of the girl, Jum Soon. Then she tells the young girl fervently about a society where the honest people can enjoy a happy life in the beautiful land "without worrying about what to dress and what to eat."

In this work the writer's realistic penetration and lofty humanitarian spirit are well reflected.

In 1927, the KAP adopted a new programme based on the principles of Marxism.

Li Ki Yung developed his creative activities along the new programme.

His two subsequent works appeared during this period — short stories "Won Bo" (April 1928) and the "Paper-Mill Village" (March 1930) — showed a new stage of progress in his writing. And these two works signified a further advance in our proletarian literature.

He depicted in these works the actual situation of the Korean society of the late 20's, when the labour movement registered a new upsurge with the outburst of the Wonsan general strike and other big labour disputes. He showed in an excellent artistic manner that the national problem of the Korean people, particularly the problem of the toiling peasants, could not be solved without relying upon the working class, and that the class alliance between the workers and the peasants would bring future happiness.

His former works, it is true, were not free from various shortcomings, though his writings were full of proletarian revolutionary spirit. But in "Won Bo" and "The Paper-Mill Village" the naive cry for justice gave way to a cry for an organized struggle of the people, based on the worker-peasant alliance. Thus, his Sung Ho and Jum Soon were replaced by the progressive worker Suk Bong and the peasant Won Bo who entrusted his fate to Suk Bong, saying that now he can die without regrets. This signified a big stride forward in his creative activities. Several volumes of his masterpieces appeared in the 30's.

#### "The Native Village"

His medium-length story "Suhwa" appeared in June 1933, which showed a realistic picture of the countryside around the March First Popular Uprising of 1919. And this was followed by many of his famous works, all showing artistic maturity and lofty ideas. Such advancement was not limited to Li Ki Yung's literary activities. In the 30's Korea's proletarian literature in general was on the upgrade. This is attributable first of all to the new reality of the times. The heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by Marshal Kim Il Sung in the 30's ushered in a new phase in the active struggle of the Korean people for national liberation. In those days the Japanese imperialists intensified their fascist colonial domination over Korea scheming desperately for war to find a way to

get round their serious economic crisis.

But the fighting spirit of the Korean people against the colonial, fascist policy of the Japanese imperialists could never be shaken but was further invigorated.

It was amidst such current of time that Li Ki Yung published his novel "The Native Village," his greatest work of pre-liberation days, which was carried in the daily *Chosun Ilbo* in serials from November 1933, only a few months after the publication of the medium-length story "Suhwa."

The publication of "The Native Village" signified a brilliant victory of the KAP literature and meant a telling blow to reactionary bourgeois groups which were on a rampage under the patronage of the Japanese imperialists — such literary groups as the Foreign Literature Group, the Nine Men's Society and so forth. "The Native Village" gave a truthful picture of Korea's social situation, particularly of the situation in the countryside in the late 20's and in the early 30's.

The author brought to life artistically the fighting spirit of the Korean people and their lofty ideals and moral power. At the same time he exposed the true nature of the landlords and usurers in the persons of An Seung Hak and Kwon Sang Chul, who exploited cruelly the peasants under the wings of the Japanese colonizers. The plunder and exploitation by these sharks drove the tenant-farmers of the Wuntu village to starvation. Their distress was beyond description. Draff kept them alive. In the autumn the peasants gathered in rich harvests but only for those devils, which the author gave a name of "bumper year's panic." The peasants had no choice but leave their native village. They sent their children to factories. But only back-breaking work and the pinch of poverty awaited them wherever they went.

The peasants, however, did not know where lies the cause of their sufferings and what was to be done to free themselves from their cruel lot. Helplessly they did farm every year as their forefathers lived for generations only to see the landlords and usurers take away the last grain! But such a state of affairs could not and should not last. New currents were surging in and the time was ripe for throwing off every sort of exploitation. To the village came back Kim Hi Joon, a progressive, bringing new ideas with him. His return opened the eyes of the village peasants. The

peasants for the first time realized through him the substance of class contradictions and came to the conclusion that they must unite and fight to win over a worthy life. There came a big flood, which started the villagers waging a resolute struggle. The peasants rose up demanding a reduction in the farm-rent, under the guidance of the progressive rural leader Kim Hi Joon. A "Don't-reap-the-paddy" struggle was waged to put through their demand. The victory was with the peasants and they became to know what great things they could achieve when they were united.

The novel gives a true-to-life portrait of the struggle of the people against the dark reality and for a bright future. Along with the fundamental problems concerning the fate of the rural population of Korea in the 30's the author dealt with questions of the growth of a new young generation in the countryside, the conflict between the feudal ethics and the new ideas, the great force of labour, etc.

"The Native Village" shows clearly the powerful attraction and romanticism of the all-conquering socialist ideals, which inspired the struggle of Hi Joon and the peasants based on the alliance between the workers and peasants.

In 1935 the Japanese imperialists dissolved the KAP by force. Li Ki Yung was arrested with other KAP writers by the Japanese police and gaoled for about one and a half years.

After he was released he continued to fight for the ideas advocated by the KAP with the other staunch proletarian writers, in spite of the increasing suppression by the Japanese imperialists.

In his "Human Training" (1936), "Spring" (1940) and many other stories appeared during this period, he depicted the indomitable fighting spirit of the people.

Towards the last years of Japanese imperialism when the use of Korean language was prohibited in Korea, he gave up his pen as he did not wish to write in Japanese. He then decided to till the land as a plain farmer, in the deep mountains of Kangwon Province.

#### On the Liberated Land

It was here that he saw the national liberation of August 15, 1945.

Many of his pre-liberation works, particularly his novel "The Native Village," are treasured by the Korean people. However, it

must be added his works written in the post-liberation days are also acclaimed highly by the people.

Particular mention should be made of his two post-liberation novels "The Land" and "The Tumen River" — the pride of Korean literature in the post-liberation period.

After the August 15 Liberation, brought by the great Soviet Army, Li Ki Yung, while devoting himself to the establishment of the people's power, took an active part in founding the North Korean Federation of Literature and Art in March 1946. And in April of the same year he was elected the chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Cultural Association.

Though he was busily engaged in the founding of the state, he did not give up literary creation. On the contrary, his pen has reached artistic maturity with his un-failing, creative passion, prompted by the newly-created social conditions of our country in which the people have taken the power into their own hands under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and by the new free and happy life of the people.

He saw all his dreams come true in the victorious enforcement of the historic land reform and other democratic reforms, and in the surging struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country and socialist upbuilding in the North. He witnessed the magnificent victory scored by the people.

The growth of the new countryside after the successful implementation of the land reform, the realization of the ultimate aim of the peasants looking forward to the country's eternal prosperity, the superiority of the new social system of people's democracy and its brilliant victory, invariable loyalty of the people to their glorious fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — all these great substances of the people's life profoundly moved Li Ki Yung. It is quite natural that those substances should have formed the central themes of his works in the post-liberation days. The novel "The Land," which came out in 1948-1949, is one of them. The story is built around Kwak Ba Wi, hero of "The Land," in a truthful picture of the changes, telling how he, a former farmhand, after so much hardship and humiliation before liberation, created a new life after the historic land reform. Now, Kwak Ba Wi, the true master of

his life, the land and the State, built in reality a happy new life through his own creative labour, inspired by his love of the country.

The peasants in pre-liberation Korea, represented in "The Native Village," find a kinsman in Kwak Ba Wi.

Besides such full-size novels he also wrote a number of short stories after liberation. Today he gives full scope to his artistic maturity.

The Korean people, who displayed unparalleled heroism and won victory in the just Fatherland Liberation War, have already achieved brilliant successes in the magnificent struggle for the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy, which aims at promoting the peaceful unification of the country and socialist upbuilding in the North.

And our national culture has seen a further rapid development and a new bloom. An unequalled creative upsurge is sweeping our writers. Li Ki Yung too is bending all his energies to literary creation.

He published in 1954 the first part of the novel "Tumen River" and the second part in 1956, which is dedicated to the struggle of the Korean peasants against feudalism and alien invaders and to the patriotic volunteers who fought against the Japanese aggressors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The author has been working energetically to complete the last part. He has been exploring the historic scenes of the anti-Japanese partisan struggle led by Marshal Kim Il Sung, in Mt. Paikdoo and many areas in the North-East China to collect materials on the struggle. And he has been pushing to a finish the novel "The Land," also in three parts. According to the author's plan, the struggle and life of the peasants of different periods will be told in the second part covering the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), and in the third part covering the post-war time.

When these two novels are completed, as the author says, they, together with the novel "The Humble Village," will give a vivid history of the struggle of the Korean peasants in modern times while casting a general side-view of the history of the Korean people's struggle from 1900 up to the present day.

The writer Li Ki Yung is at present bent on these big projects and he is confident of their success.

## Nuclear Weapon Tests Must Stop

The ban of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests is one of the most serious matters which the peace-loving people of the world are keenly concerned about.

Korean people proudly taking part in the world peace movement have been constantly working together with the peace-loving people of the world headed by the Soviet people for the relaxation of international tension and the ban of tests and use of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

The steps taken recently by the Soviet Union unilaterally to discontinue all types of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests moved the entire mankind deeply giving them fresh encouragement in the fight for peace.

The initiative taken by the Soviet Union has been most warmly welcomed in Korea and the people's demand for the universal suspension of nuclear weapon tests is getting stronger.

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held on April 10, our Government adopted a statement in connection with the important decisions of the Soviet Union on the unilateral suspension of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests.

In its statement, the Government of our Republic welcomed the Soviet Union's initiative, expressing heartfelt support and pointing out that the Soviet move would render another valuable service to the noble work for consolidating world peace and security.

Our Government demanded that the United States and Britain should respond favorably to the initiative of the Soviet Union for taking the first practical steps to deliver mankind from the menace of atomic war.

On April 11, the enlarged meeting of the Korean National Peace Committee was also held in support of the decisions of the Soviet Government, which was addressed by Han Sul Ya, chairman of the Korean National

Peace Committee. Expressing deep gratitude towards the great Soviet people who have been struggling staunchly for peace, he stressed that the Korean people wholeheartedly welcomed and supported the decisions of the Soviet Government on the unilateral suspension of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests and the Statement of the D.P.R.K. which was released in support of the Soviet move.

The meeting was also addressed by many. All the speakers urged strongly the United States and Britain to follow the suit of the Soviet Union and stop immediately the nuclear weapon tests.

Han Sang Doo, chairman of the All-Korea Federation of Trade Unions, pointed out: "If atomic energy, the great achievement of science, is used not for the progress of mankind but for destruction, the result will be a terrible catastrophe. And the people of the world demand strongly as the first steps for the protection of world peace unconditional cessation of production and use of nuclear weapons and unconditional suspension of the nuclear weapon tests."

Choi Seung Hi, People's Artist, said that we must do our best to prevent war and win peace so that we may rescue our beloved parents, husbands, sons and daughters from the danger of nuclear war.

The meeting adopted a statement which read in part as follows:

"... The measures taken by the Soviet Government unilaterally to discontinue atomic and hydrogen weapon tests despite the insane war policy pursued by the ruling circles of the Western Powers headed by the United States are a powerful demonstration of the world peace forces capable of preventing war at the present juncture.

"The Korean people, together with the entire peace-loving people all over the world are demanding firmly the United States and

Britain to support the just proposals of the Soviet Union and to stop immediately the nuclear weapon tests as well. The U.S. imperialists should unconditionally stop scheming to turn South Korea into an atomic base and withdraw their aggressive troops without delay from Korea."

The newspapers of our country have reported widely favourable reaction of the Korean people to the Soviet peace-loving initiative and the subsequent statement released by our Government.

Ryoo Hyon Kyoo, a furnace worker of the Nampo Refinery, pointing out that our Government's statement which solely serves peaceful purposes will duly contribute to hastening the universal suspension of nuclear weapon tests on a world scale, said:

"Now the United States and Britain are under a close scrutiny by the entire people all over the world. I resolutely demand the ruling circles of the U.S. and Britain stop talking with their tongues in the cheeks, but discontinue immediately the atomic and hydrogen weapon tests following the Soviet example."

Jung Min Taik, a physician, said in his speech:

"It is still fresh in my memory that hundreds of thousands of precious lives were lost or seriously wounded in a moment by the explosions of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. planes during the Second World War.

