

**LET THE AIR FORCE PILOTS BE COMPLETELY PREPARED BOTH
POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY**

A Talk to the Officers of the 855th Unit of the Korean People's
Army
October 18, 1964

If the pilots perform, as you say, training flights during all weather conditions and at night without an accident, they can be regarded as efficient pilots. Koreans are gifted people. We now have a reliable air force.

It is gratifying that the pilots' morale is high.

It is something to be proud about that a pilot from this unit shot down an enemy aircraft that had intruded into our air space. As the pilot who shot down the enemy aircraft said, a firm ideological preparedness is important in fighting the enemy.

As the great leader has instructed, enemy aircraft which intrude into the air space of our country should all be shot down. Modern revisionists say that such intruders should not be shot down, but we must not leave them unpunished. In our confrontation with the enemy we must maintain our revolutionary stand, instead of begging for peace with the enemy.

You comrades are duty bound to defend the air space over Pyongyang. You must, therefore, give all the pilots a correct understanding of the importance of their combat mission and ensure that they are always ready and alert, fully prepared for combat, and particularly that the pilots on combat duty perform their mission attentively. If a war breaks out, the enemy will try to strike this air field first. Since the enemy pins hope chiefly on making a surprise air attack, we must adopt thorough measures to prevent this.

The US imperialists are now counting largely on their technological superiority; we must counter their technological superiority with our politico-ideological superiority and our tactical superiority. You must intensify flight training and prepare all the pilots to be ready to perform their combat missions superbly under any adverse conditions.

During the Fatherland Liberation War the enemy aircraft frequently bombed us on cloudy days and at night. Therefore, emphasis must be put into adverse-weather and night flight training. You must not rest content with the fact that your pilots are capable of air combat in cloudy weather and at night. They must be trained to be skilful in striking ground targets both in daylight and at night as well as in night air combat.

Thorough defensive measures must be adopted against enemy nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The US imperialists are now bragging about their atomic weapons, but there is no need to be afraid of them. Although they have atomic

weapons, they cannot use them at will, and even if they use them, these weapons will have no great effect on our mountainous terrain. If numerous tunnels are built, manpower, weapons and equipment can be protected reliably from any attack. Nevertheless, you must heighten your vigilance against enemy moves, anticipating his possible use of nuclear and other types of mass destructive weapons. Bearing in mind that you may have to fight the Japanese air force as well as the US air force, you must make a study of the Japanese air force. You must heighten your vigilance against the vicious manoeuvres of the Japanese militarists in attempting to realize their wild dream of reinvading our country.

Air force commanding officers must be skilful in giving air commands. Scientific air traffic control of high-speed modern aircraft is important. Inefficient air traffic control may result in a serious accident. An analysis of recent accidents on international airlines shows that these accidents were largely due to inefficient air traffic control.

Commanding officers of the air force must not only direct flight from the ground but fly aircrafts. The commander of an air wing is also a combatant. The wing commander must fly at the head of his fleet, commanding and setting an example.

Officers in charge of political affairs must work effectively among pilots.

Such work with pilots has a number of characteristics. A pilot is an officer, but he is like an infantry man who is on the front line of attack. Pilots are the major combatants who, if a war breaks out, are the first to meet and fight the enemy.

The political officer of an infantry unit can, as required by the situation, talk to his men or lead the rank and file, shouting slogans and rousing the men to attack. By contrast, however, the political officer of an air force unit, who has to remain on the ground, cannot talk to the flying pilots or shout commands to them to follow him.

Pilots are highly skilled and ideologically prepared. So political officers must work with the pilots efficiently taking these characteristics into account. Working with people is a creative undertaking, so there is no ready-made formula for this work.

Political officers should talk with pilots frequently, be familiar with their thoughts and encourage them to dedicate all of themselves to the fight for the Party and the leader.

Political officers must give pilots ideological education in a planned manner.

Education in the revolutionary traditions must be stepped up. This is very important in giving people a revolutionary education. In the past education in the revolutionary traditions was not done properly because of the manoeuvres by anti-Party, counterrevolutionary factional elements.

