

**LET US DEVELOP RYANGGANG PROVINCE INTO A FIRM BASE FOR
EDUCATION IN REVOLUTIONARY TRADITIONS**

A Talk to Senior Officials of Ryanggang Province and Anti-Japanese
Revolutionary Fighters
July 21, 1968

Five years have passed since I visited Ryanggang Province in the company of the great leader. When I told him I was intending to make trip to Ryanggang Province, the leader said that he also wanted to go there once again but at that time he could not leave and if I would go there I must carefully investigate the state of the construction work at the revolutionary battle sites.

On my present tour of Ryanggang Province I have mainly inspected the revolutionary battle sites in the Pochonbo and Samjiyon areas, as well as the historic places of the revolution along the River Annok from Hyesan down to Huchang.

While inspecting the revolutionary battle sites and historic sites in this province, I felt keenly again how great are the crimes committed by the anti-Party, counter-revolutionary factionalists and their aftereffects. In the past these factionalists used to visit this province frequently and travelled about here, talking as though they were actively interested in developing the revolutionary battle sites, while submitting to the leader reports that the construction work on revolutionary battle sites was proceeding well. However, my recent inspections show that no special construction work on revolutionary battle sites and historic places has been carried out.

Developing the revolutionary battle sites and historic places is very important work for preserving the memory of the great revolutionary feats performed by the leader in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, glorifying them for ever and educating Party members and other working people in our Party's revolutionary traditions.

As criticized at the 15th Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Party, the anti-Party factionalists made every possible effort to obliterate the revolutionary traditions of our Party. Negative elements in charge of Party ideological work hindered the work of education in revolutionary traditions, talking nonsense about education in revolutionary traditions belonging in the category of communist education, so that education in communism alone should be enough without any specific education in revolutionary traditions, about the reminiscences written by anti-Japanese guerrillas being 'outmoded' and not according with today's real conditions, and it being all right only to read them once, like novels.

The revolutionary traditions of our Party are the invaluable historical roots at the origins of the Korean revolution and the source of invincibility which firmly ensures the victory of the revolutionary

cause. Only when the education in revolutionary traditions is intensified can Party members and other working people brave all obstacles and difficulties in the way of the revolution and the work of construction with confidence in victory and carry the revolution forward to its conclusion. Under the direction of the leader the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters took up their guns and strove valiantly in the sacred struggle to liberate the country, fighting unyieldingly in severe conditions of continuous bitter cold down to 40 degrees below zero, when because of the extreme difficulty of obtaining any food they had to eat the bark of trees and grass roots. Thus they achieved the liberation of the country. The anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters were able to defeat Japanese imperialism after surmounting difficulties and trials unprecedented in history, because they had an invincible revolutionary spirit and confidence that they would win national independence and the liberation of the people, and attacked the enemy even though they were risking their lives in hundreds of ways.

The high level of revolutionary spirit among the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, their revolutionary achievements and the battle experience they gained are a precious source of wealth that our people must inherit and learn from for ever. Because of the existence of the revolutionary traditions built up during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle our people were able to fight unyieldingly, with the strength of conviction, in the arduous Fatherland Liberation War, defeat the US imperialists who boasted of being the 'most powerful' in the world, defend the honour of the country and the gains of the revolution and bring about the great Chollima upswing in the building of socialism on ruins in which everything had been reduced to ashes.

The intensification of education in revolutionary traditions is a very urgent matter in view of both the tasks of our revolution and the situation in our country.

Our revolution began its advance on Mt. Paektu and has not halted yet. We must build socialism in the difficult conditions of direct confrontation with the US imperialists and frustrate the permanent division policy of the US imperialists and their stooges in order to reunify the country.

The present situation in our country is very tense. With the Pueblo incident as an excuse the US imperialists have moved huge military forces into south Korea and are clamouring for war, insisting that they will 'retaliate' against us. On the other hand, revisionists who are scared by the US imperialist tactics of war blackmail are preaching us a cowardly compromise with the US imperialists. No matter how seriously the enemy may threaten and blackmail us and whatever may be said, we can never abandon our revolutionary principles.

