

***LET US MAKE FULL PREPARATIONS TO MOBILIZE FOR BATTLE AND
OPPOSE THE US IMPERIALISTS' MOVES TO PROVOKE WAR***

A Talk to the Officials of the Propaganda and Agitation Department
and the Military Department of the Central Committee of the
Workers' Party of Korea
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The present situation in our country is extremely tense because of the incident involving the US imperialists' armed spy ship Pueblo. As you are all aware, on January 23 last the brave sailors of our People's Army captured the US imperialists' armed spy ship Pueblo, which had violated our territorial waters and perpetrated acts of espionage, catching more than 80 invaders on board. This is a just punishment for the US imperialist invaders whose encroachment upon the sovereign territory of our country was an outrage.

The dispatch by US imperialists of their armed spy ship deep into our country's territorial waters in order to perpetrate acts of espionage is a serious affront to the dignity and independence of the Republic and a deliberate act of aggression calculated to provoke another war in Korea. In the statement issued on the 27th of last month the Government of our Republic vigorously condemned this open act of aggression by the US imperialists and justified the self-defensive action taken by the People's Army which captured the armed spy ship, and also the firm stand taken by our people. At present the peoples of the socialist states and many other countries and public opinion the world over are denouncing this provocative move by the US imperialists and expressing unqualified support for our resolute stance and attitude.

The US imperialists are now making every possible effort to justify their criminal act. They are putting out palpable lies, shamelessly claiming that their ship was captured in the open sea and that it did not perpetrate any acts of espionage. However, they cannot cover up their criminally aggressive act with any pretexts or artifices, nor can they deceive just public opinion. As is already widely known from the newspapers and telecommunications broadcasts, the captain of the Pueblo himself confessed at the interviews with journalists that their ship was captured while engaged in acts of espionage after penetrating deep into the territorial waters of our country, and that the acts of espionage they had committed were the plain acts of aggression against our country and criminal acts in breach of international law. The other officers aboard the Pueblo also confessed the details of the hostile acts of espionage perpetrated against our country.

The United States should frankly admit the criminal acts of espionage against our country and acknowledge their guilt before the Korean people. Nevertheless, instead of expressing regret at their transgression, the US imperialists are threatening and blackmailing us

by talking about taking ‘°retaliatory measures’± against us, just like a thief shouting ‘°Stop thief!’±, and they are manoeuvring foolishly to force us to submit. They have now introduced a great mobile fleet, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and large armed forces, into south Korea and the East Sea off our country, and have made preparations for war clamouring openly that they ‘°will attack the northern part of the Republic’±. Because of the manoeuvres intended to provoke a new war which the US imperialists are frantically perpetrating against our Republic, the situation in our country is growing ever more tense as time passes, and the danger is being created that war might break out tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. Since the US imperialists are acting rashly to recover their disgrace and ignominious defeat, we must maintain a state of readiness to cope with any circumstances and make full preparations to fight and repulse the enemy immediately if he should dare to invade us. The most important aspect of war preparations is full political and ideological preparation.

The destiny of the war is not decided by any weapons or military technology, but by the ideological conviction and preparedness of those taking part in the war. We must imbue all the people and the soldiers of the People’s Army with a firm revolutionary point of view concerning the inevitability of victory in the war, so that they can strive together as one in the sacred struggle to defend the socialist homeland and the gains of the revolution whenever the Party calls on them.

We do not want war, but we must not fear the outbreak of war, and when the imperialists try to invade and devour us, we must be determined to fight to repulse them to the end. Fear of war is revisionism, Revisionists are busy spreading the morbid fear of war and war-weariness, saying that if a war breaks out, everything will be destroyed and mankind will perish; they are kowtowing to the Americans because of their illusions concerning imperialism. We must totally reject the morbid fear of war and war-weariness, and give Party members and the working people a revolutionary education which will prevent the ideological factors of revisionism from ever infiltrating our interior.