"I, as a doctor, who has a noble duty to rescue and protect human lives from every sorts of disease, cannot be indifferent to the sad fate of the victims of the U.S. nuclear weapon tests. And at the same time, I cannot but feel wrath and hatred toward the U.S. aggressors who are responsible for such tragedy."

The papers in Pyongyang widely commented on the nuclear weapon tests in their editorials and special articles.

In its editorial entitled "Korean people strongly demand the universal suspension of

nuclear weapon tests" the *Rodong Shinmoon* wrote as follows:

"With great satisfaction and in the noble sense of common responsibility for consolidating world peace, the Koreans accepted the message from Comrade Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., addressed to Premier Kim Il Sung of our Republic in request for our support to the recent initiative taken by the Soviet Union.

"Today, for world peace and the fate of mankind and in the interest of every home and individual regardless of their particular political interests, it is an inevitable duty of every government, social organization and individual of all countries to support the important steps taken by the Soviet Government."

*Minjoo Chosun*, in its editorial entitled "U.S. and Britain too should stop the nuclear weapon tests, following the Soviet suit", stressed as follows;

"Now, the suspension of nuclear weapon tests is a crucial matter which the whole mankind is deeply concerned about. Continuation of nuclear weapon tests will stimulate the arms drive for the production of these mass destruction weapons and it will only drive mankind nearer to the dangers of nuclear warfare. The agreement on the suspension of the nuclear weapon tests will promote the confidence among nations and will pave the way to ban the production and use of nuclear weapons. The question is exclusively up to the United States and Britain now that the Soviet Union, one of the three nuclear possessing powers, decided to stop the tests unilaterally. The end of nuclear weapon tests must not be delayed any longer."

The Korean people, who oppose the aggressive policy of the imperialist war mongers and their atomic war threat, are taking part in the world-wide movement—the movement to remove the threat of atomic war which would bring about unprecedented tragedy to mankind and to realize, first and foremost, the universal suspension of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests.



*Above: Premier Kim Il Sung and Party and government leaders greeting the paraders*

*Centre: Demonstrators passing by the Kim Il Sung Square*

*Below: Artists in the parade*

## SPRING FESTIVAL

In celebration of May Day—the international festival of workers, the day of demonstrating the indestructible might and solidarity of the working people in the world—a grand open-air rally was held in Pyongyang.



## At an Agr

In January, 1954, the Sambong farm households.

The co-op members, under the Korea; have spared no efforts to organizing a diversified economy.

As a result, the superiority after year. And by the end of power, the total farming households co-op.

This enabled them to start a they did fruit-growing and live-

Many cultural facilities are the co-op members keep growing



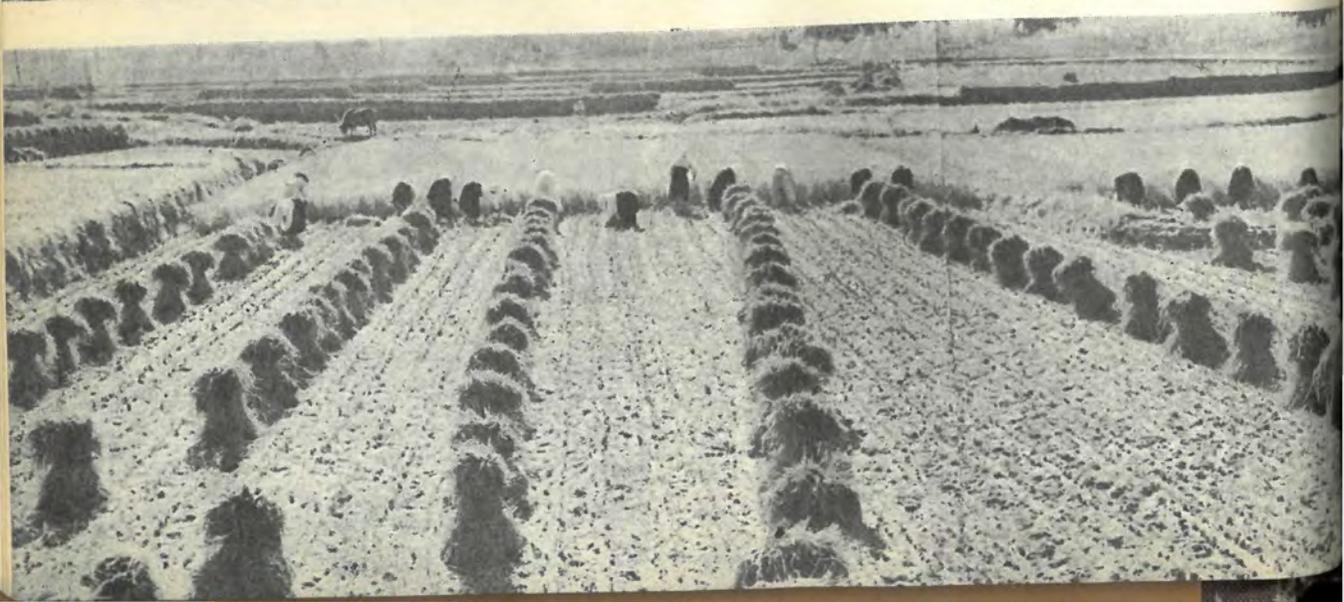
*Taking care of cold-bed seedlings*

*Tractor does the work*



*Apple picking*

*Co-op members busy harvesting*



# Cultural Co-op

Cultural Co-op was organized with 132

under the direct guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea to advance farming methods and in

co-op management became clearer year after year. 199 peasant households with 1,058 members of the village, were embraced into the

socialist agricultural economy. For example, besides grain cultivation,

livestock raising, and at the same time the incomes of



*A woman assistant-doctor on her round of co-op families*

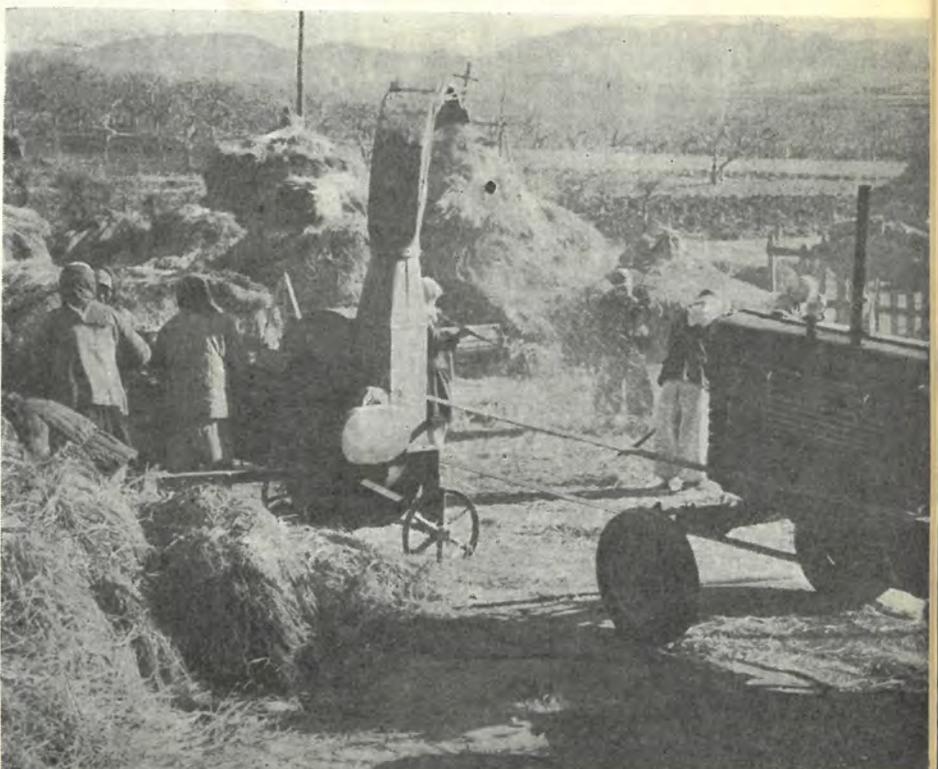


*Livestock sheds*

*At the kindergarten*



*Mechanized thrashing work*



## OKHODONG SANATORIUM

Okhodong Sanatorium is fully prepared to give a more restful time to the vacationing workers.

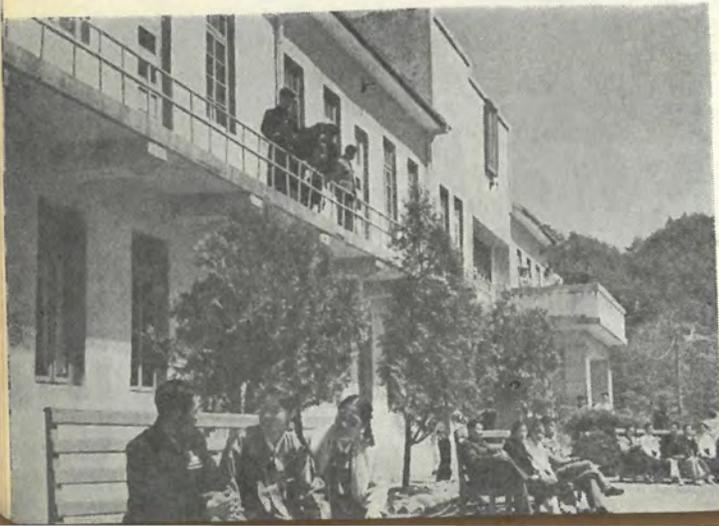


Above: Vacationers arrived

Centre: Vacationers are talking about the effectiveness of mineral water, the pride of sanatorium

Below left: Some like sunning

Below right: At the library



## Facts Condemn Aggressors

KIM SEUNG HYUNG

ON JUNE 25, 1950, the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique started their armed invasion against the northern part of the Republic. Undeniable facts and especially the secret documents found in the archives of the puppet Syngman Rhee's government at the time when Seoul was liberated by the Korean People's Army, irrefutably revealed that they had long prepared for an armed invasion of North Korea.

In his letter of April 10, 1949, addressed to Chough Pyung Ok, his personal representative to the United States, Syngman Rhee gave instructions:

"I think you should frankly discuss this situation in fullest confidence with high officials of both the United Nations and the United States. In a strictly confidential manner tell them what plans we have for the unification of north and south. As a matter of fact, we are ready for unification now in every respect but one; we lack arms and ammunition."

According to the statements made by Kim Hyo Suk, former Syngman Rhee's Minister of Internal Affairs, and other former South Korean political figures who came over to the North during the war, the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique originally planned to start their invasion of the North around July and August 1949.

The U.S. military high officials, however, had to re-examine their plan, as their repeated provocative acts against the North along the 38th parallel around July 1949 proved unsuccessful. Some units of Syngman Rhee's army crossed over to the North, and the people in the South kept up their fight against the puppet Syngman Rhee's regime. They, therefore, had to put off the invasion of the North until the rear was more secured and their army was better prepared.

At a press conference called on December 30, 1949, Syngman Rhee said:

"In the new year, all of us have to strive to restore the lost territory... In the light of the change in the international situation, we must understand that, in the new year, we have to unify the North and South with our forces."

In accordance with the plan for making an invasion on the North, the puppet Syngman Rhee's army made war preparations openly. Military air fields were built so as to make it possible for the U.S. army, navy and air forces to go into operation whenever they were called upon to do so. South Korean ports were readjusted to meet the war situation.

A U.S. naval unit paid a visit to South Korea. After the visit, on July 18, 1949, Sohn Won Il, South Korean Chief of Naval Operations, addressed a letter to Radford, the then Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. In the letter Sohn Won Il said:

"Indeed, we shall be glad to afford the facilities of our several ports, including Incheon, Pusan, Yosu, Mokpo and the Naval Base of Chinhae as temporary Mobile Base of any such unit of your Fleet."

The bellicose elements in the United States promised to give Syngman Rhee all-round military assistance when he started invasion against the North.

According to the disposition of the former South Korean Minister of Internal Affairs Kim Hyo Suk, in January 1950, Sebald, Chief of the Diplomatic Section of MacArthur's Headquarters, who was in Seoul on a visit, assured Syngman Rhee that when he started the "expedition" against the North, U.S. warships and aircraft in Japan would take part in the battle on the side of South Korea.