To cope with the insolent US imperialist provocations the great leader has declared gravely that we shall return retaliation for the enemy's 'retaliation', all-out war for all-out war. We must make full political and ideological preparations in order to fight and defeat the enemy no matter when he may dare to invade us.

The more difficult the revolutionary tasks become and the more serious the situation gets, the more effectively we must be in providing education in revolutionary traditions, so that all our Party members and working people may fight on determinedly for the ultimate victory of the revolution, without wavering, no matter what the difficulties and trials, with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu. Ryanggang Province holds a very important place in educating Party members and other working people in our Party's revolutionary traditions.

This province contains the largest number of battle sites and historic spots dating from the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. In Ryanggang Province every mountain ridge and river course, including Mt. Paektu and the River Amnok, is engraved with the bloody traces of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle that was waged for 20 long years from the time when the leader set out on the road of revolution and each tree and blade of grass is also associated with the noble struggle of our anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners. This province is really a sacred and historic revolutionary place, a great open-air revolutionary museum displaying the great history of the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle vividly and comprehensively.

The first and foremost duty of the Ryanggang Provincial Party Committee is to develop Ryanggang Province into a fine revolutionary battle site and educate the Party members and working people in our Party's brilliant revolutionary traditions.

In the past the Ryanggang Provincial Party Committee has failed to carry on the work of developing the revolutionary battle sites and historic places. Because they had not firmly established the Party's monolithic ideological system, some officials on this committee were unable to discern the crafty manoeuvres of the anti-Party factionalists who were hindering the building of the revolutionary battle sites in various ways, and followed them unthinkingly. This committee must learn a serious lesson from its failure in the work of defending and upholding the revolutionary traditions of our Party and make great efforts to develop the revolutionary battle sites.

The most important task in developing revolutionary battle sites and historic places is to sustain the purity of the revolutionary traditions built up by the leader.

Developing revolutionary battle sites at the spots that mark the revolutionary activities of the great leader is the fundamental principle in the construction work on revolutionary battle sites.

The revolutionary traditions which our Party must be able to inherit are simply the traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle conducted by the great leader.

The revolutionary struggle that emerged victorious after surmounting severe trials to the last in our country's revolutionary history was precisely the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, organized and conducted by the leader.

In the past evil elements have attempted to make a hotchpotch of our Party's revolutionary traditions, claiming that the scope of

revolutionary traditions should be extended in every direction. A certain person in charge of a senior post in the Party Central Committee abused his post, even attempting to have the house he was born in developed, and including it in the lists of places of inspection for visitors to revolutionary battle sites. This was an anti-Party act that defiles and confuses our Party's revolutionary traditions. Bearing in mind that developing revolutionary battle sites and historic places is work which defends and adds lustre to the immortal revolutionary feats performed by the great leader himself, officials in this province must strictly apply the principle which our Party has established in construction work on revolutionary battle sites. In so doing, they must prevent the glorious revolutionary traditions of our Party from being contaminated with any impurities. The Revolutionary Site of the Battle of Pochonbo should be built to a very high standard.

The Battle of Pochonbo was a historic battle of special significance in the revolutionary struggle against Japanese imperialism. The leader broke through the tightly-guarded cordon of the Japanese imperialists, advanced into Pochonbo, then one of the major enemy bases, and annihilated the enemy there, dealing a mighty political and military blow at the Japanese imperialists and offering the hope of resurrection and courage to our nation, which had been groaning in despair. At the time, the Battle of Pochonbo was widely reported in the newspapers, media and broadcasts of many countries in the world, including Soviet Union, not to mention China and Japan. A publication in one country made much of the battle as a historic event which should be brought to the notice of the national liberation movements of colonies in the East.

Thirty years have passed now since the Battle of Pochonbo. The Monument to the Victorious Battle of Pochonbo was built last year on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of victory in this battle. It was very commendable.

