

KIM IL SUNG

**A TALK TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT
AND HIS PARTY**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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I warmly welcome you, the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and your party on your visit to this country.

I am quite delighted to have the chance to become acquainted with you and talk with you today.

You are engaged in the progressive and righteous work of promoting the economic development of many countries of the world. I highly appreciate your great efforts for the advancement of the developing countries and countries of the third world in an extremely complex international situation, and actively support your just work.

I would like to speak about the international situation and the topic of South-South cooperation, in which you are interested.

At present, the developed capitalist countries are passing through a serious economic crisis. This economic crisis of the developed capitalist countries, which started a long time ago, is becoming more serious as the days go by, increasing the danger of another world war.

The previous history demonstrates that monopoly capitalists will unleash war to escape from a serious economic crisis. Seeking a solution in war is a method they have used at all times. Only when the monopoly capitalists provoke a war can they make a lot of money by producing munitions on a large scale. Reagan, the President of the United States, is now exacerbating international tension and intensifying

his war policy because of the desire of the US monopoly capitalists to find a way out of economic crisis in a war.

The method of war, however, cannot fundamentally solve the economic problems the capitalist world is now experiencing. In order to escape from the crisis, the developed capitalist countries should advance along the road of developing favourable economic relations with developing countries and third world countries. In other words, the United States and the other developed capitalist countries must not cling to plans for increasing armaments and a policy of war, but assist the developing and third world countries in their economic development.

Whenever I meet people from developed capitalist countries I tell them that if they are to escape from the economic crisis, they should not expand armaments but assist the third world countries; they should not take raw materials at low prices from developing countries by exploiting the outmoded international economic order, but establish a new and fair international economic order and develop economic relations with developing and third world countries according to the principle of mutual benefit. When a party leader of a certain developed capitalist country in Europe visited our country a few years ago, I also said the same thing to him. Then I told him that I hoped he would be a pioneer in establishing a new, fair international economic order and assisting the developing countries. The developed capitalist countries have not yet discarded the policy of exploiting developing countries by relying on the old

international economic order.

Some years ago, a North-South Summit Conference was held at Cancun in Mexico, and the problem of establishing a new international economic order was debated, but the attempt failed due to the unjust demands of the developed capitalist countries and their insistence on continuing to exploit the developing countries.

There has been no change in the nature of the imperialists and their policy of dominating and exploiting the small and weak nations. If there has been any change in them, it is not in their predatory nature but in their methods of exploitation. In the past the imperialists have made the backward countries their colonies and exploited them, but today they exploit developing countries by the neo-colonialist method. In former years, the developed capitalist countries such as Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal and Italy had many colonies in various parts of the world. The United States pretends it had no colonies in the past, but in reality it seized the economic levers in many Latin-American countries and exploited their peoples as it pleased. Today the imperialists dominate and plunder countries which were colonies in the past by granting them formal independence and using the old international economic order. The people of the developed capitalist countries are continuously attempting to exploit the developing countries through the structures of the old international economic order, in the belief that the developing countries could not survive if it were not for them. This is an anachronistic idea.

History has moved on and times have changed. The time has already passed when the imperialists had many colonies in various parts of the world and exploited and plundered their peoples as they wished. After the Second World War, most of the former colonies and semi-colonies in Asia, Africa and Latin America won their national independence and set out on the road of building a new society. The developing and third world countries are now making vigorous efforts to build a new society free of domination, subordination, exploitation and oppression. The developed capitalist countries must not underestimate those countries which have set out on the road of building a new society after freeing themselves from colonial subordination.

Today the developing and third world countries are faced with the task of building an independent national economy and developing independently. An independent national economy is the material basis of an independent and sovereign state. The building of an independent national economy enables them to consolidate the political independence already attained and achieve complete economic liberation.

If they are to build an independent national economy and develop independently, they must eliminate flunkeyism and technological mysticism.

There is still a great deal of worship of the previous suzerain states and developed capitalist countries in the attitudes of the people of the countries which were colonies and semi-colonies in the past. A number of people in the developing and third world countries think that it is

impossible for them to subsist without the former suzerain states and the developed capitalist countries. Technological mysticism is also to be found in the attitude of the people of the developing and third world countries. This is a great obstacle to them in the building of a new, prosperous, independent society.

There are big and small countries on the globe, but we cannot say that some countries can develop and some countries cannot. We cannot say that the peoples of the countries which are economically developed are always wise and that the peoples of the less economically developed countries are unwise. The peoples of the developing countries are no less intelligent and talented than others. Our country has the International Friendship Exhibition, where the gifts presented to me by many countries in the world are on display. A visit to this exhibition will enable you to discover something very interesting. The gifts on display in the exhibition show that the handicraft articles manufactured in Asian countries are finer than those of the European countries. This indicates that the Asian people possess excellent talents and that handicraft in their countries has a long development dating back to ancient times.

