

Update: Human Rights in South Korea (1)

Here is the full text of the "Human Rights in the Era of Reconciliation: Obsolete National Security Law Is Still Applied; Ordeal of Long-Term Prisoners Continues" by Chung Wha Hong which was carried in the Spring 1992 Issue of Korea Report published in Washington D.C.

The People's Korea will carry it into two parts. —Ed.

Whereas the Cold War confrontation is quickly disintegrating throughout the globe, the south Korean government still rigidly implements anti-communist laws, notably the National Security Law (NSL), to repress and jail a broad range of organizations and individuals seeking reunification and democracy.

In Korea, the recent Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange, is heralded as a historical agreement ushering in a new period in inter-Korean relations. However, to the observers of human rights conditions in south Korea, there is a glaring contradiction between the south Korean government's stated reunification policy and its continuous application of the National Security Law and other repressive laws to imprison those working for social change and peace in Korea.

Cosmetic Revision of NSL

On May 10, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party unilaterally passed amendments

of the NSL in spite of protests from the opposition members of the National Assembly and the public. At a time when the call for the repeal of the anachronistic NSL was high, the Roh government simply responded by making minor cosmetic revisions.

For instance, the provision on an "anti-state organization" has changed from "a group ... organized for the purpose of assuming a title of the government or disturbing the State ..., such domestic and foreign association or group that operates along the line of communists..." to a group "equipped with a command and control system." Also in Article 2, the characterization of all communist groups as "anti-state" was changed so that it did not refer to any communist country except north Korea.

Provisions which penalized those "praising" or communicating with communist parties or governments were also repealed, except in the case of north Korea. That is, it is acceptable to communicate with the Russians and the Chinese, but it is still illegal to contact north Koreans without proper government approval.

These and other revisions still maintain that north Korea is an "enemy organization" and have not kept the government from applying the NSL to detain and imprison government critics or reunification activists while the government and big business increasingly engage in contacts with north Korea. Following is a round-up of some recent political prisoner cases.

More Arrests of Students

Im Su Kyung, who was imprisoned for visiting north Korea in 1989 to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students and the International March for Peace and Reunification of Korea, drew international attention when she was sentenced to five years of imprisonment. Today, almost three years later, Chundaehyup (National Council of College Student Representatives) officers are given heavier sentences than Im Su Kyung for their activities.

Kim Jong Shik, a former president of Chundaehyup was sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment and four years of suspension of civil liberties on January 7, 1992. He was charged with violating the NSL by sending two Chundaehyup representatives to north Korea to participate in a reunification conference and forming "enemy-benefitting organizations." The two students Sung Yong Seung and Park Sung Hee are in exile in Germany. They are the south Korean representatives of the "Preparatory Committee for Pan-Korean Student and Youth Alliance for Peace and Reunification of Korea" (made up of south, north and overseas Korean students and youth).

In its judgement, the Court justified its heavy sentence on Kim and other Chundaehyup leaders who received similar sentences by stating, "Even though both South and North Korea entered the United Nations and signed the South-North (Korea) Agreement, there is no evidence that North Korea is not an enemy organization."

(To be continued)

Mil. Talks

(Continued from page 1)

reported as follows:

The north side pointed out that the south side, when the discussion of the implementation of the north-south agreement is entering its more serious stages, continue to raise the "nuclear problem" and, worse still, talk about the resumption of the Team Spirit U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises in an effort to bring the north-south relations back to their earlier condition of distrust and confrontation.

The north side said it was a ridiculous act for the south side, which is neither a signatory to the Korean Military Armistice Agreement nor a member of the United Nations forces, to appoint its "general" chief delegate to the Military Armistice Commission and send him to the vacant conference room. It made it plain that the U.S. forces and the south side are entirely to blame for the paralysis of the activities of the Military Armistice Commission and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

Noting that the south side pursues a sinister purpose in raising outcries over the "nuclear facilities" of the north, the north side said: The south side is persistently creating obstacles with the "nuclear problem" even at this moment when everything has been made clear with the nuclear inspection of the north by the International Atomic Energy Agency. It seeks to play down the results of the nuclear inspection by the IAEA, and hinder the improvement of DPRK-U.S. and DPRK-Japan relations.

It is high time the south side showed the authenticity of its "declaration of nuclear absence", the north side urged. Pointing out that the issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula traces its origin to the deployment of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases by the U.S. forces in south Korea.

If the south side has the will to put denuclearization into practice, it must not be afraid of an overall inspection including the nuclear weapons and bases of the U.S. forces in south Korea.

Rodong Sinmun

(Continued from page 1)

Stressing that such acts by the south side...