This monument was built to a very high standard, expressing the feeling of enthusiastic reverence and the unanimous love of our people for the leader. The artistic content of the monument is rich and profound. It vividly depicts the appearance of the anti-Japanese guerrillas and patriots marching beneath the unfurled red flag of national liberation, with the leader, the iron-willed brilliant commander at the head of their ranks.

In view of the great significance of the Battle of Pochonbo, the site of the battle is not yet sufficiently developed. When I visited Pochonbo recently I asked anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who had participated in the Battle of Pochonbo what their impressions were after inspecting the battle sites, and they replied unanimously that in comparison with the scale on which the Battle of Pochonbo was actually conducted the battle site seemed to be built too small.

You must construct the Revolutionary Site of the Battle of Pochonbo to a high standard on a scale in keeping with the historic significance and content of the battle. Pochonbo contains many historic places such as the marching route of the Korean People's Revolutionary

Army from the Kusi Barrage through Konjang Plateau to the Karim River, the leader's command post for the battle, and hard-fought battlefields where street fighting went on, as well as other relics which vividly demonstrate the historic facts and the leader's wise leadership.

In constructing revolutionary battle sites we must pay attention to the maintenance of historic places and relics in their original state. The leader has said on several occasions that the Site of the Battle of Pochonbo must be preserved in its original state. The Japanese imperialists' police substation, the sub-county administrative office, the fire-defence centre, the forest protection building and the site of the post office are pieces of historic evidence which demonstrate the actual conditions in which the Battle of Pochonbo was fought. The bullet marks on the walls of the police substation, the wooden batter?ies and torture implements left in the lockups must be preserved in their original state so that they can be shown to the rising generations. As for the town of Pochonbo, its former appearances must be restored so as to demonstrate the architectural taste of those days, and no high buildings must be constructed randomly in the area of the battle site on the pretext of developing the township of Pochon. It is important to provide adequate explanations on the Revolutionary Site of the Battle of Pochonbo. Explanations we hear now on this battle site are confined chiefly to introductions to historic relics and the progress of the battle; they should also speak of the leader's cleverness and military tactics. This battle is one of the representative struggles that displayed to the full the superb guerrilla tactics and art of command he possesses.

It is said that foreigners who have inspected the Revolutionary Site of Battle of Pochonbo are greatly impressed on seeing that the command post of the headquarters on the Karim River was held at a distance of only 100 or so metres from the Japanese imperialist police substation and have said that no commander in the history of war has ever directed a battle from a spot so close to the enemy. Through this single instance alone we can know well how exceptional are the courage and art of command of the leader.

You must see to it that when an explanation is made on the Battle of Pochonbo, it does not fail to deal with the battles at Mt. Kushi and Kansam Hill as well. These two battles form a series with the Battle of Pochonbo. Only when these battles are explained in relation to one another can the inspectors gain a better understanding of political and military significance of the Battle of Pochonbo and the uniqueness of the leader's guerrilla tactics.

Samjiyon (or Lake Samji) must be developed into an immense edifice for large-scale education in revolutionary traditions.

Samjiyon is a significant place at which the leader stopped to encourage the soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army on to victory as he led its main forces on the advance into the Musan area.

In 1963 the leader visited Samjiyon and looked back with deep emotion on the time when he took rest and drank the clear water of

Lake Samji together with the guerrillas on the advance towards the Musan area during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Samjiyon possesses many relics associated with brilliant episodes of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, among them the 'Kapsan-Musan guard road' through which units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army marched in fine array in broad daylight for more than 40 kilometres, as they applied the tactic of the 400 kilometres rush march.

A grand monument must be erected at Lake Samji in order permanently to commemorate the revolutionary feats performed by the leader in the operation of advance into the homeland.

