



Kim Jong Suk
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Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
Juche 86 (1997)



The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the anti-Japanese heroine Comrade Kim Jong Suk in the secret base in the area around Mt. Paektu where the Headquarters was



The anti-Japanese heroine Comrade Kim Jong Suk



The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Suk accompanied by young Kim Jong Il



Comrade Kim Jong Suk among the girl students in Chongjin City (The first from the left in the front row)

Introduction

Ordinary happenings of the past fade gradually from the memory as the days go by. But to me, who worked with Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the anti-Japanese heroine, during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and in the years of peaceful construction, the memories of many events of more than 60 years ago are still vivid, as if they were of yesterday.

During the grave and hard-fought anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the early 1930s, Comrade Kim Jong Suk took loving care of the members of the anti-Japanese Children's Corps in the guerrilla zone on the Tuman River. She was both sister and mother to them, and brought them up to be unfailingly loyal to the respected General Kim Il Sung. After she took up arms on the road of struggle, she loved her comrades-in-arms in the revolution as she would her own family.

Most importantly, at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp Comrade Kim Jong Suk brought up her son, the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, the great successor to the Juche revolutionary cause. She raised him to the roar of gun-fire of the sacred war against Japan to be the sun of the nation.

After the country's liberation, Comrade Kim Jong Suk, in support of the respected leader's line of building a new country, made many long and rugged journeys to visit our people and arouse them to the building of a new country. She even put off her visit to her own native town and her own kinsfolk, whom she had never forgotten for even a moment in the days of her anti-Japanese struggle.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Jong Suk was the heroine of the

anti-Japanese struggle, single-heartedly loyal to respected Comrade Kim Il Sung.

As the days went by, my heart swelled with a strong desire to talk about her noble personality.

So I had been thinking of writing a book for a long time. However, with my narrow mental vision, it was not easy for me to describe all her noble features.

While I was struggling with this problem, time flew by and now I am on the wrong side of 70.

On March 13, Juche 81 (1992)* the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung received us anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans and posed with us for a souvenir picture. He said that we should live in good health until 100 years of age and bring up our sons and daughters, grandsons and great grandsons well so that they would loyally support the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.

As one of the first generation of the revolution, I participated in the celebration of the great leader's 80th birthday, the nation's greatest festival, and in the parade on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army. The moment I looked up at the great leader and the dear leader on the platform, I missed Comrade Kim Jong Suk very much. This made me resolve to write a book about her.

* The Democratic People's Republic of Korea instituted the Juche era with 1912 as the First year when the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was born, in order to exalt the revolutionary life and immortal achievements of the great leader who created the immortal Juche idea and led the Korean revolution and construction to victory for all ages, and carry forward and complete his revolutionary cause.

The institution of the Juche era was made public on July 8, 1997, the third anniversary of Comrade Kim Il Sung's death.

With the help of my comrades-in-arms I have written my reminiscences of her noble features, her sense of revolutionary obligation and her love for her comrades.

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1. TO BRING UP THE FUTURE GENERATION OF THE REVOLUTION

In early 1930, Comrade Kim Jong Suk set out on the road of the revolution in the village of Fuyan, inspired by the Juche idea of the respected General Kim Il Sung.

In July 1932 she joined the Young Communist League of Korea (YCL) organized and led by the General. She worked at the district committee of the YCL and then at its county committee and at the party secretariat, conducting the work of the Children's Corps, the Children's Vanguard and the YCL. She also did political work successfully in the enemy-held area.

Busy as she was, she always paid particular attention to the work of bringing up the future generation of the revolution; she took charge of Children's Corps members and took loving care of them.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk made every effort to rear us CC members as sons and daughters loyal to the General and reliable heirs to our revolution.

My First Meeting with Her

Spring arrived in the guerrilla zone, and everything came to life again.

It was the spring of 1933, the first spring that I greeted in the guerrilla zone.

The joyous singing of the farmers echoed through the valleys. Thanks to the land distribution, they had become the

owners of the land for the first time in their lives. The voices of children reading in the CC school in the village of Beidong floated through the air.

The people were really happy and hopeful in the guerrilla zone that spring.

In December 1932 I was enrolled in the Children's Corps and began studying at the Beidong School set up by the fatherly General. My joy was beyond description.

One day, after school, I was preparing for a performance with the Children's Corps entertainment group. A girl, with bobbed hair and dressed in a black skirt and a white shirt, came into the playground.

Comrade Ri and some other children straightened themselves and bowed to her politely.

Attracted by her unusually sparkling eyes and neat appearance, I also bowed politely, following Ri, before I asked him who she was.

Comrade Ri said: "Oh, you haven't met her yet, have you?" She told me that she was Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

I was surprised to hear that. I had heard a lot about her and been anxious to meet her, but I did not imagine that I would see her at this unexpected place. Moreover, she was not like I had pictured her to be. It was said that she was a brave, magnanimous woman. However, she looked so simple and ordinary. Until then, I had pictured her to be manly rather than womanly. That was because those who had heard many anecdotes of her, but without seeing her for themselves, imagined that she had extraordinary looks. However, Kim Jong Suk, who was standing in front of me, was just an ordinary woman.

Squeezing my hand and those of other members of the entertainment group, she said that she would join efforts with us.

There were about 20 members in the county entertainment group at that time. We attended school in the morning and rehearsed in the afternoon.

Kim Jong Suk took a seat beside me and asked me quietly where I came from.

I replied that I was from Chongjin.

Smiling at me, she said she was also from North Hamgyong Province.

Her words reminded me of the story of her life I had heard from Comrade Ri past midnight soon after I came to the guerilla zone.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk was born into a very poor, yet patriotic family in Osandok, Hoeryong County (now Hoeryong City), North Hamgyong Province, on December 24, Juche 6 (1917). She was born in the season of frequent snowstorms, and the times were very hard.

Having occupied Korea, the Japanese imperialist aggressors put Koreans in jail at random and massacred patriots in all parts of the country. The whole country was a bloodbath. The bitter cries of the people leaving their homes to earn a living somewhere else echoed throughout the land.

At this time of national suffering Kim Jong Suk left her dear home village at a tender age and crossed the Tuman River with her parents. Though in deep sorrow, she could not forget her home, white apricot and wild grass in Osandok, her beloved friends, the beacon site, the old ruined castle and everything else she held so dear.

After crossing the Tuman River, Kim Jong Suk settled in a mountain village of Beigou, Yanji County in Jiandao, China.

Her family rented a sloping field from a landlord and made a bare living by growing millet, barley and potato.

In September 1931, she joined the Children's Vanguard

organized and led by the General. In July 1932, she then joined the Young Communist League of Korea, and worked as the first woman member of the YCL in the Fuyan village....

As I was recollecting what I had heard from Ri, Kim Jong Suk said that she would teach us the dance *White Seagull*, which she had created herself.

We, the entertainment group members, were so glad that we all clapped our hands.

The dance *White Seagull* portrayed brother and sister seagulls, which had dropped to a seaside in a fierce storm while flying southward, and managed to survive, undaunted, looking forward to the day when the benevolent sun would drive out the winter and bring in spring.

Kim Jong Suk composed the words of the song for the dance to the tune of the song *Seagull*, which people used to sing in those days.

Flying to a southern country, we dropped behind.
Having lost our papa and mama, we weep in sorrow.
If you and I endure this winter cold,
The round sun will meet us warmly.

She also arranged the dance herself. That day we learned the dance *White Seagull* until late in the evening.

The dance represented the lives of our people: Although they had lost their parents and been robbed of their freedom and rights, they endured sorrow and pain and went on living unyieldingly. They looked forward to the day when General Kim Il Sung, the great sun of the nation, would bring a new spring of liberation. The more we danced, the better we liked it, and the more strength we gained.

Leaving us when we finished practice that day, Kim Jong Suk

said, "Let's perfect this dance and give pleasure to the people in the guerrilla zone."

Seeing her off, I stood there for a good while, because I was filled with admiration and respect for her.

Drawing a Map of Korea Herself

One summer day in 1933, Kim Jong Suk visited the CC school and guided the review of our lessons. She drew a large map of Korea on the blackboard and wrote down famous mountains, rivers, fertile plains, lakes, the East and West Seas, sites of mineral deposits, places of natural beauty and historic interest and the sites of culture relics.

The eyes of our CC members were all focused on the blackboard. We had learned these things in geography. However, when I saw each of them written on the blackboard, they were very clear to my eyes, and I felt my heart filled with strong emotions.

She wrote down in bold letters the names of famous mountains such as Mt. Paektu, Mt. Myohyang, Mt. Kuwol, Mt. Kumgang, Mt. Sobaek, Mt. Thaeback, and Mt. Halla and the names of rivers such as the Amnok, Tuman, Chongchon, Taedong, Rimjin, Han, Kum and Raktong Rivers, and taught us about each of them.

She went on to say: "Our Korea is literally a beautiful land of 3,000 *ri*. Its mountains are beautiful and the water is clear. Five major crops are harvested from the fertile land. Various kinds of fish teem in the East and West Seas, and valuable natural resources such as gold, silver, copper and iron are found all over the country. These are more than enough to make our people prosperous. However, all these have been stolen by the Japanese imperialists."

Bearing in mind what Comrade Kim Jong Suk taught us, we CC members made up our minds to win back our beautiful country so rich in these precious resources.

She also gave us an impressive explanation of the metal type which holds a brilliant place in the world history of culture, Chomsongdae (astronomical observatory—Tr.), the turtle-shaped armoured warship, and the painter Sol Ko.

At the thought of our nation, who had lived in this beautiful land with the heritage of a time-honoured national culture, being robbed of the country by the Japanese and were now living the life of a ruined nation, we all felt bitter hatred for the marauders.

Kim Jong Suk often took time off to guide our study after school. Among the CC members was a schoolboy who was two years older than the rest of us. She helped him with his studies, making notebooks for him and patching his worn-out clothes. One day the boy was lying in bed in the CC dormitory, looking up at the ceiling. He said he would not attend school because he was ashamed of being taught with little ones, as little as his younger brother.

Kim Jong Suk reasoned with him gently. "If you are ashamed of learning and neglect it, you won't be able to distinguish between friend and foe, and the guns of those who can't distinguish between friend and foe won't be of any help in the revolution. Without a strong will, you won't be able to become a revolutionary who is to change the world. Moreover, with such an undisciplined attitude you won't be able to serve in the revolutionary army of iron discipline. That is why you must learn, cultivate a sense of belonging to the organization and build up your body during your CC life."

Probably regretting his mistake, he stood silent, his head bowed.

From that time on, Kim Jong Suk taught him how to read and write every night, burning the midnight oil. She also drew a map of Korea on a sheet of white paper and wrote down the names of mountains and rivers and taught him geography.

But two weeks later, while dancing with other boys and girls, he failed to keep in step and trod on the foot of a girl. This made him the laughing-stock, and he ran away.

On hearing of this, she went in the darkness to a deep valley beyond a pass, where the guerrilla barracks were situated.

But she could not find him. She turned back and searched the mountain, calling his name. At last she found him on a mountain ridge leading to the enemy-held area. He was plodding along dispiritedly, with drooping shoulders. Comrade Kim Jong Suk was so pleased to see him. Forgetting all her fatigue, though she had wandered about the mountain all night, she rushed to him. Holding him by the hand, she said: "What's the matter with you?"

He just stood there, silent. Feeling sorry and ashamed, he was looking down at the ground, biting his lips.

"Why have you come here? Don't you know where this way leads to? Once you go over this pass, you'll find yourself in the enemy-ruled area. Are you running away to become a wretched servant again?..."

"Where can you go, if ever you do, leaving this happy world in the guerrilla zone which the General has built up for you, abandoning the good school and giving up your determination to destroy the enemy with a gun in hand?"

"Now, answer me. There is nowhere you can go but the road of revolution, dead or alive. If you can't suppress your momentary feelings and flinch at the struggle, you won't be a man."

Although she loved him, she scolded him sternly. Feeling tears welling up, she turned back.

"Sister!" he cried and buried his face in her bosom.

"I was going to the guerrilla army, but I lost my way and, got here. How can I live away from the General, away from the revolution!"

Kim Jong Suk held him in her arms and said: "You are right. Of course, we can't live away from the General and away from the revolution."

From the following day he devoted himself to CC life, studying hard with the notebooks and the map of Korea she had made for him.

Looking back upon the days when she drew the map of Korea, taught the CC members about their country and led them to the road of revolution, I still feel deep gratitude to her.

Character Examination Meeting

There are innumerable heart-warming stories about the children who, once subjected to all manner of ill-treatment and contempt and thrown out onto the streets when their country was occupied by the Japanese aggressors, grew up into true CC members of the respected General.

One day in the early spring of 1933, Kim Jong Suk called at the CC school and gave an account of the meaning of the Children's Corps salute. She said:

"The Children's Corps is a reserve force of the Korean revolution.

" 'Be always ready!'—these are the words of the salute taught by General Kim Il Sung. The General instructed that this CC salute is the oath of CC members that they will pre-

pare themselves to be excellent workers to build a happy and bright new society.

"At any time and place you must bear in mind the true meaning of this salute, and become truly loyal sons and daughters of the General."

I still recall with emotion Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who frequently attended character examination meetings to improve the level of these meetings and guided them with kindness.

Comrade Kang lost his parents when he was young and came to the guerrilla zone after wandering about here and there in the enemy-held area. He was one year older than the others, and rude. Moreover, he had a strong fist, which sometimes made trouble.

One spring day in 1933, he was out in the fields to help farmers in the spring sowing. When he came back to his classroom in the CC school before anyone else, he saw two friends there, and was about to hit them without asking them why they had remained there.

Kim Jong Suk, coming into the classroom at that moment and seeing him, called his name and asked him why he was going to hit them. He replied, out of breath and unable to swallow his anger, that those who had neglected to take part in the collective activity had to be taught a lesson and raised his fist again. She gripped his wrist and scolded him sternly, saying he should not beat his friends. He lowered his fist, still staring at them.

She looked him sternly in the face for a while and admonished him severely.

"You must try to correct them with words if there is something wrong with your friends; you must not try to use your fist. Don't you feel ashamed of beating your friends who are weaker than you?"

She went on to say that he should not beat others again in future and pushed his back lightly into his seat.

The following day a character examination meeting was held, and Comrade Kang was criticized.

The first speaker criticized Kang warmly, saying that CC members who are learning in the guerrilla zone must not fight with each other.

The second one warned him that if he did not value and take loving care of his friends, he would not love his country and people and would fail to become a true guerrilla.

There was a hush in the meeting hall. Kim Jong Suk pointed out that Kang's defect was that he did not sincerely participate in CC organizational life. She went on to say.

"CC members must respect and love each other, taking part in the organizational life sincerely and studying hard. Only then will they be able to become true sons and daughters of the General. I hope that CC members will in future live in perfect harmony as one family, united in one mind and will, helping and leading each other forward."

Her words had a strong effect on us CC members. Kang, in particular, who had been criticized, repented bitterly of his mistake and made up his mind to rectify it.

Regarding the character examination meeting as an important means of training the CC members organizationally, she, later on, frequently attended the meetings. She would analyse good points and mistakes, give assignments and receive reports on how the assignments were being implemented.

Through the meetings she taught them to acquire the habit of criticizing their own mistakes in front of their colleagues and correcting them before it was too late.

Sometimes she had to go on a mission to the enemy-held

area, or had to be away from CC members for other unavoidable reasons, often for many days. At such times she entrusted the CC work to other members of the YCL or hard-core CC members so that they would continue to lead a disciplined life every day. On her return she would learn about their CC life during her absence and review it.

Thanks to her boundlessly warm care, we CC members acquired a strong sense of organization and realized that we belonged to the organization, that we had to carry out the tasks given by the organization at any cost, and that we could neither move even one step nor live away from it.

When the People's Revolutionary Government Was Being Established

In the spring of 1933, people's revolutionary governments began to be established in the guerrilla zones.

General Kim Il Sung regarded the question of political power as the fundamental question of the revolution. When defining the character and basic tasks of the Korean revolution at the meeting in Kalun in June 1930, he said that in our country a people's revolutionary government should be established, a government which was to champion the interests of the workers, peasants and other broad sections of the masses.

However, factional flunkeyists and Leftist opportunists asserted that the Soviet form of government should be set up in the guerrilla zones. They established Leftist governments in some parts of the guerrilla zones and pursued an ultra-Leftist policy.

In Wangqing County they clamoured for the "proletarian revolution" and the immediate realization of socialism, and

eliminated private ownership. They even confiscated land and domestic animals from rich and middle peasants who were against the Japanese.

These flunkeyists and Leftist opportunists defined the guerrilla zone as "Red Area" and the enemy-ruled area as "White Area". They said they could not trust the people in the enemy-ruled area indiscriminately, that they were the stooges of Japanese imperialists, or that they were double-dealers. In this manner they paralysed the masses' revolutionary enthusiasm and obstructed the unity of the anti-Japanese masses.

The people who had come with great hopes to live in the guerrilla zones were unsettled. The revolutionary organizations and people in semi-guerrilla zones and the enemy-ruled area were watching the developments in the guerrilla zones with an uneasy eye.

Without overcoming the reckless moves of the Leftist opportunists and factional flunkeyists, it was impossible to build up guerrilla zones and unite different sections of the masses.

At this moment General Kim Il Sung, who had advanced to northern and southern Manchuria after founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, arrived in the Wangqing guerrilla zone.

While in Macun, Xiaowangqing, he got to know all the details of the Leftist deviation revealed in establishing the revolutionary government, as well as its evil consequences. He immediately proposed the line on the people's revolutionary government in order to rectify the Leftist deviation. He also explained in detail how his line should be implemented, and directed the work of establishing the people's revolutionary government in the guerrilla zones on the Tuman River.

Around this time Comrade Kim Jong Suk, as a member of

the committee of the Young Communist League in the 8th district, participated actively in the work of reorganizing the Soviet into the people's revolutionary government in Yanji County.

One day she came to the Wangougou guerrilla zone where I was living. She explained the character, mission and tasks of the revolutionary government to be established to the Young Communist Leaguers and other young people and women. In order to ensure success in establishing the people's revolutionary government, she also did mass political work, sanitary and hygienic work and made preparations for art performances to celebrate the occasion.

She encouraged the Young Communist Leaguers and members of the Children's Corps to resurface roads and clean the village until it was spick and span. She also wrote revolutionary slogans and put them up about the village. The valley of Wangougou was decorated as on a festive occasion, and the people were full of joy.

By night she put her efforts into the preparations for performances. She polished the songs she had composed through many nights, completed dance movements and taught them to us, the entertainment group of the Children's Corps.

A long time has passed since she wrote the title of the song. *To the Homeland Following the General's Star* in block letters on the blackboard and the words and taught us the song, but I still remember it clearly, as if it were yesterday.

Round, gliding moon, are you going alone?
We're also going to our dear home town,
To the homeland guided by the General's Star,
Shouldering the guns of the Children's Corps.

Oaks grow strong in the rain and snow.
We harden ourselves through training.
We the Children's Corps will solidly unite,
And go to the homeland guided by the General's Star.

Red blood in our hearts boils hard
At the thought of our mothers and brothers,
We the Children's Corps will destroy the enemy,
And go to the homeland guided by the General's Star.

As Kim Jong Suk sang the song phrase by phrase, we sang after her.

As I sang the song, I longed for my home town from the bottom of my heart and I made a strong determination to destroy the Japanese as soon as possible and go to the homeland following the General.

The song was included in the performance programme. Under her energetic guidance, we of the Children's Corps entertainment group prepared a varied repertoire-choruses, duets, vocal solos, sketches, comic dialogue, and dance.

The content of the performances was all about calling on the working masses to oppose the Japanese, landowners and capitalists and rise in the sacred war of national independence.

I belonged to the dancers' group for the first time and danced with Kum Sun, a member of the Children's Corps, who is well known to the public now.

Kim Jong Suk taught us the dance movements one by one until late at night. The dancers' group was making slower progress than any other group. So we trained harder.

One afternoon she came to the classroom where we were practising dance. She had a bundle in her hand and told us to have a break for a few minutes. When we stopped practising

she untied the bundle, saying that it was a gift from the people in the guerrilla zone. She produced large apples from the bundle and shared them out among us.

She said, "These are apples for which Korea is celebrated. There is a variety of apples in Korea, and they are world-famous for their colour and taste."

Holding an apple in my hand for the first time since I was born, I stroked it and smelt it, without venturing to eat it.

Kim Jong Suk said to me: "In the homeland apple trees are laden with fragrant fruit like these every year, but the Japanese imperialists take them all away, so our people cannot taste them. Let all of us fight courageously to destroy the enemy and win back our country."

Her words strengthened our determination to work hard in the Children's Corps entertainment group in order to win back our beautiful and fertile homeland.

We rehearsed for 20 days. We completed our repertoire under her guidance. I, too, finished learning the two-person dance.

On the morning of the day when the district committee of the people's revolutionary government was elected, the village of Wangougou was alive and in festive mood.

The assembly for the election was held in the playground of Beidong School. The assembly was attended by Wangougou villagers, representatives from the Party, the Young Communist League and mass organizations in the 8th and other districts, soldiers of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army and visitors from the enemy-ruled area.

That day the people who had worked devotedly in support of the Comrade Kim Il Sung's Juche-orientated revolutionary line and strategic and tactical policies were elected to the district committee of the people's revolutionary government

according to the people's will.

After the election congratulatory speeches were made.

The meeting was followed by a performance of the Children's Corps entertainment group given in celebration of the event.