In February 1950, Syngman Rhee accompanied by the Chief of Staff of his army, went to Tokyo to have talks with MacArthur. And they agreed on making preparations for invading the northern part of Korea.

In the talks, according to a statement made by Moon Hak Pong, former political adviser to Syngman Rhee, MacArthur demanded that Syngman Rhee's army be placed under his command in combat operations, and then gave Syngman Rhee detailed instructions for making all the necessary preparations.

By May 1950, U.S. military experts said that Syngman Rhee's army had completed its preparations for starting an attack on the North.

At a press conference on January 24, 1950, the Defence Minister of the puppet Syngman Rhee's regime Shin Sung Mo declared: "The 38th parallel is the Far Eastern line of the United States. The occupation of Pyongyang and Wonsan will move the line northward. . . We have made all the necessary preparations for restoring the lost territory, and are waiting for the order."

On May 11 of the same year, the same Defence Minister held another press conference, on which occasion he said: "Our navy is now capable of starting action against ports both on the western and eastern coasts in the event of emergency and it is ready to go into action. . . Tensely, we are waiting for the time to come, as instructed by President Rhee."

It is no secret that the bellicose elements in the United States instigated the Syngman Rhee clique to make such provocative statements.

On May 19, 1950, about one month before the invasion of the North started, Jones, Head of the United States Economic Co-operation Administration in Korea, made a statement in the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. In his statement, Jones said that the strong South Korean army of 100,000, equipped with U.S. weapons and trained by Americans, had completed the preparations and were ready to start war at any time.

When Seoul was liberated from Syngman Rhee's rule the Korean People's Army captured a strategic map prepared by the Syngman Rhee's regime for their attack against the North.

In a film found in the archives of the Syngman Rhee's regime John Foster Dulles is seen examining minutely the above-mentioned map when he was in Korea.

Several days before the outbreak of the Korean war, U.S. Secretary of Defence Johnson, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Bradley, and

the then adviser to the U.S. State Department Dulles made a tour of the Far East and held secret talks with MacArthur.

During his visit to South Korea Dulles inspected the area along the 38th parallel and, in praise of the combatant strength of the puppet Syngman Rhee's army, made a provocative statement instigating the Syngman Rhee clique to step up their war preparations.

"No matter how strong the enemy may be, it can not resist you." These are the words of Dulles speaking before the men and officers of Syngman Rhee's army. Then he added: "The day will come soon when you can bring your force into play."

On June 19, 1950, Dulles made a inflammatory speech before the South Korean "national assembly" instigating the Syngman Rhee clique to military adventure.

"If we fail to defend democracy in cold war, let us win in hot war," said Dulles.

Then he declared that the United States was ready to render all the necessary moral and material assistance to South Korea in the fight against Communism.

Leaving Korea Dulles addressed a letter to Syngman Rhee on June 20, 1950, in which he said: "I attach great importance to the decisive role which your country can play in the great drama that is unfolding."

Dulles instructed Syngman Rhee and Shin Sung Mo, as Kim Hyo Suk revealed, that they should hold out at least a week, after they start military operations against the North even if the situation might become "disadvantageous," as the United States would mobilize, in the name of the U.N., big ground, naval and air forces of the U.S. and her satellite countries.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consistently strove to avoid a fratricidal conflict and attain peaceful unification of the country, though the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique had been scheming to provoke a war.

Early in June 1950, the United Democratic Fatherland Front once again put forward proposals for the peaceful unification of the country. Then the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed unification of the country by means of merging the Supreme People's Assembly and the South Korean "national assembly."

The American imperialists and the Syng-

man Rhee clique, however, bent on provoking war, turned down all these proposals.

At daybreak on June 25, 1950, the "ROK" army of the Syngman Rhee clique started a surprise attack on the North all along the 38th parallel in accordance with the Dulles' plan which was worked out at a meeting of the U.S. army staff in Tokyo.

Turning a deaf ear to our warning to stop the military operations the puppet Syngman Rhee's army marched one to two kilometres into the area of the North.

At last, our security forces, upon the order of the Government, went over to counter-attack in co-operation with the People's Army units.

When blows were dealt to the puppet Syngman Rhee's army under the aegis of the U.S. imperialists, by the counter-attack of the People's Army, the United States government ordered its air and naval forces and then army to go into action.

To legalize its armed intervention in Korea, the United States forced the U.N. Security Council to adopt an illegal resolution to sanction its military action. This illegal resolution was passed after the United States armed forces had already started their invasion in Korea upon Truman's order. Moreover, the resolution was adopted in violation of the fundamental principles of the U.N. Charter—without the participation of the representatives of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, two permanent members of the Security Council.

The American imperialists hurled into Korea large armed forces including those of their satellites in an attempt to occupy the whole of Korea.

The Korean people, however, enjoying the support of the peace-loving people all over the world, put up a heroic fight and frustrated the criminal acts of the American imperialists.

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## Drop the Gun!

THE WAR unleashed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors in Korea ceased five years ago. Yet in South Korea atrocious acts of the American imperialists know no end. On the contrary, they are worsening with every passing day.

According to news dispatches from Seoul, there was another case of murder committed by a U.S. soldier in Pusan on April 1. Around 8:45 in the evening a U.S. railway guard named McKinley shot a Korean woman on pier No. 1 in Pusan harbour. She was a passer-by. The American soldier raped her, then he shot her to cover his crimes.

Facing the ever heightening resentment of the people in South Korea against the repetition of such barbarity by the U.S. brutes, the military authorities of the aggressive

U.S. Army and the Syngman Rhee puppet police tried to find a way of escape under the pretext of "investigating" the case. An autopsy was held on the dead woman and the criminality of McKinley was fully established. Nevertheless, the brazen U.S. military authorities not only tried to deny the truth but branded the dead woman as a "thief", in a vain attempt to cover and justify the criminal acts of the American soldier.

However, the entire people of Korea are demanding that McKinley be handed over to them and due punishment be given to him.

Of course, this is by no means an exception. There is an unbroken chain of atrocities committed against our brothers and sisters in South Korea.

Such cases are still fresh in our memory.

On October 3, last year, in the district where the U.S. 24th Division was stationed, two Yanks shot with hunting-gun a Korean woman who was working behind the bushes. This was committed in broad daylight. On the 5th of the same month, early morning, a trigger-happy American soldier named Ronald Smith fired at five Korean women. 23-year-old Li Chun Soon of Bosanri, Idam Sub-county, Yangjoo County, was killed on the spot, and a 50-year-old woman named Jung Ok Soon was injured. And he arrested Jung Ok Soon and others.

Then there was the case of three U.S. soldiers attacking a passer-by, 19-year-old girl named An Ok Soon, at the point of gun in broad daylight in the neighbourhood of the railway station in Kunsan. Another American soldier shot Choi Keum Im, the eldest daughter of Jo Soon Ai of Dorimdong, Yongdeungpo-ku, Seoul, because she resisted his advance.

A soldier of the 48th Artillery Unit, U.S. 24th Division, shot Li Ai Dol in broad daylight. She was washing clothes in a stream in the village of Dukchunri in Pajoo County. The American soldier killed her because she refused to yield to him but began to run away.

Savagery committed against the Korean women by the diabolical American soldiers are too many to enumerate.

Today the Korean women are the objects of outrage and murder by these dregs of human beings sent to South Korea by the American rulers. And they attempt to "justify" all their criminal acts with such labels as "accidental homicide", "robbery", or "unlawful intrusion into barracks", etc.

Another brutal American soldier stationed in Yangjoo County, Kyunggi Province, bayoneted the breast of a pregnant woman of ten months named Jun Bo Pai of Baiksuk Sub-county. He killed her because she fought his criminal intention. Such is the brutality of the racist Americans. Is this "accidental homicide" too?

It was on August 10, last year. Around 11:30 p.m., an American soldier named Mike and his companion of the supply unit of the Third Regiment, U.S. 24th Division, forced their way into Song Soon Ok's residence in Bookchang-dong, Joong-ku, Seoul, to satisfy their lust. There were four women in the house. But when the women refused their ad-

vance, they broke even household utensils before running away.

Did these Korean women intrude into the U.S. army barracks?

In the vicinity of the Kunsan Air-field, Kim Jung Rye was shot and Kang Keum Sun was injured, then Byun Keum Sook was kicked down to death from a top of a 120 feet high cliff in Yungbook Sub-county, Pochun County — all by the American soldiers and the victims were all Korean women. In Jangdan, an American rascal let his dog bite a woman to death after he raped her. And his lust was not satisfied until he took out his camera and photographed the scene. These are only a few examples of their innumerable atrocious acts.

The U.S. aggressors must get out of Korea. Only then, an end will be put to such intolerable barbarity. Only then women and all the people in South Korea will be able to live in peace and enjoy a happy life.

And the entire women and the people in the northern part of the Republic raise their angry voice in protest against the repeated brutality committed by the U.S. army.

On April 8, the weavers of the Kaesong Textile Mill had a meeting to condemn the incessant American atrocities in South Korea.

"We thirty million are one body!" "Aggressive U.S. Army, get out of Korea!" These were the cries of the weavers.

Condemning the recent murder case committed by an American soldier in Pusan, Pak Soon Joo, chairman of the factory women's union, said in her speech that since the U.S. army occupied South Korea, the South Korean people have been subject to misfortune and sufferings. She expressed her indignation saying that the U.S. army is plundering the properties of the people; making the Syngman Rhee clique pressgang tens of thousands of South Korean youth as cannon fodder for another aggressive war; depriving workers of jobs, the peasants of land, and students of schools; murdering the innocent people; and outraging women. Their crimes can be by no means tolerated.

To save the women and the entire people in South Korea from the sufferings, she said, there is no other way but to withdraw the U.S. Army from South Korea to enable the Korean people to unite the country peacefully by themselves, as clearly shown in the Govern-

ment Statement of the D.P.R.K. on the country's peaceful unification issued on February 5.

The meeting adopted a protest which reads in part:

"...Firmly protesting and condemning with ever heightened national indignation the U.S. aggressors' atrocities, we demand strongly once again the aggressive U.S. army to pull out of our country. The aggressive U.S. Army, fiendish brutes, get out of South Korea at once!"

On the evening of April 8, girl students and faculty and staff members of the Pyongyang Medical College also had a meeting. Nam Myung Hi, a student of the Faculty of Hygienics, told the gathering:

"In the name of my aunt and brothers, I, as a Korean girl, condemn the fiendish U.S. imperialists. Eight years ago my aunt, a simple-hearted and diligent woman, was taken to a hill in Miari, Seoul, and killed by an American soldier. My two younger brothers who had gone out in search of their mother never came back. And my four-year-old cousin was shot at the window-sill of his house by a passing-by American soldier. For what reason should such a sweet soul become a mark of their target practice? The diabolical Yanks should not be allowed to put their foot on this civilized world."

Government employees from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Home and Foreign Trade, State Construction Commission, and Ministry of Education and Culture held a joint meeting to condemn these intolerable brutalities of the U.S. imperialists.

At the employees' meeting of the Shinuiju Rubber Factory, Pak Seung Hi, a worker in the rubber shoe shop, condemned the inhuman cruelties of the American imperialists saying that the aggressive U.S. army, so-called self-styled civilized men of the 20th century, are brutes in human guise.

Women in South Korea demand resolutely "Yanks, go home!"

We, the people in the North, expressing our full support for the fighting South Korean women, make resolve to struggle ever vigorously for forcing the U.S. imperialists to hand

off Korea and for bringing about the day when the Korean people in the North and South can live happily together.

Korean women in China condemned the American atrocities committed against the Korean women.

Oh Yung Kil, teacher at a Korean primary school in Peking, said:

"The Government Statement of the D.P.R.K. issued on February 5 in demand of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and the Korean-Chinese Joint Statement are followed by the withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers. But the U.S. Army never stop, apart from withdrawal, their inhuman, criminal acts. Such shameless crimes of the enemy can no longer be tolerated... I'm determined more firmly than ever to struggle to make the U.S. imperialists' army leave Korea at the earliest date."