朝鮮中央テレビ

mal inspection and Blix' report were preliminary, it seemed that it would not be so different from the final conclusion of the regular inspection of north Korea in view

Period of Colonial Rule Over Korea By Japanese Imperialism Is 41 Years, Not 36

— Statement of DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman —

A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said it has been proved indisputably that the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea began in 1905, not by the "Korea-Japan Annexation" of 1910, and, subsequently, the period of their colonial rule over Korea was 41 years, not 36.

In a statement issued to the press the spokesman said the fact that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" of 1905 the Japanese imperialists allegedly had signed with old Korea was a fake one has been confirmed once again by professors of history at Kim Il Sung University. He stressed that the occupation of Korea by Japanese imperialism was unlawful and illegal from the very beginning.

Professors of history at Kim Il Sung University found new evidence from Hwangsong Sinmun, a newspaper of old Korea, that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" had not been concluded due to the then Emperor Ko Jong's refusal to endorse, sign and fix the royal seal to it, the spokesman said.

He noted that "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" and "Chongmi Seven-Point Treaty" were forged documents which, in view of international law, had not gone through elemen-

tary procedures indispensable to the guarantee of legality of a treaty and extra-large fraud of the Japanese imperialists to "justify" their aggression and occupation of Korea by force of arms.

The statement of Ko Jong in 1907, the accusation by an emissary at the Hague International Peace Conference; Ko Jong's abdication of the throne and many other historical facts and a series of data preserved in the state historical archives of Japan bear testimony to it, the spokesman said, and added:

The Japanese government authorities are trying to cover up by hook or by crook the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in the past and avoid the liquidation of their past wrongs which is a hardcore problem in the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, making a far-fetched argument that the "treaties" between old Korea and Japan "were lagally signed" in those days and effectively enforced".

Refuting the nonsensical argument of the Japanese government authorities, the spokesman stressed that the authorities must honestly apologize for the crimes in the past and take a sincere attitude to correct the distorted history.

DPRK Stresses Int'l Cooperation For Protection Of Environment

On June 11 DPRK Vice Premier of the Administration Council Kang Hui Won signed the Global Warming Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or the U.N. Earth Summit which was held from June 3 to 14 in Rio De Janeiro.

The international treaty on biodiversity, a legally binding treaty, aims to protect the world's plants and animals against the growing threat of extinction.

The Global Warming Convention is a legally binding treaty that recommends curbing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other green gases thought to warm the climate by trapping the sun's heat close to the planet. A total of 153 nations signed the both treaties.

The United Nations Earth Summit was held to focus the attention of the world on the crisis facing the planet and conclude negotiations on international agreements over environment and development issues.

Delegates from about 175 U.N. member nations including more than 110 heads of state participated in the Earth Summit.

At the plenary meeting of the conference, Vice Premier Kang said that the DPRK government will fulfill its obligations for global environmental protection.

Noting that it is important to go over to practical action to improve worldwide environment, Kang referred to practical measures for the solution of the environmental problem.

He said: It is important for all the states, governments and international organizations to attach great importance to the

world's environmental protection in working out their policies and apply them in their practical action, to establish a proper international order and further strengthen international cooperation to settle the environmental issue, and make the process of disarmament and peace lasting and durable so that it may have a more effective influence on the improvement of the global environment.

He said the environmental protection law has been instituted in the DPRK to ban acts of destroying ecological environment by law, and pollution is prevented by all means and a powerful all-people, all-state movement for protecting environment is being conducted thanks to the government's policies of environmental protection.

During the 12-day meeting, participating nations agreed that they will establish the Commission on Environment and Development as affiliate group of the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Meanwhile, Pyongyang papers on June 5 ran articles on the occasion of World Environmental Day.

Rodong Sinmun said that an environmental protection law was enacted in the DPRK to ban acts of destroying ecological environment by law.

Our country has become a country free of pollution under the correct environmental protection policy of the government, the paper said.

The by-lined article of Minju Choson said that the DPRK will as in the past, so in the future, too, make energetic efforts to maintain a beautiful and cultural environment and create better conditions of life.

New DPRK Passenger Ship for Koreans In Japan — Mangyongbong-92

Mangyongbong-92, a new passenger ship for Korean residents in Japan, made its first voyage to Japan and arrived in Niigata Port on June 2.

Until now, two ships — the Mangyongbong, which was built in 1971, and the Samjiyon, which was built in 1979 — have been used to carry about 100,000 Korean compatriots to

Peace Treaty and other bilateral peace treaties. "Apart from such legal issues, the Government of Japan will consider, in deepest sincerity, how best we can embody our feelings towards those who underwent such pains and sufferings..."

the Imperial Diet of Japan that about 1.5 million Koreans were forced to work in Japan, and about 4.5 million in Korea. They were systematically and forcibly displaced and worked under Japanese law and regulations.