Nowadays people of a certain country are saying that if a war breaks out in Korea it would be a serious problem, and ‘°advising’± us it would be better to have the Pueblo quietly released. This would mean making a concession to the US imperialists, and we can never do such a thing. A concession to US imperialism means submission and surrender. Since our People’s Army did not capture the Pueblo on the sea off the United States, but when it was in violation of our country’s territorial waters and engaged in acts of espionage, we need neither make any concession to the Americans nor pander to them. If we were to make a concession and release the Pueblo, it would mean we were bowing the knees or justifying their aggressive acts and strategic manoeuvres against our Republic. Then the US imperialists would look down on us and behave even more haughtily. Our stand and our attitude towards the US imperialists are quite clear

and resolute. Those who have encroached on the sovereignty of Our Republic and violated our territorial waters in order to perpetrate acts of espionage must be dealt with according to our laws with no exceptions. This is the independent right of our Republic, which no one can deny. The leader has said that if the US imperialists, instead of begging pardon for their fault, ‘°retaliate’± against us under some invented pretext, we will retaliate in turn, and if they start an all-out war, we will respond with all-out war.

Party organizations, and the political bodies of the People’s Army must thoroughly acquaint Party members, the working people and the soldiers of the People’s Army with the prevailing situation and our Party’s principled stand in relation to the US imperialist scheme to provoke a war. In addition, they must firmly imbue the people with the revolutionary point of view on war and intensify the hatred they feel for the US imperialists, our sworn enemy, and thus inspire them all to strive together resolutely in the struggle against the enemy when he invades us.

You must encourage all the people and soldiers of the People’s Army in the conviction of certain victory.

Although the US imperialists are now clamouring that they will ‘°retaliate’± against us, this is nothing but bravado and bluff. They are by no means invincible. The Korean war totally exposed not only their aggressive nature and brutality but also their vulnerability. In the Fatherland Liberation War our people defeated the US imperialist army of aggressors, who boasted of being the ‘°most powerful’± in the world, thereby irrefutably demonstrating the invincible might of the heroic Korean people, smashing the myth of US imperialist ‘°might’± and bringing about the beginning of a decline for the American imperialists. Today the strength of our people has increased beyond all comparison with the days of the Fatherland Liberation War. We are supported by the wise direction of the great leader, the ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander; we rely on the united efforts of the people closely rallied around the Party and the leader, as well as the invincible revolutionary armed forces and the firm foundation of the independent national economy. We must inspire the entire Party membership, working people and soldiers of the People’s Army with a firm conviction of victory and dauntless fighting spirit, so that if the enemy assaults us we shall rise as one and smite the aggressors valiantly for the honour of Juche Korea under the wise direction of the leader.

In coping with the current situation, it is especially important to prepare the young people adequately. We must have all the young people well prepared both politically and ideologically to give their lives unhesitatingly in the fight for the Party and the leader, the fatherland and their fellow countrymen and women, like the hero Ri Su Bok. Many young people and students have already begun begging to be allowed to join the People’s Army and take up arms; it is a highly commendable demonstration of their fidelity and patriotic devotion to the Party and the leader. We should prepare our young people to take the lead not only in national defence but also in

the material preparations for the war, by devoting the knowledge and enthusiasm of youth to economic construction and defence consolidation.

In preparing our troops and people to cope with the war it is important to have them follow the experiences of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War.

The leader said that after liberation the anti-Party factionalists ensconced in the Party failed to educate the people in the experience of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and many people were therefore caught and resentfully killed by the enemy without fighting, during the strategic retreat of the Fatherland Liberation War. He added earnestly that we should not forget the bitter lesson learned then. The anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War were unparalleled, intensive revolutionary wars which were waged against powerful Japanese and American imperial forces, and the twists and turns in the course of these wars brought many painful sacrifices. In the course of the wars, however, we acquired precious experience and learned priceless lessons. The experiences of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War comprehensively embodied the leader's unique revolutionary military ideas and tactics which led to powerful enemies armed with modern weapons and the latest technology being defeated through the political and ideological superiority and strategic advantage. Only when these experiences are deeply studied and assimilated can we firmly equip ourselves with the outstanding military ideas and tactics of the leader and fight our enemies to the end holding firm to our conviction no matter how hard and complicated the circumstances, until we defeat them.