Jo Kye Rim who was born in South Korea and is now working in the Peking Central Broadcasting Station said in an angry tone:

"I can hardly control my resentment against the brutality committed by the diabolical U.S. imperialists in Pusan. After the Pajoo incident they have never stopped brutal acts against the South Korean people. I feel I hear the groans of our brothers and sisters under oppression. The women and the entire people in South Korea should rise up in the struggle against the brutalities of the American soldiers and malicious schemes of the traitorous Syngman Rheeites to cover U.S. crimes.

"We must make the U.S. Army withdraw from our territory for the realization of the country's peaceful unification so that we may live happily together.

"I am convinced that our struggle will certainly be culminated in victory, so long as we are supported by the powerful socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the world peace-loving people."

Thus the entire Korean people are cursing and condemning the aggressive U.S. Army which delight itself in criminal brutal acts instead of withdrawing from South Korea.

We demand once again, "Yanks, stop atrocities, and go home!"

# Factory Trade Unions

HAN SHI YOON

**T**RADE UNIONS in Korea are mass organizations of workers, technicians and office workers under the system of people's democracy, playing an important role in the affairs of the state, economy and culture.

It is the basic objective of trade unions, as a most reliable assistant of state power and economic organs, to strengthen and enrich our Republic, and improve the material and cultural standards of the entire people.

Therefore, the factory trade unions turn their main attention to the expansion and development of socialist production. First of all, they organize a mass emulation drive for increased production relying on the workers' enthusiasm and zeal.

Trade unions help the workers to understand by various methods the economic policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the broad prospects and contents of the First Five-Year Plan (1957-1961). They also aid the workers in drawing up their correct targets for increased production.

In setting up the goal of increased production each worker pays the greatest attention to raising the productivity of labour. Guiding the workers toward increased production the trade unions at the factories help them to find every potential, mechanize the labour-consuming work, and popularize new techniques and up-to-date work methods.

The trade union organizations played a great role in the successful execution of the national economic plan for 1957, the first year of the First Five-Year Plan.

They contributed to the overfulfilment of last year's vast plan by 17 per cent by correctly organizing and guiding the workers' emulation drive for increased production.

The nation's working people came forward with some 14,000 new ideas and inventions. The trade union organizations at the factories gave full support and encouragement to the initiative of the workers, and took measures, in consultations with the management, to put new ideas and inventions into practice.

For instance, at Aoji Mine, Kim Jik Hyun, Twice Hero, in full support of the Government policy for the rapid development of coal industry, which called for tunnelling before actual mining, suggested a high-speed tunnelling.

Most warmly supporting Kim Jik Hyun's initiative, the trade union of this mine started political work

to make all drillers familiar with his experience, and every effort was made to spread the high-speed tunnelling drive in the mine.

The high-speed tunnelling suggested by Kim Jik Hyun was speedily spread not only to the Aoji Mine but to every coal mine in the Republic. And it brought about a radical change in the nation's coal industry. Last year, the high-speed tunnelling raised the productivity of labour by 24 per cent (in some cases as high as 414 per cent over the preceding year).

The trade unions at the Kimchaik Iron Works held lectures and discussions on the introduction of such up-to-date industrial methods as the Soviet Union's continuous smelting and oxidation methods. And technical guidance was given to workers. These helped the workers to be familiar with all advanced work methods.

Moreover, by considerably shortening the smelting time and dropping the operational coefficient of blast furnace from 1.34 to 0.95, the smelting time was shortened to the level of the advanced countries.

The steady enhancement in the level of industrial technique and in labour efficiency is of profound significance in raising the productivity of labour.

Therefore, the Government pays keen attention to the improvement of the workers' technical level and efficiency.

Under the favourable conditions provided by the state, the trade unions organize the workers in various ways to raise their skill and efficiency. Passing-on-technique is organized after work. There are also front workers' schools. The trade unions assist and encourage the workers in every way to attend these courses.

Thus, ample opportunities are provided for the workers to acquire better skill and higher efficiency while working. Many workers have become engineers and technicians. Forty-six workers from the factory, whose manager is Comrade Kim Sang Chul, passed the last year's State Technicians' Qualification examination.

Last year the working people raised the productivity of labour by 24 per cent as compared with 1956.

On the basis of the rapid growth of productivity of labour the Government of the D.P.R.K. raised sharply on several occasions wages of the workers, technicians and office workers in the post-war era, and again in January 1958, the wages were raised by 10 per cent on the average.

In organizing and guiding the emulation drive for increased production the trade unions pay great attention to the struggle for economization.

Under the people's democratic system in our country, the regime of strict economy is essential to the management of enterprises. To practise economy is a lofty duty of each and every worker.

The trade union organizations explain the significance of the struggle for economization in the national economy to the entire workers, technicians and office workers, and organize various patriotic campaigns for economization.

At the Moonpyung Refinery the trade union organized and guided a campaign for preventing lead powder from blowing away through the chimney. As a result, the lead extraction rate was raised by 4.3 per cent over the state plan.

In the field of light industry the trade unions organized various drives for utilizing every potential, such as "pick cotton once more," "many a pickle makes a mickle", etc.

In 1957, industrial workers gave the state 11 billion won of profit through the drive and with the rise in productivity of labour.

Trade unions set themselves the task of drawing on a broad scale the workers into the management of enterprises.

Under the sponsorship of trade unions production conferences are held to give full scope to the inexhaustible creative initiative of workers, technicians and office workers. During the past year thousands of patriotic and creative opinions were advanced by the workers at these conferences.

And the factory pays constant attention to ensure collectiveness and democratic creativeness of the production conferences and takes necessary measures, together with the management, for translating suggestions into practice.

Through production conferences the technical level has been raised in many branches of industry and the productivity of labour increased.

It must be pointed out, however, that the production conference is not the only means provided for the workers to participate in the management of enterprises.

In this way, the organizations of trade unions at the factories, under the correct guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, play an important role in a rapid development of the national economy.

While working for the steady growth of production, the trade unions also work for utilizing every initiative of the workers in the prompt execution of various measures taken by the state for the improvement of

material and cultural standards of workers, technicians and office workers.

The trade union organizations are also concerned about a further improvement, under the favourable conditions provided by the Government, in safety measures and working conditions, workers' housing and dormitories.

Mention should be made of the fact that in carrying out this work the trade unions rely upon the broad participation of the members. Particularly, safety and house inspection groups play a very important role.

With the help of the factory Party organization and the management the trade union at the Kangsun Steel Works organized a housing commission. The workers were mobilized on holidays to build houses. Some 200 cosy and modern houses were built last year.

The trade unions in our country are empowered to administer the state social insurance helping the workers and their families receive due benefits.

For this purpose each trade union has a social insurance committee for helping factory and office workers receive their due benefits under the state social insurance, and for operating its rest homes. Trade unions carry out a programme for heightening the cultural level of the workers. And the state appropriates enormous funds and provides every possible condition for this end.

Under the state solicitude cultural facilities and educational means are at the disposal of the trade unions for raising the cultural level of the working people.

Clubs, houses of culture and libraries are set up in factories, which the trade unions use for lectures and other gatherings which are held for the mass political, cultural activities and for popularizing advanced industrial methods and scientific knowledge.

Today there are 3,628 art and literary circles and 1,030 physical culture circles in the nation's factories. Very often experts and professionals are invited to give actual guidance to the members of these various circles.

A considerable number of artists and sportsmen are coming out of the ranks of workers.

It is by no means easy for the trade unions to carry out all these tasks. However, with the participation of the entire membership the tasks are being carried out successfully.

Various committees such as increased production emulation, safety, mass culture, house inspection, etc., are organized by the active members, contributing a great deal to improving the work of the trade union, to increasing production and to raising the cultural and material standards of the workers.

## A Review of South Korean Economy

The intensified enslavement policy of the U.S. imperialists and the further militarization of economy for preparing war by the Syngman Rhee clique have brought about an overall recession and instability of economy in South Korea. Its contradictions and crisis are being deepened.

The characteristic features of economic invasion of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists in recent years find expression in giving incentive to the investment of private capital.

In defiance of the unanimous opposition by the Korean people, on October 7 last year, the instruments of the "U.S.-ROK Treaty of Friendship, Trade and Navigation," which aimed at subjugating completely the South Korean economy to the United States, were exchanged and came into effect on November 7. Thus the U.S. imperialists created favourable conditions for investment of their private capital.

The U.S. imperialists have been pressing the Syngman Rhee clique for an "Agreement on Protection of Foreign Capital Investment" which would obligate the Syngman Rhee's puppet regime to compensate any loss suffered by the U.S. interests, while forcing the Syngman Rhee clique to draft the "Act on the Introduction of Foreign Capital". The U.S. imperialists' aim is to include in the Act nine-point privileges such as the right to investment of American private capital and removal of any restrictions on the investment of capital. And the Rhee puppet regime has taken a number of practical measures following the aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists.

In order to widen the scope of the U.S. private capital investment, the puppet regime has stepped up the transformation of "state-owned enterprises" into "private enterprises" and promoted the growth of compradors dependent on American capital.

In order to "create the favourable atmosphere for American private capital", the Syngman Rhee puppet regime has further intensified its professed "super-retrenchment policy"; all appropriations except military expenditure

are curtailed so as to check inflation and stabilize the currency, thus ensuring the "stability of economy". Under the name of rationalization of management, the conditions of the workers have become worsened due to mass dismissals, speeding-up of work and pegging down of wages, which serve to ensure a high rate of profit for American capital.

On November 2 last year, the South Korean "National Assembly" passed a "Trade Act," designed to place South Korea's foreign trade under U.S. control. It prohibits trade with the "communist areas" including North Korea in order to cut off economic relations between the two parts of Korea and perpetuate the U.S. control of the South Korean economy.

With the tightening of the U.S. control and the more systematic colonialist exploitation the South Korean economy has been completely militarized; national industry and rural economy have become bankrupt. And the people's living has dropped to a new low and the financial crisis of the puppet regime is further deepened.

South Korean industry is characterized, first of all, by decline and aggravating inner contradictions. In particular, the medium and small enterprises, the backbone of the national industry, have gone bankrupt and come under the control of the U.S. imperialists.

The medium and small enterprises employing less than one hundred workers account for 95.7 per cent of the total factories and around 70 per cent of the total industrial output. These factories have closed down or are operating part-time owing to the acute shortage of funds resulting from the puppet regime's "super-retrenchment policy," heavy taxes, the contraction of markets due to the shrinkage of the purchasing power of the people and the influx of the U.S. surplus goods.

In its budget for the fiscal year of 1957 the puppet government earmarked 13.5 billion hwan to finance the middle and small enterprises, but only 2.1 billion hwan had actually been paid out as of the end of September last year, one thirtieth of the actual need.

While giving every possible favour including reduction in, or exemption of, taxes to the dependent capitalists and other industrialists who are doing small scale machine-repairing, clothing and food-processing business in collusion with the military authorities, Syngman Rhee puppet regime is cruelly exploiting medium and small enterprises and working people. Taxes in 1957 were raised by 66.6 per cent as against 1956 and railway fares, electricity and communications charges and other services "run by the government" by from 50 to 180 per cent.

Medium and small factories have also been ruined because of the shortage of power and raw materials. For instance, the textile industry, the biggest in South Korean industry, depends upon the United States for 95 per cent of its raw materials. Thus the textile industry of South Korea is manipulated by the U.S. monopolists.

The ruin of the national industry caused a sharp decline in the industry closely connected with people's daily life.

In the rubber industry, for instance, in July last, 70 per cent of the factories closed down, and 28 per cent reduced operating hours. And the same thing can be said of the branches which produce underwear, leather goods, papers, etc.

Thus, in the beginning of 1957, the number of medium and small factories which had closed down was 1,176 more than that at the end of 1955. And the situation is getting worse.

Stock of goods and inactivity of business have not only hit the medium and small enterprises but also the big enterprises which are in somewhat better condition. Out of the 14 comparatively big textile factories, one closed down, while the remaining factories have cut operating hours by half.

Even according to the figures released by the "Hankook Eunhaing" (Bank of Korea), out of 49 branches of the manufacturing industries, production in 28 branches decreased as much as 62 per cent in the first half of last year compared with the second half of 1956. Those 28 branches were all producing items for everyday use. Production continued to go down in the second half of last year, while the production of war supplies increased.