Before opening the performance, Comrade Kim Jong Suk spoke in congratulation of the establishment of the people's revolutionary government. She said:

"Brothers and sisters, look up at the red flag. The red flag, flying high in the sky, is the symbol of the people's revolutionary government established by our hands at the cost of our blood.

"In order to hoist the red flag and keep it flying over this land our parents, brothers and our young vanguard shed much blood, fighting the Japanese imperialists.

"We of the Children's Corps entertainment group shall give our performance to celebrate the establishment of the people's revolutionary government, in the strong belief that you will fight to defend the red flag of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners to the end and keep it flying all over our beautiful homeland in the future."

As the curtain rose we sang the *Song of the People's Government* in chorus. The chorus was followed by a vocal solo, a duet, and song and dance. *Unity Pole*, two-person dance, a sketch and various other items.

Each of the performances was warmly acclaimed.

One of the audience from the enemy-ruled area watched our dance with tears in his eyes. He told Kim Jong Suk that he had had a daughter, who danced as well as Kum Sun, but was killed by the Japanese imperialists. He was firmly resolved to fight the Japanese aggressors through to the end.

Kim Jong Suk lost no time in strongly appealing to defend

the people's revolutionary government from the "punitive" attack of the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

The audience unanimously responded to her appeal. They were in high spirits. Kim Jong Suk was beaming with the thought of the people who would live in happiness under their revolutionary government.

On a Visit to a Guerrilla Hospital

One day in the summer of 1933, Kim Jong Suk, in company with the Children's Corps entertainment group, paid a visit to a guerrilla hospital in the Fangcao Pass in Wangougou of Yanji County.

In the hospital a surgeon and nurses were treating many patients. She talked with each of the patients, consoling them and asking them where they were wounded and if their wounds were hurting.

In the evening we gave a performance for the patients under her guidance. In her opening speech Kim Jong Suk said that the Children's Corps entertainment group came to the hospital carrying the earnest wishes of the people in the guerrilla zone that the guerrillas who had been wounded in the courageous fight against the Japanese might recover as soon as possible and return to the fighting ranks. Referring to the distinguished services performed by the guerrillas in battle, naming each of the men, she warmly congratulated their success.

The performance began with a chorus. The chorus was warmly applauded by the audience. We staged a harmonica solo, vocal solo and song and dance, including the *Unity Pole* and *Pride of the Thirteen Provinces*. The audience was moved greatly by our performance and clapped. After the perfor-

mance they asked us to teach them the *Song of the Moon*, which was sung as solo.

The original words of this song had been revised by Kim Jong Suk. She had worked through many nights to change the words, which were somehow pathetic. She altered the words in a revolutionary way so that the song inspired people with love for the country and feelings of reverence for General Kim Il Sung.

A cinnamon tree and a rabbit in the round moon
That glides through the sky.
Without sail or oar,
It glides swiftly to the land of clouds.

Where does it go past the land of clouds?
Westward to our clear home town.
How can it sail in the dark sky?
It sails guided by the twinkling lodestar.

Round, gliding moon, are you going alone?
We're also going to our dear home town,
To the homeland guided by the General's Star,
Shouldering the guns of the Children's Corps.

The Children's Corps member who sang the song taught the patients the song.

One of the patients held Kim Jong Suk's hand in his and said:

"Instructor of the Children's Corps, my only daughter was killed by the enemy. As I see the Children's Corps members growing healthy and strong under the General's care, I miss my daughter more than ever. At the sight of the singing and dancing children I see the bright future of Korea."

Kim Jong Suk and we were moved to tears by his words. She said:

"Please try to recover your health quickly and revenge your daughter and the people in the guerrilla zone."

Hearing this, the man clenched his fists with burning hatred for the Japanese imperialists.

A Story of "Jangsung"

Prior to May Day in 1933, the village was being cleaned and made tidy, for we were expecting visitors groups made up of workers and peasants from the semi-guerrilla zone.

Under the meticulous guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the young villagers and Children's Corps members made the village spick and span in a few days.

However, a problem was weighing on her mind. It was the problem of "jangsung".

It was neither a man nor an animal. It was something like a monster which had been set up at the entrance to the village. The elders and women of the village said that the "jangsung" would protect the village by warding off disaster and that the people should pass it by with a clean mind and appearance. Some people even said that women who could not become pregnant could have babies if they ate its nose.

The "jangsung" had villagers cognize the nonexistent ghost and unlightened and was hampering the revolutionary education of the Children's Corps members, Women's Union members and other villagers.

Members of the Children's Corps and Women's Union, on their way back from a liaison mission at night, were afraid of

passing by the "jangsung" and had to take a round-about way to return to the village.

The existence of this superstitious monster in the guerrilla zone might affect the visiting groups badly and serve as a laughing-stock.

So Kim Jong Suk made up her mind to do away with the "jangsung."

At night school she explained to the village women that there was no devil in the world. As she finished her interesting explanation, a woman fresh from the semi-guerrilla zone asked, as if something terrible had happened, "Is there no devil? I've seen it."

Kim Jong Suk asked back, with a faint smile on her face, where she had seen a devil. The woman answered that on her way back from the village of Jangjae a few days before she had seen many large and small devils' fires dancing at the foot of the mountain.

Another woman also said she had seen the same thing.

Kim Jong Suk remembered she herself had seen these things. But these were not a devil's dancing. It was a light of phosphorus blown by the wind from a grave dug up by a fox.

She wanted to explain the reason, but refrained. She thought she would give them an object lesson.

"Well," she said, "let's go and see the devil's dancing fire."

"Oh, don't go to see the dreadful thing," another woman said, wincing.

However, most of the Women's Union members supported Kim Jong Suk's suggestion. With torches in their hands they followed Kim Jong Suk to the place where the will-o'-the-wisp might appear.

There they found the remains of Japanese soldiers who had fallen in their "punitive" action under the fire of the Anti-

Japanese People's Guerrilla Army. The women confirmed that blue flames were being emitted from the remains of the dead soldiers.

"Look," Kim Jong Suk said. "This is not a devil but the remains of the 'punitive' troops. A man's body contains phosphorus. When he is dead and rots, phosphorus emits fire. When the wind blows it scatters and looks like dancing. Fireflies also carry phosphorus like that, and at night they look like flying lights. By nature, they are the same as the will-o'-the-wisp."

Hearing her explanation, the woman who has said she had seen devil's fire blushed and spat at the will-o'-the-wisp, as if she detested having been ignorant of it.

Kim Jong Suk lost no time in declaring that the "jangsung" set up at the entrance to the village was not God, but something like a scarecrow put up by the ruling circles in the past to keep the people in ignorance.

The Women's Union members agreed to the Kim Jong Suk's idea and suggested removing it.

That night the women, freed from the superstitious dread, came back home, singing in triumph.

The next day the Young Communist Leaguers heard about the event and admired Kim Jong Suk's method of skilful political work and her large-minded action.

The Young Communist Leaguers destroyed the "jangsung."

However, the matter did not end there. An old man of the village who got to know of the destruction of "jangsung" was furious. He protested that the ignorant women had angered his God.

Kim Jong Suk inquired about his family life before she went on to explain the incident.

The old man's son and his daughter-in-law had been killed by the Japanese "punitive" troops and he was living with his grandson. The grandson was seriously ill with a high fever, unable to eat anything for a few days.

The old man believed that this misfortune was due to his God's anger and was praying every night, offering water to the God.

Knowing this, Kim Jong Suk obtained mountain bee honey and medicine by asking for help from many people, and then paid a visit to the old man.

When she arrived at the front yard of the old man's house, she heard the old man swearing, "You blasphemers who have angered my God will never escape Providential punishment!"

She hesitated for a moment, and then asked if the master of the house was in.

There was no answer. She again asked the same, and the old man opened the door, saying, "Who is there?"

"Grandpa, you must be worrying very much. I am sorry I was unable to visit you earlier because I was busy," she greeted him politely.

The old man asked, "Whose daughter are you?" He gazed into her face, as he thought she was a stranger. *J*

"I am in charge of the Children's Corps entertainment group in Beidong," she said.

Only now did the old man recognize her and say, "You have had a lot of trouble making the village shipshape." He remembered seeing her working hard, resurfacing the road with gravel and cleaning the village with young people of the village, Children's Corps members and Women's Union members. He showed her into the house.

In the room she found a boy of about ten lying ill, as she had heard. She sat by the boy and felt his forehead with her

hand. She administered the medicine and honey water she had brought.

"Grandpa, this is the medicine the Young Communist Leaguers of the village have obtained from the enemy-ruled area for this boy. Please let this boy take the medicine and honey water again in the evening."

Kim Jong Suk gave the medicine and honey to the old man and left the house.

In the evening, the boy's fever began to drop and the next morning he even smiled.

Looking at the smiling boy, the old man exclaimed, "She's a benevolent woman, a benevolent woman!" If he thought there was someone in the yard, he would open the door to see if it was her coming to visit him.

Two days later, Kim Jong Suk again visited the old man in company with the officials of the Young Communist League of the village.

As she called the master of the house in front of the door, the old man came out in a hurry, even forgetting to put on his shoes, and said, "Benevolent woman has come. Thanks to you my boy has recovered his health." He took her wrist and ushered her in.

Having ascertained the boy's health condition, Comrade Kim Jong Suk produced rice and freshwater fish she had brought with her.

"This is the fish young villagers caught in cold water early in the morning for the boy," she said.

"Thank you very much. How can I repay all this kindness," the old man said, his eyes brimming with tears.

Kim Jong Suk was pleased to see that something warm remained in the old man's heart.

She looked round the room and saw poorly cleaned bowls,

enamelware and pots and other things in corners of the room, which had obviously lacked a feminine touch for a long time. She suggested giving the old man a helping hand. The Young Communist Leaguers agreed and went out to chop firewood for him. She fetched water and cleaned kitchen utensils until they shone. She prepared to cook congee with the fish. While the congee was boiling, she polished the enamelware.

The old man was so sorry that he nervously kept going in and out. She held him and told him to sit quietly.

Soon the smell of fish congee filled the room. When it was cooked she scooped it into a bowl and served it to the boy.

"Now, take it and get strong enough to go to Children's Corps school," Kim Jong Suk said. The boy looked at his grandpa's face.

"Take it. The aunt saved you," the old man said, and the boy rose to his feet and bowed to her,

Asking about the old man's family, she said quietly:

"There is no Korean now who is not suffering. My mother and my brother's wife were killed by the Japanese 'punitive' troops the same morning. We Koreans are suffering not because they angered God or the "jangsung" but because of the Japanese imperialist marauders. The Japanese imperialists try to keep as many Koreans as possible in ignorance to enslave them. So they spread superstition among as many Koreans as they can."

"You are right," the old man said, looking at her. "But I worshipped the 'jangsung' as my God."

Comrade Kim Jong Suk held the old man's gnarled hand warmly in her hand. and told the old man to bring up his grandson well and let him fight to revenge the enemy of his parents.

The old man said that he would do so without fail.

Kim Jong Suk patted the boy on the head and left the house. The old man said he would repay her kindness and saw her off with tears in his eyes.

After that the boy entered the Children's Corps, and his grandfather helped the revolutionary organization whole-heartedly, with warm feelings of respect for Kim Jong Suk.

Entertainment at a Chinese Nationalist Anti-Japanese Unit

One summer day in 1933, when we had finished performances around Wangougou and Sandaowan, Comrade Kim Jong Suk told the Children's Corps members to assemble in the school.

When we were seated, Kim Jong Suk, looking round at us, said that we must be good at performances in the future too, without being content with the success of the past, and that we would entertain a Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese unit very soon.

In those days a Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese unit under the command of Xu Kui-wu was stationed near Zhancaicun. Rumour had it that these Chinese soldiers, deceived by the evil scheme of the Japanese, would kill Korean revolutionaries for no reason.

So we wondered why we were going to visit such a Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese unit.

Perceiving our apprehension, Kim Jong Suk said that the Children's Corps entertainment group should go anywhere if the revolution required it.

"Most of the soldiers of the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese unit came from the families of workers and peasants to fight the Japanese imperialists," she said. "Therefore we

must unite with them under the anti-Japanese banner in accordance with the General's instructions. If we try hard, we shall be fully able to unite with them."

She let us know the purpose of the performance and said that the anti-Japanese unit had agreed to the programme of the Children's Corps entertainment group.

That evening, the head of the women's department of the 8th district gave us an account of Kim Jong Suk's visit to me anti-Japanese unit.

On hearing the news that the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese unit had been fooled by the Japanese imperialists' scheme of driving a wedge between us and killed Comrade Ho, and that a representative to be sent to the Chinese unit for a joint front was being selected, Kim Jong Suk had gone to the district Party committee and volunteered to be sent to the Chinese unit.

The district Party secretary had dissuaded her from going there, saying it was dangerous to visit the unit.

However, Kim Jong Suk had insisted on going, saying that how could she sit with folded arms when the General's policy on the anti-Japanese united front should be implemented. At last she had succeeded in getting approval.

The next day she was to visit Xu Kui-wu's unit in company with the head of the women's department of the 8th district.

The Chinese unit was stationed in a log barracks in the flat forest near Sandaowan. When her company arrived at the barracks, the sentry challenged them, asking where they were from and what was the purpose of their visit.

"We've come to see your commander, for your sake," Kim Jong Suk answered.

The sentry was overwhelmed by her dignified attitude in dealing with him, an armed man. He was at a loss what to do.

She stepped forward and demanded that the sentry signal the sentry house. The sentry sent a signal.

That day Comrade Kim Jong Suk met Xu Kui-wu, commander of the unit.

"I was informed of your arrival," said the unit commander in an arrogant tone of voice. "But we don't regard you as good."

"Commander, we don't see your unit in the same light," Kim Jong Suk replied, hiding her displeasure.

"That means you regard us in a favourable light.... Then, why are you going to kill us Chinese?"

"The factionalists who play into the hands of the Japanese trying to drive a wedge between the Korean and Chinese peoples have done this. We Korean communists who have taken up arms to liberate our country occupied by the Japanese imperialists have no reason to harm the Chinese people, who are also fighting to save their country from the Japanese invaders. The Korean and Chinese people are brothers who should fight shoulder to shoulder against their common enemy."

Hearing her logical explanation, the Chinese unit commander seemed to have more or less dispelled his misunderstanding. He said, in a softer voice, that if that was true he would take the matter into consideration.

"Commander, as you might know, General Kim Il Sung had negotiations with Commander Wu and joined hands with him some time ago. We have come to join hands with you, Commander, in support of General Kim Il Sung's united-front policy."

Xu Kui-wu looked a little surprised and asked her if she came from Commander Kim's army.

Kim Jong Suk answered in the affirmative.

Saying that Japanese imperialists and their stooges were

much afraid of the patriots of our two countries joining hands, she exposed the enemy's ploy to drive a wedge between the peoples of the two countries.

Only now did Xu Kui-wu look pleased, and apologized to her for his inhospitality. He ordered tea and treated her with politeness.

Hearing this account, we immediately started preparing for the performance in real earnest.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk made a new performance programme and carefully examined the costumes of the Children's Corps entertainment group.

Having made full preparations, we left for the anti-Japanese unit. When we arrived at the unit the unit commander came out to welcome us, saying that the Children's Corps entertainment group came as promised by Kim Jong Suk.

We immediately improvised a stage in the grounds of the camp and began our performance.

At first the soldiers seemed not much interested in the performance. They just smoked opium. But as the entertainment group sang and danced, they became fascinated by the performance, and even applauded.

Seeing me and Kum Sun dancing gaily in pleated skirts and rainbow-coloured jackets, some of the soldiers wiped off tears, probably because they were longing to see their little sisters at home. When we finished dancing, the soldiers gave us flowers.

When the entertainment was over, the soldiers told us to tell them whatever we needed.

We said we wanted nothing.

The soldiers insisted that we should tell them whatever we wanted, saying that there must be something we needed.

As they insisted, we said that we would like to have a try at shooting.

The commander, who was satisfied with our entertainment, permitted us to fire live bullets.

The target was set up against a solitary tree at a distance of about 100 metres.

Kim Jong Suk told us to shoot regarding the target as our enemy who had killed our parents, not as a mere practice target.

I aimed at the target with calm and composure and hit it, though I had never fired a gun before. Most of our entertainment group hit the target.

The soldiers praised us to sky and requested Kim Jong Suk, who was in charge of the entertainment group, to have a try. They handed a rifle to her.

She fired a volley without so much as aiming at the target
Bang, bang, bang!

The soldier who was at the target to keep score shouted, "hit, hit, hit." Both the soldiers and the commander applauded and admired her marksmanship.

The commander offered us a coach for our journey back and invited us to come again. The soldiers followed us far to see us off.

We continued to visit the anti-Japanese unit now and then, and gave them performances to encourage them to form a joint front with the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army.

In the Forest of Sandaowan

The enemy was greatly alarmed by the anti-Japanese armed struggle, which was stepped up under the wise leadership of General Kim Il Sung in eastern Manchuria in early 1934.

The Japanese made desperate efforts to put down the Korean people's anti-Japanese armed struggle, which the enemy

considered a "mortal cancer" in their continental aggression. They examined the method of aggression they had employed in the past, and began to use more atrocious methods.

Previously the enemy employed scorched-earth tactics or tried to wipe out the guerrilla zones in a short span of time. But now they massed large armed forces around the guerrilla zones, closed in upon them step by step, consolidated the area they had occupied, then tried to exploit their success. They also set up internment villages around the guerrilla zones and a system of collective watches to blockade the guerrilla zones.

Because of the enemy's manoeuvres the people in the guerrilla zones found themselves in dire danger.

In the autumn of 1934 I went to give a performance at Sandaowan as a member of the entertainment group. There we encountered an enemy "punitive" force and entered a thick forest, where I met Comrade Kim Jong Suk. It was beyond all my expectations; I was so glad that I ran towards her. In those days she was working among the anti-Japanese self-defence corps and the Children's Corps.

She too ran towards me with open arms and embraced me, asking, "What a hard time you must have had?"

I said, "You must have gone through more hardships than we."

Kim Jong Suk looked at me in delight and asked me again how I came to the forest.

I answered that I came there because I had encountered an enemy "punitive" force on my way to Sandaowan, where I was supposed to give a performance.

"Was no one wounded?"

"No."

I suggested to her that we go to Wangqing.

But she said, holding my hand in hers, "I am not the only

person who wishes to fight by the General. Everyone wants to fight by his side, but if everyone goes to his side, what would become of the revolution? I believe that if we tight invariably on the road of revolution, we shall meet the General some day...."

I could say nothing more to her.

She told me that now that I had grown one year older I should do the Children's Corps and entertainment group activities better. As the sun set, she said we should cook supper and talk more after the meal. Then she took out her pot and rice from her knapsack.

At that moment, remembering that she had given everything to the Children's Corps members while she herself went hungry, I thought I should cook even a few meals for her and took out rice from my knapsack.

Saying that for a guest to serve the host is not the Korean manner, she pushed my rice into my knapsack and cooked the meal with her own rice.

It is a long time since then, but I can still remember how I ate the supper with relish.

As darkness fell in the forest, I made a camp fire. Sitting by the camp fire, she told me about her home at Osandok and about her parents.

She also told me about the death of her only younger brother, Kim Ki Song, in December 1933. Her brother, who was on a mission to obtain information about the enemy in the 8th district, found enemy troops moving in the wake of the people who were going to take refuge on Peak Lupai northwest of Zhancaicun.

The situation was critical.

Knowing that he must save the people from the danger he blew the bugle he was carrying with great care, as if giving the

signal for a bayonet charge on the Japanese.

On hearing the bugle signal for a bayonet charge, the enemy soldiers stopped and looked round with fear-stricken eyes, and again heard the vigorous sound of her brother's bugle from Peak Lupai.

The enemy shot at where the sound of the bugle was coming from. The bugle suddenly stopped. Her brother fell, hit by an enemy bullet.

At his funeral ceremony, Kim Jong Suk said in tears:

"You have fought like a son of the motherland, a son of the revolution.... I am crying because I am glad of it. I will change my tears into hatred for the enemy, add your share of fight to mine, and I will destroy the enemy. My dear brother, please lie in peace."

I asked her in a low voice, "Who is at your home?"

"Only my cousin."

Reminding me of the fact that her family members were not the only people who had fallen in the revolutionary struggle, Comrade Kim Jong Suk said, "Let us fight the enemy through to the end and liberate the country."

That night I could not sleep. The thought of her mother and sister-in-law who had been killed by the Japanese "punitive" troops and her brother Kim Ki Song who had fallen while luring the enemy's "punitive" troops to save the people of the guerrilla zone kept me awake.

Next morning, seeing me sad to part from her, Kim Jong Suk said, "Go now. We will meet each other again while fighting stoutly on the road of revolution."

After that I worked in northern Manchuria for a long time and met her again in the summer of 1943.

2. AT THE MT. PAEKTU SECRET CAMP

While at the training base on the Soviet-Manchurian border, I often heard news of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who worked at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp from the summer of 1941 to the spring of 1943.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk carried out military and political activities, basing herself at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, during the latter half of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s.

The Mt. Paektu Secret Camp was the strategic and leadership centre of the Korean revolution until Korea was liberated.

During this period Kim Jong Suk brilliantly carried out important tasks given by General Kim Il Sung, crossing and recrossing the Amnok and Tuman Rivers and relying on the secret bases established in the homeland.

Whenever I heard the touching news, I longed to see her as soon as possible.