Samjiyon is not only a noble and historic revolutionary site, but also one of the most beautiful spots in our country. During the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle the leader declared that after the victory of the revolution we would build a recreation ground for working people at scenic Samjiyon. Imagining the people who would enjoy well-being in the liberated homeland, the anti-Japanese guerrillas fought on ever more valiantly with renewed hope. You must build Samjiyon into a beautiful recreation centre for working people as soon as possible and thus bring to fruition the plan of the leader and the desire which the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters nursed as an ideal in the days of the armed struggle against Japanese imperialism.

The revolutionary places in Huchang and Sinpha Counties must also be developed well.

Phophyong is the glorious place where the first gleam of national liberation dawned. The leader embarked on the path of revolution by crossing the River Amnok by the Phophyong ferry at the age of 13 inspired by the lofty goal of national liberation and firmly determined not to return until Korea became independent.

A fine large statue of the leader must be erected at the historic Phophyong site. No other revolutionary leader who took the first step in the struggle for the lofty goal of patriotism at such an early age as our leader can be discovered in the whole of history. The erection of a statue of the leader at the Phophyong Revolutionary Site should commemorate for ever the historic day when the leader ushered in the dawn of liberation for our oppressed nation. However, the statue of the leader already erected at the historic site is too small. The statue must be on a grand scale, so that it makes those who see it visualize in their minds' eyes the greatness of the leader who firmly determines not to return until Korea would become independent.

Huchang County is a place associated with the immortal accomplishments of Mr. Kim Hyong Jik¹⁷ who led the anti-Japanese national liberation movement by crossing and recrossing the River Amnok after transferring the arena of revolutionary activities to Badaogou. Huchang County is also associated with the historic deeds of the leader's revolutionary activities in early years. In this county there are the houses at which his grandmother Ri Po Ik lodged when the Japanese imperialists took her around the border

areas along the River Amnok in futile attempt to force the leader to 'submit' to them during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

I have found, on recent inspections, that the houses connected with the revolutionary deeds of Mr. Kim Hyong Jik had not yet been refurbished and that the fences of the Huju Inn were not repaired properly.

You must take care to develop the houses used by Mr. Kim Hyong Jik when he was engaged in secret activities, as well as the Apkang Inn and Huju Inn at which grandmother Ri Po Ik lodged. These are historic places which must be used widely for the education of the masses.

If this province wishes to develop the revolutionary battle sites and historic places in general, there may be many obstacles. But it must not be hesitant. Even from the point of view of eliminating the harmful aftereffects of the activities of anti-Party, counter-revolutionary factionalists, you should concentrate your efforts on the work to develop the revolutionary battle sites and historic places. As far as this work is concerned, I myself will direct it. The state should make efforts for the construction of these sites, but to all intents and purposes the master of this work is Ryanggang Province. Its Party committee must stimulate the Party organizations and carry on active political work among the masses in order to involve the whole of the province in the work of developing the revolutionary battle sites and historic places.

We must actively promote the research aimed at discovering revolutionary relics and legacies.

In the past the Party History Institute has neglected the search for material from the leader's revolutionary career. So it has not yet discovered all the precious relics and legacies connected with the history of his revolutionary activities.

When an exploration party for the anti-Japanese revolutionary battlefields visited the northeast areas of China and the area of Mt. Paektu in 1959, it discovered many major battle sites, revolutionary bases, secret barracks etc. from the time of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and collected invaluable relics and historic material. Even since that time a lot of revolutionary relics and other material have been discovered. However, the sites, relics and material that have so far been discovered represent only a relatively small part of the long history of the leader's heroic and epic revolutionary struggle and the numerous revolutionary feats he performed.

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the great leader not only directed the advance into the homeland with a large unit, he also had small units and political workers dispatched to extend the armed struggle into the homeland. In Ryanggang Province many small units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and political workers were active and various forms of organizations of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland put down deep roots among the masses of the people in all walks of life.

If you are to build revolutionary battle sites and historic places to a high standard, you need a large number of relics and material which

illustrate the nature of such revolutionary activities. Scores of years have already passed since the revolutionary struggle against Japanese imperialism was carried out. White hairs are growing on the heads of the revolutionary fighters who took part in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle under the command of the leader. All the spots and relics still undiscovered must be located before they grow older.