Such a state of affairs has inevitably ag-

gravated one-sidedness in industry and its dependency. According to the report on the composition of the manufacturing industries published by the "Ministry of Industry and Commerce" of the South Korean puppet regime, the textile and food industries account for 41 per cent and 28 per cent of the total respectively, while the metal and machine-building industries occupy only 2 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. The ratio between industry and agriculture in terms of total output value is one to three, while it was two to three in 1940.

To meet military demands and create favourable conditions for investing private capital the U.S. imperialists set about building a few enterprises, and brought in a few diesel engines for railway. However, these undertakings only proved the intensification of the subjugation of the South Korean economy to the United States. The power needed to run these factories and engines depended on oil for the U.S. instead of using hydro-power or anthracite. Thus, without oil from the U.S. everything would stand still. Every facility and equipment is geared to the American industrial system.

Due to the dumping of U.S. surplus agricultural products and severe plunder by the puppet Syngman Rhee regime, the rural economy in South Korea, which had been on a steady down-curve, got a new blow in 1957.

Even according to the figures published by the Syngman Rhee clique the output of rice in South Korea in 1956 was 12.78 million suk, or around 80 per cent as compared with the last period of Japanese imperialist rule. The summer grain harvest last year was 5.2 million suk, or only 55 per cent of the average annual output between 1940 and 1944. Nevertheless, to ensure the provisions for "official use", first of all, for military purposes, the puppet regime forcibly collected 1,976,000 suk of rice from the autumn harvest in 1956 and over 338,600 suk from summer harvest in 1957.

Moreover, the price of fertilizers imported from the United States increased 9 to 40 per cent last year, although it had risen four to five times that in 1955-1956, while the "state purchasing" price of rice was 8,000 hwan per suk lower than the production cost.

An unheard-of famine swept the countryside of South Korea last year. About 1,200,000 farm households were without provisions

already in March this year. Landlords, rich peasants and usurers took advantage of the peasants' starvation for doing their dirty business. They loaded the peasants with a debt of 100 billion hwan.

In spite of this grave situation the puppet regime had spent only 1.5 billion hwan as of the end of September last year out of 9 billion hwan originally planned for farm funds in the fiscal year of 1957. And even the money they spent fell into the hands of rich peasants and landlords to provide capital for usury. Furthermore, 9.4 billion hwan was earmarked to be used for what they called land improvement, only 17 per cent had been spent as of the end of June last year.

It is not accidental that the damages caused by flood increase year after year. Last year they suffered 24.6 billion hwan damage from flood. In addition to the shrinkage of the cultivated area by more than 210,000 hectares compared with the days under Japanese imperialism, 116,000 hectares of land were washed away last year. All in all, the sown area was 600,000 hectares less last year than the average figures of the last five years under Japanese imperialist rule. The decrease of the cultivated area is due to the expansion of U.S. and its puppet army's military bases and negligence of land rehabilitation work by the puppet regime. The sharp reduction in the sown acreage also came from a shortage of labour power in the countryside caused by conscription and from the lack of agricultural tools, and the decrease of harvests due to the soil hardening produced by chemical fertilizers unsuitable for Korean soil. Moreover, the dumping of American surplus agricultural products and cruel exploitation by the puppet regime have dampened the peasants' enthusiasm for production.

The Syngman Rhee puppet regime announced that the grain output increased last year compared with that in 1956, but the situation remains unchanged. South Korea has to import five million suk of grain in 1958.

While pursuing the policy of introducing American private capital into South Korean industry, the U.S. imperialists are elaborating a new exploitation system in the countryside. This is shown by the enforcement of "Agricultural Association Act" and "Agricultural Bank Act" which were passed in the

puppet "National Assembly" on February 14 last year. The U.S. imperialists are planning to strengthen their control of South Korean rural economy, to ensure a systematic sale of American surplus goods, and to facilitate an organized looting of agricultural products in South Korea.

The crisis and ruin of industry and rural economy in South Korea have still further worsened foreign trade and finance.

The adverse trade balance in 1957 was more noticeable. Private foreign trade from January to August last year amounted to over 10,400,000 dollars.

The total value of imported goods, including American surplus goods, brought in South Korea in the name of "aid", is fifteen times that of exported goods during the same period.

The value of imported goods including the "aid" goods in 1957 doubled that of 1954, while exports in 1957 were reduced by half compared with 1953. This was caused chiefly by the dumping of U.S. goods as well as the increase of production cost due to the rising taxes and state service fees. According to the South Korean press, thanks to the continuous rise of taxes and electric power and transportation charges, the production cost of minerals, marine products and raw silk which are important export items increased by 30-82.5 per cent, 46.8-68.4 per cent and 42.7 per cent respectively last year. Thus, South Korean goods for export have been placed in an unfavourable position in the foreign markets.

In the field of finance, the puppet regime has intensified the exploitation of the people under the slogans, "balanced budget" and "expenditure within the limits of revenue". All non-military expenditure was strictly curbed. But the unprecedented financial deficit has been brought about because of the astronomical military expenses. Under the pretext of putting an end to the deficit, the puppet regime last year curtailed the non-military expenditure contained in the original which called for 328.8 billion hwan. But the financial deficit still stands at 184.3 billion hwan. Such a financial deficit came mainly from military expenditure. The direct military expenditure amounted to 119.4 billion hwan, or 54.6 per cent of the "ordinary appropriation."

# Some Aspects of Juvenile Literature

SONG BONG RYUL

FEELINGS and emotions of our children who are growing up in this new era are a true reflection of the new reality without any embellishment. And literary compositions reflect life, expressing the feelings and emotions of life itself.

The children's compositions of today in the northern half of the Republic mirror their own life and inner world.

When reading through the children's own writings which were published in a booklet named "Learn and Prepare", and in the latest issue of the magazine called "Juvenile Literature," we are able to see the inner world of the children.

\* \* \*

## The Precious Bag

The bulging bag carried  
By uncle mail-man,  
Coming to our town,  
Brings good news.  
Uncle, the mail-man  
Puts his hand into the bag,  
Then out comes the happy news,  
For that we call it a precious bag.  
News from mines, factories,  
From Pyongyang, and from the farms,  
Out it comes from the bag.  
But there's one piece of news  
That never comes,  
News of my great uncle in Seoul.  
Couldn't wait any longer, so I asked.  
Uncle mail-man told me:  
"Do not worry, Hyo Sup, dear!  
Surely one day from this bag,  
The news you're waiting for  
Will come out."

The poem is written by a 13-year-old boy in Uijoo on the Yalu River in the northernmost part of Korea. This is a true expression of his earnest desire.

In describing the mail-man who comes to the neighbourhood with his mail bag, the children sing their desire for the unification of the Fatherland — this is the true sentiment

of the children in the northern half of the Republic today.

## A Sweet Birdie

The bright warm sunlight  
Is melting the white snow,  
And caressing the new buds.  
We head for the hills  
With a birdie cage.  
Square board walls,  
And a roof,  
And round little door,  
Pretty is the house.  
To protect the sweet birdie,  
A nice house we built.  
Jung Nam's out of breath,  
But no time to rest,  
Climbs the tree,  
From branch to branch.  
Jung Nam sings on the top of the tree:  
"Big birdie, little birdie,  
Hurry and come to me!  
You like house warming parties,  
don't you?  
Grow up quickly and clean and clean  
up the insects."  
Jung Nam sings on the tree top,  
Under the tree other small fries  
join him.  
How right he is!  
Many little cages hang on the tree."

The writer of this ditty shows how the feelings and sentiments of children today have changed from the children in the past.

There is a fundamental difference in the thinking, feelings, and affection even about a bird or a tree.

"My village," "my garden," "our tree," and "our bird," with these affectionate terms they express the beauty and truth that they have seen and experienced in their real life, as it comes to their heart.

The following juvenile poem reflects the sentiments and emotions of today's children in the social life.

### Azaleas

Azaleas on the hillside  
Pretty as can be.  
Smiling pink buds  
Pretty as can be.  
Here, there, azaleas!  
Let us pick an armful.  
With them we will honour the work team  
That finished ploughing first.

Even though I myself have loved azaleas since my childhood, very frankly, I had never thought of them as this child did. All I wanted to do with them was to cut them and put them in a vase.

### The Electric Pole

On the hill stands an electric pole.  
With shining porcelain insulators,  
Stretching its arms of copper lines,  
There stands one on our hill.  
Look! there's one more electric pole.  
Thirty for yesterday, forty for today,  
Into our valley came flickering light  
Bringing in the bright light of socialism.

Without any explanation one can visualize easily the bright future of this child who faces the building of socialism.

In these two children's poems we find an outline or picture of this new era — this joy and the true feelings couldn't be had without their own experiences in life.

The coming of new life, the new faces brought even to the remote mountainous village, and the cultural revolution in our farms today make the children clap their hands with joy.

From another angle, what are our new generation's thoughts on the new world and what are their ambitions?

### You Cloud!

You, mean cloud!  
I know you now.  
Without giving us a drop of rain,  
Where are you going?  
Playing a trick  
And running away.  
The rice fields are all dried up,  
But you are happy.

No, no you're wrong,  
Far, far wrong.  
Without your favour,  
We can get along.  
Pong, pong, pong, the water pumps  
Draw up the water to flood  
Rice fields, every field  
Full to running over.  
You, mean cloud!  
Remember now.  
Farmers used to depend on you.  
Gone are those days long, long ago.

Time has passed when the nature was a mysterious capricious God. Such old notions have been changed by the realities of life today.

Today children dream of going to the moon in search of a jade rabbit or riding on a man-made star. Fanciful dreams? No, realities of tomorrow.

Our young generation is growing up. Their feelings and sentiments are harmonized with life. They are leaning to protect beauty, and to be strong and just and at the same time gentle and warm.

The following is a primary school pupil's composition.

### New-born Baby

"My mother gave birth last night. I was very glad when I saw the baby early in the morning after I woke up. But it kept crying. It was a beautiful baby with two dark eyes. I thought to myself:

'The baby is really beautiful. Hope he gets big real soon, then I'll teach him to walk on his little feet. When he grows a little bigger I'll take him to kindergarten, and then to school when he gets eight years old. He will wear a neckerchief and pioneers' badge. Then I shall be the big sister, a member of Democratic Youth League!'

I was so glad this morning."

Our young generation views another life with beautiful dreams of the future and of growth. The life and feelings of our young generation in the northern half of the Republic which is traveling along the road of peace and social construction are expressed in this manner.

# My Protest

AN PA YUNG

THERE is a children's park under the district management near our office. When a bit tired after the strenuous work, I like to stand by the window, look out over the park and relax for a moment. There, in the park you can see simple and innocent young children immersed in play, laughing and swinging their plump little hands. What else could there be that is comparable to the joy of watching them! Soon I feel the fatigue is gone and my heart is light. The peach, apricot, and cherry blossoms have begun to fall and the park is being clad in verdure.

There are little girls in red dresses with white aprons and boys bouncing round like rubber balls, their round bare legs seen through the young leaves. They are so lovely that I feel as if I would like to give them all a big hug.

Some of them are making merry over the seesaw game with two on each end of the iron board, joyously shouting at the top of their voices. All sorts of playthings — swing, rocking-horse, slide and so forth — are there for the children's enjoy. Every day sees 600 to 700 children come and play there. I know my daughter is also among them.

Towards evening when the day is over the parents come to the park to take their little ones.

To see the children running to meet their mothers who come to take them for supper or riding on the backs of their fathers who drop by to pick them up on their way home from the work places, does the heart good.

But this evening I was touched to the core afresh by the thought that we are enjoying a worthy life under the serene sky of our prosperous homeland, a life that is so dear and precious to all of us!

But what is this that ails me? What is this phantom that haunts me at this very moment of happiness?

But many complicated thoughts tumbled through my mind. I seemed to see the drawn pale faces of my younger brothers I left in Pusan, and the young children of my eldest sister who might be roving the streets of Seoul.

Yes, it was merely imagination. But who could assure me that they, my brothers and nephews and nieces, are safe and sound, that they are not pressed by hunger and cold, on the brink of death? I have

heard touching stories about the misery of the South Korean children. Everyday the papers and radio tell us fresh stories about their plight. And how can I forget the reports and photographs showing the pitiable state they are in, when I have my brothers and nephews there? Can I help not being concerned?