Many big Japanese companies were

of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms includes" at least "slavery and slavery-like practices" and "systematic discrimination" (para. 10). Other relevant points in the annex, which should be mentioned are: paras. 5, 6, 10,

porteur; admit legal responsibility in international law; and pay full compensation to each of the victims.

* Liberation requests the U.N. Commission and the Secretary-General to give the utmost assistance to the Special Rapporteur.

Materials Prove "Comfort Girls" Were Forcibly Taken

Material A

Here is Material A made public by Hong Sang Jin, secretary-general of the Fact-Finding Team on the Truth about Forced Korean Labourers in Japan at a U.N. NGO (non-government organizations) meeting held in Geneva on Aug. 18, co-sponsored by the survey group and the (south) Korean Council for Women Drafted by Japan for Sexual Services.

1. The Japanese Government's Response

June 6, 1990: At a meeting of the Budget Committee of the Japanese National Diet, a government official denied the involvement of the Japanese army in recruiting comfort women. "They were recruited by civilian groups," he said.

January 10, 1992: A civilian group disclosed materials preserved in a Japanese public library which prove the involvement of the Japanese army in recruiting comfort women.

January 13, 1992: The Japanese government admitted the involvement of the Japanese army in recruiting comfort girls and made an apology for it. However, regarding the issue of compensation, it said that it would keep a watch on the forthcoming results of an on-going trial.

April 21, 1992: Materials proving the involvement of the Japanese government in recruiting comfort girls were discovered and made public.

May 13, 1992: A Japanese government representative answered questions on the issue of comfort women raised at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (Contemporary Forms of Slavery). He said that he did not want to make clear the government's position because the government had already made an apology on the issue, and a trial concerning the matter was going on.

July 6, 1992: The Japanese government officially acknowledged that the army and government were involved in recruiting comfort women after conducting a seven-month survey. However, the government said the investigation so far had showed no evidence that the government itself forcefully made the women serve Japanese soldiers.

Japan says that claims issues between Japan and south Korea has been completely and finally resolved by the Japan-ROK Agreement of 1965. It also says that it considers the issue of comfort women in terms of the right of property claims.

Until evidence was discovered and made public by the Fact-Finding Team on the Truth about Forced Korean Labourers in Japan and reported by the Japanese daily Asahi Shimbun, Japan had consistently denied any government involvement in frontline brothels for Japanese soldiers. Now it was compelled finally to make an apology, admitting its involvement in the issue, but it said it would make no compensation. The Japanese government made public the results of its seven-month survey. The survey deliberately avoided men-

tioning a report on the interrogations of Korean comfort women by the U.S. army after World War II, which was discovered in the U.S. It also did not mention the materials on the issue preserved in the National Diet and public libraries in Japan. Now, tens of former Korean comfort girls started speaking about their miserable past experiences. However, the Japanese government said that it had "no plan to listen to testimonies by them."

2. Comfort Women Were Forcibly Drafted as Japan's State Policy

Japan burnt most of the materials concerning this matter after the war, afraid of public revelation of the fact. Our investigation team recently found a material which proves that Chinese girls were also forcibly taken to Japan as "comfort women".

"Procedures for Bringing Chinese Labourers to Japan" - This document was obtained by our investigation group when it visited the U.S. Congress Library in Washington D.C. in March this year. (It was one of the materials that the General Headquarters of the Allied Forces in Tokyo confiscated from the Japanese government right after World War II. The original was returned to the Japanese government, but a copy is preserved in the U.S. library)

Here are gists of the materials:

November 27, 1942: Japanese Cabinet councilors' decision on the "issue of bringing Chinese labourers" (Material No. 1)

It was a Japanese Cabinet councilors' decision to forcefully take Chinese

This is a copy of Material A (Material No. 2). The boxed Japanese words (below right) are the name of publisher of this document (Koa-in or the Policy-Planning Board) and its date (November 27, 1942). The sidelined Japanese words (upper left) means "to set up comfort houses and amusement facilities." The title of this document is "Procedures for Bringing Chinese Labourers to Japan."

labourers to Japan. About 40,000 Chinese were forcibly taken to Japan on the basis of this cabinet councilors' decision. This fact was also testified by many Chinese.

"Procedures for Bringing Chinese to Japan" was produced following the cabinet decision. "To set up comfort houses and amusement facilities" is noted in item 6 of it. (Material No.2)

January 8, 1943: The North China Transportation and Labour Section, an agency of Japanese imperialism, forcibly took Chinese to Fushiki Port in Toyama

(Continued on page 8)

