

By Our Nation Itself

By Our Nation Itself—this is the fundamental ideal for achieving the reunification of Korea which Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, clarified at the summit meeting between the north and south of Korea which was held in June 2000 for the first time in its history of national division, and stipulated in the June 15 Joint Declaration.

By Our Nation Itself, which is essential to the June 15 Joint Declaration, clarifies that the north and south of Korea should settle the issue of national reunification independently through the concerted efforts of the Korean nation, its masters.

It is, first of all, an ideal of national independence.

As the territory of Korea was divided by the foreign forces in their pursuit of strategic purposes and interests, the role to be played by its neighbouring countries responsible for Korea’s division is also important. But their role should be confined to their admitting of their historical responsibility and positively supporting of its reunification so as to remedy their guilty past.

The US is the major culprit of the division of Korea as it militarily occupied the southern half of Korea in the guise of a “liberator” by taking advantage of the defeat of Japan. However, it is seeking to perpetuate the division and further to dominate the whole of Korea.

It is quite clear that the issue of reunification of Korea cannot be left at the mercy of outside forces.

It should be settled, to all intents and purposes, by the Korean nation as the master of the question. It is none other than the Korean nation that are experiencing the pain of their division and that are so desirous of their reunification. It is too natural that the Korean nation, who have vital interests in their reunification, settle the issue by pooling their efforts while rejecting foreign forces who are responsible for their division and attempt to fish in the troubled waters.

Even though reunification is the supreme task for the Korean nation, it is yet to be achieved after 70 years since their division. It is attributable to the manoeuvres of the foreign forces that are not desirous of Korea’s reunification and to the policy of dependence on foreign forces and the acts of confrontation with fellow countrymen pursued by the south Korean rulers under the aegis of the foreign forces.

The Korean nation must frustrate intervention by and dependence on foreign forces, the major stumbling block of their reunification.

By Our Nation Itself is an ideal of great national unity.

Great national unity is a prerequisite to the independent and peaceful reunification of the Korean nation.

It can be achieved only when there is an ideal which all the members of the nation of different classes and strata can sympathize with and accept. Such an ideal is just the ideal of By Our Nation Itself.

The ideal reflects the thoughts, feelings and psychology of the entire Korean nation who love their country, value their national spirit and earnestly desire their reunification. It brims over with warm compatriotic feeling, broad magnanimity and the thoroughgoing spirit of love for the country and nation, with which to join hands with anyone who loves the country and desires reunification as a compatriot of the same ancestry transcending the differences in idea, system, religious belief and political view.

Independent and peaceful reunification of the Korean nation can be achieved only by dint of great national unity.

By Our Nation Itself is also the ideal of peace.

Whether to reunify the country in a peaceful way or by recourse to arms has a direct bearing on the destiny of the Korean nation.

Should a war break out on the Korean peninsula, it will develop into a nuclear war, bringing unprecedented nuclear holocaust to many countries in the region and the rest of the world as well as the Korean nation.

The north and south of Korea should join hands so as to prevent the nuclear holocaust.

They should frustrate the US nuclear threat, drive out the US forces and all means of war including nuclear weapons from south Korea so as to root out the source of war. The south Korean authorities must discontinue their north-targeted war games staged in collusion with foreign forces, and make a positive response to the peace proposals by the north so as to create a peaceful climate in the Korean peninsula.

The ideal of By Our Nation Itself is permeated with the lofty spirit of loving the country and nation and thoroughgoing peace-loving spirit to remove the dark clouds of nuclear war hanging heavily over the Korean peninsula by the concerted efforts of the entire Korean nation and hand a reunified and prosperous peaceful country down to the coming generations.

Independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and peace and stability of the Korean peninsula, northeast Asia and the rest of the world can be achieved only when the banner of By Our Nation Itself is held fast to.