I, a man from South Korea which is now overrun by the Americans, am working here in Pyongyang, but my thoughts often turn to my native village.

Often I am filled with the happiness of my new life, and forget the home in my native village. But despite the fact that I am free from trouble and all the requirements of life satisfied, on an evening such as today I feel an overpowering, irresistible nostalgia. And then this feeling of home-sickness gives way to indignation against the enemy, the aggressive U.S. army.

Our children are loved and protected by all the people and the state. They are given every attention in our people's Republic.

All the young children of Korea should grow up as happily as those who are just now coming out of the park, and become the future masters of the country.

But the South Korean children are prowling about the streets with empty cans in their hands, and often used as shooting targets by the American soldiers and killed before they reach the bloom of youth.

Here I would like to mention some of the atrocities the U.S. brutes have committed and are committing against innocent children in South Korea.

On February 25 this year, Kim Choon Il was cruelly lynched by Yanks belonging to the 8th U.S. Army.

The boy tells the following story about the horrible cruelties he was subjected to by the U.S. brutes in uniform:

"I was tortured for nearly 5 hours on end in an officer's residence.

"Two American soldiers tortured me — kicking and stabbing me, before they put me in a box. They stabbed my legs and arms with a fruit-knife, inflicting wounds more than an inch deep. Besides, they cut my hair and eyebrow with an electric hair-clipper. One of them even plucked the remnant of my hair with tweezers.

"After abusing me in this way they took me to the guard-house and put me in a box."

This cruel lynching inflicted upon the 13-year-old shoe-shine boy was carried out by U.S. Captain Marvin Kemp and a sergeant on the order of Major Thomas James of the U.S. army, who was with them.

Those scoundrels, after all this savage torture, put the boy in a box and carried it to Euijungbo by helicopter, where it was left. But by chance a Korean working at the Euijungbo airfield found the boy, and thus his life was saved.

How many such horrible crimes are committed in present-day South Korea, crimes that defy the normal thinking power of the people. Here is another case.

On September 15 Kim Jung Re, a girl living in Gunsan County, North Cholla Province, was killed by Yankee soldiers.

A court-martial was called at the U.S. air-base concerned on January 6, ostensibly to "try the culprits," but, as was made clear by the outcome, actually only to legalize the murder case.

Kang Keum Soon, a friend of the dead girl, was present at the court as a witness. The two accused American soldiers, Edward L. Young and Karl D. Taylor, pleaded, "We fired at them, for they, the thieves, intruded into the airfield. We plead not guilty."

Then the judge declared the accused not guilty, when the witness, Keum Soon, raised a firm voice of protest.

"No, Jung Re and I are not thieves!" she said. "Let me speak. One day my mother and I were crouching in the kitchen poking at the dead ashes. Our stomachs were empty. We had neither rice nor firewood.

"We had had no fire for a long time. Just then Jung Re came. She asked me to go out for firewood, saying:

'Mama is sick, and there is no rice to make a bowl of gruel for her. I want at least to warm up the room so that she might feel better.'

"We went out to look for firewood with other girls of the village.

"But everywhere on the hillside and field we were stopped by barbed wire fences, and everywhere U.S. soldiers swarmed.

"We were passing outside a barbed-wire fence, when a voice came from inside the enclosure. Two U.S. men, identified as the accused, were beckoning to us, making signs to come in and mow the dry grass. Though we were a little fearful, we plucked up our courage and went inside, for we had no hope of finding wood or dry grass for fire elsewhere.

"When we were inside, these two soldiers present

here rushed and grasped us. Terror-stricken, we tried to run away, when shots of a carbine rang out behind us and instantly Jung Re, who was running beside me at top speed, sank to the ground. Frightened out of my wits, I kept on running. I got this serious wound in the arm. That's all. This is how my friend Jung Re died."

Even after all the truthful testimony of the little girl, which no one could doubt, the unpardonable American murderers were found "not guilty."

We could cite many other instances of the monstrous acts committed by the U.S. soldiers in South Korea.

Kim Yung Ho, a little three-year-old boy, who was playing beside an oil pipe, was shot by a Yankee brute belonging to a U.S. unit stationed in Inchon, for "stealing gasoline."

In Tongrai, South Korea, U.S. brutes in uniform fired carbines at random at innocent children playing together, killing two of them.

Two man-slayers of the U.S. army fired without any reason at two Korean boys, Kim Hyung Tai and Choi Bong Hak, near No. 3 pier of the Pusan port, and inflicted serious wounds upon them.

A U.S. army truck driven by a U.S. armyman ran over Kim Soon Yong, a Korean child who was playing on the street in Pusan. But the driver did not even stop his car.

Innumerable children are killed by the U.S. army-men in South Korea.

But no less is the number of those poor boys and girls who destroy themselves in order to get rid of poverty and hunger and cold. Some have no choice but to sell their own blood to blood banks as the last means of supporting themselves or their families. Many perished with hunger.

A report says that Li Haing Sun, a pupil in Rajoo township, South Cholla Province, ended his own life by throwing himself before an onrushing train, because he could find no way to get money for school expenses. This is just one of the countless instances.

Many students, very small school boys and girls included, sell their blood to raise money for school expenses, seeing no other way left for them.

According to the recent announcement of the "national union of the self-supporting students" of South Korea, the number of the students who sold their blood last year was 2,374, and the amount of blood sold was over 902,000 C.C.

Kim Yung Soo, a schoolboy living in Chungjindong, Seoul, sold 350 grammes of blood for 500 hwan which cost his life. One day he was on his way home from school, thinking about how to raise the money for "tuition fee," "membership dues for the mutual friendship society," "membership dues for the

supporters' association" in addition to 500 hwan which the school was demanding immediately.

His childish mind was all taken up by worry. If he could not pay the money, he would be expelled from school. And could his father make up a sum enough for the payment? No, he could not. He was now out of job. The flour-mill where he had been a worker was closed down owing to the shortage of electricity. And the last pay he received when he was dismissed was now all gone. The family even could not pay the taxes charged by the dong (sub-district) office. It is as clear as day that his father could not raise the school expenses. What could he do?

He was awakened from his troubled thoughts when a man touched him on the shoulder. He looked back and saw the smiling face of a stranger.

The kind-looking stranger took him by the arm and asked:

"Why are you looking so sad, kid? What is the matter with you? Why be so disheartened?"

Sensing a tone of sympathy in the voice of the stranger, the boy's mind began to thaw. He could not resist the desire to tell the man his troubles. But he hesitated a little.

Seeing the boy's inner struggle, the man said still more kindly:

"Tell me about it. If I find it in my power to help you, I will do what I can."

These sweet words totally disarmed the boy. He told all his story. Upon hearing it, the man said concernedly: "Well, that is trouble! But I think I can get you out of it, though it may cost you some pain."

Thus, Yung Soo agreed to sell his blood to get the money.

Soon they entered the Sevrance Hospital run by Americans. They were ushered into a room, where the poor youngster was entrusted to a physician. 350 grammes of blood were extracted from the boy.

Though tottering weakly, he somehow managed to get home. But later that night he died in the arms of his mother.

What a tragedy! And what a cursed world it was for the poor boy!

In the hand of the dead boy was found 500 hwan, the price of his life. The stranger, a devil in human guise, had cheated the boy into selling the blood and taken away the bulk of the money paid for the poor boy's life.

At least, 3,000 to 4,000 hwan must have been paid for the 350 grammes of blood.

This is a side-light on the goings-on in present-day South Korea.

With these thoughts, my brain was in a turmoil. I seemed to see many disarranged scenes of my native village, which is trampled underfoot by U.S. brutes. My heart twisted with pain to think of the fate of my family and the villagers.

When I came to the park, I found my daughter was just coming out of the gate. The wife of a neighbour was taking her little one and mine together.

Upon seeing me, my youngster cried reproachfully, but happily:

"What made you so late, daddy?" Without answering, I lifted her up and pressed her tightly to my breast as if to protect her from some unseen enemy who might aim a gun at her.

What a foolish idea it was to imagine an unseen enemy and a visionary danger in this paradise of ours!

My little daughter does not miss me at all. Everybody takes good care of her. When it is late, as today for example, an auntie living in the same quarters kindly takes her home.

And who could ever imagine a tragic scene where his or her little one was killed all of a sudden while having a jolly time?

Just imagine the feeling of a mother who is moaning over the death of her beloved son who has been killed on his way to school by a U.S. jeep!

The U.S. imperialists should get out of South Korea. They should withdraw from all territories that are not their own. They must do so in the interests of my little daughter and all the priceless lives of the rising generation.

June is the children's month.

To make it a more joyful month for the children I once again demand: "Yanks, go home!"

# Heritage of Korean Fiction

LI JA UNG

IN Korea, as in all other countries, many works of narrative fiction have been collectively created by the people from time immemorial.

Entering the 10th century, there came into being the peculiar genre "paikwan literature" — popular tales and folk songs collected and recorded by officials with the title of "paikwan." This genre of literature made considerable advance both in content and form compared with narrative fiction.

The "paikwan literature" reached its climax in the early period of the Li Dynasty which followed the Koryu. This was attributable to the prevalence of historical and literary documents at that time as well as to the actual conditions of the period in which the sharpening class contradictions between the people and the new upper crust of the Li Dynasty made the people see reality with critical eyes from a clearer class standpoint.

Whereas the characteristic feature of the "paikwan literature" of the Koryu period was that it was painted in the monotonous colour of abstract "good," the "paikwan literature" of the Li Dynasty stepped out of the boundary of abstract conception and assumed a distinct class character drawing closer to the novel. (The "Yongjai's Collection of Tales" by Sung Hyun is masterpiece in this period)

Though it still retained the form and fantastic character of romantic tales and did not come within the category of novel, the "paikwan literature" played the role of a bridge between narrative fiction and novel.

The appearance of the first novels in Korea therefore coincided in time with the golden days of the "paikwan literature" — the latter part of the 15th century.

This was a period of national upsurge when the country strengthened its defence power and repulsed foreign aggression and carried out cultural renovations within the country.

On the other hand, the exaction of the people by the ruling circles was intensified and the class contradictions became ever more acute. In order to suppress the resistance of the people, the ruling nobles tried hard to deform the people morally by shackling them

with the morals of Confucianism adopted as a national religion.

It was at such a time that the talented writer Kim Si Seup (1435-93) worked.

When Sejo (the 6th monarch of the Li Dynasty) usurped the throne of his young nephew, King Tanjong, Kim Si Seup was infuriated and retired to the Keumgang (Diamond) Mountains after burning his books and tearing off his Confucianist costume, and gave vent to his resentment through his pen. This motif of his writing is enough to give an idea of the anti-Confucian, popular character of his literary works.

Representative of Kim Si Seup's works is "Keumo Sinhwa" (Stories Written in Keumo Mountain).

The text of this work that has come down to us is not a complete one, and contains only five stories. Here we will take up one of them, "Li Saing Kyoojangjun" (Li Saing Peeps through the Fence).

The main theme of this story is the love between young man Li and a girl named Choi—their passionate love and free marriage and happy married life. This was a challenge to feudalism and a paean to the emancipation of individuality, to the moral victory of free love. Dealing with this main theme the writer lays emphasis also on humanism and patriotism.

The writer's idea is crystalized in the portrayal of the young man with free, independent spirit who strives to free himself from the shackles of feudal morals and the beautiful girl who is ever constant to her love. The portrayal of these characters is executed in remarkable detail and in exquisite harmony with the development of the plot. We find a successful fictional combination of psychological description and environment depiction in the scene showing the hero and heroine meeting for the first time and pledging eternal love in the beautiful, fairy-land-like back garden of the Chois and the scene showing the hero sinking into recollection sitting on the ground overgrown with weeds where only rats run squeaking about. The resolute

resistance of Choi to the enemy and the tearful parting of the husband and wife evoke deep sympathy in the heart of the reader.

As for the miraculous events taking place in the latter part of this story, mention should be made that this is the trace of the way of thinking of the people of the middle ages and that such fantastic method had its source in the innocent dream and aspiration of the people and their hatred toward aggressors.

The "Li Saing Kyoojangjun" and other stories contained in the "Keumo Sinhwa" have elementary features indispensable for fiction in subject matter as well as in character portrayal.