Party organizations must intensify education programmes based on the battle reminiscences of anti-Japanese guerrillas and the experiences of the Fatherland Liberation War, and thus encourage Party members, working people and the soldiers of the People's Army to a deeper understanding of the precious battle experiences of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and Fatherland Liberation War. A surprise attack on other countries is the usual means of war adopted by the imperialists. This is clearly shown by the history of world wars. It was true of the Pacific War started by the Japanese imperialists and the invasion of the Soviet Union by fascist Germany. Even when the US imperialists instigated the Syngman Rhee clique in order to ignite the Korean war, they made a surprise incursion into the northern half of the Republic in an attempt to swallow it up in a single gulp. It is very dangerous to suffer a surprise attack in the war. If a country suffers a surprise attack without having created a state of preparedness, it will suffer a great deal of damage at the first attack and fall into confusion and may be defeated in the war without ever fighting properly. If an army, in boasting of its mightiness, grows lax and neglects preparations for battle, it can be defeated by a surprise attack from the enemy. There are many such examples.

We must always remember that the cunning and vicious American imperialists may launch a surprise attack on the northern half of the

Republic and we must therefore make full battle preparations for coping with it.

The soldiers of the People's Army must keep a vigilant eye on the enemy's every action and maintain a state of battle-readiness so as to launch an instant counterattack if the enemy should make a raid into our territory at any time and at any place.

Workers, farmers and all other people must strive energetically to increase production output and the rate of construction, with a rifle in one hand and a sickle or hammer in the other, in order stoutly to defend the factories, rural areas, towns and villages. Furthermore, they must make full preparations for war, so that they can mow down the aggressors everywhere when they attack. Party organizations must in particular consolidate the ranks of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and intensify their military training, so that the guards are ready to fulfil their mission and role as a dependable reserve for the People's Army.

Defence works must be carried out effectively. Only when these works are carried out properly and solid defence facilities are constructed can we defeat the enemy's great forces with our small ones and resolutely defend our manpower, weapons and combat and technical materiel from the enemy's attack. In major strategic positions in the rear, as well as the front lines and coast lines, solid defence facilities must be constructed so that we can smash any enemy if he penetrates our airspace or the land and sea territories of our country.

Strict measures must be adopted for defending the people against a surprise attack by the enemy.

By bombing the peaceful populated areas of our towns and farming villages indiscriminately during the Fatherland Liberation War, the US imperialist aggressors reduced them to ashes and massacred innocent people at random, children, old people and women. The US imperialists are extremely brutal and heinous barbarians devoid of elementary human conscience and moral feeling. They are now acting rashly, clamouring that they will bomb one port city in our country and that they will attack some other area. In this situation, we must take measures in advance in order to prevent our people from suffering damages by possible indiscriminate bombing and bombardment. We should see to it that air-raid shelters and other shelter facilities on city streets and in villages are built or improved or rapidly put into good order as necessary. Anti-aircraft observation and alarm signal systems must be established, evacuation and black-out training must be conducted in a planned fashion so that in an emergency everyone can act quickly and in an orderly manner. It would also be good to adopt in advance the measures required to evacuate old people, children and others who need not remain in the cities to safe areas in an emergency.

It is important to make efficient preparations for the factories and other enterprises to continue production in wartime conditions.

Victory in a war largely depends on whether the material needs of the front lines and home fronts are satisfied. Every section of the

national economy must strive to increase production and economize material in order to increase reserves of steel, coal, cereals and other strategic materials, and make adequate preparations which will allow them to continue production even if a war breaks out. In order to prevent factories from being wrecked by the bombs of the enemy's aircraft or bombardments from warships, close attention must be paid to effective defensive preparations, and in particular, major machinery, equipment and facilities should be protected from destruction. If machinery and equipment are preserved, even if the factory buildings have been destroyed, production can be maintained. Locally run factories are important in supplying essential goods for the popular masses in the wartime. Therefore, we must see to it that full-scale measures for wartime production are taken by local factories.