One summer day in 1943, I met her coming back to the training base after carrying out a mission given to her by the General at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp.

"Comrade Ok Sun," she said, squeezing my hand warmly. "How many years is it since I saw you last?"

I could not greet her properly. I took the General's son from her and said, "You must have gone through many hardships."

Saying that the comrades who worked in northern Manchuria had had more hardships, she invited me into the barracks.

For a few days, I heard her impressive accounts of how she

had gone to the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, and rehabilitated damaged organizations and sped up the preparations for nationwide resistance.

Of the many events I heard from her at that time, I shall touch on a few things which are still fresh in my memory, even after the lapse of many years.

In Front of the Dear Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il's Birthplace at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp

In front of the desk where I am writing about this event hangs the scroll inscribed with the poem composed by Generalissimo Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il.

Jong Il Peak soars high above Mt. Paektu,
Where the limpid Sobaek meanders.
Can it be the Shining Star's fiftieth birthday already?
Admired by all for his power of pen and sword
Combined with his loyal and filial mind,
And unanimous praise and cheers shake heaven and earth.

As I recite the poem, I remember the simple log cabin without a gate or a fence in the thickly wooded valley of the Sobaek, the old home of the dear leader which I visited last summer.

At the sight of the log cabin nestling in the forest of larch, silver fir and *Abies nephrolepises* in the bright sunshine, I felt my heart throbbing.

Looking at the log cabin where the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il was born, the cabin with two doors and one win-

dow flung open, I felt as if I were seeing the smiling face of Comrade Kim Jong Suk coming out through one of the open doors.

The sight of the simple furniture, a wooden pistol, a knife and a pair of binoculars on a small desk and the Korean map made my heart swell, because these historic relics were the objects of Kim Jong Suk's maternal care.

The more I thought about them, the more clearly I could see her image. Even now I felt as if I were hearing her familiar voice ringing out from the log cabin.

My feeling was all the stronger because it was at this cabin that Comrade Kim Jong Il was born to carry forward the revolutionary cause of Juche.

One mid-June day in 1942 Comrade Kim Il, who was staying at the log cabin in the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, came out to the front checkpoint to meet General Kim Il Sung.

The General received his greetings and asked him when he had come to Mt. Paektu. Comrade Kim Il answered that he had arrived a few days before by way of the Onsong area from Qianbaoshan.

"Why are you here at the front checkpoint?" the General asked again.

"To get to know the state of affairs here and take necessary measures," Kim Il answered. Then he added that he and Kim Jong Suk had discussed how to ensure the secrecy of the camp in view of the intensified activities of small units and political operatives.

Commenting that they had hit upon a very important idea, the General said:

"The secret base which has been established in the Mt. Paektu area, centred around the valley of the Sobaek, is the heart of the Korean revolution. In this secret camp the policies

and lines of the Korean revolution are decided and their implementation supervised. Therefore we must heighten vigilance to the utmost to prevent any of the secret camps in this area from being exposed to the enemy.

"However, you must not be swayed by worrying about the divulgence of the secret.

"As the day of the country's liberation draws nearer, more and more small units and groups and political operatives will have to pass this front checkpoint, and the liaison points on the Amnok River, on Taegak Peak and on Ssangdu Peak.

"We must step up the work of the front and rear checkpoints and liaison points on the principle of ensuring the activities of small units and groups and strictly keeping the rules of entry into and exit from the secret camp." The guerrillas resolved to safeguard with their lives the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, the General's Headquarters and where his son was born.

Kim Il, who was climbing up the Sobaek valley in the General's company, pulled the small unit commander gently by the sleeve and said in a low voice:

"It's really a jubilant event. The birth of the heir to the General's cause cannot help but be an auspicious event for our nation."

"Yes, we too heard the news at the training base and on our way to this place. So we sped up our march, but we are somewhat late because the General has had to deal with various things on the way."

"At the news of the birth of the General's son, all the Mt. Paektu area is enveloped in joy. Everyone is in high spirits saying that the bright future of the country is assured. Indeed, it's extremely good luck for the Korean revolution."

"That is right. A Shining Star has risen on Mt, Paektu to

carry forward and accomplish the General's revolutionary cause."

"It is said that the news is not spread far and wide because Comrade Kim Jong Suk is against it, but we must tell the world about the jubilant event, the glory and pride of Korea, as soon as possible."

"Yes, that'd be good."

Soon they arrived at the secret camp in the General's company. The comrade who was standing on guard even forgot to report to the General and shouted, "Comrade Commander has come!"

Soldiers came running out. They greeted him and each tried to stand in front.

At this moment Kim Jong Suk, with the baby in her arms, approached the General. Commanding officers and men focussed their eyes on the General, Kim Jong Suk and the baby. A woman guerrilla, who was standing by Comrade Kim Jong Suk, took the baby from her and said to the General, "Comrade Commander, please try and hold the baby in your arms."

"Thank you, comrades," the General said and held his son in his embrace.

The commanding officers and men looked up at the General and his son respectfully.

The women guerrillas wiped their tears of joy and were beside themselves, holding one another's hands.

Looking at his son affectionately, the General said, "Let us bring up the younger generation well so that they will take over the revolutionary cause.... It is our will to let the younger generation carry forward the Red flag of the revolution which was raised high on Mt. Paektu."

His words conveyed a profound meaning to our minds.

Presently, Kim Jong Suk received the baby in her arms and said, "General, let's go into the Headquarters."

No words can describe the august event fully.

Half a century has passed since then. The loyal hearts of the anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans who held Kim Jong Il in high esteem as the future sun of the Korean revolution, when he was born as the Shining Star on Mt. Paektu to the howling of the wind in the primeval forest and the roar of guns during the war against the Japanese, have now become an immutable will to support him, the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, for ever and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, united with a single mind around him.

The Quilt Made of Patched Cloth Permeated with Loyalty

From 1944, the units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army started intensive military training to meet the great event of national liberation. Kim Jong Suk participated in military training every day.

One night, when a violent wind was blowing, I went to the quarters where Kim Jong Suk was staying after the day's training, for I wanted to see the General's son as usual.

She received me warmly as she always did and, after placing a patched quilt over the sleeping baby, asked:

"Comrade Ok Sun, have you ever heard of this patched quilt?"

"No," I answered.

With a smile on her face she told me how the quilt was made of patched cloth.

Towards the end of February in 1942 the snowstorm con-

tinued violently in the valley of the Sobaek, threatening disaster.

Kim Jong Suk wrapped her new-born baby in an army blanket. When it grew very cold in the dead of night, she took off her cotton-quilted coat and covered the baby with it. Seeing This, the women guerrillas' hearts ached.

One day a commanding officer, who was staying in the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, said, "No matter how scarce cloth is, there may be a few yards of it at the sewing unit. We've been indifferent. How can we say that we are living as we should as her comrades?"

His words had a strong impact on the women's hearts. One of them said that they had intended to send out somebody to obtain some cloth, but they had refrained because Kim Jong Suk had been against the venture.

"That is not your fault," the commanding officer said remorsefully. "We bigwigs are to blame for it. Is this all we can do for the General's new-born son, when our eyes are open and our hearts can pump drums of blood through our limbs?"

That evening the women guerrillas sat together in the sewing shop and discussed the matter. One of them suggested making a quilt by collecting scraps of cloth and cotton wool from their knapsacks.

They searched their knapsacks to find these materials. One of them took out a piece of cloth and cotton wool she had kept to make a pair of quilted socks, and another produced a sheet of wrapper she had received from Kim Jong Suk as her birthday gift and had kept in her knapsack even in the days of heavy fighting.

They made a quilt that night by patching the scraps of cloth they had collected. At dawn they took it to the log cabin where

Kim Jong Suk was staying. They were cordially received by her and ushered into the room.

The lovely baby was sleeping in the army blanket. The visitors offered the patched quilt to the baby's mother. They were very sorry to make such a humble present.

"Thank you," Kim Jong Suk said, feeling with her hand the patches of cloth that made up the quilt. "I'll always remember your kindness. When the country is liberated, let us sit together and talk about this, laughing it off as an old tale."

It was a quilt made of scraps of cloth they had carefully kept in their knapsacks, even when marching through snow-covered wilderness and fierce fighting.

Whenever night fell, Comrade Kim Jong Suk used to wrap her baby in the quilt permeated with loyalty and sing the lullaby:

Sleep, sleep well, my baby,
Grow up quickly and shoulder your gun
And fight, you in front, I behind you,
Shouting cheers for national liberation.

Sleep, sleep well, my baby,
Grow up quickly and hold high the Red flag
And fight, you in front, I behind you,
To bring communism to the world.

She wrapped her son in the patched quilt and brought him up, to the ceaseless roar of gunfire of the war against the Japanese, in the howling blizzard.

A poet, who paid a visit to the Kim Jong Il's birthplace half a century after the event, wrote:

Snow falling down in flakes

On Mt. Paektu.
You were the quilt
That wrapped up the son
Of revolution.

Howling blizzard
Of Mt. Paektu,
You were the lullaby
That lulled the son of revolution
Into sleep.

Ever green forest of
Mt. Paektu
You were the house
That brought up the son
Of revolution.

Luise Rinser, a woman writer from West Germany who visited the Kim Jong Il's birthplace at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp one summer day several years ago, said:

"A quilt that has cost millions of gold coins cannot be compared to that patched quilt, the crystallization of the warm hearts of the anti-Japanese women guerrillas who held Kim Jong Il as the guiding sun."

A Braid of Hair

One night after the day's skiing training in the winter of 1943, Comrade Kim Jong Suk told me about how the General left her in personal command of a small unit one spring day in 1941.

On the eve of the General's departure, Kim Jong Suk was lost in deep thought on how she could help the General march through manifold difficulties in good health. With deepest concern for his health, she thought of making pads as insoles for his boots.

She had not used camellia hair oil, which was famous from ancient times, but her hair was sleek. Then she cut her long braid off with a pair of scissors.

"Oh, why did you cut it?" asked a woman guerrilla who was surprised.

Asking if she was not yet asleep, Comrade Kim Jong Suk said:

"Comrade Commander is going to take to the field. He will have no time to dry his boots on the expedition. How good it will be if this braid of hair can warm the General's boots and body"

All through that night, Kim Jong Suk made the insoles with her hair. She took them to the General and put them in his boots.

Hearing this moving story I again felt that this thing could be done only by Comrade Kim Jong Suk. She had the same warm heart as General's mother Kang Pan Sok, who had made and spread the pads of her braid in the General's boots for his good health when he paid a visit to the straw-thatched house at Xiaoshahe in the early period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

That night I could not sleep. I was so moved by Kim Jong Suk's intense loyalty to the General.

She always devoted her loyal heart to the General.

Once she had to be away from the Headquarters for some time to carry out a revolutionary task assigned to her by the General.

Before leaving, she divided the remaining rations for each of the General's meals for the days she would be away.

She also separated side dishes and spices liked by the General and said to the comrade on kitchen duty:

"The rations are not sufficient, but remember that you must see that Comrade Commander takes his meals without skipping any."

Then she took the cook to the spring. The cook followed her, not knowing why she was taking her along to the spring she had been to every morning and evening.

On arrival at the spring, Kim Jong Suk put her hand into the water and took out a package of venison wrapped tightly in oil paper.

"Oh, how come we still have venison!" the cook exclaimed, unable to hide her surprise and delight.

That was the meat obtained by some guerrillas for the General some time before. Kim Jong Suk had preserved it with great care during the hard times, when the camp site was moved several times.

The cook was deeply moved by Kim Jong Suk's loyal concern for the General's health.

I said to myself.

"We anti-Japanese guerrillas must follow her noble example of loyal devotion to the respected General."

In Order to Expand the Organizations of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland

Comrade Kim Jong Suk would willingly go to the enemy-held area in spite of great danger in order to realize the

General's noble ideas. She held meetings of political operatives and heads of underground revolutionary organizations at the secret camp near Kuksa Peak and at the signal site on Yondu Peak, and expanded the organizations of the ARF.

I came to know of this fact one autumn day in 1944. That day I heard from Comrade Kim Jong Suk an account of her activities in the Yonsa area and the Musan area while she had been working at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp. I still remember the story clearly.

In September that year Kim Jong Suk went to the Yonsa area because some members of the underground revolutionary organizations had become dispirited, thinking that the Korean revolution had bogged down in a state of complete isolation as a result of the signing of the Soviet-Japan neutrality pact.

She crossed the Sodusu by means of a raft bridge set up by members of an underground revolutionary organization and arrived at a secret camp near Kuksa Peak.

Political operatives and the heads of ARF organizations in the Yonsa area had assembled at the secret camp.

She shook hands with each of them as if she were greeting her own brother after a long separation. She encouraged them by speaking highly of their strenuous efforts in the enemy-held area.

She called a meeting of the heads of the underground revolutionary organizations from the Musan, Yonsa and Samjang areas. She conveyed to the meeting the gist of the speech the General had delivered at a meeting of the small units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army held at Jiapigou, Wangqing County. Then she heard the accounts of the heads of ARF organizations from different areas about the ideological trends among their organization members in connection with the signing of the Soviet-Japan neutrality pact.

She said:

"As you said, some organization members are now wavering without confidence in the victory of the revolution in connection with the Soviet-Japan neutrality pact signed in April this year and fascist Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June. This tendency is also in evidence among some political operatives and heads of the ARF organizations in the Yonsa area.

"Thinking as if our revolution is in a state of isolation, they have lost their faith as revolutionaries who are responsible for the Korean revolution. They are not working hard to unite the anti-Japanese force in the Yonsa area. They are not developing more widely the struggle against the Japanese plunder of timber, confining it to the destruction of rafts among the rafting workers of the Sodusu and the Yonmyonsu.

"This very dangerous tendency is pushing our revolution into stagnation and slowing it down.

"We must continue to fight to liberate the country, bearing in mind the instructions of General Kim Il Sung that we should carry out the Korean revolution in whatever tempest."

That day Comrade Kim Jong Suk clearly explained immediate tasks for the ARF organizations in the Yonsa area. She first referred to conduct organizational and political work boldly to rally workers into organizations by planting hardcore members of the ARF organizations in construction sites such as waterway tunnels and the dam of the Sodusu hydroelectric power station and other projects, where large numbers of workers were concentrated.

She also urged that the ARF organizations should be expanded and that this work should be conducted not only in the Musan and Yonsa areas, but also in North and South Hamgyong and Kangwon Provinces.

After the meeting she detailed the duties of each of the delegates before they returned to their work places. She also gave precautions to be taken on their way back.

After the departure of the political operatives and heads of the ARF organizations, Kim Jong Suk proceeded towards Musan.

Past noon, guided by a political operative, she arrived at the edge of Yondu Peak, which overlooked the Musan Mine, by way of Hungam-ri, Musan County. There she met the heads of the underground revolutionary organizations in the Musan area.

Among them there were some comrades who had become familiar with her when she was there in August 1939.

She met each of them individually and acquainted herself with the real state of organizations and their activities, and then held a meeting. She spoke highly of their success in forming many organizations and rallying a large number of people into these organizations. She then explained their tasks in detail.

Stressing the need to expand various forms of organization to meet the prevailing situation and organize more people, she said:

"The situation today requires more urgently than ever that we must rally not only workers, peasants, young people, students, intellectuals and shopkeepers but anti-Japanese entrepreneurs and different sections of the population around the revolution and rouse them to a final decisive battle against the Japanese imperialists.

"The Japanese imperialists are now enlarging the Musan Mine in a big way in order to plunder more raw material for steel needed for their aggressive war. As a result, the ranks of workers are growing quickly.

"Therefore, the ARF organization in the Musan Mine must first inculcate anti-Japanese, anti-war ideas in the workers, rally more of them into the organization, and launch different forms of struggle to obstruct the Japanese imperialists' iron ore production."

She went on to stress the task of thwarting the enemy's production and procurement of strategic materials by combining the struggle with strikes, sabotage, destruction of the means of transport and various other forms of struggle, the task of awakening and training workers, peasants and other sections of the population on revolutionary lines through practical struggle, and the task of organizing paramilitary corps and workers' shock forces. She also explained the principles of organizing the paramilitary organizations and the method of their operation.

In the autumn of that year alone, Comrade Kim Jong Suk made long and dangerous journeys in order to restore the homeland revolutionary organizations which had been destroyed under the Japanese imperialists' barbarous repression and to expand the ARF organizations.

Hearing this story, I was deeply moved by the loyalty of Kim Jong Suk who conducted vigorous revolutionary activities in the dangerous enemy-held area in order to realize the General's high aim.

To Speed Up Preparations for Nationwide Resistance

From the summer of 1942 Comrade Kim Jong Suk worked hard to implement the General's policy set out at a meeting held in the Mt. Kanbaek Secret Camp, namely, the policy of

sending small units and small groups deep into the homeland for active political and military activities to meet the requirements of the situation.

One day Kim Jong Suk and some guerrillas went to Sinpha across the Amnok River, slipping through the enemy's tight guard line.

She was pleased to see the Sinpha organization, which had been damaged in the "Hyesan incident", restored and working actively.

She heard a report about the activities of the members of the underground revolutionary organization, referred to the task of expanding the organization to complete preparations for nationwide resistance, explained how the task should be carried out, and then left for the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp.

On the way, Comrade Kim Jong Suk said that she was apprehensive of the work of the Koksan secret base in Hwanghae Province, which was far away from Headquarters. If the intentions of Headquarters had been conveyed accurately, there should have been a report, she said.

The male guerrilla who was escorting her asked if it was not advisable for him to go there and ascertain the situation.

"I think it's the only thing we can do," she answered.

"I see."

"So, go straight over towards Hyesan, take a train to Wonsan and proceed to Koksan, instead of taking trouble to drop in at the secret camp."

She told him that since he was to take the train he had to disguise himself carefully, and then said:

"As you know, when he came to us last time the General instructed that political activities would be the main thing to do in the homeland, and that organizational and political work

should be stepped up to strengthen the revolutionary force.

"He also instructed that in military activities reckless clashes with the enemy should be avoided, that reconnaissance should be intensified, and that the principle of ensuring political activities with arms should be maintained.

"The General's instructions must be accurately conveyed to the small unit there."

The guerrilla hesitated to leave her.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk asked him if he had anything to say.

He asked if he could escort her to the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp and then go to Koksan.

She said that he need not worry about her safety, for she had a woman guerrilla who would accompany her on her way back.

The man told the woman guerrilla to accompany Kim Jong Suk with high vigilance in view of the enemy's strict surveillance.

In the quiet of dawn the woman guerrilla escorted Kim Jong Suk across the Amnok River aboard a ship that had been prepared.

Only after seeing Kim Jong Suk crossing the river in safety did the liaison man walk toward Hyesan.

On arrival in Hyesan, he disguised himself and took his train.

Taking a seat in an ordinary carriage he looked around. In front of him a worker and his wife were sitting. The middle-aged worker was in coarse cotton summer jacket, threadbare trousers and rubber-soled canvas shoes. His wife was in tattered clothes, with a baby on her back, and a girl of about five or six was sitting by her. On the shelf above their seats were a bundle of ragged quilt, a gourd and a small pan. At the sight of these things the guerrilla guessed that they were being forced

to move to another construction site from the one where they had been enslaved,

Sitting among the strangers, he read their faces, trying to hide his identity, and then held the little girl's hand in his and asked her how old she was,

The girl looked at her parents and then answered in a faint voice that she was six years old.

At this very moment a policeman entered the carriage and looked around the passengers with a sharp eye.

The guerrilla sat calmly, still holding the girl's hand.

The policeman, finding nothing suspicious, proceeded to the next carriage.

From Kilju station the blue sea could be seen on the left side. The sight of the sea made him nervous.

The train passed Hamhung and then arrived at Wonsan.

The man, who had passed checkpoints many times while crossing the Amnok River in the company of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, walked calmly and safely out of the railway station with his fellow passengers.

He crossed rivers and mountains and at last arrived at the Koksan secret base.

The small group members at the base welcomed him as they would do their own blood relations from whom they had been separated for a long time.

After exchanging greetings, the liaison man conveyed the General's instructions as told by Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

Hearing the General's instructions to the effect that in political activities they should go deep among the people and step up organizational and political work to strengthen the revolutionary force and that in military activities they should intensify reconnaissance by avoiding unnecessary clashes with the enemy, and ensure political activities with arms, the small

group members at the Koksan secret base were beside themselves with delight, holding the liaison man's hands in theirs. This delight was something that could be felt only by those who were engaged in an underground revolutionary struggle. A month later, the guerrilla returned to the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp.

Kim Jong Suk was very glad to see him again and thanked him for his difficult journey over a distance of more than 400 kilometres.

Under the guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the small group at the Koksan secret base in the homeland continued to expand the revolutionary organization in accordance with the General's instructions in the period when a final decisive battle was being prepared. They sped up nationwide resistance by conducting political work deep among the people.

"You Must Study Even at Odd Moments"

The night at the training base deepened in quiet.

The men and women of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army went to bed after the day's training.

Having prepared for the cooking of the next day's morning meal, I went to Comrade Kim Jong Suk's lighted room. She was reading in silence.

As I quietly entered the room, she glanced away from the book she was reading and asked me why I was still awake.

I said I had dropped in because her room was lighted. I saw the General's works, newspapers and other publications on her desk.

She picked up a newspaper, handed it to me and told me to read an article. The article was about the international situation

after the signing of the Soviet-Japan neutrality pact.

Reading it, I was rather confused.

How was it that the Soviet Union had joined hands with Japanese imperialism? How would the world situation change? What would be the future of our revolution? These questions crowded my mind.