The "Keumo Sinhwa," the first collection of stories in Korea in a stricter sense, heralded the appearance of the "Tale of Prince Hoi-san," the "Tale of Woonyung" and other romantic tales attributed to the period right before the outbreak of the Patriotic War of Imjin as well as the "Tale of Hong Kil Dong," "Koowoonmong" and other novels and novellas after the war.

Kim Si Seup was followed by the distinguished writer Rim Je, who wrote the "Su-ok-sul" (Rat Scandal), "Soosungji" (Tale of the Sorrow-stricken Wall) and many other novels before he died at the age of 40 in the latter part of the 16th century.

This was a period characterized by the aggravation of the social contradictions and the further disintegration of the *ryangban* (noble) system of the feudal state. Setting the state affairs at naught, the ruling circles frequently resorted to Sahwa (coup d'etat, or the overthrow of the opposition clique under false charges). Sahwa was, in short, a strife within the ruling circles for the seizure of land, personal wealth, position, honour and power. Innocent people sustained byblows of such strifes as often as not, and many peasants were driven off their land. Centralism was greatly weakened and the state system was out of order.

Under these social conditions, the writer Rim Je, who aspired after the prosperity and development of the country, gave vent through "Su-ok-sul" to his jeremiad over the society at that time. His stand was vividly manifested in the concluding words of the story: "Alas! How can the rats making holes in the granary be the only evil ones doing harm to the society?" This story directs the shafts of satire at

the ruling *ryangban* first of all. The brazen-faced nobles and officials indulging in robbery, embezzlement and strife for power are personified in the old rat which devoured the state grain for the people and, when this came to the light, raised a big clamour in order to plead its innocence by involving in the affair numerous, animate and inanimate beings which had nothing to do with it. The local official finds out this case after the elapse of ten years and fails to settle the case until Heaven judges it. This is another sarcasm directed against the ruling circles. Through the story of the official who, coaxed by the crafty old rat, questioned and imprisoned over 80 innocent ones, the writer condemns the evils of Sahwa which was rampant at that time.

Besides, the writer exposes the feudal officials who, neglecting their duty, drive the people hard and bleed them white. He criticizes the Confucian doctrine blindly worshipping the old and points out the illusoriness of Buddhism.

Moreover, what is characteristic of this story is the author's close and many-sided observation of the characters and the allegory of their vices and defects—the craftiness of the fox, the coquetry of the bush-warbler, the greediness of the wolf, the foolishness of the donkey, turtle and pig, and the cowardice of the rabbit.

The artistic success of this work lies not only in the ideological side but also in the method of personification with which the subject matter is treated. One cannot but admire the wealth of knowledge and the marvelous talent of the writer penetrating into the secret of creation. In this story there appear 26 different animals (mainly mammals), 54 birds, many fishes, insects, plants and gods. In the depiction of animals and plants, the writer shows their distinctive oecological features and develops the plot in close connection with the portrayal of these features.

In Rim Je's work, personification is based on internal, moral similarity as well as external, formal similarity. This was achieved on the basis of many works of folklore of the preceding periods and, in particular, of the "Hwawang-Kye" (Warning of Floral King) by Sul Chong of the Silla period.

The "Su-ok-sul," with its advanced idea and high artistic value, became the ancestor of the large family of personified fable-stories

in Korea and set brilliant examples for the allegorical works of the following periods, such as the "Tale of the Rabbit," "Tale of the Pheasant," "Tale of the Toad" and "Tale of the Rat."

The period from the close of the 16th century to the middle of the 17th century witnessed two stern wars—the Patriotic War of Imjin (1592-98) waged against Japanese marauders and the War of Byungja (1636) against Ching which newly arose in China and flung its forces into Korea after conquering Ming.

Through these two wars the incompetency of the ruling circles was thoroughly revealed, and their "prestige" fell to the ground. On the other hand, the popular masses, having developed national self-consciousness and awakened to social problems, began to come out against the feudal system and look forward to a new, free age. The ruling *ryangban* circles, on their part, intensified their exploitation of the people unscrupulously in order to recover their lost wealth, and this made the clash between the ruling and oppressed classes extremely acute.

It was in these social circumstances that the literature — fiction — of Korea registered an epochal development.

There were a number of conditions which facilitated this development.

Firstly, there was the social advance of the popular masses and national awakening.

Then, there was the inflow of many works of fiction in the course of contact with Ming, which helped the public to have a better conception of fiction and paved the road for the appearance of stories in the vernacular language. In particular, the Chinese novels "San Kuo Yen Yi" (Romance of Three Kingdoms) and "Shui Hu" (Water Margin) introduced at the time of the Patriotic War of Imjin enjoyed great popularity.

Lastly, a solid foundation was laid for the development of the novel thanks to the dissemination of the "Hoonmin Jungeum," the scientific Korean alphabet instituted in 1446, and accumulation of experiences in artistic depiction through narrative fiction and "paikwan literature." Thanks to all this, there appeared numbers of story books on the Imjin and Byungja wars as well as translations and adaptations of Chinese literary works. Though most of these works still remained within the

boundary of "paikwan literature," they nevertheless showed traces of efforts to portray character and promoted the development toward the novel in its fuller sense.

After all, the development of fiction in Korea was definitely related to the social advance of the popular masses. For criticizing the contradictions in the complicated life and giving expression to a new ideal the popular masses felt the necessity of the epic genre of literature which permits a bigger, broader composition.

Illustrative of this is the "Tale of Hong Kil Dong" based on folklore, by Huh Kyoon (1569-1619) who was put to death for his revolutionary rebellion against the corrupt feudal system. This novel exposes through Hong Kil Dong, illegitimate son of Minister Hong, the foulness of the home of *ryangban*, gives expression to the popular rebellion against the evils of the feudal politics through the activities of the "Relieve-the-Poor Party" led by Hong Kil Dong and advocates, through the founding of the Kingdom of Ryoodo, the idea that the rotten, feudal state must be overthrown.

This positive theme develops in three parts.

The first part deals with the birth of Hong Kil Dong through the illicit intercourse between Minister Hong and the maid Choon-Sum, and exposes the dark side of the feudal family life as expressed in the jealousy, secret strife and intrigue revolving around Hong Kil Dong. In the second part, Hong Kil Dong leaves home in order to free himself from such "darkness," enters a den of robbers, becomes the head of the "Relieve-the-Poor Party" organized by the chivalrous robbers and wages a vigorous struggle against the ruling *ryangban*, with the consistent idea of despising the incompetent rulers, chanting freedom and courage and sympathizing with the poor, oppressed people. This is connected with the humanistic spirit of seeking a richer material life for the people and defending civil rights.

In the third part, Hong Kil Dong leaves Korea together with his comrades, builds the ideal Kingdom of Ryoodo and governs the people well as its king.

Hong Kil Dong's break with his home, his struggle against the feudal bureaucracy and the founding of the new kingdom meant a rebellion against the corrupt feudal system of that time and particularly against King

Kwanghai (1609-1623), the outrageous tyrant who killed numerous innocent people, drained the state treasury through his waste, caused the prevalence of the sale of office and thus condemned the people to utter poverty and non-rights.

Huh Kyoon stood against this society and tried to replace it with a new ideal kingdom. However, the writer was unable to go beyond the restriction of the time and his new country failed to emerge from within the framework of an ideal, but feudal kingdom.

The magic, or occult art, used as a means of struggle in this story, is related to the fantastic method related in many old folk tales and the "Keumo Sinhwa," to cite an example. As is the case with the "Keumo Sinhwa," the occult art here also is based on the way of thinking of the people of the feudal age, or rather, the way of expressing their aspiration. It must be noted, therefore, that the fantastic method so often seen in the Korean literary works was not aimed at rejecting reality or singing of the dreamland but was employed as a positive, revolutionary means of giving expression to the pure aspiration of the people in reality and of showing their triumph over all the evils.

There is another work which falls into the same category in subject matter — the "Tale of Chun Woo Chi" by an anonymous author.

Chun Woo Chi (modelled after a real person, according to records), who was good at magic, fights against the Japanese pirates and against the corruption of the ruling *ryangban* and relieves people from poverty and sufferings.

As to the motive of his coming out in the struggle, the writer says:

"Many counties on the southern coast were subject to plunder of the pirates for many years and, to crown all, were stricken by a terrible crop failure, with the result that the people were plunged into an indescribable, wretched predicament. However, those high up at the court were mad only in the scramble for power and remained indifferent to the sufferings of the people. This stirred the hearts of the men of conscience with indignation. Chun Woo Chi was also unable to put up with it any longer, and left his home, after distributing his earthly possession to neighbours, with the determination to regard the world as his home and the people as his body."

The "Tale of Chun Woo Chi" is more thorough-going in anti-feudal character than the "Tale of Hong Kil Dong." However, the flatness of description considerably mars the artistic value of the work.

Chun Woo Chi wages many righteous struggles. But in the last period he uses his magic in abducting for his love-sick friend a widow remaining faithful to the memory of her husband, and is put to shame by Kaknim Doryung (an imaginary figure symbolizing "good") and barely escapes with his life. He is punished for using magic for an unjust purpose.

These two works, particularly the "Tale of Hong Kil Dong," have been most familiar stories for the Korean people. These works, built on the basis of folklore, have gone to the treasury of people's creation. (There is another work falling into this category — the "Tale of Suh Hwa Dam").

Now a few words about "The Chronicle of Imjin," an epical work depicting the Patriotic War of Imjin. Dealing as its central figures with Admiral Li Soon Shin and many commanders of the people's volunteers who immortalized themselves in the war, this work presents a panorama of the whole course of the seven-year war against Japanese invasion upon Korea.

This development of the plot can be divided into four parts.

The first part describes the preparation for the invasion of Korea by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, who had brought the 60 principalities of Japan under his rule and the deplorable conditions of Korea in which the ruling *ryangban* are blind with position seeking and neglect military administration and, as a result, the soldiers do not know how to fight. The character of the war and the inevitability of the defeat of the Korean regular army are clearly explained.

The second part deals with the beginning of the enemy's treacherous attack in the year of Imjin (1592) and the situation of the war in its early period. It shows that the ruling circles, who were engrossed in factional strife and blind with wealth and honour, were entirely answerable for the repeated defeats. And it describes how the popular masses rose up for routing the enemy.

The third part is devoted to the depiction of the counter-attacks upon the enemy and the

ultimate victory of the Korean people. It depicts the immortal merits of Admiral Li Soon Shin who sent the whole armadas of the enemy to the bottom of the southern sea through his far sighted defence preparations and outstanding tactics and thus cut the enemy's route of replenishing man-power and material.

It presents a vivid portrayal of the excellent tactics, valour and patriotism of such commanders of the people's volunteers as Jung Moon Bu of the Bookpyung Temple in Hamkyung Province, Samyungdang of Mt. Diamond, Kwak Jai Woo of Euiryung, Kyung-sang Province, Kim Duk Ryung of Kwangjoo, Cholla Province, and Kim Eung Suh of Ryonggang, Pyongan Province. It should be noted that the description of events is interwoven with the fantastic idea of the "help of God."

In the fourth part of the tale, Kim Eeung Suh and Kang Hong Rip go on an expedition to Japan and, then, Samyungdang forces the Japanese monarch to surrender. This part of the story is characterized by the thrilling description of Samyungdang's miraculous deeds, linked with the burning hatred of the Korean people toward the aggressors.

As for works reflecting the War of Byungja, there are the "Tale of Lady Pak" and "Tale of Rim Kyung Up."

The "Tale of Lady Pak" devoted to the personal history of a lady by the name of Pak can be divided into two parts.

In the first part the heroine, married to Li Si Baik, fails to win the love of her husband and his mother on account of her plain appearance. But she runs the house well and gives miraculous help to her husband. By and by she becomes beautiful in appearance by following her father's advice and leads a happy married life. As for miraculous deeds, she buys a horse at 300 *lyang* and sells it for 30,000 *lyang*, gives her husband a strange ink stone pitcher, making it possible for him to

pass the state examination with the highest honour by virtue of the pitcher, and so forth.