Measures must be adopted to preserve for ever the sites and relics of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The sites and relics of the days of the revolutionary struggle against Japanese imperialism vividly illustrate the leader's glorious revolutionary career and immortal revolutionary feats through real things. They have an influence greater than many hundreds of words in the education of Party members and other working people in our Party's revolutionary traditions. As you also have seen and felt, when we inspect the sites of the tents, campfires and kitchens left in the Chongbong, Konchang and Pegaebong Bivouacs, we can picture vividly how the anti-Japanese guerrillas lived in a disciplined and orderly manner even under the tremendously difficult conditions of fierce battles and continuous marches. From the slogans carved on large trees, particularly in the Chongbong Bivouac, we learn clearly the high degree of revolutionary spirit and invincible fighting ardour of the anti-Japanese guerrillas. Many slogans, including '°Let us Korean youth quickly become actively involved in the war against Japanese imperialism'± and '°Working masses of the whole world, rise, unite and fight for freedom and liberation,'± stir the hearts of people even today and give them powerful encouragement to participate in the revolutionary struggle.

The sites and relics associated with the history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are the most precious things which our people must for ever preserve and safely transmit from generation to generation. You must prevent the revolutionary sites and relics from being damaged by maintaining and managing them properly.

An important factor in preserving and managing historic sites and relics is to see that they are maintained as they were originally without fading in colour or otherwise changing. In order to preserve the original appearance of historic sites and objects, it is imperative to manage them in a scientific manner. I consider it necessary to form a separate institute to carry on serious research work for the permanent preservation of these revolutionary sites and relics. Research on the preservation of historic items must first find a solution to the problem of preventing the trees carved with slogans growing rotten and the letters written on them from decaying. These slogan trees are a precious revolutionary heritage which we cannot barter even for a thousand pieces of gold.

You must take good care of Mt. Paektu, the ancestral mountain which is associated with the soul of our nation and is the divine mountain of our revolution, the mountain in which our revolution is rooted. This mountain is constantly visited by people from every part of the country and many foreigners, as well.

Nowadays the management of Mt. Paektu is neglected. While I was climbing up the mountain I have found that the roads are not well built, scraps of paper and similar items were scattered everywhere and the hollows by the roadside were left as they were, without being filled up.

The road from Lake Samji to Mt. Paektu should be well repaired, with rest sites and facilities established for visitors. The visitors must be well educated so that they will think with respect of every plant, tree and a pebble and feel attached to them. Consequently, when climbing up Mt. Paektu, they will not litter the surroundings or pollute the water in Lake Chon or damage the natural scenery. Since the areas of Mt. Paektu are covered with particularly dense forests, strict measures must be taken to prevent forest fires from breaking out.

Visits to revolutionary battle sites and historic places must be well organized.

The main purpose of the high-level development of revolutionary battle sites and historic places lies in the benefits for the education of Party members and other working people in our Party's revolutionary traditions. As the saying goes, 'Seeing is believing', if one views the revolutionary battle sites and historic places by marching along the immortal tracks including Mt. Paektu following the traces left by the leader, one will gain a more valuable experience than when one learns from reading books and seeing films.

Each time I climbed up Mt. Paektu and looked across the vast Manchurian plain and the surrounding mountain ridges, it seemed to me that the figures of the anti-Japanese guerrillas were attacking the enemy in the teeth of a severe snowstorm, holding aloft the banner of the revolution before my eyes, and that gun shots of the bloody battles rang out.

Visits to revolutionary battle sites are a very effective means for educating Party members and other working people in the brilliant revolutionary traditions of our Party. This is all the more urgently required for the youth and students of the rising generation, who have not gone through these revolutionary trials.

From now onwards visits to revolutionary battle sites and historic places should be properly organized in a planned manner. There must be no more instances of people regarding a visit to revolutionary battle sites as a mere inspection or treating it as a sightseeing trip.