Intelligent and remarkably talented as they were, the peoples of the developing countries lagged behind those of the European countries because they had not gone through the industrial revolution. Great Britain was the first country to go through this revolution. After the industrial revolution occurred in Britain, many European countries also went

through it. In Asia, Japan went through it in the age of Meiji. World history demonstrates that the countries that went through the industrial revolution early developed rapidly.

Most of the Asian countries failed to conduct a capitalist industrial revolution. While countries such as Great Britain and Japan were making the industrial revolution, other countries in Asia failed to do so because the restraints of their feudal system on social progress were too severe. The history of our country and of China shows that the former feudal systems were so strict that the feudal forces squashed the forces attempting to carry out the industrial revolution. At one time in our country, the Reform group including Kim Ok Gyun insisted on the use of mechanical engines in industry. But the feudal rulers crushed the Reform group which was championing the industrial revolution, because they knew that industrial development would prevent them from maintaining their feudal rule. In the period of the Emperor Guangxi in China, a man called Kang You-wei tried to carry through the industrial revolution, but failed. Those countries which failed in the past to carry out the industrial revolution are still in a state of backwardness.

The developing countries and the countries of the third world failed to carry out the industrial revolution in the past and, what is worse, as a result of imperialist invasion, they became colonies or semi-colonies for a long time, and their independent development was seriously hindered. As a result, it is natural that the idea of worshipping suzerain states and the developed capitalist countries and technological

mysticism should arise in the minds of their peoples.

If the developing and third world countries are to build an independent national economy and achieve independent national development, they must also solve the problem of national cadres.

Those countries which were once colonies or semi-colonies and then attained independence are generally short of national cadres. While enforcing colonial rule over the countries of small and weak nations, the imperialists prevented national technical cadres from being trained in those countries. As a result, in the countries which were once colonies or semi-colonies, there are few scholars who have learned mathematics, physics and the other natural sciences, and the few specialists there are trained in the humanities such as law and literature.

In order to achieve a quick solution to the problem of the national cadres who are needed for the building of a new society, the developing countries must advance their education work. In particular, they must make great efforts to train technical personnel in the natural sciences. At present, by the way, they do not direct sufficient effort to the training of such technicians.

About 20 years ago I visited a country in Asia and talked with scholars there. My inquiry into the proportion of students learning social sciences and natural sciences among its students proved that the students learning social sciences such as literature, law, language and historical science constituted more than 80 per cent, and that students in the

natural sciences including mathematics, physics, engineering and agriculture were only about 20 per cent. So I told the people of that country that we could find consolation in reciting poems and writing stories when we lived as colonial slaves of the imperialists but, now when we have won the independence of our country, we cannot live in that way; we must raise our crops well and gradually develop industry; only when we develop the economy can we consolidate the political independence of the country and achieve complete economic liberation; and in order to develop the national economy, it would be preferable to increase the proportion of students learning the natural sciences and to lower that of the students in the social sciences. Today it is the general trend in higher education to have students learning natural sciences form a large proportion and those learning social sciences form a small proportion of the student body.

It is not easy for the developing countries and the countries of the third world to abolish flunkeyism and technological mysticism and solve the problem of national cadres. But if they set their minds to these matters and make serious efforts, they can eradicate flunkeyism and mysticism, find a solution to the problem of national cadres and successfully establish a new, independent society. This is clearly demonstrated by our practical experience.

In the past our country was an underdeveloped state which existed for a long time as a colony of Japanese imperialism. Our prolonged and arduous struggle against the Japanese imperialists brought about national liberation

in 1945. In spite of liberation, at that time our country was unable to produce even a pencil on its own. The Japanese imperialists took away wood and graphite from our country to their own country to produce pencils and then brought them back to our country and sold them. After we formed the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea following liberation, we brought up the problem of producing pencils as the first agenda item at the committee meeting and decided to produce them through our own efforts. Only when pencils were produced could the illiteracy of the labouring masses be abolished, could we provide school education to our children, and could the office workers attend to their business. One could say that after liberation the building of a new society in our country started, in effect, from zero.

Even when the building of a new society began in this country after liberation, the worship of the great powers and technological mysticism were serious problems among the people. That was why I saw to it that active efforts were made to abolish flunkeyism and technological mysticism from the first day that we embarked on the building of a new society. As a result of vigorous efforts to oppose flunkeyism and technological mysticism and to establish the principle of Juche, the idea of worshipping the large and developed countries and the technological mysticism which still lingered in the minds of our people gradually disappeared.