In those days I was not prepared to find correct answers to these serious questions. The same was the case with other comrades.

I was sitting with a perplexed look. Kim Jong Suk stopped reading and asked what was my impression of the article.

I hesitated, not knowing how to answer.

Understanding what was in my mind, she explained in easy terms why the neutrality pact had been signed.

Imperialist Japan entered into the treaty for the purpose of ending the long-drawn-out war against China as soon as possible to gain time to prepare for invading the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union concluded the treaty in order to prevent simultaneous aggression by fascist Germany and imperialist Japan and thwart the Anglo-American scheme of instigating the Japanese imperialists' war against the Soviet Union. In the final analysis, the Soviet Union entered into the treaty with a tactical intention to appease the imperialists who wanted to invade the Soviet Union.

Hearing her cogent explanation, I could realize the real nature of the Soviet-Japan neutrality pact.

Saying that it would be impossible to size up the changing situation correctly unless I studied, Kim Jong Suk advised me to study hard. I felt sorry that I had neglected studying. I remembered what she had told me several days before.

One night Comrade Jun Ik, who was the oldest of those at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, had come to see Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

Kim Jong Suk had been studying hard as usual, reading *The Path of the Korean Revolution*, written by the General.

Afraid of interfering with her studying, Jun Ik was about to come out of her room.

She stopped reading and received him warmly and offered him a seat.

When the man took his seat, she asked him how he had been studying, and then what he was going to do when the country was liberated.

He answered that he would do farming at his home village. He had spoken his mind.

She said that, although it would be good to do farming, he should take charge of a sector when building a new country and should do his bit.

Laughing, the man said that he had learned nothing but farming so how he could undertake such an important job.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk said, "That is why you must study even at odd moments. I also dreamed of farming in happiness on my native soil, free from Japanese imperialists and landowners.

"While doing the work of the Children's Corps, I thought of becoming a teacher to take care of the children of the fallen revolutionary comrades and sons and daughters of workers and peasants. But my thought now is deeper than that."

Hearing her words, the man made up his mind to study hard.

Looking at him, she went on to say:

"When he was leaving the secret camp in June last year, the General said that the country would be liberated before long and then we must found the Party, establish the people's government, raise a modern army and develop the economy and culture.

"In order to assist the General in this great work he is planning, I think we must acquire not only the knowledge of any one branch, but of many branches.

"So, true to the respected General's words, I study his works about our revolution and also books about politics, history and many other subjects. I don't waste my time." Her words helped him to acquire a proper attitude to studying. He now understood why Kim Jong Suk was studying till late at night. After that Comrade Jun Ik and the other comrades at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp set about studying hard.

They set the goal of studying to suit the level of their knowledge and studied under her guidance.

The Sobaek valley was enveloped in an atmosphere of studying.

The comrades at the secret camp studied books after performing their daily duties.

Some comrades read books even while travelling to and from the Mt. Kanbaek Secret Camp, Ssangdubong Secret Camp, Mudubong Secret Camp and others.

Jun Ik read the General's works even while tending the kitchen fire.

In those days they mostly read *The Path of the Korean Revolution*, *The Tasks of Korean Communists*, *The Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland* and others, the classic works written by the General.

Our studying during the anti-Japanese armed struggle was not in vain. Our comrades who studied under Comrade Kim Jong Suk's warm care played a major role in founding the Party and the people's government and developing the KPRA into regular revolutionary armed forces after the liberation of the country.

Kim Jong Suk was, indeed, our benefactor. She helped us to acquire an unshakable Juche outlook on the revolution and become revolutionary fighters loyal to the General.

She Inspired the Guerrillas with Firm Conviction of Victory

The snow that began to fall in the early morning continued through the night.

I had my supper earlier than usual and went to the quarters where Kim Jong Suk was. When I sat down, she gave me an impressive account of how the comrades at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp discussed the situation early in January in 1942.

A long time has passed since then, but I can see vividly with my mind's eye the image of Kim Jong Suk, who was inspiring the guerrillas with a firm conviction of victory.

Early in January that year, *Maeil Sinbo* carried a news item under the headline, *The Empire Declares War against Britain and the USA*, reporting Japan's declaration of the Pacific War and its severing of diplomatic relations with Britain and the USA.

The next day's newspapers highlighted news of the Japanese attack on the Philippines and its seizure of the capital city, as well as the news of Japan's attack on the Malay peninsula and her subsequent exploitation of that success.

One evening the guerrillas were commenting on the news, each in his or her own way.

One of them said that the Japanese would swallow up Malaya and the Philippines because these countries were far from the United States and Britain, and it would take them a long time to get their armed forces there.

Comrade Pak said that although imperialist Japan was seizing the Anglo-American colonies by surprise, the outcome of the war in the Pacific would be decided by the actions taken by the United States and Britain and the effect of the war on our revolution would depend on their actions.

When these comrades were having a heated debate on the News, Comrade Kim Jong Suk came out of her log cabin and entered their room. She took her seat and told them to go on with the discussion.

The women comrades were too shy or too strained to resume their debate.

A heavy silence continued for a few minutes.

A woman comrade gave Comrade Kim Jong Suk a summary of their debate and then added that they had not yet reached a definite view on the war in the Pacific.

Kim Jong Suk said, "When analysing the situation, you must do it on the basis of Comrade Commander's ideas. It is not very surprising that the Japanese imperialists have declared war against the United States and Britain and are expanding the war. At a meeting in Jiapigou, Wangqing County, last summer, Comrade Commander predicted today's developments on the basis of his analysis of the political situation and the contradictions among the imperialist powers. At that time he said that if imperialist Japan expanded the war over southeast Asia and the Pacific, it would bog down in a deep morass."

She paused a moment and then went on: "If the Japanese imperialists continue to extend the war in pursuit of their expansionist ambition, they will go to ruin. When they invaded many countries in the Pacific last December, they, in fact, provoked the war in the whole of Asia. This war requires vast amounts of human and material resources. Japan cannot meet these requirements. Not blessed with mineral resources, it

depends almost totally on imports of crude oil and the raw materials for steel, rubber and so on. Although it has developed a munitions industry to some extent with the backing of the United States and Britain, its production capacity cannot cope with half the material demands of the war it is engaged in. So the Japanese imperialists have adopted the strategy of extending the war southward in order to obtain the strategic materials in the field and to attain a quick end to the war. But this is a pipe dream. Japan is now unable to supply sufficient petrol even for the army trucks running in Korea and Manchuria, still less the strategic materials needed for expanding the war."

The guerrillas listened to her with bated breath, bearing her words in mind. They waited for her to go on with her cogent explanation of the political and military situation.

Kim Jong Suk said that the Japanese people were losing their sons in large numbers on the battlefields and suffering unbridled exploitation and repression for the production and procurement of increasing amounts of war materials, and that these factors would stir up anti-war sentiment in the Japanese working class and other people and intensify their struggle against militarism.

She now proved through various examples the inevitability of the fall of Japan which had provoked the war in the Pacific area. All the comrades listened to her intently. Those working in the publishing shop wrote down her words.

Her convincing explanation dispelled confusion from their minds and inspired them with a firm conviction of victory.

Then one day Comrade Kim Jong Suk went over a mountain to the Mt. Kanbaek Secret Camp.

The leaders of small units and groups from different part of the country were waiting for her at the secret camp.

She convened a meeting as planned. She first heard the report of the small unit leaders on the ideological climate among the members of the local underground revolutionary organizations and other people.

She said that some of the underground revolutionary organization members and other people were not firm in their confidence in the victory of the revolution, because they did not understand that Japanese imperialism would fall inevitably. Emphasizing the need to teach the people current events in order to rectify this deviation immediately, she said:

"In order to inspire the people with confidence in victory it is important to explain to them the developments in connection with the Pacific War provoked by the Japanese imperialists. This is all the more important in view of their stepped-up reactionary propaganda."

Only now did those attending the meeting realize why she had convened the meeting. They firmly resolved to immediately intensify mass political work to defeat the enemy's reactionary ideological offensive after the outbreak of the Pacific War.

3. TO HASTEN THE LIBERATION OF THE COUNTRY

Comrade Kim Jong Suk devoted all her efforts to strengthening the Korean People's Revolutionary Army politically, ideologically and militarily in the period prior to the decisive battle to liberate the country.

Attaching primary importance to study of the General's ideas in strengthening the KPRA politically and militarily, she studied hard and guided the guerrillas' study.

In support of the General's instructions on intensifying military training, she participated exemplarily in training in river-crossing, air-borne assault, radio communication, marksmanship, nursing and other key skills.

I often recollect with deep emotion the eventful days at the training base, the strenuous efforts made by Comrade Kim Jong Suk to equip the soldiers of the KPRA better politically and militarily to meet the needs of modern warfare in preparation for the great event of national liberation.

Setting an Example in Practice

One day in mid-September 1943, the General made a historic speech, *The Korean Revolutionaries Must Know Korea Well* before the political cadres and political instructors of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

When this work was published, Comrade Kim Jong Suk was most delighted. She studied through the night the basic

contents of the work and the immediate tasks for the final battle against the Japanese imperialists.

One night, when she was studying, I silently approached her and looked down at her notebook. The well-used notebook was quite tattered. She turned her head from the book and asked me how much I studied the newly-published General's speech.

Seeing how hard she studied to have a profound knowledge of the General's speech, I was conscience-stricken because I had not studied hard. I could not show my face.

She read my mind immediately and said quietly:

"Comrade Commander made a speech, *The Korean Revolutionaries Must Know Korea Well*, showing the way to make full preparations for the great event of national liberation. The harder I study his speech, the more deeply I am absorbed in his profound idea. I cannot stop reading...."

When other comrades gathered around her, Kim Jong Suk explained the history and geography of our country as written in the General's speech and quoted one paragraph she had learned by heart.

"There are many countries on the globe, but those as beautiful and good to live in as our homeland are rare. A country with picturesque mountains and rivers, its fertile land producing various cereals and fruits and its underground deposits of gold, silver and other treasures, the country where an intelligent, gallant and civilized people are living—what a proud and precious homeland it is!

"Today, however, our people are leading the worst life in the world and our brilliant national culture with its 5,000 years of tradition is losing its colour. They have no right to eat at will the rice produced by themselves, nor the freedom to travel about their own territory. Numerous compatriots, brothers and

sisters are on the brink of starvation. Unless we defeat Japanese imperialism and establish a people's state whose power belongs to workers and peasants, the beautiful land of Korea will not bring us joy, nor will gold, silver and other valuables, even if they were boundless, make our people well-off."

As she was quoting what the General said, we were deeply moved.

Afterwards, a study debate was held in the guerrilla unit to help us understand the General's speech. What Kim Jong Suk said in this debate is still fresh in my memory.

Beginning her speech, she said that we were born in Korea and we were responsible for carrying out the Korean revolution and that apart from our Korean nation and our lovely land of three-thousand *ri*, any other revolution was inconceivable for us.

She continued:

"As the General always emphasizes, we, the Korean communists, and people are only responsible for the Korean revolution and we cannot carry out the Korean revolution unless we know the history, geography, economy and culture of our country.

"Patriotism is cultivated only when we know well and ardently love the past of our country and the excellent traditions and customs of our nation, and if we are to have true patriotism and national pride, we must study well about Korea.

"In order to apply Marxism-Leninism creatively to suit the reality of our country, we must also know inside out the history, geography, economy and culture of Korea. Only then can we develop a correct attitude and accomplish the Korean revolution.

"In an attempt to eliminate Korea from the world map, the Japanese imperialists are resorting to their policy of assimilat-

ing Korea into Japan, alleging that Koreans and Japanese are of the same descent and 'Korea and Japan are one'. The education of the history of our country is forbidden in schools and little children are accused of a 'crime' if they talk in Korean and punished with a fine. They are forcing Koreans to change even their names into Japanese names. In this situation, if we are ignorant of the history, geography and culture of our nation, we cannot preserve our excellent traditions from the Japanese attempt to assimilate our nation and obliterate Korean culture."

Kim Jong Suk's speech deeply moved us. Without a profound knowledge of the homeland, one could not make such a speech.

Kim Jong Suk was the most diligent student in the unit. We would ask her what we did not understand.

During a Break in Military Training

It was one day in March 1945, when we were staying in the training centre in a border area of the Soviet Union and Manchuria. After finishing target practice under the command of Kim Jong Suk, we gathered to rest.

But Kim Jong Suk went down into the valley, where there was a cool breeze. She was picking up something out of the snow. I stood up and approached her. She was taking out pine nuts from fallen pine cones. I realized that it was her service to the respected General.

In summer she would often climb mountains to pick anises, with which she prepared pickle for the General. She saved provisions from her share to make Korean bean paste, which the General liked. She always considered it her duty to take care

of the General's health. That day, too, she even used a break in training to pick up pine nuts.

That evening she boiled congee of rice and pine nuts and served the General with it.

Her devotion to the General was demonstrated in every day life.

It was one October day in 1940, when the KPRA main unit was bivouacking after an arduous march.

At early dawn, when even the birds were asleep, she went down to a brook, broke the ice and washed the General's clothes. When she was approaching a tree branch to hang out the washing to dry, a marching order was given because of a change in the enemy's movements.

She unbuttoned her uniform coat and put the wet washing into her bosom. She could not carry the wet washing in her knapsack without preparing spare underwear for the General, because the situation did not allow the guerrillas to foresee when the march would end.

Immediately after the march started, she felt cold and her body was frozen. The cold almost choked her, but she followed the marching column in the severe snowstorm without taking out the wet washing.

In a break of the march, she approached the General with the underwear she had dried against her bosom. Looking down at perfectly pressed underwear, the General felt a lump in his throat and said that he had never asked her to do such work. She stood before the General with bowed head, while he strolled quietly in the snow.

She stood with the clothes in her arms, looking at the General's footprints in the snow. The General stopped walking and looked at her. His eyes reached her hands. Washing clothes in cold water had made her fingers blue and cracked the back of

her hands. Looking at her appearance, his eyes blurred with tears.

Kim Jong Suk always wanted the General to lead our revolution forever in good health and regarded his safety as her happiness. So she paid great attention to his health and took tender care of him.

One day, she was to go a long way leading a few soldiers to carry out a task assigned by the General. Before leaving, she sent for a General's orderly. When he arrived, she took out all the spices she had preserved in her knapsack and gave them to him. She explained to him in detail what kinds of food the General liked and how to make such food. She also took out from her knapsack powdered-rice for emergency use and said, "It is only about one cup... Serve the General with it when provisions run out." What she said reflected her sincerity in wishing the General a long life in good health.

"Consider the Other Side of This River to Be the Homeland"

Greeting the great event of national liberation. Comrade Kim Il Sung gave energetic guidance to the KPRA units so that they would be better trained.

He said.

"All the commanding officers and soldiers of the KPRA should raise their military technique to a higher level.

"All of them are national treasures, who have gained rich fighting experience in the fierce flames of guerrilla warfare for more than ten years. But guerrilla warfare alone will not win the coming decisive battle against the thieving Japanese imperialists. We will have to have a showdown with the strong

Japanese army, which is equipped with modern military technology. Accordingly, if we fail in the application of various modern tactics-offensive, landing and air-borne operations—we cannot expect a successful battle with the aggressive troops of Japanese imperialism....

"For this purpose, it is essential for us to study and master the offensive and defensive tactics of a regular army and intensify tactical training, practising modern tactics such as amphibious and air-borne operations."

Faithfully following the teachings of the General, Kim Jong Suk took full part in military training, mastering modern tactics and military technology.

The training centre, situated in a primeval forest, was from early dawn vibrant with life and energy. When the reveille sounded, breaking the silence of the forest, the soldiers ran out of the barracks, formed columns by companies and platoons and started the daily training.

One summer day in 1944, a river-crossing exercise was launched.

It was not an easy task for soldiers to swim across a river with weapons and accoutrements. So some women guerrillas had no confidence they could cross the river.

Kim Jong Suk said to such women.

"If we are to prepare for the great event of national liberation, we must be ready to cross not only a river but also an ocean. Swimming is what people do, so it cannot be impossible for women. Think that you can return home only when you have crossed this river. We will be at a loss what to do, if we lag behind the unit when the unit swims across the river and takes part in the honourable battle for national liberation, just because we are poor swimmers."

I followed Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who took the lead in

the training. We reached the shore and made preparations for crossing the raging waters. When we finished preparation, looking around us she said:

"Consider the other side of this river to be the homeland. We should not hesitate on the way to advance to the homeland only because we faced a river."

Sometime later, the commander gave the order to cross the river. We went into the rough water without hesitation. The accoutrements on our shoulders were heavy, but we made patient efforts to cross the river.

When we were half way across, a woman soldier began to separate from the advancing rank. She tried hard to follow us, but she was too exhausted to keep up with us. She lagged further behind.

Looking at her, Kim Jong Suk swam close to her and encouraged her.

"You must overcome this difficult moment with a firm determination. Take hold of my knapsack. Don't drop your rifle at any adversity."

Kim Jong Suk, too, was exhausted. Swimming alone with accoutrements was very laborious, so leading another soldier was too much for her.

I swam close to her before I knew. She grasped her rifle firmly and said to the woman soldier who was following her:

"Don't drop your weapon. If you lose it, it would be a shame for a revolutionary soldier. How could you fire at the enemy after crossing the river?"

Encouraged by these words, she swam with one arm with all her strength, grasping her rifle in one hand. Looking at her, I was somewhat relieved.

Sometime later we reached on the shore. Kim Jong Suk appreciated her efforts and took her hands. Her compliment

made the woman soldier deeply ashamed of herself.

She could not show her face because she could not swim by herself and troubled Comrade Kim Jong Suk. Kim Jong Suk read her mind and encouraged her, "You crossed a big river today, so you can cross any river by yourself in the future."

Afterwards, she took part in river-crossing training without exception, developing her swimming ability.

When she was crossing the river before others in one training session, Kim Jong Suk was very pleased.

To Qualify Women Guerrillas As Nurses

In the days we were preparing the decisive battle against the Japanese imperialists, Kim Jong Suk made a positive effort to qualify women guerrillas as nurses, and she herself set an example for this purpose.

In the education of student nurses, an emphasis was put on first-aid treatment such as stopping bleeding, bandaging and injecting, and acquiring a simple knowledge of clinical medicine and pharmacy. Learning Latin and memorizing the names of medicines and diseases was the most difficult task at that time.

Kim Jong Suk studied hard to qualify herself as a nurse, saying that we could not gain success without making efforts. She always took a notebook with her, in which the Latin words and the names of medicines and diseases were written. I saw her several times studying with it during a break or at night when others were sleeping.

She was not in good health at that time. So one day I suggested that she should take care of herself, though it was important to study and take part in training. She understood

my feelings and said, "Our lives are necessary for the decisive battle against Japanese imperialism, so we must study and train ourselves assiduously if we are to play a role in the honourable battle for the homeland."

Frankly speaking, my ideological preparedness at that time had not reached her level. I went to bed in the sleeping hours, even though I did not memorize Latin words, and failed to use the breaks for study.

However, she made effective use of every minute to study. Therefore, she could teach us by taking the lead in studying.

One autumn day in 1944, our comrades of a small unit operating in another area obtained and sent us a great deal of medicines which included pills and injections.

We were delighted to see the medicines, but it was pity that we did not know how to use them. At that moment, Kim Jong Suk came to us. Seeing the letters on packages, she explained what kinds of medicines they were and how to use them for what kinds of diseases.

Listening to her explanation, we were conscience-stricken.

The teacher of medicine who had charge of training that day admired her knowledge, because she knew as much about injections and drugs as professional doctors.

Encouraged by her example, we took part in medical training more enthusiastically and exerted our efforts to assimilate what we learned within the same day.

But, Wang, Jo and some other comrades failed to show enthusiasm for nursing training, saying that they lacked general knowledge and, what was worse, they were slow-witted so they could not memorize Latin words and the names of medicines. One day, Kim Jong Suk met them and asked how they were studying.

"Have you forgotten that we lost our valuable comrades

because we were ignorant of medical treatment?" She said, "If we remember such bitter experience we must learn the science of nursing. Comrade Wang, Comrade Jo, you have also experienced many such heart-breaking events. We cannot lose our priceless comrades again as in those days. Learning professional nursing is a training for protecting our comrades' lives."

What she said encouraged us greatly. Afterward, we wrote Latin words and the names of medicines and diseases on a notebook and on pieces of paper and learned them by heart.

Those comrades who said they could not memorize Latin words and the names of medicines because they were slow-witted also studied hard.

In the meeting to sum up the training we were awarded a nursing qualification. A long time has elapsed since then, but today I look back upon those days when Comrade Kim Jong Suk was teaching and leading us to qualify as nurses and extend my thanks to her.

Learning Radio Communications

Our women soldiers and some young male soldiers took part in the radio-communications training launched in the training base situated near the Soviet Union-Manchurian border.

This training included the structure of radio equipment and the elementary knowledge of electrical engineering and radio engineering, putting primary emphasis on transmission and reception practice.

From the end of 1943 to the beginning of 1944, the training in radio communications was intensive. Seeing people sending

and receiving messages by wireless, we were curious to learn how to do it. But, learning radio operation was no less difficult than other tasks.

One day, Kim Jong Suk asked Ri to tell what she was saying in Morse code.

Ri replied frankly that she could not understand what she said because she had not yet memorized Morse code.

Kim Jong Suk taught her how to memorize Morse code in a short time. I approached her and heard what she taught because I had also not memorized Morse code completely.

