

Reality of Drafting of Koreans as Japan's Slaves (1)

The Fact-Finding Team on the Truth about Forced Korean Laborers in Japan published a booklet entitled "Drafting of Koreans as Forced Laborers and 'Comfort Girls' during Japan's Colonial Rule of Korea" in mid-August.

The 34-page booklet reveals the facts about forced Korean workers in Japan and Korean "comfort women" for the Japanese imperial army, who were forcibly taken to the battle front.

The People's Korea carries the excerpts from the booklet in series. —Ed.

Drafting of Korean Laborers (Forced Labor)

The Fact-Finding Team on the Truth about Forced Korean Laborers in Japan, which was formed in 1972, has since been conducting research work to disclose the truth about the drafting of Koreans for forced labor by collecting data in Japan and sending members to the United States to obtain related materials there, and also by visiting places where they were made to work and interviewing witnesses. Here is a testimony by a forced Korean laborer.

So Jong U, who is 63 years old now, was told to "go to Japan to work there" by two Japanese and a Korean interpreter who came to him suddenly while he was working on the farm in his home village in South Kyongsang Province on Apr. 21, 1943, when he was 14 years old. When he refused, they persuaded his family to let him go to Japan. Then, he was forcibly boarded on a truck and was taken to a coal mine of Mitsubishi Coal Mining Co., Ltd, on a small island, called "Gunkan (Warship) Island," in Nagasaki Prefecture. There were about 1,000 Koreans working there. Without sufficient food given them, they were forced to dig coal in the pit where temperature rose to 40°C. His health deteriorated because of harsh working conditions and poor food, but when he stopped working in the pit, a Japanese overseer told him to continue to work and beat him all over his body with

company destroyed the lists of Korean workers who had been working there. Therefore, without a means of identification, they found it very difficult to obtain atom-bombed person's cards which were necessary to get medical treatment. At present, he cannot work well because of the delayed effect of radiation and his crippled feet, so that he is meeting with great living difficulties.

1. Drafting of Koreans For Forced Labor

The Japanese government proclaimed the national general mobilization law in order to carry on the aggressive war, and under the labor mobilization plan and the national mobilization plan, which were based on this law, Koreans were mobilized in Korea and sent to Japan, and then under the national requisition ordinance, Koreans in Japan were also mobilized as forced laborers, and also as soldiers, civilians in the military service, female volunteers and "comfort girls." The mobilization of all these Koreans is generally called the forcible drafting of Koreans.

In terms of administrative procedures, the forcible drafting of Koreans was classified into the following three categories; namely "recruitment" (March 1939 - January 1942), "government sponsored recruitment" (February 1942 - August 1944) and "manpower requisition" (February 1944 - August 1945). The Japanese government

dered one after another, and the number of such victims is said to have reached a million. Furthermore, young and adult males and females were drafted indiscriminately so that about 20 million Koreans were placed in what the Cairo Declaration calls the "state of slavery."

No. of Drafted Persons, Their Destinations

According to explanations made by the Government-General of Korea at the 85th and 86th National Diet, "Monthly Special Police Reports" by the Police Bureau of the Ministry of Justice of the Japanese Government and other materials, about 1.5 million Koreans were taken to Japan, 4.5 million were forcibly recruited in Korea and worked there, and 330,000 were sent to Southeast Asian countries, and some numbers of them were sent to Taiwan, Sakhalin, and the Northeast of China.

2. Forced Labor of Forcibly Recruited Koreans

Forced Korean workers were made to work in mines, in munitions factories, on construction sites, on construction sites of military bases, for the construction of underground factories, etc. About 60 percent of those who were drafted and sent to work in Japan were forced to work in mines, and this was decided even when the formulation of the national mobilization law was planned (in fiscal 1939).

A classified report of the Welfare Ministry (dated Sep. 26, 1941) states that "up to 80-90 percent of the pit workers are Peninsular people (read "Koreans"). As this shows, Koreans were forced to do the hardest pit work in mines. In other workplaces, Koreans were made to work in the most dangerous places, so that the number of Korean victims was comparatively larger.