Visitors must march along the tracks of their revolutionary forerunners, with knapsacks on their shoulders in the manner of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, singing revolutionary songs and in the course of this march, they must learn from the revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese fighters and train their bodies and minds.

The senior officials of this province should make strenuous efforts to improve the standard of living of the people.

The leader is constantly worried about the relatively low development of this province's economy as compared to the other provinces and the low standard of living of the people here.

The conditions of Ryanggang Province may be a little less favourable

than in other provinces for economic development, but it is nearly 15 years now since this province was established. There is a saying which says that ten years change the looks of mountains and rivers, but this province has not achieved anything significant in 15 years. During this period the leader has several times given this province on-the-spot guidance and even visited Phungsan County and Kapsan County, remote mountain villages, to teach them in detail the ways and means of developing their economies and raising their standard of living.

On my recent tour here I found out that the tasks set by the leader when he visited this province in 1958, not to mention the tasks set at the time of his on-the-spot guidance visit in 1963, have not been adequately carried out. In Hyesan City, for instance, no new constructions have been erected, there are only one-storeyed houses close together; it is therefore difficult to call the city a provincial capital. Huchang, Sinpha and Samsu have also not developed the appearance of county seats, and there are still many thatched-roofed houses in their rural communities. Since this province has large quantities of wood, if you officials were to pay attention to the people's lives and make greater efforts, you would be able to build as many modern rural houses as you please.

You should develop Hyesan City to a high standard. This is not only a provincial capital, but also a border city and the gateway to the revolutionary battle sites of Ryanggang Province. Since not only our own people but also great numbers of foreigners come here to explore the revolutionary battle sites, if you do not develop Hyesan City well, it will bring shame on our country. You should organize skilful city planning, build blocks of high-rise flats, lay out parks on the River Amnok and thus transform Hyesan into a modern city and cultural centre.

In order to carry out wide-scale construction in this province, it is essential to create centres for the production of building materials. If you do not have your own centres for the production of building materials but try to depend on the cement produced by other provinces, you cannot manage the construction work adequately. It is essential to produce building materials using pumice stone, it is more important to locate limestone and build a cement factory. Limestone is abundant everywhere in our country, so it is not conceivable that this province lacks it. You must produce your own cement by employing every possible means.

You must give effective guidance to the agricultural sector.

Ryanggang Province is a highland area with cold weather and grain crops, therefore, do not thrive. The main emphasis of agriculture in this province must be on the growing of potatoes. The leader has said that the king of dry field crops in Ryanggang Province is the potato. Needless to say, rice, wheat and barley must be planted where any of them grows well in local conditions.

You must actively introduce advanced farming methods and grow crops scientifically. Since there is an agricultural science institute in this province, seed types and the distribution of crops and methods of

cultivation should be improved to suit the climatic and soil conditions. Crops must not be cultivated haphazardly as was done in the burnt-field days of private farming in the past.

You must continue experimental growing of vegetables so that with care you will solve the problem of vegetables. Since Ryanggang Province has still not become self-sufficient in food, it has to bring rice from other provinces to supply to the population in the province and the visitors to the revolutionary battle sites, but it should produce its own vegetables.

For purposes of raising the people's standard of living, it is imperative to direct energetic efforts to the development of local industry. In accordance with the policy advanced by the leader at the joint conference of Changsong you must make good use of the mountainous characteristics of a highland area and develop local industry extensively by relying on locally-available raw materials. Only then can you provide the people with adequate daily necessities and allow them to lead a prosperous life.

The natural and topographical conditions of all the counties in this province are no worse than in Changsong County. Officials of this province must strive hard to follow the example of Changsong County and improve the people's standard of living.

Since Ryanggang Province holds such an important position, the senior officials of the province, including the chief secretary of the provincial Party committee and the chairman of the provincial people's committee must work well together in close unity. They must develop Ryanggang Province as befits its revolutionary battle sites and rapidly improve the work in the political, economic, cultural and other fields, and thus justify the great political trust and expectations of the leader.

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