

**THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL RIGHTS OF OUR COMPATRIOTS IN  
JAPAN MUST BE COMPLETELY GUARANTEED**

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A Talk to the Officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea  
January 26, 1966

Recently, the reactionary Government of Japan has been intensifying the repression of the democratic national rights of Korean citizens in Japan. In conspiracy with the south Korean military fascists, it is forcing the Koreans in Japan to 'apply for denizenship' and to 'adopt ROK nationality' and it is also working viciously to obstruct their democratic national education and their free travel to and from their homeland.

The Japanese reactionaries' repression of the Koreans living in Japan is an act of flagrant violation of basic human rights and of international law. It is a principled requirement of international law and international relationship that the overseas citizens of a sovereign state should be guaranteed the right to live freely in any country under its legal protection. Guaranteeing democratic rights to the Koreans in Japan, the legitimate overseas citizens of an independent and sovereign state, is the natural duty of the Japanese Government bound by international law.

In view of the historical background that compelled these Koreans to live in Japan, the Japanese Government must guarantee them full rights as overseas citizens of our Republic. The Koreans living in Japan are the people who, during the years of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule, were forced to leave their dear homeland as 'conscripts' or 'labour draftees' and were sent to a foreign land, to Japan, to fight for their aggressive war or to slave like draught animals and narrowly escaped death, and their descendants. National discrimination against these people and the persecution of them, instead of according them hospitality, can never be tolerated even from a humanitarian point of view.

The Japanese reactionaries have not yet discarded their old habit of maltreating and enslaving Koreans when they made Korea their colony. We cannot tolerate the Japanese reactionaries' criminal acts of despising, discriminating against and persecuting Koreans in Japan, who are overseas citizens of our Republic.

A powerful struggle to foil the Japanese reactionaries' scheme of repression of the Koreans residing in Japan and to safeguard their democratic national rights must be launched.

Today, the most pressing task in this struggle is to defend their citizenship of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Japanese Government is now resorting to all sorts of manoeuvres and bringing unwarranted pressure to bear upon the Koreans in Japan in order to prevent them from obtaining citizenship of our Republic. The Japanese reactionaries, who signed the criminal 'South Korea-

Japan Treaty,± with the south Korean stooges last year, are now forcing Koreans in Japan to adopt ‘°ROK nationality,± by means of threat, blackmail, and deception, clamouring about the ‘°agreement on the legal status of Koreans in Japan becoming effective,± and launching a campaign for an ‘°application for denizenship,±. The Japanese reactionaries are clamouring that the Koreans in Japan who wish to live in Japan must apply for ‘°denizenship,± and obtain permission from the Japanese authorities. They are threatening them that if the Koreans do not ‘°apply for denizenship,± soon they will incur disadvantages in their life and businesses while at the same time enticing them into ‘°applying for denizenship,± saying that preferential treatment will be accorded to those who have obtained ‘°denizenship,±. Meanwhile, the Japanese reactionaries have established ‘°naturalization consultation offices,± in a crafty attempt to naturalize Koreans into Japanese citizens.

It is a sacred, inalienable right of the Koreans in Japan to retain their own nationality and become citizens of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. To obtain nationality is a man’s basic right, and every individual has the right to a free choice of his nationality.

Which nationality the Koreans in Japan should have is a matter that should be decided by the Government of our Republic, a sovereign state, and the Koreans in Japan themselves. It is not a matter that can be ordered about by the Japanese Government one way or the other. The Koreans in Japan are the legitimate citizens of our Republic. The Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is the legitimate government that represents the will and interests of our compatriots in Japan, and their genuine homeland is the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. South Korea is in reality a colony of US imperialism. It is natural, therefore, that the Koreans in Japan should have the nationality of our Republic. The Japanese Government is grossly violating the rights of independence of our compatriots in Japan and acting overtly against our Republic by hindering them from having the nationality of our Republic while imposing ‘°ROK nationality,± upon them.

Already at the time when the criminal ‘°South Korea-Japan talks,± were under way, our great leader saw to it that the Nationality Law of the DPRK was enacted and promulgated, and thus provided a real legal guarantee for citizenship and other democratic national rights for our compatriots in Japan.

The Nationality Law of our Republic stipulates clearly that the Korean residents in foreign countries are the citizens of our Republic. Therefore, their status and rights are provided with a real legal guarantee, and the citizenship of the Korean compatriots in Japan is sacred and inviolable.

The Japanese reactionaries’ ulterior purpose of forcing the Koreans in Japan to ‘°apply for denizenship,± and to adopt ‘°ROK nationality,± is to realize their ambition of making another attack upon south Korea, without difficulties, in return for trampling upon Koreans’ national rights and repressing the Chongryon organizations and our patriotic compatriots in Japan that are growing

into an unbreakable force of national reunification. We must crush the Japanese reactionaries' scheme for depriving our compatriots in Japan of their sacred citizenship of our Republic.