She first told about the characteristics of Morse code and explained in plain words how to make letters using the code. As we followed her method, we found it easy to memorize it.

After we learned Morse code by heart, we practised sending and receiving a message by Morse code.

For the first a few days we practised receiving messages. When one was sending Morse code tapping a telegraph key, others wrote the message in letters.

In this practice, too, Kim Jong Suk wrote letters and figures easily and taught others how to distinguish letters.

She helped us conscientiously in the practice of sending messages, too.

A few days after we started this practice, in her eagerness to master the skill quickly Ri speeded up tapping the telegraph key but without observing the rules to be kept in transmission practice. Her speed was quite good at first, so it seemed that she was ahead of the others. But, several days later her wrist did not move as she wanted. She could not send correct Morse code. She became impatient, nervous and depressed.

Kim Jong Suk found out why she was in low spirits and said:

"A quick temper is to be avoided in transmission training.

Your mistake is natural because your speed ran ahead of your skill. From now on, keep a straight posture and tap the key slowly and correctly. Then, you can correct your errors."

She started transmission training again as Kim Jong Suk taught and overcame her defect. When our transmission skill reached a certain level, the unit examined our ability. We sent or received 12 five-letter groups in one minute, but Kim Jong Suk did 15 groups.

One day, we took a rest from training in the shade of a tree. One soldier said that after finishing this training, she would suggest she be sent to the area behind the enemy line for political activities.

Another soldier said that she would like to go to the homeland even if it meant not completing this training.

After listening to them, Kim Jong Suk said that activity behind the enemy line was never an easy task. She continued to say: "If you are to succeed in activity behind the enemy line, you must be enthusiastic both in political study and military training, including the radio telegraphy you are now learning. You must always bear in mind the Comrade Commander's teaching that Korean revolutionaries should know Korea well.

"You should correctly understand that learning radio telegraphy is important not only in military activity, but also for activity in the enemy area. You must be enthusiastic in this training to handle a radio skillfully."

Kim Jong Suk told us about an underground political worker who failed to send an important message because he was not able to operate a radio set. She continued:

"If you are to carry out your task with credit in the homeland, where enemy surveillance is strict, you must know inside out the enemy movements as well as the geography, customs, people's living conditions and their feelings in the local areas

where you are working. If you neglect such things, you will commit an irreparable error."

Kim Jong Suk told of what Comrade Kim experienced, as an example. Kim was so ignorant that he could not distinguish an umbrella used to shelter a person from rain from a parasol used to give shade from the sun. He bought a parasol and walked under it on a rainy day. So a policeman got suspicious and he got into trouble.

After telling the dramatic event of Kim, Kim Jong Suk said that it was only when we took part conscientiously in military training including radio communication that we could play a great role in the final offensive.

We made greater efforts to improve our skill in sending and receiving messages.

One day the instructor taught Ohm's law. We could not understand such words as current, voltage and resistance, as we lacked the basic knowledge. After the lesson, we asked Kim Jong Suk to explain again what the teacher said.

She replied that Ohm's law was not a mysterious thing and it was named in honour of its inventor. When we asked about the law that current is inversely proportional to resistance and directly proportional to voltage, she explained it by comparing it to the sluice of a water mill. We could understand what she said because there was no one among us who did not know a water mill.

"Let's suppose a water-mill sluice is an electric wire, water flowing through the sluice as current and the water source as voltage. If the sluice is narrow, a small amount of water flows through it and if it is wide, a large amount of water flows. The water passing through the sluice can flow rapidly or slowly according to the height of the water source. Electric current passes through the wire on the same principle."

She explained Ohm's law in such plain words to suit our knowledge level and continued:

"Of course, radio engineering and Ohm's law are important. But, what is more important today, when the great event of national liberation is close at hand, is to prepare yourselves for sending and receiving messages correctly and know your radio apparatus inside out. You must not forget this."

Afterwards, we exerted great efforts to practise radio transmission and reception as well as radio operation. As a result, we acquired the ability of providing command communications at any complicated situation in the glorious battle for national liberation.

Before Receiving Bouquets of Congratulations

When parachute training started in the KPRA units, the Headquarters made a decision to exempt women guerrillas from this training, as it required great physical suffering. Having heard the news, Kim Jong Suk suggested to the Headquarters that women, too, should take part in parachute training, saying that this training was for the decisive battle of national liberation, so women could not be exempted from it.

As a result, our women guerrillas could take part in this training.

We started with preliminary training. We would spin around on a swivel chair as a way of developing the ability to balance ourselves against dizziness.

This training was not easy, but we could carry out these tasks as successfully as male guerrillas, because we performed them on the ground.

But, from the next stage of the training, the situation changed. We had to practise leaping down from a high place before going into training with real parachutes. As the height increased, some female soldiers hesitated to jump down.

Kim Jong Suk told them:

"Leaping down is a training which cultivates boldness and makes us familiar with parachuting action. How can we achieve our aim if we are overcome with fright from the start? The height we are jumping from was decided by scientific calculation, so you can put your minds at ease before jumping down."

She leaped down first and we followed her. We became skilful in jumping down carrying weapons, ammunition and accoutrements.

In this training, it bothered the commanding officers that some soldiers closed their eyes when jumping down. The commanding officers advised that one could not distinguish direction with closed eyes, but they failed to correct such faults. It troubled Kim Jong Suk too much.

Before going into the training one day, she said: "Do you consider that this training is not a required subject? This is the training to beat the enemy and liberate the homeland. Think who will be under us when we are parachuting. There will be our enemy as well as our parents, brothers and sisters, groaning under their tyranny. And how can we close our eyes?"

She helped our women soldiers improve every action.

After finishing preliminary training, we practised parachuting.

We arrived at the training site with excitement and made preparations for parachuting practice.

"Comrade Commander said that we should be careful and

act with composure in parachuting. Let's examine the parachutes and uniforms again," said Kim Jong Suk, examining her parachute first.

While examining one woman's parachute she found a hole as small as the eye of a needle. A hole in a parachute, no matter how small, might cause a grave accident.

"Oh, but for Comrade Kim Jong Suk,..."

We admired her careful behaviour and looked at her with respect.

After the careful examination of parachutes and uniforms Kim Jong Suk got aboard the airplane and we followed her. The airplane ascended to a certain altitude and flew around above the training site.

At first we were deafened by the sound of the engine and felt airsick, but sometime later, we felt better. But before parachuting we became nervous again.

Reading our minds, Kim Jong Suk said. "Comrades, brace yourselves. We have overcome many trials so far. Our training today is nothing difficult compared with them. We will not be afraid if we imagine we are going to the battlefield to strangle the Japanese imperialists."

Her powerful voice rang through the airplane, overcoming the sound of the engine.

The commander said "Ready", and the door opened.

"Comrades, let's meet on the ground", said she, looking around us, and jumped down first. We followed her one after another. The parachutes opened like white flowers blooming.

Kim Jong Suk landed first, controlling her rip cords in a skilled manner acquired in the training.

All of us landed correctly. I collected my parachute and ran to the meeting place with joy.

Men soldiers rushed to us and gave us bouquets of congratulations. Kim Jong Suk looked us with a bright smile.

A Pistol She Was Awarded

While organizing intensive military training for the final battle for national liberation, Comrade Kim Il Sung held a shooting competition.

One day in March, 1944 I took part in this competition with Kim Jong Suk. The red flag flew high in the sky over the firing range. Every unit boasted of their ace marksmen.

I was not afraid in the least because I took part in this competition following Kim Jong Suk, who would naturally distinguish herself.

The competition included the target rifle shooting and shooting with handguns. Rifle shooting consisted of a round target at a range of 100 metres, a half-length target at 200 metres, a running target at 300 metres and bottles at 100 metres. With our handguns we shot at the round target and practiced spinning round and shooting at the bottles.

The results of shooting were rated as A, B, or C.

Presently, a bugle was sounded heralding the start of the competition. Crackshots selected from every unit fired at the round target. The result of every competitor was A.

The General gave them a clap and had them presented with bouquets.

When Kim Jong Suk approached the line of fire, all of us clapped her enthusiastically. After the commander gave the order to fire, she fired three rounds successfully without careful aiming. All shots hit the centre of the target, scoring the maximum 30 points.

The General and our women soldiers applauded her.

Shooting at the ranges of 200 metres and 300 metres followed. In these events, too, she hit snap targets and running targets at lightning speed, demonstrating her extraordinary marksmanship. The next event was the bottles at 100 metres, of which shooters had to hit five within two minutes. It needed the most accurate skill in this competition.

Kim Jong Suk hit the bottles in a flash, cutting bottle-necks wonderfully. The audience shouted for joy here and there admiring her ace marksmanship.

The story that I heard from a woman guerrilla about an event in the Dashahe battle in the early summer of 1940 came into my mind.

The General deployed the unit in an advantageous position and struck the enemy using flexible tactics, changing an adversity into a favourable situation.

The General was commanding the battle from a rock, with his robes extended like wings amid the powder smoke. Beside him, Kim Jong Suk was watching the battle situation with sharp vigilance, firing at the enemy soldiers of the Sinson unit climbing up the mountain. When she was looking into the reed bushes moving in the wind, she saw several enemy soldiers aiming at the General stealthily from the bushes. It was a critical moment.

"Comrade Commander!..."

She rushed as fast as lightning towards the General and protected him with her body. She fired her Mauser at the head of an enemy soldier crawling in front. With the sound of another shot, a second enemy soldier fell shrieking with pain. The General had fired over her shoulder.

"Bang! Bang!..."

Two Mausers fired one after another. Other enemy soldiers who were approaching through the reed bushes were killed without firing a round.

The guerrillas looked up to Kim Jong Suk, who had shielded the General with her body at the critical moment and demonstrated her marksmanship.

While my mind was travelling over the past event, handgun shooting was going on at the firing range. After hitting the round target with confidence, the shooters turned round towards the three bottles and fired at them. Many of them failed to hit all of them, missing one or two. But, Kim Jong Suk hit all of them in a flash. A shout of joy arose again in the firing range. She won the first place, scoring the highest points.

Summing up the shooting competition, the General awarded her with a pistol. Fingering that pistol our women guerrillas congratulated her on the success in the competition.

I said that she was a born marksman.

She laughed and said that marksmanship was not a natural talent.

"I have made strenuous efforts day and night to improve my marksmanship, only thinking that I must defend the General. On the part of our soldiers who are fighting under his command, improving marksmanship is not only a simple military task, but a noble mission to defend the General who shoulders the destiny of the nation. Cherishing this mission in my mind, I am improving my skill in shooting, never losing holding of my gun even for a moment."

What she said made me clearly aware of the secret of her ace marksmanship. Afterwards, we took part in shooting practice more conscientiously and applied her secret of how to become a crackshot.

Our excellent marksmanship produced great results in the

battle to destroy the Japanese imperialists and liberate the country.

True Love and Marriage

1944 was an unforgettable and meaningful year in my life. In December that year I married Choe Sok Chon (alias Choe Kwang), as arranged by the General and Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

In those days we were training very intensively to make sure we were fully prepared for the great event of national liberation.

Kim Jong Suk set an example in this training.

When I was practising skiing one day, I tumbled and plunged into the snow. Kim Jong Suk, who had followed me, stopped and helped me up.

"Whenever we fall down, we have to draw a lesson. I was once told the more we fall, the more our skiing improves."

Really, I fell down many times while practising skiing. One morning I proposed she skip a 4 kilometres morning run, which was everyday routine. She understood my proposal because we were exhausted at that time. She looked around us and said.

"Really, I want to take a rest. But we'd better set off on our skiing run. When we practise regularly and overcome this difficulty, we will become healthy and improve our skill."

Encouraged by her words, that day we went on a 4 kilometres run.

I washed my face in the bath room and came back to the barracks. When I was combing my hair, Kim Jong Suk looked full in my face as never before.

As I had guessed something, I asked her why she was look-

ing at me carefully. She laughed and replied without hesitation that she would act as go-between for me, who had recently become pretty.

I blushed in embarrassment and looked around the room. Fortunately, my roommates had not yet come back from the bath room and there were only two of us in the barracks.

As she had said before, she emphasized again that what was important in selecting a match was not a man's appearance but his sincerity. She asked me if I considered Comrade Sok Chon as a good match.

I hesitated to reply and just fumbled with my hands.

I remembered what Kim Jong Suk told me about Sok Chon a few months ago.

"His short height may be a shortcoming in a man, but Comrade Sok Chon is a faultless young commander. He is a man of principle and strong will. Think carefully and decide...."

After I heard her words, I would turn my eyes to him. When he was commanding military drills or going to the dining room three times a day or taking part in sports in the playground, I looked at him before I knew. One cannot control the feeling of love. When I failed to see him even for a day, it seemed to me that I had lost something.

I watched him for two months. His simple and sincere character attracted me. So I decided to marry him.

When I was recalling the event, my roommates came back from the bath room. She told me that we would continue talking afterwards and went out of the barracks.

At night I could not sleep. Being restless in bed, I remembered what Kim Jong Suk said to our women guerrillas.

"It would be a mistake if we think we must ignore love and family to carry out the revolution. Respecting and encouraging

each other to develop the revolution is the true love of revolutionaries."

How meaningful words these are!

Reaching adolescence, everybody loves and is loved before marriage. What she said meant that the soldiers who once set out on the road of revolution should find a true love in the process of carrying out the revolution successfully, respecting and encouraging each other as they break through a grave and arduous thorny path of revolution.

When we were staying at the training centre, the General, through Comrade Kim Jong Suk, took stock of all the problems of women guerrillas arising in and out of their work. As he valued revolutionary comrades, the General made them enjoy true love and marry when they reached the marriageable age, even in the days of the arduous anti-Japanese war.

In mid-December that year, I was memorizing Latin words learned in the nursing training, when Kim Jong Suk called me to a quiet room.

She took my hand and drew me to the seat, saying that she had not made time until that day, she asked me if I had thought about Comrade Sok Chon. I replied frankly that I liked his sincerity and honesty.

"If you like, the problem has been settled."

She was as delighted as if she had settled her own sister's problem.

Some days later, the General and Comrade Kim Jong Suk arranged the marriage ceremony party in the dining room. We entered the room and celebrated our wedding amid the best wishes of the revolutionary comrades.

After our marriage she took tender care of me with a motherly affection. She met me and explained one after another the big and small problems of family life.

Fifty years have passed since our marriage.

On March 13, 1992, the great leader called us anti-Japanese veterans and gave good advice. When we posed with him for photographs my husband and I had the honour to pose with him in the centre.

Whenever I look at this picture, I recall Kim Jong Suk, who brought our love into full bloom and formed our family in place of my parents.

In the twilight of my life, I am more clearly aware of what Kim Jong Suk, the heroine of the anti-Japanese war, said about the true love of revolutionaries in the training centre.

4. IN THE PERIOD OF BUILDING

A NEW KOREA

Today our people enjoy independent and creative lives to their hearts' content, under people-centred Korean-style socialism, an embodiment of the immortal Juche idea, which the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il Sung established and the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il had developed to even greater heights.

Whenever I feel pride in my country, a genuine people's state, the envy of the world, I am overcome with emotion, recollecting the energetic activities Comrade Kim Jong Suk conducted among the workers, peasants and other people in all walks of life, vigorously rousing them to the building of a new country, in hearty support of the great leader's line of building a new country.

Kim Jong Suk, both during the anti-Japanese war and in the period of democratic revolution after liberation, made every effort to realize the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

To the political operatives who were sent to the provinces immediately after the liberation of the country, Comrade Kim Il Sung said, "In the past we took up arms and fought the Japanese to liberate the country at the cost of our blood; now we must do our best to build a new Korea."

Bearing his instructions in mind, Kim Jong Suk, still fatigued from the anti-Japanese war, went to the Chongjin area, far away from Pyongyang, inspecting damaged factories, railways, farming and fishing villages, schools and cultural

institution, day in and day out. She energetically conducted political activities among the working class and other people from all walks of life. She explained to them the General's line of building a new country, thereby inspiring the masses with patriotism and revolutionary enthusiasm.

With an Invariable Attitude of Bodyguard

I have visited the house where Kim Jong Suk lived for about one month when she was working in Chongjin. Standing in front of the house, preserved intact for the past half a century, I was filled with fresh emotions.

Calling up the noble image of her who stayed in this ordinary house, conducting political activities day in and day out, I can still recollect vividly how she set an example of loyalty to the leader, doing all she could to care for and protect him.

As soon as we arrived in Chongjin, at night, she immediately phoned the General Kim Il Sung to report her arrival and get an assignment. The next morning she met Choe Chun Guk, Pak Yong Sun and Sim Yun Gyong, who had already been active there, and learned about their living conditions and the state of affairs in North Hamgyong Province.

The situation in the province was very serious. By the time An Kil and other political operatives arrived there on the order of the General, factionalists, who had already sneaked into the province on the instructions of Pak Hon Yong, a pay-rolled spy, and other parochialists, were ruling the roost. The factionalists, who had entrenched themselves in responsible posts, were raking up self-styled "revolutionaries" and "patriots" and planting them in important posts of the local Party and government bodies.

They spread illusions about US imperialism among the people and tried to split the communist ranks. Worst of all they tried to obstruct the implementation of the General's lines of building the Party, the country and the army.

Receiving the report of the prevailing situation, her eyes betrayed her fury.

A short time later, she got another report that added fuel to her boiling rage. The report said that a turncoat, who had once wormed his way into a unit of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and later surrendered to the Japanese imperialists and worked as their agent, killing many of our comrades, had been on the prowl after liberation, pretending to be a "patriot", but was recently exposed by the political operatives active in Chongjin.

"Is that man still alive?" she asked, unable to suppress her indignation.

An official told her that the traitor had been roaming round Sonbong, Rajin and Chongjin, behaving as if he were a "patriot" and making snobbish remarks. As his identity was disclosed, he had been hiding in Chongjin. He was then arrested and executed.

At the report she sprang to her feet, unable to control her feeling, and walked to the window. She looked outside for a good while.

I well knew why she was so furious at the evil doing of the turncoat.

Because of his betrayal, the whereabouts of the sewing unit in the Kampahezi secret camp had been disclosed, resulting in the killing of six revolutionary comrades-in-arms; the turncoat had informed the Japanese of the location of the secret camps in Changbai and Linjiang. This resulted in the killing of many revolutionaries. Such an unpardonable turncoat had dared to

claim to be a "patriot". So how could she suppress her anger?

After a while, she said: "One traitor, a single turncoat, within our ranks is more dangerous than thousands of enemy troops in sight. In order to make revolution we must sharpen our vigilance to the maximum against traitors; it is extremely important to prevent such an element from appearing among us."

She continued:

"Listening to your account, I have repeated in my mind the slogan we used to shout in the period of our forging ahead through the sea of flames in the anti-Japanese war, 'Let us defend the revolutionary idea of the Comrade Commander with our lives!'

"This slogan is the revolutionary banner the Korean communists must always hold up, both today and in the distant future, as they did in the past."

The slogan reminded me of the speech she had made in defence of the Comrade Commander's revolutionary idea at the trial of Om, a traitor to the revolution, in the spring of 1939.

One thing I felt most impressive about her over a long period of my association with her, from the days of the Anti-Japanese Children's Corps to the anti-Japanese armed struggle, was that she would not yield an inch or compromise in her defence of the great leader's revolutionary idea and that she had an unshakable faith in him. She was ready to lay down her life without hesitation in defence of the leader's revolutionary thought.

That was why, even in the difficult period after liberation, she maintained her determination to protect the great leader and taught us to fight in defence of his revolutionary idea.

An official was deeply moved by her words and said that

he had overlooked many things in his work, expressing his determination to safeguard and defend the great leader's prestige and dignity by all possible means and ensure his revolutionary leadership by thoroughly implementing his line of nation building.

Hearing this, she said that to that end, officials must, above all else, arm themselves with the General's revolutionary idea and policies and explain them to broad sections of the people and enlighten them as soon as possible. She added:

"As we well know, the revolution is the struggle for the masses, and, therefore, it is most important to win over the masses and enlist them in the struggle.

"But, some people now seem to be misguided by conflicting 'ideas' and 'assertions' of different factions, each claiming itself to be 'revolutionary' and 'patriotic'.

"Given the situation in which evildoers are active, seeking to split our revolutionary ranks and slander us, we must explain the General's nation-building line and policies as well as his immortal revolutionary achievements widely among the broad masses. We must make ourselves the fortress defending his idea and the banner of their implementation.

"I think this is the first duty devolving upon us who have been trained into revolutionaries under his personal care over the past years and who know better than others about his revolutionary idea and noble personality.

"If we do this work well among the masses, all the Korean people will be equipped with the General's revolutionary idea, and will rise up as one in the construction of a new country in response to his call, just as the Korean People's Revolutionary Army safeguarded and defended the Comrade Commander with their lives in the past."

Her words, that clarified the steadfast standpoint and atti-

tude which we must maintain in supporting the leader sincerely under any circumstances, gripped us with a great excitement.

That day, bearing her valuable instructions in mind, we all resolved to emulate her standpoint and attitude as the leader's stalwart bodyguard, and to safeguard the General as she had been doing.

Echoes of Mt. Komal

The afternoon after our arrival in Chongjin, Comrade Kim Jong Suk suggested a visit to Mt. Komal.

Worried over her health, for she had come over 62 miles by lorry the previous night, we told her to give up the idea, hunting she might catch a cold.