Management of Korean Laborers

Management of Korean laborers was done in close cooperation with the police authorities, as is clear from a "petition for posting policemen in connection with work

renewed when the term expired.

Wages

They were discriminated against in wages. For instance, according to a "report on the working conditions of Peninsular workers" released in 1943 by the Labor Science Research Institute, the monthly wages of 75 percent of Korean workers were less than 50 against 18% for Japanese workers.

Japan Iron and Steel Works, (presently Nippon Steel Corporation), a leading steel company of the world, employed more than 10,000 forced Korean workers. According to a history of the company, the average monthly income of Japanese workers was ¥144, while that of Korean workers was ¥80. Travelling expenses to Japan, meal expenses, work shoes expenses, etc. were deducted from this low income, and the balance was forced to be deposited in order to prevent their escape. This fact is clear from the lists of Koreans whose wages remained unpaid and were deposited, which the company was made to submit the government after the war by order of the General Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Japan.

Deposit of Unpaid Wages

When they were liberated on Aug. 15, 1945, Korean workers there demanded that the deposits of their wages forced by the company be refunded and wages in arrears of payment be paid fully. The General Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Japan which occupied Japan in those days, sent a memorandum to the Japanese government stating that "discriminative treatment should not be made and that an end to such discriminative treatment should be guaranteed" (SCAP 1360, Nov. 28, 1945). The Japanese government made the company submit a list of Korean workers and their wages in arrears of payment to the Deposit Bureau of the Ministry of Justice. When the list was submitted to the ministry, the company was obligated to inform the persons concerned that their wages in arrears of payment had been deposited. However, the Japanese government told the company that there was no need to make this notice on

island, called "Gunkan (Warship) Island," in Nagasaki Prefecture. There were about 1,000 Koreans working there. Without sufficient food given them, they were forced to dig coal in the pit where temperature rose to 40°C. His health deteriorated because of harsh working conditions and poor food, but when he stopped working in the pit, a Japanese overseer told him to continue to work and beat him all over his body with an iron stick. In those days, So thought everyday he might die at any moment.

After working there for about three months, he was transferred to the Nagasaki Shipyard of Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., and was made to do welding work, living in a prison-like dormitory which was surrounded by high fences. He was atom-bombed in Nagasaki on Aug. 9 while he was working. At that time, he was seriously injured as a piece of steel plate fell on his feet, and became a crippled person.

When the war ended soon, no Korean laborers at the shipyard were given labor certificate nor were they paid their wages in arrears of payment. In order to destroy evidence showing their work there, the

girls. The mobilization of all these Koreans is generally called the forcible drafting of Koreans.

In terms of administrative procedure, the forcible drafting of Koreans was classified into the following three categories, namely "recruitment" (March 1939 - January 1942), "government sponsored recruitment" (February 1942 - August 1944) and "manpower requisition" (February 1944 - August 1945). The Japanese government insists that of these categories, those Koreans who were recruited under the first two, that is, "recruitment" and "government-sponsored recruitment" were not forcibly recruited, but the reality was nothing but "forced labor." This is clear from the "Records of Korean Workers" (from March 1940 to March 1944) which was written by Mr. A, who was then a staff member of the Labor Department of the Naoshima Refinery, Mitsubishi Mining Industry, which shows that Korean workers were recruited with the assistance of police and that the police authorities cooperated in enabling the company to secure a necessary number of Korean laborers.

In those days, Koreans who demanded independence of their country, were mur-

number of Korean victims was comparatively larger.

Management of Korean Laborers

Management of Korean laborers was done in close cooperation with the police authorities, as is clear from a "petition for posting policemen in connection with mass employment of Peninsular people (Koreans)" (a material submitted to a conference of the managers of mines of Nippon Mining Co., Ltd., in 1941). And as the number of Korean laborers increased, one policeman was posted per 550 Korean laborers (Cabinet approval, dated Sep. 26, 1941). This shows how the state authorities and enterprises cooperated closely to prevent the escape and resistance of Korean laborers.