A carefully thought-out plan must be drawn up to evacuate Party organizations, government bodies, and scientific, educational and cultural establishments to safe areas, and institutions and enterprises must organize these matters in reserved areas.

Working people must be effectively informed concerning the prevailing situation so that there will be no deviations.

I have been told that there have been instances, only a few, of people selling furniture on the pretext that there will be no need for furniture if a war breaks out, for everything will be destroyed, and some people have been seen packing up their household goods for evacuation. Unless effective education is carried out, some of those who are politically unprepared may become flustered and fear may cause them to waver in this tense and complicated situation. At the moment the enemy is perpetrating every possible act of sabotages, spreading all kinds of false rumours and instigating the class enemies hidden in our midst to create confusion in the minds of people.

The Party organizations at all levels should intensify their educational work, making Party members and working people observe every practice and approach it with a high degree of political awareness in order to take issue with alien elements in good time.

The prevailing situation requires us to establish the revolutionary system and order as never before. All sectors and units must work and lead their life in a taut militant manner and do not allow any instances of indolence, slackness or lack of discipline. Officials and working people in particular must never on any occasion cease to direct their efforts to production and construction on the pretext of making war preparations or neglect their jobs and begin to slack.

The leader has said that even if a war was to break out tomorrow morning, we should continue with the work of construction until 12 o'clock tonight. Failure to press on with construction, out of fear of the destruction following the outbreak of a war, demonstrates the lack of a revolutionary viewpoint on war and confidence in our victory.

We should encourage Party members and working people to initiate a fresh upsurge in production and construction work by working and living in a militant fashion, making more strenuous efforts and fulfilling their revolutionary targets as much as twice or three times

over as the situation becomes more tense.

You must intensify the foreign propaganda and our external activities in order to isolate the US imperialists from the people of the world and influence the world public opinion in our favour.

The US imperialists are now desperate to disseminate false information by mobilizing their reptilian propaganda media, at the same time as taking the Pueblo incident to the UN in order to justify their aggressive criminal act. We must thoroughly expose to the people of the world the ferocious aggression and cunning of US imperialism by exposing the full truth of the Pueblo incident and its concoction in a scientific manner. Only then can we drive the US imperialists into a corner and clip their feathers. The publishing sector including news?papers, telecommunications broadcasts, as well as the external affairs sector, should carry out a large-scale propaganda offensive based on the confessions of the crew of the Pueblo, who were captured while engaging in acts of espionage and the corroborative material which demonstrates that they violated the sovereign territory of our country. The external propaganda should extensively expose the US imperialists' crimes through the material concerning not only the Pueblo incident, but also the acts of criminal aggression historically conducted by them against our country, and especially concerning the nefarious atrocities they committed during the Fatherland Liberation War, in order to acquaint the people of the world fully with US imperialists' aggressive nature and the atrocities they have committed.

The present situation in our country is yet another clear testimony to the wisdom and justice of the great leader's line of simultaneously developing economic construction and improving our defence capacity and the policy of making the People's Army a cadre army, modernizing it, and effectively arming the entire people and fortifying the whole country. Today our Party can adhere to revolutionary principles without being affected by the US imperialists' threats and blackmail, because it has, by its own effort, built a powerful defence capacity which has the strength to defend the security of the country and the gains of socialism, by hard struggle and strenuous efforts under the wise direction of the leader in the past. If we had not built up our own strength but relied on the strength of others, we would have been in a very difficult position, in fact, we would have been incapable of stubbornly resisting the enemy in the serious situation we now face. We should have great pride and the confidence to continue with the implementation of the self-defensive military line of our Party, and thereby strengthen the defensive power of the country still further, and if the enemy dares to invade us, we should fight bravely, thereby once again demonstrating to the whole world the invincible might of the heroic Korean people.

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