

Defender of Socialism

December 24 this year marks the 20th anniversary of the appointment of Kim Jong Il, leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army (KPA), a historic event in defending and adding lustre to socialism.

After the collapse of socialism in several countries between the late 1980s and the early 1990s, the US-led imperialist allied forces focused all their efforts on suffocating socialist Korea, clamouring about the "complete end of socialism". This resulted in the nuclear crisis in March 1993, which created a touch-and-go situation on the Korean peninsula. The US instigated the International Atomic Energy Agency to adopt a resolution on "special inspection" of military sites in the DPRK. To give military support to this, it staged the largest-ever "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, a nuclear test war, in south Korea. The destiny of socialist Korea was literally at stake.

But the response from Pyongyang was a bolt from the blue. On March 8, a day just before the war game entered upon actual manoeuvres, an order of Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il declaring a state of semi-war across the county was made public. According to this order, the KPA and all the civilians went into a state of complete war readiness to defend socialism. Four days later, the DPRK government made public a bombshell declaration on withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Dispirited by the courage and mettle of the country, which is not daunted by any adversities and in the face of any formidable enemy, the imperialist forces had no other choice but to come to the negotiation table. This led to the publication of the DPRK-USA Joint Statement (June 1993) and the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework(October 1994), in which the US promised that it would respected the DPRK's political system, the socialist system, refrain from threatening this country by nuclear weapons, seek a peaceful solution to the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula and normalize the bilateral relations in the future. In other words, the US that had tried to stifle socialist Korea recognized it.

On New Year's Day 1995, the first year after the death of President Kim Il Sung (July 8, 1994), founder of socialist Korea, Kim Jong Il inspected a KPA unit called the "Dwarf-Pine Post." The inspection was effectively a solemn declaration that he would defend socialism to the last, holding higher the banner of Songun.

Kim Jong Il has paid primary attention to increasing the KPA's political and ideological might in every way. He holds that an army not steadfast in ideology can neither win in action nor defend the country and the people.

He has ensured that the principle of giving priority to ideological work both in army building and military activities is invariably maintained, and that all the KPA service personnel are armed with socialist ideas. During his incessant inspections of KPA units, he has displayed deep concern for their ideological and spiritual life, sometimes familiarizing himself with the books read by them and other times enjoying art performances given by them.

In the last 1990' he formulated the Songun politics as the main political

mode of socialism, and raised the service personnel to the main force of the revolution, thus consolidating the foundations of Korean socialism more firmly.

His efforts were also directed to raising the KPA's military and technical strength.

Whenever he inspects the KPA units, he watches with keen interest the soldiers' exercises and teaches the officers the details of the strategies and tactics that conform with the country's actual conditions and the requirements of modern warfare. He also provides guidance for the joint military exercises staged by the KPA units of all arms and services and their joint exercises, perfecting their overall combat preparedness on a higher level.

He shows deep concern towards the country's defence industry and sees to it that modern military hardware are fully produced and supplied by the country's own efforts and techniques. Under his guidance Korea has become able to be possessed of a reliable war deterrent. In October 2010 a large-scale military parade, in which interceptor missile system and other up-to-date military hardware made their debut, was held in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, an opportunity for the world to get a glimpse of the great military strength of Korea.

With the backing of the immense military strength, the Korean people are stepping up the building of a thriving socialist country, unaffected by the incessant challenges and military threats of the US and other hostile forces.

