

53 years Later

[Following is a slightly abridged version of a speech delivered by Jong In Song, Counsellor at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's London Embassy, at a seminar organised by the Preparatory Committee to Celebrate the Victory in the Father Land Liberation War, to mark the 53rd anniversary of the victory of the Korean people against American aggression.]

At the time of the start of the Korean War, there were only 20 million Koreans, 8 million of whom lived in the north of the country. For the first time in its 5,000-year history Korea - with one language, one culture and one ethnicity - was forcibly divided by the US so as to use it as a launch pad for conquering China, the USSR and the rest of the world. Korea was one of the winning countries and Japan among those defeated in the Second World War. It should have been Japan, not Korea, that should have been subjected to division.

The US thought the Korean war would be an all too easy affair, with the US aggressor army having breakfast in Kaesong, lunch in Pyongyang and dinner near the border with China. In fact, it turned out to be the first defeat for US imperialism. Faced with the heroic and fierce resistance of the Korean people, and in their desperation to avert defeat, the US-led imperialist forces dropped 5,648 tonnes of bombs on the DPRK - more than the number dropped on Japan during the war in the Pacific.

Fighting bravely and boldly, guided by the brilliant leadership of Kim II Sung, the Korean forces killed or wounded 1.5 million US and satellite troops, destroyed or shot down 12,220 US aircraft, destroyed 56 US ships, 3,250 tanks and 13,350 trucks. These achievements were solely due to the fact that the Korean people were headed by a party, the Workers Party of Korea (WPK), a government and a brilliant and iron-willed commander, Kim II Sung - all of whom had the will and determination to defend the country and win over the popular masses by carrying forward the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese war of liberation, through nationalisation of industry and the struggle against feudalism. In addition, the DPRK had the support of progressive people everywhere.

All these factors combined to force US imperialism to sign the Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953, to which the US and the DPRK alone were signatories. Although under the terms of the Armistice, the US and the DPRK were to meet to discuss the terms of a peace treaty to replace the Armistice, the US so far has refused to comply with its obligation, with the result that the US and the DPRK are technically still at war. The Armistice Agreement is a piece of paper which no longer guarantees peace. Instead of signing a peace treaty with the DPRK, the US concluded a Defence Treaty with South Korea. Although prohibited by article 13 of the Armistice Agreement, the US has amassed large forces and weaponry, including 1,000 nuclear warheads, in South Korea. This is so because the US still harbours ambitions for world domination.

The DPRK was in a strong position to safeguard its sovereignty and social system because the facts were on the side of the DPRK; because it enjoyed the support and solidarity of people around the world, and because of the iron discipline and unity between the WPK, the Korean People's Army (KPA), the Korean people and their leader Kim Jong II. The DPRK is well prepared and well placed to repulse any aggression. ✍

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