In order to safeguard their citizenship of our Republic the Chongryon organizations must first of all launch a powerful mass political propaganda campaign to expose the reactionary nature of the Japanese reactionaries' scheme for the 'application of denizenship' and 'ROK nationality'. The campaign will give all our compatriots a clear understanding of the sinister aims and purpose of the enemy's scheme and encourage them to reject the scheme categorically and come out as one in the struggle to safeguard their citizenship of our Republic. We must condemn the plot of the reactionary Japanese Government and give strong support and encouragement to Chongryon and our compatriots in Japan in their struggle to defend a citizenship of our Republic.

I have heard that some of our compatriots in Japan had adopted 'ROK nationality' against their will under coercion or fooled by the enemy's tricks. They should be persuaded and awakened to political awareness through the campaign so that they revert to the nationality of the DPRK. In this way we will counterattack and defeat the Japanese reactionaries' offensive which is aimed at depriving our compatriots in Japan of their citizenship of our Republic.

It is important to step up the education of our compatriots in Japan in order to inspire them with a high sense of pride in being citizens of our Republic and of national dignity.

A sense of national dignity is the spirit of national independence which is expressed in the conviction that one's nation is not inferior to other nations but is superior to them. A man needs to have a sense of national dignity in order to love his nation and struggle for the independence and development of his nation. A sense of national dignity is necessary for everyone and particularly for our compatriots overseas. Our compatriots in Japan suffered every manner of national oppression and maltreatment as stateless people in the past, and even now they are subject to harsh national humiliation and discrimination and even forced to be naturalized in Japan. If our compatriots who are living in Japan, a foreign country where reactionaries have control, lack a sense of national dignity, they will be unable to safeguard their democratic national rights and still less to preserve their own national spirit.

Our nation is a resourceful and talented people who, being of the same blood, have created a beautiful national culture which is five thousand years old and also we are a nation with a strong spirit of patriotism and independence. Moreover, the Korean people of today are not like what they used to be in the past when their dignity as a nation, in a state of colonial slavery, was trampled on. We are now a dignified people who, as the legitimate masters of an independent and sovereign state, are highly proud of shaping our destiny independently under the guidance of the most pre-eminent great leader. It is the greatest honour and pride of our nation that we are under the leadership of a great man, a genius of thoughts and

leadership, and the people's benevolent father who is held in high respect by everyone. Precisely from this do our people derive their sense of national dignity. For the Korean compatriots in Japan, their fatherland means the leader, and the leader their fatherland. When every one of them is convinced that our leader is the best of all leaders and that our country is the best of all countries, they will come out, with an unbreakable fighting spirit, in the struggle to safeguard their democratic national rights. Therefore, education aimed at enhancing the sense of national dignity should be conducted so as to fuse their love for their homeland into feelings of unbounded respect for the leader and to weld their spirit to serve our socialist homeland into an unfailing loyalty to the leader.

We must see that a powerful struggle is launched to safeguard the right to a democratic national education.

A democratic national education is what our compatriots in Japan are struggling for in order to safeguard their national sovereignty; it is a noble patriotic undertaking to restore the members of our nation.

Since a nation is formed on the basis of the community of its language and culture, the compatriots in a foreign land cannot be called members of our nation even though they and we are of the same blood, unless they know the language, history and traditions of their homeland. If our language, history and culture are not taught to the younger generation who were born and are growing up in a foreign land, they cannot become reliable people who will safeguard their national sovereignty and strive for national reunification and, worse still, they may become foreign people who do not care at all about their homeland and their nation. Receiving a democratic national education is a burning desire of the Korean compatriots in Japan who, living in a foreign land for a long time, were not in a position to learn the language, history and geography of their homeland.

A democratic national education of our compatriots in Japan has been vigorously undertaken ever since the days immediately following liberation as a patriotic effort of all the Koreans in Japan. It has developed through a bloody struggle to foil the obstructive moves of the Japanese reactionaries and safeguard their rights to a national education. Great successes have been achieved in national education through the vigorous struggle of our compatriots in Japan and with unremitting support from their homeland.

The democratic national education of our compatriots in Japan is now faced with new difficulties because of the obstructive moves of the Japanese reactionaries. The reactionary Japanese Government which has been continually persecuting the democratic national education of our compatriots in Japan is now trying to cook up a 'bill of foreigners' schools and enact it with an eye to stepping up the repression of Korean schools and interference in them. The 'bill of foreigners' schools is, in fact, a part of a wicked, fascist law aimed at obliterating national education for our compatriots in Japan, who make up an overwhelming majority of the foreign residents in Japan, and at imposing 'naturalization education' upon the children

of our compatriots. The Japanese reactionaries do not even hesitate to commit a despicable act of agitating their right-wing gangsters to raid Korean schools and do violence to Korean children in order to destroy the national education program of our compatriots in Japan. Concerned over the grave situation facing our compatriots in their work of national education, the great leader has instructed that a powerful struggle to defend the right to a democratic national education should be launched in Japan and that strong support and encouragement should be given to it from the homeland.