Working Hours, Contract Term

Korean laborers were forced to work 10-12 hours a day. The contract term was 2-3 years, but the contracts were forcibly

Japanese government made the company submit a list of Korean workers and their wages in arrears of payment. Deposit Bureau of the Ministry of Justice. When the list was submitted to the ministry, the company was obligated to inform the persons concerned that their wages in arrears of payment had been deposited. However, the Japanese government told the company that there was no need to make this notice on grounds of political unrest on the Korean Peninsula. As a result, the deposits are still kept in the vaults of the Bank of Japan.

Therefore, hardly any of the large Japanese enterprises that had amassed fabulous profits by employing forced Korean laborers (presently, Sumitomo, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Kajima Corporation, Ohbayashi-Gumi, Ltd., Kumagaigumi Co., Ltd. and other construction companies, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda and other auto companies) have yet made any payment of deposits or unpaid wages. Still less, they have made any apologies or compensations. This in spite of the fact that as private enterprises they employed forced labor in contravention of international law.

(To be continued)

JNCC

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embarrassing time for south Korean chief executive Roh Tae Woo considering his no-nuke announcement last year.

The north Koreans also pointed out that discussions on the inspection guidelines cannot be held properly until the south changes its position on the U.S.-south Korea joint military exercise, Team Spirit.

The north side warned that if the south side resumes the criminal Team Spirit, they would be laying a grave obstacle in the way of the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization, a move that the south side would never be able to evade responsibility for.

The south side said that the adoption of the decision to resume Team Spirit at the south Korea-U.S. Annual Security Consultative Meeting in Washington in early October is a "distortion of fact." The south side insisted that Team Spirit is not a rehearsal for a nuclear war but an "exercise for defence."

Concluding the contact, the north side urged the south side once again to stop acts contradictory to the spirit of the joint declaration on denuclearization outside the conference room.

The two sides decided to hold the seventh contact of members on Oct. 29.

North Raps South on Alleged Spy Ring Case

North Korea Oct. 12 rejected the south Korean request for a meeting of the inter-Korean political subcommittee to discuss the recent south Korean allegation of a north Korean spy ring in the south, as it has nothing to do with the north.

"It is self-evident that such a 'case' cannot be an item of discussion between the sides. It is contrary to common sense to call for an 'emergency meeting of the political subcommittee' over this 'story,'" said the north Korean subcommittee chairman Paek Nam Jun.

In a telephone message to his south Korean counterpart Ri Dong Bok, he said

that the south's proposal was a wanton violation of the agreement between the two sides.

According to him, the annexed agreement for the implementation and observance of north-south reconciliation, which the premiers of both sides signed at the eighth inter-Korean high-level talks, stipulates that in case one side calls for "a stop to destructive and subversive action," it shall be discussed at the joint reconciliation committee, not at the political subcommittee. "We express deep regret at your side's rash act, regarding it as an insidious move to lay a deliberate, new obstacle in the way of the positive development of the north-south relations," he said.

ASOK

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noted that ASOK was greatly contributing to the accomplishment of Korea's reunification by vigorously promoting the reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He expressed the belief that the meeting would be an epoch-making occasion in strengthening the national bonds and organizational relations between Chongryun and the ASOK and promoting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Speaking next, Kang Il said they would learn from the experience of Chongryun and actively contribute to the promotion of national reunification with the delegation's visit to Chongryun as an occasion.

ASOK was founded on Nov. 18, 1989 in an era of the former Soviet Union to strengthen the solidarity of Koreans in the CIS and carry out the national education, have made great contributions to the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea. ASOK has 100,000 members and 72 affiliated organizations.

The latest visit to Japan was the first of its kind to confirm solidarity between Koreans overseas.

During their stay in Japan, the members of the delegation also visited Korea University, Korean schools in Japan and the Choson Shinbo Company, a Korean daily for Koreans in Japan.

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA

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