Our people have found solutions to the problems arising in the building of a new society through their own efforts without depending on other countries.

When our country was going to produce its first electric locomotive, we asked for the blueprint from the people of a developed country. They said that Korea would be unable to produce the electric locomotive through its own efforts, and tried to persuade us to import and use electric locomotives which had been manufactured in their country. We had no choice but to approach the production of the electric locomotive by developing a design of our own. Our working class, scientists and technicians produced an excellent locomotive through their own endeavours. We have also produced lorries, tractors, trolley buses and electric trains, for ourselves. When we are ignorant of science and technology, we consider them to be difficult and mysterious, but they do not seem strange at all when we know something of them. A serious commitment to study enables anybody to master science and technology.

We made great efforts to train national cadres following the liberation of the country. Our country was then in a very difficult situation but we tightened our belts and built universities and trained national cadres. Now we have 1.2 million intellectuals and are striving to achieve the intellectualization of the whole of society. If you read the *Theses on Socialist Education* which I have written, you will acquire a good understanding of how educational work is carried on in our country.

Our country, which started the building of a new society from zero after liberation, has attained a high level through rapid development over a period of 40 years. We produce

generators, turbines and other things we need by ourselves. As matters stand at present, our country is nearly approaching the level of the developed countries. A little more effort, and we will be able to overtake the developed countries in the near future.

We have neither foreign capital nor have we received any aid worth mentioning from foreign countries in establishing a new society. We have built a new society by relying entirely on our own people's efforts. At present there are three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—under way in this country, and they are also being carried out through the efforts of the masses of the people.

Man is the master of everything and decides everything. As the masters of the revolution and the work of construction are the masses of the people and as they have the power to drive the revolution and the work of construction, we should have faith in the strength of the masses of the people and rely on it in the building of a new society. "God" cannot build a new independent society for people. Only people are able to create the material wealth which is needed for the people's livelihood.

The Juche idea, the guiding idea of our Party, requires us stoutly to maintain our independence in the revolution and the work of construction and to give full play to the creativity of the masses of the people. Previously the people of some countries were rather doubtful whether our Juche idea corresponded with the principles of Marxism-Leninism. But now they also lay special emphasis on the role played

by the masses of the people in the revolution and the work of construction.

Our experience shows that if we believe in the masses' strength and give full play to their revolutionary enthusiasm and creative activity, we can overcome any difficulty and successfully build a new independent society by our own efforts.

The developing countries and the countries of the third world must develop South-South cooperation, while at the same time tapping and exploiting their own internal resources to the maximum, displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance to the full, so that they can be successful in building a new independent society.

Today, in view of the fact that the developed capitalist countries do not adequately assist developing countries and continually attempt to exploit them by using the structures of the old international economic order, the development of South-South cooperation is an important means of enabling the developing countries to break out of their bottlenecks and resolve their problems in order to build a new independent society rapidly. Only when South-South cooperation is developed can they succeed in resolving their economic and technical problems, build an independent national economy quickly and achieve the independence of the whole world. If South-South cooperation is developed, the flunkeyism and technological mysticism remaining in the people's minds can be eliminated and the problem of national cadres can be resolved. This may also effect North-South cooperation.

Each of the developing countries has one or two valuable techniques and experiences which it has acquired in the course of winning national independence and struggling to build a new society. There are big countries such as China and India among the developing countries. If these countries exchange the valuable techniques and experiences acquired in the course of building a new society and cooperate with each other, they will be able to develop rapidly in various fields.

Mutual exchange and cooperation between the developing countries are far more beneficial than aid received from developed countries. If the developing countries were to call in a technician from the developed capitalist countries nowadays, they would have to pay him more than 1 000 dollars a month. But if they exchange technicians with each other, it will be quite enough to give them about 100 or 200 dollars and provide them with food. The technicians of the developing countries will not demand good houses and cars as those from the developed countries will.

It would be good for the developing countries to exchange technical papers with each other. As matters stand at present, the developed capitalist countries require the developing countries to pay millions of dollars for a blueprint. Worse still, they demand large amounts of money even when developing countries ask them to reproduce the technical drawings of a lorry or a machine tool for them. The technical drawings of lorries and machine tools may be photographed or copied free of charge in deals between the developing countries.

The developed capitalist countries do not like to sell pure strains of farm crops to the developing countries, and when they do, they ask exorbitant prices. We can give developing countries pedigree seeds of agricultural crops and technical papers free of charge if they ask for them.

Even though a developing country may build a factory with the “aid” of tens of millions of dollars from a developed country, there will be little genuine benefit after the price of the designs and the wages of the technicians are paid. The developing countries must chart their way to living in cooperation without placing any hopes in help from the developed countries. If they pool their efforts, they are quite capable of living without incurring any obligations to the developed capitalist countries.