She replied:

"When we were fighting in the mountains, we used to fight battles, marching about 25 to 50 miles overnight, didn't we? Last night, however, we came here comfortably by lorry... Now we must not waste a second. We must realize that the longer the implementation of the General's line of building a new country is delayed, the more the construction of a new country will be delayed, and the more discomfort people will feel in their lives."

We thereupon understood her innermost feelings about her suggestion, and hurried out preparations.

A chilly seawind was blowing threateningly outside.

Kim Jong Suk, however, walked ahead of us, climbing up Mt. Komal. This reminded me of what had happened the night before.

When our party arrived in Chongjin and unpacked our travelling kits, I made her bed, requesting her to get some sleep.

She shook her head, however, saying how could she possi-

bly rest before reporting to the great leader. After telling us to take a good rest she then went out with an official who had already been working in Chongjin on a mission.

We did not go to bed. We talked about our liberated country, waiting for her return.

After a while she returned, smiling.

We all stood up and surrounded her, asking her whether she had phoned General Kim Il Sung.

Looking round at us, she said that the General, upon receiving her work report, had asked after all of us.

We were beside ourselves with joy. She continued to say that the leader had emphasized that we should do energetic political work to help the comrades already in Chongjin.

My recollection of this event renewed my confidence that if we followed the instructions of Kim Jong Suk, a skilled political worker, we could surely make a great success in realizing the leader's idea.

Mt. Komal forms a peninsula stretching far into the sea northeast of Chongjin City. On its summit, we commanded a bird's-eye view of Chongjin City. But we could not see a speck of smoke from any factory chimneys.

Looking at the city, Kim Jong Suk said:

"You, comrades, too, may be thinking a lot over the quiet city.

"The wicked Japanese are said to have claimed when fleeing after destroying all the factories that Korea will never rise again, even in a hundred years.

"Upholding the line of General Kim Il Sung on the building of a new country, we must rouse the people through energetic political activities. This is our immediate task here."

Only then did I understand why she had decided to climb the mountain, despite her fatigue after a long journey.

We all expressed our determination to do our best to translate the great leader's idea into reality.

Listening to us, she said:

"As I said last night, we must live and work as the revolutionary fighters of the General in the liberated country, just as we did in the past.

"Our revolutionary struggle to win back our lost land and build a prosperous country for the people is not over yet, and it must be continued in the future."

She continued, looking for a good while at the sky far away in the south.

"According to recent newscasts, the Americans who have occupied our country south of its 38th parallel have established a military government there, indiscriminately arresting, imprisoning and slaughtering patriots.

"Judging from developments, it seems to me that we shall have to fight a do-or-die battle with the Americans."

Then she looked around for a short while before pointing at a pine tree. "Well, that is a good target!" she said, and drew out her pistol from her waist band.

On the end of the pine tree were hanging several cones, like bells, moving in the wind. "Bang, bang, bang", gunshots were heard and the cones disappeared into nowhere.

We all clapped shouting "Hit!"

Next she asked us to fire by turns, but giving us easier targets.

Appraising each one's marksmanship, she praised me when I hit the target, saying I was a good shot as well as an efficient wireless operator.

When our shooting practice was over, she praised all of us and made valuable remarks:

"Although we have defeated the Japanese imperialists and

liberated the country, our revolution is not yet over.

"Our blood was spilt in the struggle for the whole of Korea, but only half the country was liberated..."

"We must always keep up the spirit and stamina with which we fought in the area around Mt. Paektu under the command of the General, and continue our advance along the road of the revolutionary struggle."

Only then did I understand why she climbed up Mt. Komal and fired her pistol.

The shots she had fired on this mountain were, indeed, the echoes of struggle reminding us that our struggle was not over but still going on against a new enemy.

Bearing the echoes in mind, quite a few women fighters enlisted in the units which were developing into a regular army. I, too, contributed my bit to the work of strengthening the regular revolutionary army as a wireless officer of the unit organized in the Kaechon area.

Singing *Nostalgia*

Nostalgia was one of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's favourite songs.

I have this song recorded and listen to it frequently; each time, I feel as if I am listening to her elegant singing on the stage of the Joson Hall in Chongjin City, and it thrills me.

As I was leaving home,
Mother in tears at the gate wished me a safe journey.
Oh, her voice still rings in my ears!

Whenever I recall her singing this song, with her hands

clasped lightly in front of her, my longing for her moistens my eyes, and my mind goes back to those days.

One day towards the end of November 1945, we accompanied her to the Joson Hall in Chongjin City, where a meeting was to be held to welcome her.

Slogans written in large letters were pasted on the walls, focusing the audience's attention.

"Long live General Kim Il Sung, the wise leader of our nation!"

"Welcome to Comrade Kim Jong Suk."

The hall was packed to the limit and enveloped in the excitement and joy of meeting Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the heroine of the anti-Japanese war.

Around 4 p. m. Kim Jong Suk, wearing the uniform of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and with pistol on her waist, entered the hall with us, guided by An Kil, Choe Chun Guk and some local cadres.

The moment she entered, the audience burst into a standing ovation.

Speeches were delivered by representatives from all levels to welcome her, and then performances were staged by the artistes of Chongjin City.

The songs they sang were mostly popular ones, except for a few folk songs, such as *Ulsan Tharyong* (Ballad of Ulsan—Tr.) and *Arirang*.

To those of us who were only familiar with revolutionary songs, their pathetic melodies were not appealing.

Listening to them Kim Jong Suk, too, looked gloomy.

Worse still, a young woman singer sang a pathetic song beginning with the phrase "How long have I been away from home...", which was followed with the words that her youth had gone in the course of ten years as a wanderer. The song

added weight to Kim Jong Suk's heavy feeling.

In those days revolutionary songs were required to inspire the people as effectively as the militant songs reverberating throughout the country, to encourage them to hasten nation building. How could those pathetic songs possibly inspire people to the construction of a new country?

When the performance was over the audience requested Comrade Kim Jong Suk to sing a song for them.

The eyes of all the audience were instantly focused on her. Thunderous applause burst out.

Kim Jong Suk, who had been thinking of how she could inspire the masses with optimistic and militant feelings in their struggle to implement the great leader's line of building a new country, stepped onto the stage, smiling.

Overjoyed at their luck to hear her sing, in addition to the honour of meeting this famous heroine of the anti-Japanese war, the audience gave her a storm of applause. Looking at them with her sparkling eyes, she first said her words of greeting to them:

"First of all, I would like to express my thanks to you all for arranging this memorable gathering.

"I am very glad to meet you here today. I feel as I would do when meeting my dear family and friends at home...

"I am not a good singer. At your request, however, I will sing a song which I used to sing whenever I longed to see my home and my comrades, while fighting the Japanese imperialists in the deep forests of Mt. Paektu."

Thunderous applause arose again from the audience.

The sonorous melody of *Nostalgia* she was singing with her soft, tender voice flowed through the hall.

Not far away from my home flows a stream,

And my little brothers were romping about
Oh, their images swim before my eyes!

Her song reminded me of when I learned that song from her at the Mt. Paektu secret camp.

It was the evening of the first Harvest Moon Day we greeted at the camp. As the full moon rose, all our women fighters were talking about the holidays they had spent in their home towns. Looking up at the moon, Kim Jong Suk began to sing *Nostalgia* in a low voice.

Entranced by the song, we asked her to teach it to us.

She said that the song had been composed and taught to her by the General, and that it carried longing for one's native home in its melody and also aroused me will to fight to liberate the country.

As we learned the song we hardened out determination and confidence that we would liberate the country and return to our homes.

While I was lost in deep thought of the past, the melody was still resounding through the hall.

The Taedong is beautiful at Mangyongdae in spring.
I see the dear place in my dreams.
Oh, I will return home on the day of liberation!

The audience were fascinated by the song. They listened to it with bated breath and sublime emotions.

Her song touched the hearts of the audience, making a striking contrast to the song the young woman singer had sung.

Both the songs were about one's home town, about one's homeland, but the young woman singer's song made the audience sad, whereas *Nostalgia* not only brought the memory of

their home towns back to the audience, but also inspired them with a strong determination to fight for their homeland.

Nostalgia gripped the hearts of all.

When she finished her song, the attendants applauded and shouted "Encore".

She accepted their encore readily, and sang a revolutionary song, which again made a strong impression on the audience.

The audience encored her for the third time.

Upon receiving the third encore, she said to them:

"I can understand your feelings as you repeat your request for my poor singing.

"At this gathering, I have felt many things... The wicked Japanese deprived us of our country, our freedom and rights, and even our songs. That is why our people have only sad songs to sing, even on a happy day like this." She added that the sad song the woman singer had sung before her, "How long I have been away from home..." was the outcome of the vicious Japanese policy of making Korean youth ignorant and obliterate their revolutionary consciousness.

As if they had fallen for her who was good at singing and speaking, the audience fell silent, and just listened to her.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk continued to say emphatically that Korean youth had, however, not only sighed with the sorrow of an aimless life as the Japanese had wished, but fought the Japanese imperialists with full courage. Under the leadership of the General, the great sun of the nation, they braved snowstorms in the forests of Mt. Paektu and at long last liberated their motherland, she said.

The hall again resounded with a storm of clapping.

Then, she glanced at us who were in the front row, hinting that we should sing in chorus.

We stood in line with her and sang. *The Guerrilla March*

and *Song of Women's Emancipation*.

The stirring melodies of the revolutionary songs fired up the people's desire for revolution.

With revolutionary songs, Kim Jong Suk thereby led our people to the road of nation-building, the road of struggle.

For the Founding of Our Republic

On September 9, 1948, the day of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a few comrades and I paid a visit to Comrade Kim Jong Suk at her home.

She was glad to see us, receiving us with pleasure.

Loud-speakers installed in the streets were reporting the news that our Republic was founded and the great leader was elected Head of State. The whole city of Pyongyang and the whole country were bubbling over with joy and excitement.

Kim Jong Suk, who was looking at the flags of the Republic hoisted at every house and in every street, all adorned with festive decorations, said:

"The Flag of the Republic is permeated with the red blood of the revolutionary martyrs who fought for the liberation of their motherland and for the freedom and happiness of their people.

"For the day the flag flies throughout the country, we must struggle more forcefully under the General's leadership."

Then she suggested that we sing the *Song of the Declaration of the People's Republic* for our fallen comrades-in-arms who could not share the joy of that day. She led the chorus;

Hoisting the new flag, 30 million people have turned out
From Lake Chon on Mt Paektu to Jeju Island,

Mountains and rivers, all sing of today's joy,
Korea is a glorious people's land.

While singing I remembered the painstaking efforts Comrade Kim Jong Suk had made to realize the great leader's idea of finding a full solution to the problem of power.

From the first day she arrived in North Hamgyong Province, she paid close attention to the work of the local people's power organs.

In those days people's committees, the local power organs, came into being in this province, but they were not functioning satisfactorily. The officials of the people's committee themselves were not working as they should, as the workers of the new people's power organs. To make matters worse, dishonest people who had wormed their way into some local power organs did not dispose of enemy property, property which now belonged to the state and people, in the interests of the people. Instead, they used them to feather their own nests in collusion with merchants, thus causing people to complain. On top of this, by clamouring for what they called a "people's republic," or "dictatorial government of the proletariat" the Leftist and Rightist opportunists were hindering our people's struggle for establishing their own genuine government.

With deep insights into these defects and in order to put the work of the local power organs to right, she attended a round-table talk arranged by the officials of the people's committee of Chongjin City one day in early December 1945.

As a few officials and I ushered her into the room, the officials of the people's committee stood up and welcomed her warmly.

When all had taken their seats, an official requested her to tell them something instructive. His request was backed up by

those present with thunderous applause.

She said she was pleased to sit together with the officials of the people's power organs, and informally asked about their lives and work and listened to their opinions about their work.

Hearing them out, she said that they were now faced with the important task of establishing the people's government, one of the three major tasks advanced by the General. She went on to say:

"What type of government we build in the liberated homeland is an extremely important question bearing upon the future of the country and nation.

"The General set out the policy on establishing a democratic people's republic that suits the specific situation in the country and meets the demands of the masses.

"We must strive to establish the democratic people's republic, a genuine people's government."

She went on to say that we had acquired rich experience in the struggle to build a genuine people's government in the liberated motherland, explaining to them how the great leader established a genuine people's government in the guerrilla zones by rejecting the attempts of the Leftist and Rightist opportunists during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. In those days, she said, the factionalists and Leftist elements, ignorant of the character and task of the Korean revolution and without any ideas of their own, made the preposterous claim that we should "realize socialism immediately" by copying experience in building the revolutionary government of a foreign country, and asserted that we should take socialist measures without delay. She explained that the General, however, exposed their incorrect assertions, and instructed that the government to be established in the guerrilla zones should be a people's revolutionary government, a new type of revolutionary government,

with a mission to carry out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution immediately and then head for the building of socialism and communism in our country.

Her cogent, clear and profound explanation about the method of solving the question of political power in our country evoked great admiration and excitement from those who were present. An elderly official sitting beside me nodded time and again throughout her speech, and whispered to me; "She is the renowned General Kim Jong Suk. She is a General with such a preeminent political ability, isn't she?" His admiration represented the feeling of all those present at the meeting.

She continued to tell them how the people, who had begun to truly live again under the policies of the people's revolutionary government in the guerrilla zones, had fought courageously against the Japanese imperialists' "punitive" force and, after the dissolution of the guerrilla zones, called on the guerrilla army carrying the flag of the people's revolutionary government in their breasts.

The room was filled with solemn feelings. The story about the people of the guerrilla zones fighting in defence of the flag of the people's revolutionary government at the risk of their lives deeply impressed all those present.

Feeling the atmosphere in the room, she said:

"The General's line of establishing a democratic people's republic means building a revolutionary and democratic people's government which inherits the traditions of the people's revolutionary governments established in the guerrilla zones. It truly champions and represents the interests of the broad masses of people...

"In support of the General's line of establishing a genuine people's government, we must build strong local power organs."

Her account at the round-table talks that day brought the deep, historical roots of the people's government to be established in the liberated motherland home to the listeners and encouraged them all to struggle to implement the policy on the people's government.

When our singing ended I told Kim Jong Suk that the song was very well composed.

She replied that the song reflected truthfully the joy of our people over the materialization of the cherished desire for a genuine people's government, and said how good it would be to sing the song and fly the flag of our Republic together with the people in the south.

She continued: "We fought the bloody anti-Japanese war for 15 years, not to liberate only the north, a half of our country, but to win back a unified country. In order to build a unified country, we must all fight in unity. Only then can we say proudly on the day of national reunification that we have fulfilled our duty as revolutionaries."

Still bearing deep in my mind what she said on that day, I am throwing myself heart and soul into the work of hastening the day of national reunification.

To Develop the Women's Union into a Mass Political Organization

Immediately after liberation Comrade Kim Jong Suk made strenuous efforts to develop the Korean Democratic Women's Union organized by the great leader into a powerful women's democratic mass political organization.

In November 1945 the Democratic Women's Union of North Korea was organized, but city and county women's

union organizations were not yet formed and only the preparatory committees were working.

During this period, in the Chongjin area far away from Pyongyang, many difficulties cropped up in forming women's union organizations.

One day at the end of November, several women officials called on Comrade Kim Jong Suk at her quarters. They were members of the preparatory committee of North Hamgyong Province for organizing the women's union, and came to hear her advice on their work.

She exchanged cordial greetings with them and they informally sat down together. She asked each one's name and age, when they had started their job and how they had been living.

She also asked how the work of the preparatory committee was going.

They replied that as they were not experienced in the job, they had many difficulties in their work.

She said:

"The General has instructed that if we women are to discharge our duty with credit, we should have our own organization.

"It is only when a single democratic women's organization is formed and the broad masses of women are admitted into it that women can contribute to the building of a new country by united efforts and become able workers through democratic education and organizational training. However great their enthusiasm and efforts for nation-building, women will not be able to carry out the tasks of nation-building and their social emancipation successfully unless they are united in a single political organization."

Hearing her words they resolved to build up the women's union organizations as soon as possible and admit as many women as possible into them.

After they left, she said to us, the veteran women fighters, that during our work in Chongjin we should join efforts and form strong women's union organizations at all levels, from top to bottom.

On an early December day, she visited the provincial preparatory committee for organizing the women's union.

The officials who had the honour of meeting her again after their first meeting several days before, were going to usher her into a separate room they had previously arranged for talks.

She dissuaded them, however, saying, "I have come to visit the preparatory committee for organizing the women's union, so I must look round your office first." Then she looked round every office room. An official said to her that the rooms did not look offices because they had not been furnished with all the necessary furniture, and that the chairwoman, vice-chairwomen and department heads should all be provided with swivel chairs, but they had so far obtained only two of them and a few kneehole desks. She was offered swivel chair to sit on.

Kim Jong Suk turned the chair round once and said that officials should not think of putting on airs while sitting on swivel chairs, and that furnishing rooms with nice chairs and desks was less important than mixing with the masses and working among them. Then she took a seat on a wooden chair, saying, "I feel more comfortable on such a wooden chair than on the swivel chair." She suggested that they should sit around there rather than move to another place, and exchange opinions about the work of the provincial women's union organization.

When everyone had taken a seat, she told them about the painstaking efforts the great leader had made during the anti-

Japanese revolutionary struggle to develop the movement for the emancipation of Korean women, and of the roots of the Korean women's emancipation movement. She went on to say:

"The General has constantly paid deep attention to the emancipation of our women, who have been subjected to constant maltreatment and humiliation under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialist aggressors as well as in feudal fetters.

"Under the General's leadership, the anti-Japanese women's association was organized in the guerrilla zones and enemy-ruled areas, and a great number of women joined it and fought staunchly.

"In particular, during the anti-Japanese armed struggle a large number of women joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army organized and led by the General, took up arms, and fought as courageously as the men for the liberation of the country and their social emancipation. They were always courageous in battle and skilfully carried out underground political work, uniting broad sections of people in organizations in the enemy-held areas."

Pointing at a few of our women fighters, she continued to tell true stories about many of the anti-Japanese women revolutionaries who had fought valiantly against the enemy, trekking across the rugged and snow-covered ridges of Mt. Paektu, and about women underground operatives who had audaciously carried out their missions in enemy-ruled areas.

I was tempted to tell them how heroically Comrade Kim Jong Suk had fought, but refrained from interrupting her logical and interesting narrative.

She continued to emphasize that an urgent task was to build up local women's union organizations so that all women could turn out in the building of a new country in hearty support of the lines and policies set out by General Kim Il Sung.

Then she called an official temporarily in charge of organizational affairs of the women's union and asked about the number of primary organizations under the women's union in the province and their membership and what sort of women had been admitted into the ranks. The official produced only a few documents such as data on members and a list of cadres to be appointed to the women's unions in cities and counties, saying frankly that she was not well aware of the state of affairs in the province because she had failed to acquaint herself with the actual situation.

Leafing through the rough documents, Kim Jong Suk merely said that if they worked only to furnish offices with swivel chairs, summon people and compile statistics, then they would be unable to build up the city and county women's union organizations, and explained in detail how they should form women's union organizations at lower levels and expand their ranks.

She said: "The Democratic Women's Union of North Korea is a democratic mass political organization of Korean women which translates into reality the idea of General Kim Il Sung, and therefore it must implement his idea by recruiting its members from among women workers and peasants as well as all other women who love their country and nation and aspire after democracy. Success in work among women depends entirely on how the committee officials of the women's union work on the basis of their knowledge of the profound idea and policy set out by the General."

The valuable instructions she gave them on that day enlightened the officials who were inexperienced in the work of the women's union and inspired them with enthusiasm for their work.

To the union officials who were expressing their determi-

nation to work assiduously with confidence in the future, Kim Jong Suk said that she would take time off in the future to acquaint herself with the women's union organizations at lower levels, and then left the office building of the provincial women's union.

On a mid-December day, about ten days later, she told me to summon the officials of the district women's union organizations to her quarters, indicating her intention to learn about the details of the work of the women's union organizations in every district and dong within Chongjin City.

In touch with the city women's union, I saw to it that the senior officials of the district women's union organizations were all summoned to her quarters. Towards evening, they all arrived.

Kim Jong Suk first received reports from them on their work, sometimes speaking highly of their successes and sometimes pointing out defects in their work.

Her talk was so coherent and appealing that the officials were induced to tell her honestly of their work situations.

A woman official in charge of the east coast district said proudly that in her district she organized the union with the wives of fishermen, coolies and carters who had been more maltreated and humiliated than any other people. Using terminology such as "petty bourgeoisie" and "proletariat," which she might have learned anywhere and could not even pronounce properly, she explained that even though there were some educated women, who had studied during the Japanese imperialist rule and were eager to join, she had not admitted them into the union because she loathed them, and formed the union with only real "proletariats."

Kim Jong Suk smiled with her hand cupped on her mouth and whispered to me that the "ostentatious Marxist" trend

seemed to be influencing even the women's union. Immediately after liberation, those who had been engaged in a sort of "movement" preferred to prattle, using such phraseology as "soviet", "bourgeoisie" and "lumpen proletariat", which common people could hardly understand; these people were "ostentatious Marxists". Such a practice was in evidence more glaringly in South and North Hamgyong Provinces than in any other region.

From this fact, Kim Jong Suk understood that officials themselves were not clear about the mass character of the women's union. She awakened them to the truth, saying; "It is praiseworthy that you have admitted many housewives of workers into the union. The women's union, however, is not for only workers and peasants but a mass organization that enlists all patriotic women from all walks of life, except for a handful of landlords, capitalists, pro-Japanese elements and traitors to the nation." Listening to her clear explanation, officials felt remorse for their misunderstanding.