In the second part, lady Pak fights for saving the country from danger. Before invading Korea, the King of the Nyujin tribe sends his daughter Kiyongdai as an assassin to do away with Li Si Baik, General Rim Kyung Up and other noted figures of Korea. However, lady Pak unmasks Kiyongdai who sneaked into her house to assassinate her husband and thus frustrates the enemy king's plan. When the war starts, lady Pak leads people to a safety place, slays the enemy general Ryongholdai who broke into her house, and puts his elder brother Ryonggoldai to shame. However, the story describes the disgraceful peace concluded by the rulers with the invaders as "destiny" to which the country had to submit. This notwithstanding, the story is based, as a whole, on the life of the people at that time, filled with hatred toward the enemy, national self-consciousness and patriotic spirit.

In particular, the fact that the main figure of the story is a woman is a reflection of a new ideological trend opposing to treat women as inferior to men and calling for the voluntary participation of women in the defence of the country. A survey of documents shows that though Li Si Baik was a real person, lady Pak was not.

A good wife at home and a courageous and resourceful patriotic fighter in the society, she was a typification of the virtues of the women noted in history.

The "Tale of Rim Kyung Up" is a biographical story dealing with the life of General Rim Kyung Up, who devoted his courage and wisdom to the defence of the nation and immortalized himself in the War of Byungja.

What is characteristic of these literary works written against the background of the two wars is that they are permeated with patriotism, tribute to heroes and burning hatred against the aggressors.



## 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN'S BIRTH

The Korean people widely celebrated the 88th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. In honour of this great occasion many events were held throughout the country.

On the evening of April 21, rallies were held in the seat of every province. Lectures, short courses, cinemas and photo shows retrospectively the great Lenin's indomitable revolutionary activities were also held.

In Pyongyang on April 22, Ha Ang Chun, candidate member of Presidium of and Director of the Science and School Education Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, delivered a speech.

Major factories, enterprises, offices, schools and all the political and social organizations in the city held the "Evening of Korean-Soviet Friendship", and young men and women also held many gatherings.

## WRITERS ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY

To greet the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea writers of our country are endeavoring to put out many new works. It is expected that during this period 75 prose, 122 poems, 80 plays, 100 pieces of juvenile literature, and 20 critical essays will come out. Collections of novels, poems, plays, and critical essays on literature will be published.

Moreover, many distinguished works on Korea written by foreign writers will be introduced to our

country while many of Korean writings will be translated into foreign languages. In addition, writers of our country will tour factories, farms and fishing villages to lecture on "the development of Korean literature in the past ten years." And many literary gatherings such as "an evening of poets" will be widely organized.

## ACTIVISTS' MEETING OF PUBLICATION WORKERS AND NEWSMEN

An activists' meeting of publication workers and newsmen was held at Pyongyang on April 3-4.

On the basis of the report made by Hyun Pil Hoon, Chairman of the C. C. of the Korean Journalists' Union, attendants of the meeting discussed earnestly their immediate militant tasks for the realization of the decisions of the First Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea. They resolved to devote their pens as through protectors, propagandists and positive fighters for the realization of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the W.P.K., also spoke at the meeting.

## BLAST FURNACE NO. 1 AND COKE OVEN OF HWANGHAI IRON WORKS COMMISSIONED

On April 30, blast furnace No. 1 and a coke oven of the Hwanghai Iron Works are put into commission. They were finished in a short space of time — less than one year.

The capacity of the blast furnace is to turn out 250,000 tons of pig iron annually and that of the coke oven 300,000 tons of coke.

In constructing them more than 10,000 tons of steel frames, 28 kilometers of rails and over 6,000 machines produced in our country were used. And everything from designing to finishing was done by our technicians and workers.

They are equipped with up-to-date

technique. Advanced Soviet technique and experiences were fully introduced and the blast furnace and coke oven have shown high efficiency from the start.

## HEUNGNAM AMMONIUM NITRATE FACTORY BEGAN TO WORK

Thanks to the material and technical aid rendered by the Soviet Union, on April 20, the Heungnam Ammonium Nitrate Factory newly built as part of the Heungnam Fertilizer Factory was put into operation.

The opening ceremony was held in the presence of Premier Kim Il Sung, Choi Yong Kun, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, other Party and Government leaders and representatives of social organizations.

Also present were S. F. Anfimov, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Chemical Industry, U.S.S.R., A. M. Puzanov, U.S.S.R. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the D.P.R.K., V. I. Makarov, representative of the U.S.S.R. State Committee of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, diplomats and guests from the fraternal countries in Korea and the Soviet experts who had rendered great technical aid in the construction of the factory as well.

Premier Kim Il Sung declared the commissioning of the factory equipped with up-to-date technique and extended deep gratitude and honour to our workers, technicians, engineers and the Soviet experts as well who had devoted themselves to the construction of the factory.

## NEW MEAT PACKING PLANT AND MAIZE PROCESSING FACTORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A new meat packing plant and a maize processing factory are being built in Hamheung, South Hamkyung Province.

The former will have a floor space of 5,500 square metres while the latter 4,500 square metres. The new meat packing plant will produce various meat products.

The maize processing factory equipped with up-to-date machinery will be able to process daily 1,200 tons of maize.

### **YANGDUK-SHINSUNGCHUN RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**

Yangduk-Shinsungchun Railway electrification work was started on April 1.

Workers resolved to complete this work by the first half of 1959, six months ahead of schedule, and to finish electrification of the Yangduk-Inpyung section within this year, thus concentrating now all labour forces on this project.

When Yangduk-Shinsungchun Railway is electrified the haulage capacity will increase by 50 per cent and the carrying capacity by over 20 per cent. Also annually some 18,000 tons of coal will be saved.

### **FOREIGN STUDENTS IN KOREA HELP CONSTRUCTION WORK**

The students from the fraternal countries who are studying at Kim Il Sung University have volunteered to help the citizens and students of Pyongyang who have risen to rebuild Pyongyang, our democratic capital, into a more grand and beautiful city.

Soviet students in Korea helped the citizens and students in constructing one-storied modern houses from March 31 and Chinese students took charge of roofing. While Albanian and Mongolian students

actively did plastering or ground-work.

Many students including G. Galieva from the Soviet Union and Chiang Cheng-tsai from China joined even the night work.

### **FINANCE OF PUPPET SYNGMAN RHEE'S REGIME IN RED**

*Tongyang Tongshin*, a South Korean news agency, reported on a statement released by the "Ministry of Finance" of the puppet Syngman Rhee's regime. According to the statement, during the first three months of this year the total revenue was 29,129,000,000 hwan, while the expenditure was 45,497,000,000 hwan, resulting 16,300,000,000 hwan in red.

The figures released by the puppet "ministry of finance" stands at 40 per cent of the revenue and 60 per cent of the total expenditure of the original budget for the first quarter which was 74,025,900,000 hwan. Financial deficit is due to the vast military and police expenditure.

### **3.8 MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN SOUTH KOREA**

The *Junnam Ilbo* in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, reports that the unemployed are estimated at 3.8 million — full-unemployed 1.5 million and semi-unemployed over 2.3 million in South Korea.

In December 1956, the so-called "ROK-US Commission for Relief of the Unemployed" announced that the number of unemployed in South Korea was 3.6 million, of which 1,135,000 were full-unemployed. Since then South Korean periodicals reported the number of the full-unemployed went up to 1.3 million.

The recent figures speak eloquently of an increase of the unemployed due to the further bankruptcy of industry and agriculture in South Korea.

### **KOREANS IN JAPAN PARTICIPATE IN SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN**

According to a Tokyo dispatch, Korean nationals in Japan have started a wide signature campaign throughout Japan in response to the decisions of the Second Session (December 1957) of the United Democratic Fatherland Front in demand of immediate cessation of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests, unconditional prohibition of production and use of these weapons, the withdrawal of the U.S. aggressive army and against the attempt of U.S. imperialists to turn South Korea into an atomic base.

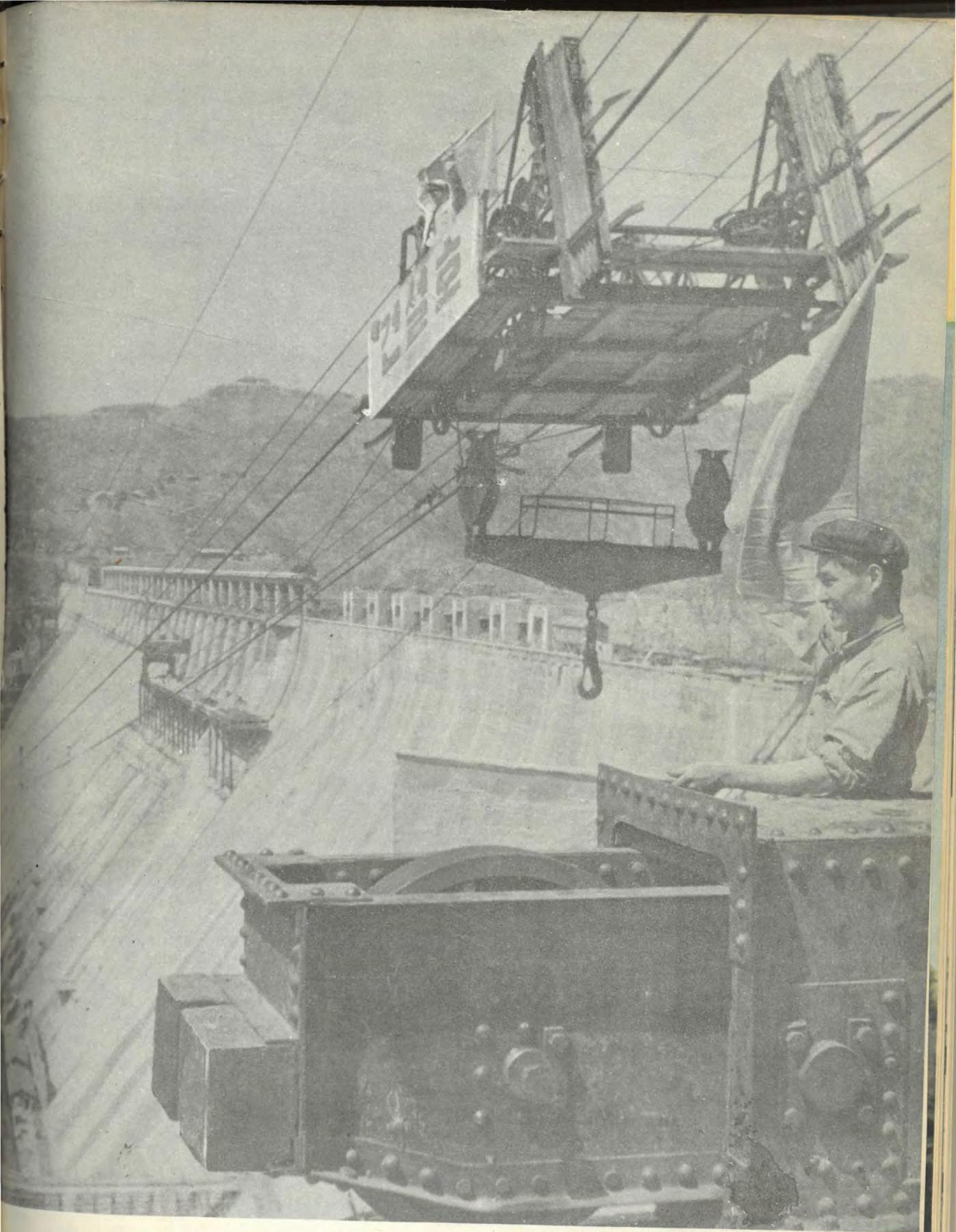
As of March 31, 244,173 Koreans put down their signatures.

### **JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN'S GROUP IN KOREA**

A Japanese businessmen's group led Magosaburo Yoshimura, Vice-President of the Japan's International Trade Promotion Association, visited our country from March 28 to April 23.

During their stay in Korea, they held talks with the representatives of the Korea Committee for the Promotion of Foreign Trade and trade corporations of our country in relation to the implementation of the trade agreement signed last September. Also views were exchanged on the promotion of normal trade relation and friendship between the two countries.

The guests visited several factories and enterprises newly built and rebuilt after the truce.



*A scene of dam reconstruction at the Soopoong Hydro-power Station*

Photo by Kang Dai Wook