We deem it necessary for the developing countries to develop cooperation first in the field of agriculture.

The problem of food is of fundamental importance in the people’s lives. Only when the people are able to eat their fill can they support their government and work well, and not envy other countries. The developing countries should first solve the food problem by cooperating, above all, in the field of agriculture. If they organize their cooperation well in the field of agriculture for about a decade, they will be able to attain self-sufficiency in food.

We are now developing cooperation in the field of agriculture with the developing countries of many areas of the world, including Africa. Our agricultural technicians and experts are helping African countries to build experimental

farms and agricultural science research institutes and the results of cooperation are very good.

When we dispatched agricultural technicians and scientists to African countries, we told them that if they worked like people from the capitalist countries they would be unable to give the African countries much help which would be useful in the real conditions of those countries, and that they should inspire the people there with confidence in their ability to raise their own crops, and help them to work in a spirit of self-reliance. Like all economic activities, agriculture in particular must be conducted in conformity with the specific realities of the country concerned. We need the Juche farming method, which suits our country's situation, whereas the peoples of the African countries need a farming method suitable to their own countries' realities. However progressive farming methods may be, it is impossible for African countries to develop agriculture and increase per-hectare grain yields if they apply the farming methods of the European countries wholesale. Since climate and soil conditions, the material and technical foundations of the rural economy and the peasants' level of technical skill vary in each country, agriculture must be conducted according to the farming method best suited to specific realities of each country and each area.

In African countries our agricultural technicians and scientists offer sincere assistance to the people of those countries in farming in accordance with the actual conditions of their countries. As a consequence, farming methods have

been improved and per-hectare grain yields considerably increased in these countries. It is said that 3.5 to 6.8 tons of maize is now harvested from fields of one hectare where only 0.5 to 0.7 tons were produced in the past. I have been told that in the course of building and operating experimental farms and agricultural science research institutes, many agricultural technicians and specialists have been trained from among the people of those countries.

After developing agriculture, the developing countries must concentrate on developing industry, using the money made from farming. In developing industry they must first develop the industries which serve agriculture. It is particularly important for them to create industries which are capable of processing agricultural products. It is said that one country in Africa produces a large quantity of groundnuts, but has to have them processed in another country because it cannot process them itself. Then it receives only a small share of the income generated. Countries must develop a manufacturing industry and process their agricultural products, including groundnuts, for themselves.

The developing countries must cooperate with each other in the field of public health. Only when South-South cooperation in the field of public health is established can they train large numbers of doctors and develop their medical science and technology, thus rescuing their people from the pain of the poor health left over from the previous imperialist colonial rule.

The developing countries can cooperate even in the

construction sector. We have accumulated some experience in the courses of rehabilitating factories and enterprises which were ravaged mercilessly by war and of building towns and villages. We have experience of building factories, carrying through irrigation projects and constructing cities.

The developing countries can even cooperate in the area of geological prospecting and mining.

They should lay the economic bases for their countries by cooperating and establishing exchanges with one another in all possible areas, developing the engineering industry and building an independent national economy.

We have made every effort to establish South-South cooperation in the past several years and in the course of efforts, we have acquired certain results and experience.

Our Party and the Government of the Republic intend to develop South-South cooperation further in the future, by basing themselves on the successes and the experience gained in the course of developing this cooperation. We discussed the problem of developing South-South cooperation and adopted a decision on it at the Third Session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly last January. Many countries of the world are now giving their active support to the decision of our Supreme People's Assembly on developing South-South cooperation.

I think that your active assistance will bring us greater success in the development of South-South cooperation.

By developing South-South cooperation we do not mean opposing North-South cooperation. We must also

develop North-South cooperation, while laying the main emphasis on South-South cooperation. In the future, if the developing countries strive hard to implement South-South cooperation, some developed countries will probably assist the developing countries. If this happens, it may isolate the developed countries who cling to privileged positions and put on airs.

The implementation of North-South cooperation requires the developed countries to abandon their unjust attitude towards the developing and third world countries. Just as it is important in developing South-South cooperation for the people of the developing countries to rid themselves of the idea of worshipping the developed countries which still lingers in their minds, it is also important in developing North-South cooperation to get rid of the mistaken attitude of looking down upon the developing countries which still lingers in the minds of the peoples of developed countries.

I hope that you will continue your efforts to develop South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation and to strengthen friendship and unity among the peoples of the world.

I would like you to visit this country again during the summer season. If I meet you again, I shall be able to discuss many problems with you at length, since we are now old friends.