In addition, she gave them valuable advice on the need to learn how to read and write, acquire a style and method of work characterized by modesty and respect for the masses, and other things that would serve as guidelines in the work of the women's union.

All the officials present were full of determination to take the lead in the struggle to put into effect the far-reaching idea of the great leader to develop the women's union into a powerful democratic mass political organization.

On her return to Pyongyang, subsequent to the meeting, Kim Jong Suk energetically guided the work of the officials in the important posts of the central committee of the women's union, thereby contributing greatly to realizing the firm leadership of our Party over the women's movement and strengthen-

ing organizational and ideological unity in the ranks of the women's union.

I should say in recollection that in the complicated political situation immediately after liberation the women's union was able to remain loyal to the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, keeping its position firmly as the Party's peripheral organization, thanks to the seasoned leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

A Loud Train Whistle

People nowadays do not pay much attention to train whistles, which can be heard anywhere.

However, whenever I hear the sound, I fall into a reverie, because for me it conveys the noble idea of Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

On a December morning in 1945, immediately after liberation, Kim Jong Suk told us to prepare for a trip to the Chongjin Iron Works (the present Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex), saying that she had to acquaint herself with the situation of the works and meet the members of the works reconstruction board to discuss the reconstruction project.

When I said that I would arrange a car in consideration of the long distance, she disapproved the idea, saying that we who had trekked across snow-covered mountains must not think of travelling by car. Then she left the house, ahead of us.

I felt very worried about her because while in Chongjin City she had been visiting factories, farms and fishing villages and schools as well as residential quarters, day and night, without taking a car or bodyguard.

As we were familiar with her character, we had to accompany her on foot.

I escorted her along the main road towards the iron works across the Susongchon Bridge.

As we arrived at the gate of the works after walking over five miles, the officials of the works reconstruction board were waiting for us.

Glad to see Comrade Kim Jong Suk, they ran towards us, and greeted her politely.

"You have come a long way in this cold weather, haven't you?"

With a bright smile on her frozen red face, she replied, "I am all right. As I have come of my own accord, I feel no cold and I don't think it is a long way."

After greeting them, she gazed sadly at the smokeless factory.

Having learned about the work of the board officials, who were feeling guilty about their failure to put the works into operation as yet, she looked round the sintering furnace shop and blast furnace shop, both destroyed beyond recognition.

She discussed the quickest way of repairing them and walked towards the sheet metalworking shop, before abruptly stopping as she saw volumes of smoke puffing from a locomotive.

As if amazed at the locomotive spewing out white steam in the dead silence of the works, she hurried towards it.

Two young men of about twenty were working on the engine in high spirits. Even though their clothes were smeared with grease and their faces smudged with coal dust, they were quite elated.

Admiring them, she greeted them and asked them in a kindly tone of voice, "Can you run this engine?"

The elder of the two replied that they could if they increased the steam pressure a little more.

Quite pleased with his reply, Kim Jong Suk asked him again, "Then, have you ever driven an engine?" The man answered that even though he had not driven one, he had watched others driving and had secretly done so himself, telling her about his life experience in the past.

He said that before liberation he had worked as an assistant to the driver of the locomotive he was now repairing and that the Japanese driver had not allowed him to touch the driving controls, still less teach him to drive. He continued to say that the maltreatment and humiliation he had had to live through under Japanese rule made his blood boil so unbearably that he had made up his mind to drive the locomotive proudly by himself. So he and his friend had started to repair the engine a few days before and finally kindled a fire for the engine that morning.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk stroked his shoulder with pleasure, telling the officials, "Such comrades are precisely the youths and masters of new Korea. Because we have these comrades, there will be no problem in the reconstruction of the works."

She looked at him who was overwhelmed with gratitude by her praise, and said that she wanted to look inside the engine, getting on the locomotive with the man ahead of her. Then I, too, climbed up.

The interior was clean, as if reflecting the young man's assiduous work attitude.

She was pleased with the shining mechanical devices and gauges and said:

"Try the whistle, please!"

The young man pulled the whistle lever softly, smiling.

"Toot, toot."

The whistle rang out loudly through the factory compound, where only the wind was moaning.

With a bright smile, Kim Jong Suk encouraged him, saying, "Good, now, you drive the engine, please."

The young man pulled the throttle lever in soaring spirits, and the locomotive moved slowly, volumes of white smoke puffing out.

Workers came running towards the engine from every quarter of the compound shouting, "Hurrah!"

Looking at the masses bubbling over with joy, Kim Jong Suk herself took the whistle lever and blew the whistle again.

"Toot, toot."

The whistle reverberated across the blue sky, pulling at the people's heartstrings.

We cried with joy.

The engine ran at full steam along the railway for a while and then rolled back to where it had started.

Smiling so happily, Kim Jong Suk got off the engine, thanked the two young men for their efforts to repair the engine, and looked round at the officials, saying:

"We can say we have already started reconstruction. The whistle that sounded now has announced the beginning of the reconstruction of the works."

The loud sound of the whistle Kim Jong Suk had given was, indeed, a whistle of nation-building, signalling the start of the vigorous march for reconstruction in support of the great leader's line of building a new country; a triumphant whistle that demonstrated our conviction that our working class, the masters of the country and its factories, was powerful enough to do anything in the world.

Kim Jong Suk, then, walked towards the sheet metalworking shop.

Arriving at the shop, she approached a young worker who had been repairing a heating furnace and asked him whether he could repair it properly.

He replied that as the great General Kim Il Sung advanced the line of building a new country, he must repair it without fail, and that while repairing the furnace for a few days he had gained confidence. Another worker proudly said that he derived confidence and courage from the locomotive that was running and blowing its whistle.

Pleased with their replies, she shook hands with them and said:

"You are right. Your confidence is precious. In the liberated country, our workers, who were subjected to humiliation in the past, are now the masters of the country and factories. This factory, too, must be repaired and working as soon as possible by you comrades, the masters. You have said that your confidence and courage rise up at the sound of the whistle, haven't you? Young workers, take the lead in paving the road of victory, breaking through all difficulties. The future of the country depends on you young people."

Encouraged by her words, the young workers told her confidently and optimistically not to worry about the repair of the heating furnace.

After expressing her satisfaction at their determination, she went to the office of the works reconstruction board and discussed with the officials the practical measures needed to reconstruct the works and assigned them concrete tasks.

The loud sound of the whistle Comrade Kim Jong Suk had blown at the works that day, herself getting on the locomotive, was indeed a historic sound that kindled loyalty and passion for innovation and struggle in the hearts of the working class and young people of new Korea.

A long time has elapsed since then. Even now, however,

whenever I hear the sound of a train whistle, I remember with special emotions the noble image of Comrade Kim Jong Suk on that day.

Loving the Working Class Most Dearly

On a mid-December day in 1945, Comrade Kim Jong Suk visited the Puryong Metallurgical Works.

That morning we had to accompany her on a trip about 25 miles to Puryong, on a truck fuelled by charcoal. So we were very sorry for her.

Reading our feeling, she said we were fortunate to take even the charcoal-fuelled truck, and that if we had not had the truck, we would have been unable to visit the workers of Puryong. She got on the truck and we left for Puryong.

We arrived just before midday.

Puryong was not far from Hoeryong, where Comrade Kim Jong Suk was born, so all of us suggested to her that we visit Hoeryong first.

She looked over towards Hoeryong for a good while and said that she should first see the workers who were reconstructing the factory.

I felt a lump in my throat because I was moved by her intention to go and see workers before visiting her home town, which was within hailing distance.

On arriving at the factory she walked to where a transformer was under repair.

"How do you do?" She said to the workers, who were absorbed in repair work.

The workers were quite embarrassed, feeling sorry for their failure to greet her first. She set them at ease and asked them

about their difficulties in repairing the transformer.

One of the workers replied that if only they had designs they could make spare parts, expressing his anxiety that they had none because the Japanese had burned them all.

She listened to him intently and said:

"As a matter of fact, it will not be easy for you to repair the transformer without much technical skill and experience. Skill is important, but what is more important is your determination to repair it by your own efforts as well as your confidence in success."

However terribly the Japanese destroyed the factory, she went on, our working class, if they pooled their efforts and wisdom, would be able to reconstruct the factory much better than the original one. She encouraged them to display the mettle of the Korean working class by rebuilding the factory splendidly.

Then she proceeded to the site of the damaged electric furnace, the heart of the factory.

There the workers were sweating hard, removing rubble from the furnace by pushcarts.

Kim Jong Suk rolled up her sleeves and took up the most difficult work without hesitation, and we followed suit.

Soon the men recognized her and requested her not to do the job, blocking her way. She said that there was no reason why she should not do what the workers were doing. She loaded a cart full of rubble and took it away.

Before long the place was completely cleared of rubble.

Wiping the dripping sweat from her face, she talked with the workers during a break. She told them to take meals on time and take care of themselves, for they had a mountain of work to do in the future. Then she proceeded to the ferrosilicon workshop. The shop was a health hazard.

At the reconstruction site of the ferrosilicon furnace the workers were carrying loads of heavy copper plates with shoulder poles and slings up to the second floor. She helped the men by carrying a sling.

Reminding the officials of the fact that the workers were carrying heavy loads in such a dangerous way, instead of repairing and making use of a lift, she instructed the officials to pay attention to protecting the workers' lives and making their work easier. Then she walked along the overhead pushcart track connecting two furnaces and paused in the middle. She looked worriedly at the suspended pushcart track. It had no handrails. A single slip could send you crashing to the floor.

An official explained to her that the Japanese had not allowed the men to fix handrails on the excuse that safety devices would make the workers lazy and drowsy. In consequence, many workers had fallen down, either to die or become crippled. Whenever such accidents took place, the official said, the Japanese had babbled that if they dozed off, they might suffer the same lot. It was quite disgusting.

Seeing Comrade Kim Jong Suk looking at the overhead pushcart track, I was reminded of an event which took place a short time before at where they were repairing the transformer.

There she had found a man working in a high place without taking safety measures. She had reproached the officials for their careless attitude towards safety measures essential for working in high places, and had told them that our workers were the most precious in the world so they should never endanger the lives of workers.

She held a young man's chapped and greasy hand and exhorted him to wear gloves during work and apply ointment to his hand after work.

Finding another dangerous work place at the ferrosilicon furnace once again, she said to the officials:

"From this time onward, you must never let the men work in such dangerous conditions.

"No matter how urgent it is to rebuild the factory and how precious steel is, we cannot barter the lives of workers for steel. Even if you have to delay reconstruction a little, you must take safety measures before working."

All those who stood surrounding her — officials, we, workers — were moved to tears. The young workers who had just been carrying loads of copper plates with her help were also wiping away their tears,

No one had ever before shown any concern over the lives of the workers who had been humiliated and subjected to backbreaking labour, and no one had uttered a word of sympathy for them.

That was why the men were moved to tears by what Kim Jong Suk had said.

Several days later, we went to the factory again, carrying with us supplies prepared by Kim Jong Suk, such as spare parts badly needed for the reconstruction of the factory, notebooks, paper, gloves, work shoes, medicines, soap and other consumer goods essential for the men.

Upon receiving the goods, the workers felt the touch of the warm love of their mothers. Among them was a girl sobbing, overcome with emotion, her face buried in a bundle of gifts with a note, "To the girl with bobbed hair in the Puryong Metallurgical Works. From Kim Jong Suk."

The girl had served Comrade Kim Jong Suk during her visit to the factory with a cup of hot water. At that time Kim Jong Suk had thanked her for her hospitality and inquired after her family and home town. The girl was from Hoeryong.

"Are you from Hoeryong?" Kim Jong Suk had asked her again and again, and said that she was very pleased to meet a girl from her own home town, praising her that it was very laudable for one of her tender age to work at the reconstruction site for the new country .

The workers at that metallurgical factory repaired the transformer into its original state and restored the electric furnace by surmounting many difficulties and hardships, and produced the first carbide less than ten days after Kim Jong Suk's visit.

Driving an Inspection Trolley Herself

Students nowadays may not have a clear concept of an inspection trolley, because all the railway services have now been mechanized and modernized and manual machines can only be seen in films.

Whenever I recall how Comrade Kim Jong Suk inspected and guided railway repair work immediately after liberation, driving a trolley, I bow my head to her noble devotion to the working class.

After lunch on a December day in 1945, Kim Jong Suk said that she would have to go to learn how railways were being reconstructed, and told us to prepare for the trip. It was gloomy in the morning and in the afternoon it was icy cold and windy.

That morning she had worked outside in the cold, guiding the work of Chongjin Station. As she proposed going out to a railway reconstruction site in the afternoon, when it became colder, we worried about her health.

We advised her to give up the idea, suggesting she inspect the repair work when it was a little warmer, but she did not

agree. She said that while lighting in the mountains, we used to sleep on the snow on much colder days and that a little cold weather must not keep us from going outdoors.

So we followed her to a railway reconstruction site. "Yo-ho! Yo-heave-ho!"

At the work site men were ballasting the tracks.

She approached them and greeted them; "How hard you are working in this cold weather!" "Nothing special," one of them replied, casually, because he did not recognize her.

Then a young man recognized her and bowed to her, saying that he had come mere very encouraged by her speech at the welcome rally. He then said to his fellow workers, who were still embarrassed, that she was none other than the heroine of the anti-Japanese revolution he had so proudly talked about.

Only then did the workers greet her, apologizing for their failure to recognize her.

As she usually did, Kim Jong Suk sat down informally with them and asked about their health, family affairs and the problems arising in their work. She then asked them when they could finish the railway reconstruction.

The workers replied confidently that they could finish it within a few days.

She said that she could expect more of the young people as she saw them working all out for the reconstruction of the railways, full of confidence, and that they, the hope and future of the motherland, should devote all their youthful energy and ardour to the most difficult work for the building of a new country.

She found a trolley standing nearby and asked where it was supposed to go.

A worker replied that they had prepared it to go to work at

Susong, but as it was cold and windy, they decided not to go. She said she could use it to look round railways and stepped towards it.

The workers said that it was unfit for riding because it was worn-out and had no windbreak, either.

However, she mounted the trolley, saying:

"Why can't I ride it when you do? The trolley, not a passenger train, can give me an accurate view of the state of the tracks."

We, too, mounted the trolley, and she took one of the cold handles to drive it. We all dissuaded her, but she said:

"Now that I am on it, I must operate it myself. Otherwise this travel will be meaningless. The men take the handle every day, and I want to take it myself today."

We couldn't say anything more.

When I was about to take the other handle, the young worker who had said he had come to the work site very encouraged by Kim Jong Suk's speech hopped onto the trolley and took the handle, pushing me lightly aside. His behaviour showed his intention to lighten Kim Jong Suk's burden as much as he could.

Each time she pressed the handle down hard, the trolley surged forward, its wheels making peculiar metallic sounds. The wind was blowing fiercely, as if to force the trolley backward. Despite the cold wind, she worked the handle up and down, driving the trolley towards Susong, with her scarf fluttering like a banner.

The trolley ran fast out of the city towards the suburbs, unfolding the view of factories utterly destroyed by the Japanese imperialists.

Deeply grieved at the sight, she said, "There isn't a single chimney emitting smoke yet, is there?"

Turning to the young man who was also energetically working the handle, she said. "Fresh energy is welling up in this comrade. The strength of our youth is limitless. If we rely on their youthful energy, we shall have no problem in rebuilding the factory."

The trolley came to stop near the railway bridge across the Susong River.

She got down and inspected the tracks and the bridge, that had already been repaired.

She stamped on the sleepers, walked on the hardened surface of the ballast and examined the condition of the tracks. She then said that our railway workers had done their job excellently and responsibly. She continued, "As I think of this railway, which will bring iron-ore concentrate from the Musan Mine and coal from the northern area and carry steel and cement from here to various parts of the country, I feel my heart swell."

We got on the trolley again and went back towards Chongjin.

As we returned to our starting point, the track men all greeted us and surrounded us as if they wished to warm the frozen body of Kim Jong Suk with their own bodies.

Kim Jong Suk praised them for their excellent job in ballasting and repairing the tracks, and encouraged them all, saying, "If a man is to be healthy, he should have good blood circulation. Likewise, if the economy is to be developed, railway services should be good. A man's blood runs through his vessels, while materials for the economic development of our country are carried mostly through railways. Therefore, if you rebuild the railways as soon as possible and speed up transportation on a priority basis, reconstruction as a whole will be rapidly promoted and our country will develop quickly. In this

sense, railways are the artery of the country and you are the working class in charge of the national artery."

Her earnest instructions on her visit to the railway reconstruction site in spite of the raging wind and cold fanned the flames of innovation and miraculous success in the hearts of the working class.

A Blessed Girl Weaver

On a December evening in 1945, when Kim Jong Suk returned to her quarters after delivering a lecture at the Chongjin Theatre on the current situation, a girl's tender voice calling someone was heard outside.

I went outside to find a fair-complexioned girl of just over twenty standing by the gate, wearing a faded black skirt and cotton jacket.

I asked her whom she was calling. She said she had come to meet Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

I was always concerned about the security of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, so I immediately asked her.

"How do you know she is here?"

"Everybody knows where she is. Now all the people of the city are talking about her and the great General Kim Il Sung."

The girl's face revealed her deep respect and admiration for Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

Kim Jong Suk, who was keeping an eye on what was happening outside, told me to bring her in, as it was cold outside.

As the girl came in, Kim Jong Suk held her hand and led her to the warmest part of the room and asked her what brought her there. Kindly stroking the girl's chapped hands, she said that the girl must have gone through great hardships

and asked whether she had had supper and where she was living.

Feeling her own mother's affection in the warm personality of Kim Jong Suk, she told her candidly that she had come to see her, to tell her about her trouble and discuss her future.

Born into a sharecropper's family, the girl, at her tender age, had been dragged to the faraway Taegue Textile Factory for the payment of debt to the landlord and subjected to all sorts of suffering there.

Her account of slave labour for over 12 hours every day and of subhuman maltreatment, humiliation, physical suffering and various other unfortunate events that were forced on Korean women by the Japanese caused our blood to boil.

While listening to the girl's painful story, Kim Jong Suk did not utter a word but only stroked the former's chapped hands as if she could not put down her surging indignation at the Japanese, landlords and capitalists.

After a while she told the girl that the Japanese imperialists were our sworn enemy who had imposed all sorts of misfortune on our Korean people in the past, that true Korean communists and patriots had waged the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle for over 15 years under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung and liberated the country at last, and that the great leader had advanced a policy for the building of a new, democratic Korea, illuminating a bright road for our people to follow.

The girl was listening to her attentively with sparkling Eyes, not wanting to miss a single word. Kim Jong Suk inspired her with hope, saying that now that she was in a new world where young people like her who had been humiliated in the past could live well as owners of factories, she must brace herself up, build a new country and live proudly.

Overcome with emotion at the valuable words she heard for the first time in her life, the girl burst into tears. How could the girl, who had lived through coarse, abusive language and cruel beatings, respond to maternal encouragement and teaching without shedding tears?

The girl reminded me of a woman living in Origol.

One early morning, several days before, Kim Jong Suk was preparing for the day's political work when somebody called, the mistress of the house from outside. She hurried to the kitchen, to find a young woman in tatters standing outside, holding a mess tin. The moment their eyes met, the woman suddenly flinched, turned back and ran away. Even though Kim Jong Suk ran after her and asked her why, the woman ran on and on without looking back and disappeared into a back street.

Knowing that there were still beggars in the liberated country, Kim Jong Suk grieved deeply and did her best to find the woman.

She came to know that the woman was living in Origol, not far away from Chongjin Station.

One day she visited the woman's house. It was a ramshackle hut barely capable of sheltering the occupants from the wind. She sat on the dusty floor bare of mats and felt the forehead of a sick old woman, felt her pulse, asked how long she had been ill, how many people were living there, and how they were getting along.

The old woman replied that she had met a supportless young woman and they had been living from hand to mouth, depending on each other. They were miserable, indeed.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk failed to see the young woman that day, so she went there again the following day, met the young woman and talked with her. Kim Jong Suk kindly asked her

name, her native town, how old she was and why she had had to live in misery even after liberation.

Kim Jong Suk was the first to sympathize with the woman beggar who had suffered maltreatment and humiliation, the first to offer her human kindness, and took care of her as she would do her own blood sister. When the woman knew that the visitor was Kim Jong Suk, the heroine of the anti-Japanese revolution, she burst into tears.

Embracing the woman, who was crying like a child, Kim Jong Suk told her to brace up resolutely with hatred for the enemy who had imposed all sorts of misery and suffering upon her, instead of lamenting over her miserable lot.

She went on:

"People like you must become the pillar in the construction of a new country and master of the country. You must fight to develop our motherland the General has liberated into a prosperous and good country to live in."

Calling up the image of the woman in Origol who had thus embarked on the road of a new life, I bowed again to the noble personality of Kim Jong Suk, who shed a bright light on the new life of all the people who had had scars in their hearts before liberation.

Kim Jong Suk talked with the girl weaver till late at night.

Bearing deep in mind what and how young people should do in the struggle to carry out the line of building a new country, the weaver firmly decided to display her youthful energy and wisdom to the full at the reconstruction site as instructed by Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

Kim Jong Suk was very pleased with the girl's determination and said:

"As you have experienced, our people did not know even the word 'happiness' in the past. They lived in tears and lament.

"However, if a good country is built for our people to live in, then every household will resound with joyous laughter. The worth of a genuine life lies in the devoted struggle to bring the happy event earlier, in support of the General's idea."