Education against revisionism also must be conducted properly. Pilots should be informed clearly of the reactionary nature of modern revisionism, its expressions and harmfulness so that the slightest hints of revisionism do not appear among them.

Pilots must be educated to acquire firm resolve in fighting and defeating the enemy by themselves, in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. Modern revisionists are aligning themselves with the imperialists because they are afraid of possible losses if a war breaks out in our country. We must be determined to carry out the revolution, by believing in ourselves and by personal efforts.

Pilots must be given a good understanding of the situation at home and abroad so that they do not become lax and indolent. Newspapers and other publications can be used to provide them with information on the situation. The issue of compiling information on weekly or monthly events, for your reading, needs further study.

Pilots must be educated to acquire revolutionary conviction. There is neither a boarder guard post nor a Military Demarcation Line in the air. While engaged in air combat, pilots may fall down in enemy territory. So they must be educated to uphold their revolutionary honour in whatever adversity.

Vivid facts should be given for the education of pilots. During the Fatherland Liberation War, pilots fought courageously with a burning hatred for the enemy because they had been educated with vivid facts such as those about the atrocities committed by the enemy.

Party life should be enhanced among pilots. Party organizations must guide their Party life, laying emphasis on ensuring that they perform their flight mission properly. The system of their Party life will have to be studied further. If the Party cells in the air force units are composed of pilots and technicians, it seems that there will be both favourable and unfavourable outcomes.

Pilots should all be Party members. It would be a good idea for the air force academy to train cadets thoroughly so that they acquire the qualities of Party members.

The traditional, beautiful traits of unity between the soldiers and the people should be highly displayed. There appear some practices in units of doing harm to the relations between the army and the people. Such practices should not continue. The leader is worried whenever he receives a report that the relations between the army and the people have been impaired.

The great leader is deeply concerned about improving the people's standard of living. He is upset over the fact that the farmers' standard of living is not improving, to the point where he even cannot sleep comfortably at night. Recently he has been to a remote mountain village in North Hwanghae Province to discuss with the farmers there ways of improving their standard of living. He even saw to it that lorries were sent to them. The rural question is very important in building socialism. In a certain country the rural question still has not been solved, though it is 50 years since the socialist revolution was carried out in that country. The leader published the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country in February this year, the theses which show clearly the means of finding solutions to the rural question. In order to resolve problems in rural communities, he has ensured that the agricultural tax in kind is completely abolished, and that modern houses are built for the

farmers. He has also taken various other measures to this end. He often says that the farmers' standard of living should be raised to that of the urban people.

The soldiers should be well informed of the leader's consideration for the people and of the Party's wise steps taken for them. In this way the soldiers will be encouraged to love and respect the people and help them out when they are busy. There is a lot of vacant land in the area where the unit is stationed, so vegetables must be planted together with maize to lighten the burden on the people.

Political workers must pay close attention to the lives of pilots. Air force unit commanders must train pilots, manage their units and themselves fly in aircraft, so they may not be able to pay attention to the lives of the pilots. Particularly because the commanders themselves pilot aircraft, they may not talk about the problems arising in the lives of pilots even when they too have such problems. You must organize cultural life well so that the pilots live cheerfully. Films should be shown to the pilots, art circle competitions and sport contests should be arranged frequently so as to make their life full of optimism.

The diet for the pilots should be arranged with care. If they eat anything carelessly, it will be harmful to their health and their flight capability.

If they are to be successful in their work with the pilots, the political workers themselves must first become genuine revolutionaries. If they themselves are not prepared as revolutionaries, they will be unable to train the pilots to be revolutionaries, nor will they be able to rouse them to fulfil their revolutionary duties.

Political workers must make strenuous efforts to raise the level of their political and practical expertise. It is said that formerly a pilot was the deputy squadron commander for political affairs because the work with pilots was difficult. But if he is well qualified, a political officer who is not a pilot will be perfectly able to do political work with pilots while taking their unique characteristics into account.

The great leader's works are the textbooks for political workers. Political workers must study his works in depth without wasting time while also reading a lot of material on the experience of political work.

Political workers must try hard to learn from the leader's work style and methods.

You, comrades, must bear in mind that the leader expects a great deal from your unit and that you are obliged to carry out your job accordingly.

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