In order to defend national education for our compatriots, we must ensure that a powerful campaign involving all the compatriots should be launched to thwart the scheme of the Japanese Government to cook up the 'bill of foreigners' schools'. The Chongryon organizations and all our compatriots in Japan must launch a campaign to expose at home and abroad the reactionary nature of the 'bill of foreigners' schools' and arouse public opinion against it. If our compatriots combine their efforts and develop a powerful campaign by various methods, they will be able to foil the scheme. The struggle to win the legality of national education must be intensified. The Japanese reactionaries have not yet approved of the Joson University. This university has been built with educational aid money from our homeland. It is the highest temple of a democratic national education and a reliable centre for training cadres of Chongryon. It is the most unique university in the world for the education of the people living in a foreign country. The Japanese reactionaries consider that the Joson University which is giving our people a national education, flying the flag of our Republic in the heart of Tokyo, is a thorn in their skin. They not only refuse to approve it, by inventing unwarranted excuses, finding fault with its name and the content of education and educational facilities, but also are trying to do away with it. The matter of approving the Joson University is not a simple matter of approving an educational institution; it is a matter of principle whether or not they ensure the legal right to democratic national education. The Chongryon organizations and our compatriots must step up the struggle to get the Joson University approved this year because it marks the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the university.

The most important matter in national education is to establish Juche. Establishing Juche in education is all the more necessary because national education is given in spite of continued repression and interference by the Japanese reactionaries. More emphasis must be put on nurturing intense love for their homeland and their nation in the students and schoolchildren, and their education should be given in a varied way to meet the requirements of the Korean revolution and the cause of national reunification. In particular, the students and schoolchildren must be given a correct understanding of the glorious revolutionary traditions established by the great leader and of their socialist homeland, and their education must be steadily improved to teach them the language, history, culture and geography of Korea. In this way the Korean students and schoolchildren in Japan

will acquire loyalty to the great leader and have pride and honour of being overseas citizens of our Republic.

It is also necessary to widely organize the work of demonstrating the advantages and vitality of a democratic national education. Things like a mass gymnastic event and performances of a variety of music and dances by students and schoolchildren can have a great effect on our compatriots in Japan and help towards thwarting the Japanese reactionaries' scheme for obliterating national education.

A suggestion was made to me last year that a mass gymnastic event should be performed on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the formation of Chongryon. I said that it should be given on a large scale so as to demonstrate the character of Koreans. It was, in fact, no simple matter to produce and perform a large-scale mass gymnastic event in the heart of capitalist Japan at a time when the clamour against our Republic and Chongryon was continuously intensifying. Nevertheless, Chongryon produced and performed a grand mass gymnastic event. Ode to the Homeland, that described the proud history of the movement of our compatriots in Japan, the movement that had developed under the flag of our Republic, and their patriotic struggle. The performance had a strong impact on Japan. The leader was very pleased with the report of this fact, saying that he was feeling relieved to see that the students and schoolchildren of Chongryon and the Koreans in Japan were solidly united and that they were placing deep trust in their homeland. Chongryon will now be able to organize a grand music and dance performance involving thousands of people, to say nothing of a mass gymnastic event. Such events will be effective in developing physical culture and art, in demonstrating the vitality and advantages of a democratic national education and in raising the prestige of Chongryon. They will also inspire the Korean students and schoolchildren and other compatriots in Japan with a higher sense of national pride and encourage them to work with greater enthusiasm for our patriotic cause, rallied closely behind Chongryon.

The struggle to safeguard the right to the freedom of travel to and from their homeland and the right to repatriation must be continued vigorously.

Nowadays, the Japanese reactionaries, in collusion with the south Korean puppet clique, and with an ulterior political purpose, are trying to frustrate the repatriation and travel to and from the homeland, a purely humanitarian undertaking, on the excuse that the work of repatriation is dragging out too long, and that the work of travel to and from the homeland may have a bad influence on their relationship with south Korea. In view of this plot that the Japanese reactionaries are hatching in order to frustrate the repatriation work, it is necessary to launch a powerful struggle to extend the repatriation agreement without amendment. The struggle for our compatriots' full right to travel to and from their homeland must be continued.

The struggle to safeguard the rights of Korean businessmen and our compatriots' right to survival must be conducted energetically.

In order for our compatriots in Japan to struggle successfully for the

defence of their democratic national rights, they must strengthen their friendship, unity and solidarity with the Japanese people. A correct understanding of the justness of the patriotic activity of Chongryon must be given to the broad sections of the Japanese people, and the ties with Japanese progressive political parties, social organizations and people of various strata should be strengthened so that broad sections of the Japanese people strongly support Chongryon and our compatriots in Japan in their struggle for their democratic national rights.

Today, the movement of the Koreans in Japan is faced with various difficulties because of reactionary manoeuvres, but nevertheless they are temporary difficulties. As long as they are guided by the Juche line and policy of the movement of Koreans in Japan elucidated by the great leader and as long as they have their genuine homeland, the DPRK, the Koreans in Japan are not alone in their struggle and will emerge victorious without fail.

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