Every word of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's instructions to the girl threw benevolent rays of light on her wounded feelings and gave life to her youthful strength.

Although Her Native Town Was within Hailing Distance

On a mid-December day in 1945, the anti-Japanese heroine Comrade Kim Jong Suk and we were travelling by lorry along the road from Chongjin towards Hoeryong in order to learn how the Puryong Metallurgical Works and the Komusan Cement Factory were being reconstructed.

I thought that this was a good chance for Kim Jong Suk to drop in at Hoeryong, her home town, and it seemed to me that the lorry was going too slowly.

The name Hoeryong reminded me of my first meeting with her at the Children's Corps School in Beidong, Yanji County.

One day in the spring of 1933, she, who had been in charge of the Children's Corps in those days, met me, a new member of the corps, and asked me where my home town was and when I left it, treating me as affectionately as she would do her own younger sister.

I felt sisterly love from her and replied that I was born in Chongjin and left it at the age of six, in search of a living.

Then I asked her where she came from. She said that she

hailed from Hoeryong, and that, as was the case with everyone, her beautiful home town, where white apricot flowers were in full bloom, was always vivid in her memory.

She had been so attached to her own home town, but after liberation she never talked of it though she was staying in Chongjin, quite near to Hoeryong.

So we, the anti-Japanese veteran fighters, had promised to do our best to take her to Hoeryong on this occasion.

As I was thinking about this, our lorry came to where the road forked towards Puryong and Hoeryong.

Pak Yong Sun, who was to guide Comrade Kim Jong Suk, ordered the lorry to stop at the crossroad and suggested to her on behalf of all of us that she should visit her home town. Getting off the lorry, we all surrounded her and said that Hoeryong was just beyond the Musan Pass, and asked her to pay a visit to the town on the first leg, before giving field guidance in the Puryong area.

Kim Jong Suk gazed at the mountains and hills lying ahead, her face betraying her longing for her home town, and then said:

"Upon arrival here by lorry today, I feel my home town is even dearer to me.

"As one's home town is dear to everyone, Hoeryong has always been dear to my heart. I can still remember as if it was only yesterday the time when I felt so sad about leaving my home town, though I was only a little girl, that I cried, gripping the hem of my mother's skirt.

"When the General was teaching me *Nostalgia*, I missed my home so much that I pictured it in mind."

Listening to her, we all thought that she would visit her home town on that occasion. This thought, however, was momentary.

"I am grateful to you all for your concern," she said after a while. "But think! Even though the country has been liberated, our people are still poorly off and we have a lot of work to do. How can I visit my home town first? Let's first meet the workers who have turned out to reconstruct the factory in support of the General's line of building a new country."

She then instructed the driver to drive the lorry to the factory. We could say nothing more.

That day she went to the Puryong Metallurgical Works and looked around the site for repairing electric furnaces and other repair sites, instilling the idea of the great leader on the building of a new country in the working class and kindling the flames for nation-building. She even put aside her lunch and left for the Komusan Cement Factory. Our lorry was running again along the road towards Hoeryong, the Susong River to one side.

As the lorry was approaching Komusan, Pak Yong Sun again suggested that, since Hoeryong was not far from there, she should visit Hoeryong first and inspect the cement factory on the way back.

She did not reply to the suggestion, but only looked at the straight road to Hoeryong, deep in thought, rubbing the frost off the windbreak in the driver's seat.

Pak told the driver to drive on towards Hoeryong.

As the lorry reached the fork of the road leading to the Komusan Cement Factory, Kim Jong Suk ordered the driver to pull up and alighted from it.

We quickly got down, took her hand and earnestly said that we would soon reach Hoeryong, just beyond the pass.

She said:

"The General has proposed the line of building a new

country and is now working to carry it out, even forgetting meals and rest.

"How can I visit my home town without first carrying out the task assigned to me by the General?"

Then she walked towards the cement factory. Thus, we failed in our attempt. But we did not give up our hope of taking her to Hoeryong.

On our way back from her guidance to the reconstruction of the factory, we again suggested that once she returned to Pyongyang, she would be busier and would not have time to come to Hoeryong, and therefore it was a golden chance for her to visit her home town.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk told us that nothing was more worthwhile and important to her than solving the problem that worries the General, saying, "Let us visit Hoeryong next time, when flowers are in full bloom."

Then she told us to return immediately.

Hoeryong, her home town, which she had never forgotten even in her dreams, was so close, the road stretched straight toward it, ready to take her home, and Osan Hill was awaiting her, ready to welcome her, but she declined to visit it.

Who could know that she would never again tread on the soil of Hoeryong, the land she so earnestly wanted to see and loved so dearly, the land she promised to visit when flowers were in full bloom?

First Press Interview

While reading immediately after liberation the articles carried in the *Saegil Sinmun* issued in North Hamgyong Province, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"Comrade Jong Suk spoke excellently. She has been tem-

pered in the mountains and engaged in political work among the masses on many an occasion, and she said what I have in my mind and want to say. According to recent reports I have received, she mixes with the people and makes strenuous efforts to solve the problems that I intend to solve."

Whenever I am reminded of this saying, I recall the first press interview Comrade Kim Jong Suk had with journalists of the *Saegil Sinmun*.

On the morning of one November day in 1945, a few journalists from the newspaper called on Kim Jong Suk. Hearing that she was in Chongjin, they had requested An Kil for an interview with her and their request had been granted.

She greeted them warmly, saying they must have taken much trouble to come through the snow.

A journalist stepped forward and bowed to her, saying, "How much trouble you must have taken for many years in the mountains! We've heard a lot about your legendary struggle from the days before liberation. We can't find words to thank you as you greet us so warmly on our first meeting."

Kim Jong Suk ushered them into a heated-floor room and asked them to sit down. In this way she talked to the journalists of the *Saegil Sinmun* in a simple room in her lodging. I was present there and witnessed the interview.

Stressing that it was a great honour for the people in North Hamgyong Province that she was on a visit there before visiting other places, a journalist said that they had come to hear about the feats she had achieved fighting shoulder to shoulder with General Kim Il Sung and report them in their paper.

With a bright smile on her face, she said:

"I have nothing particular to say about myself. I can tell you as much as you want about how the General defeated the brigandish Japanese imperialists."

Her modest, simple character melted away their reserve and the journalists asked everything they wanted to know without hesitation. She answered each question with a bright smile on her face all the time.

A journalist asked her how old the sagacious General, a legendary, heaven-sent hero of Mt. Paektu, was.

She gave a brief, general account of the glorious revolutionary history of Comrade Kim Il Sung who dedicated his all for the motherland, fellow countrymen and national restoration from the day when he embarked on the road of revolution in his early years.

The journalists exclaimed that the future of Korea was as bright as the clear sky as it acclaimed the young General still in his thirties, as its leader.

Another journalist said he had heard legendary tales of the General's versatile tactics in his fight with the Japanese imperialist troops and asked her to tell them about the tactics.

Saying that the Japanese cried in distress about his protean tactics, she gave an account of the battles fought — the battle of Pochonbo in which the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, commanded by the General, advanced into the homeland across the allegedly tightly guarded border, crossing the Amnok by a raft bridge, and dealt a telling blow to the Japanese imperialists before disappearing like ghosts and the battle of Fuhoushui in which the KPRA men slipped away to one side using poles at a critical moment when the enemy pounced upon them in front and from behind on a road during the Arduous March so that the enemy ended up fighting each other.

The journalists said that the tactics employed were quite extraordinary and such tactics could not be found in any of the military manuals. They asked many other questions and each time she gave them a clear-cut answer. With the passage of

time my mind, which had been strained, eased of its own accord. I had heard that, as journalists were "askers of intricate questions", a person interviewed by them would have a hard time of it. I had been worried about her press interview, but it proved an unnecessary worry.

Kim Jong Suk, with profound political, knowledge, magnanimity, simplicity and plainness, inspired the "delicate" journalists with awe. She said much, but nothing about herself.

So a journalist said they wanted to know about her life.

"Newspapers," said she, "must carry articles about the great General. In a leader's history are found his men's feats. Please write about the General."

Her answers gave deep impression to the journalists, indeed.

Unable to hear about her battle exploits, they now asked at what age she had participated in the revolution, when she had joined the KPRA and which battles she had fought.

She gave them short answers, but not a word about her exploits.

Their regret at having failed to cover her exploits was evident. They left after apologizing for taking so much of her time.

I looked forward to reading what they would write in the newspaper.

The day after the interview I saw an article in the front page of *Saegil Sinmun* carried under the subtitle, *Dedicating Herself to the Revolutionary Movement from the Age of 14*, under the main title, *Half a Lifetime of Mrs. Kim*.

The following is the excerpt from the article:

"Unable to suppress the enthusiasm for revolution surging within her, Mrs. Kim Jong Suk, wife of General Kim Il Sung, delivered herself from her house in Fuyan, Yanji County in

Jiandao with a high purpose and joined the Kim Il Sung-led guerrilla army which was fighting bloody battles in Manchuria for independence amidst the stringent white terror of the Japanese army.

"Fighting in the forefront in guerrilla battles with gun in hand, she risked her life on many an occasion....

"General Kim Il Sung, who struck terror into the hearts of the Japanese imperialists by fighting like a tiger in the wilderness of Manchuria with the great aim of national liberation, and who displayed his courage to the whole world, is a true revolutionary born of Korea....

"General Kim Il Sung is now working in Pyongyang and is in good health."

The newspaper quoted Kim Jong Suk as saying:

"As you know, the liberation of Korea has not yet been completely achieved, so more sacrifices and effort are needed on the part of the Korean masses.

"First of all they should achieve nationwide unity and at the same time promote construction....

"After acquainting myself with the state of affairs of the country, I will do my utmost for the construction of new Korea."

That day's issue of *Saegil Sinmun* caused a great sensation across the country.

Learning through the paper what a woman she was, our people talked about her in every part of the country and many people came a long way to visit her and express their gratitude.

"I Am Also a Peasant's Daughter"

Soon after it was made public that Kim Jong Suk was in

Chongjin, many people — men and women, young and old — visited the house where she was staying.

One of them was an old man.

As happy as though she was meeting her own grandfather, Kim Jong Suk greeted him, saying he must have had a lot of trouble to come all the way on such a cold day. Ushering him into a room, she asked him to have a seat on the warmest part of the floor.

Saying that he must have suffered a lot under Japanese rule, she placed a brazier in front of him. She was so courteous to him I wondered if he was her relative.

Looking with concern at his wrinkled face, she asked him where he was living and how old he was.

Replying that he was 70 years old and was living in a rural village 12 kilometres away from the city, he said that he came to hear her calming words, as he had learned that she was now in Chongjin.

Smiling, she held his bony hands in hers. Then she lit his cigarette as his granddaughter would do and asked him kindly how many his family members were and how they were living.

She was so full of affection and warmth he told her without reserve how his family were faring. He said that his family had been servants of others and sharecroppers for generations and as there was no news from his only son, the pillar of the family, since he had been drafted for labour by the Japanese, he came to the Chongjin Railway Station every day. His sorrowful face was seamed with deep wrinkles.

Full of pity, Kim Jong Suk said that he should not worry too much, his son would return without fail as the country was liberated with the defeat of Japan, and that he would meet his son and live happily.

On hearing her words he gradually felt better, and unbo-

somed himself of how he had been humiliated and experienced hardships under the rule of Japanese.

Explaining that it was because we had been deprived of the country, she asked him about conditions in his village.

He said his village had gathered an average harvest, but the village people were full of delight as they had heard that the farm rent this year would be thirty per cent, with the farmers keeping seventy per cent. The fanners were all grateful to General Kim Il Sung for ordering the implementation of the "three to seven" rental system. All of a sudden he looked round the room and said in a low voice that certain people were saying that if a "central government" was established in Seoul, the three-to-seven farm rent system, to say nothing of land reform, would be nullified, and the rumour was making peasants apprehensive. He added that he wanted to meet the famous Mrs. Kim Jong Suk and hear from her what would relieve him of such apprehension. Looking round the room once again he asked where she was.

As I could hear their conversation, I told him in a whisper that the woman in front of him was none other than Mrs. Kim Jong Suk.

With a smile on her face, she greeted him again, saying, "It seems I have not introduced myself to you properly."

"O, my!" exclaimed the old man, standing up.

"What a mistake this old man made!"

He tidied himself and bowed to her.

She also stood up, held his hands in hers and said, "It's too much. I am just young. I am also a peasant's daughter."

"Why, I was thinking you are a woman different from others in some aspects. You are a great woman born of common people."

He asked her not to think ill of this imprudent old man.

After a while Kim Jong Suk asked him what the peasants

believed, for evil rumours about the farm-rent system were rife among them.

He answered that the peasants believed General Kim Il Sung, who had promised the three-to-seven system and land distribution.

She said, "You are right. The General plans to confiscate land from landlords and distribute it to the landless peasants who have lived, like you, for generations as sharecroppers and servants of others. Then our poor peasants will become owners of land and till their land to their hearts' content, and the word 'farm rent', not to mention the three-to-seven system, will be discarded."

Nodding his head continuously, the old man said, "I see, we peasants will follow only General Kim Il Sung."

As I saw the old man, who had been so worried, now full of delight and excitement after meeting Kim Jong Suk, I was reminded of what happened at a rural house ten days previously.

One day towards the end of November that year she took me and others to a rural village, to acquaint herself with the livelihood of peasants.

She dropped in at a house. A couple were flailing beans.

"Hello, there! I was just passing by and heard you flailing. May I see how you do it?"

They both looked more than 50 years old.

She took a flail resting on the porch.

The man took it away from her, saying she looked to be a gentle woman and she shouldn't do such a rough work.

She said, "I am also a peasant's daughter. I was born of a peasant like you and grew up farming."

She began flailing. We took the flails from their hands and worked with her. Her flail struck the beanstalks forcefully.

The man was surprised by her efficient flailing, and said she was skilled at it, even though she looked like a guerrilla who had fought Japanese with gun in hand.

Beads of sweat stood on her brow. The couple almost had to force her to give up the flail, then she went and sat on the porch.

She asked the man about the crop situation of his village and the farm rent.

He answered that landlords, who had been ruling the roost during the Japanese rule, were now in low spirits, overwhelmed by peasants, and did not utter a word about the three-to-seven farm-rent system, although they complained about it at first.

Kim Jong Suk said, "Not only the three-to-seven system but farm rent itself will be abolished soon. And the land will be yours, the tillers', not the landlords'."

As he would not believe her surprising words, she explained to him:

"Why on the earth can tillers like you not become owners of land? By nature land has been reclaimed and brought under cultivation by peasants.

"It is high time peasants became masters of the land."

When I was recollecting how she had taught peasants the road they should follow upholding the General's idea on the solution of rural question, the old man she was talking with sobbed all of a sudden, shedding tears.

Startled, I took his arm and asked him what was troubling him.

Standing up and looking out through the window, Kim Jong Suk said to me, "Please leave him. He must be sobbing with pent-up grief."

He wiped away tears with the back of his hand and said

that according to her a good society in which peasants like him would till their own land to their hearts' content would be built and that he was reminded of his wife who had passed away only after suffering hardships without seeing the happy day.

Again caressing his bony hands, Kim Jong Suk comforted him, saying he should live long in happiness with his son, and put the past sorrowful days behind him.

"Oh, the long-held grief in my heart has been eased only today."

He told her that he felt 10 years younger and he would do his duty as a peasant to repay the solicitude of General Kim Il Sung.

He left after taking lunch prepared by Kim Jong Suk.

Showing Deep Concern for the Education of the Rising Generation

One December day in 1945, Kim Jong Suk inspected the Namgang branch of the Suwon Primary School in Chongjin with us.

With a wind blowing from the sea, it was very cold.

As we entered the playground of the school, its teaching staff and pupils greeted us.

After exchanging greetings with them, Kim Jong Suk looked round the school building and its garden. Then she spotted a girl standing alone in a corner of the playground. She was wearing threadbare, unlined clothes and worn-out shoes. Kim Jong Suk approached her and took her cold hands in hers.

She asked, "Are your father and mother at home?"

The girl burst into tears. The pupils beside her answered for her, "Her father died."

Her father had been a scaffold worker at the Chongjin Steel Works before liberation and died after being beaten by a Japanese foreman. Her ailing mother and younger brothers and sister were living with her.

Hearing the sad story, Kim Jong Suk brushed the tears from the girl's face and said, "Don't cry. Good days have come when miserable children like you can live in high spirits. The General takes care of you and brings you up to be pillars of the country. You too must study hard and become an excellent builder of a new Korea. Come on. Don't feel dispirited. Now go and play."

She led the girl to the other children who were playing in the playground.

Then the headmaster of the school appeared and greeted us. He took us around the school building.

After inspecting the classrooms, Kim Jong Suk talked with teachers in the staff room. She acquainted herself with the composition of the teaching staff and education in the school. She then dwelt on some issues on the education of the young generation:

"You must educate children efficiently. They are successors to the revolution and the future of the motherland. You, teachers, must enrol all children in school and first teach them our language."

Reminding them of the girl she had seen in the playground, she said they should take measures to find out all children who had been orphaned or who were too poor to attend school so that they could all learn.

Sitting beside her and hearing what she was saying, I was reminded of the previous day when she met a shoeshine boy in front of the Chongjin Railway Station building while she was there to guide the work of the station.

The boy was breathing upon his numb hands to warm them. A wooden box was beside him.

Feeling his shoe brush and the tube of shoe cream, she asked him.

"How old are you?"

"Eleven."

"Do you go to school?"

He did not answer.

"Who lives in your house?"

"Mom and my sister."

After a while he said that his father had been drafted for labour service and there was no news from him, and his mother was disabled while working at a spinning mill. He was quite pitiful.

To the officials accompanying her she said that people's power organs should adopt measures to locate all children like this boy, to educate them and to render assistance, though not great, to the families whose livelihood, like his, was particularly difficult.

Now Kim Jong Suk continued to give instructions on teaching pupils efficiently.

Pointing out the prime importance of the quality of education, she instructed that teachers should radically improve their qualifications by studying hard. She said that they should study for 10 or 20 hours to teach one lesson.

On the matter of teaching methods, she asked them, "You would know better than me about teaching methods. What is the best teaching method?"

No one answered. Quite a number of them had become teachers only after the liberation of the country, and those who were said to be experienced, had been forced to conduct colonial enslavement education. They did not attempt to comment

on teaching methods.

Then the headmaster rose up.

"We have not yet given deep thought to that matter."

He was representing the mind of the teachers.

Stressing that the matter of teaching methods was of great importance in education, Kim Jong Suk encouraged the teachers to study this matter deeply in order to develop the full potential of the students for the country. She continued that a teacher should be trusted and followed by pupils, and should enjoy their respect, and a teacher not in this position could not educate pupils no matter how much he or she says. She told them teachers should prepare themselves so that they could awaken and move many pupils by means of a gesture or a word.

After instructing the method of edification of pupils, their relationship with their parents and other matters, she said, "You have assumed a very important task as you have to bring up pupils as dependable pillars of a new democratic Korea. You should educate the children of the liberated Korea to acquire sound ideology, learn hard, respect their elders, love their fellows and behave in a good manner."

Leaving the school she reminded them of the importance of their task and requested them to efficiently bring up the buds of the country.

"Let's Study Hard for the Precious Motherland"

Concerning herself with educating children to be stout pillars of the country, Kim Jong Suk and we visited the Chongjin Girls' Middle School one December day in 1945.

The school gate was decorated with pine leaves. Passing through the gate we felt how sincerely the teachers and students of the school had prepared for Kim Jong Suk's visit.

As she passed through the gate teachers and students standing in lines welcomed her warmly.

Responding to their welcome with a bright smile, she exchanged greetings with teachers.

The school held a welcome meeting.

The headmistress declared the meeting open and a student representative read a message of welcome. Stressing that they could study to their hearts' content today in this excellent school because General Kim Il Sung, a peerless patriot and sagacious leader of our people, had liberated the motherland and given children the chance to learn, the girl said that they were honoured to have Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who had fought bravely in the anti-Japanese armed forces led by General Kim Il Sung, in their school and warmly welcomed her.

Then a student presented Kim Jong Suk with a bouquet of flowers as a token of the sincerity of the teachers and students.

Responding to the cheering students and waving the bouquet. Comrade Kim Jong Suk took the floor. She said she would take this opportunity to tell them how precious our motherland is and how the anti-Japanese revolutionary fore-runners had fought under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung to win back the precious country.

"Occupying our country, the Japanese imperialists deprived our people of all political rights and freedoms, obliterated their national culture and plundered the precious natural resources of our country.

"They not only trampled down our people's spirit of national independence under the allegation that 'Korea and

Japan are one and of the same stock,' but attempted to obliterate our national customs and our language, both spoken and written. Worse still, they attempted to rob our people of their hereditary surnames, forcing them to change their surnames into Japanese ones. Our people had to pay a fine for the 'crime' of speaking in their mother tongue. The sorrow of our ruined nation was beyond description. The wretched state and fate of our people was caused by the deprivation of the motherland and our loss of sovereignty.

"A proverb has it that a ruined nation is no better than the dog of a house in mourning. As they had been deprived of their precious motherland, our people suffered from exploitation, oppression and poverty and were forced to roam about in alien lands, unable to live in their own country.

"In order to win back the country and save the destiny of the nation. General Kim Il Sung, the hero of our nation and a peerless patriot, formed the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and launched an armed struggle. The fine sons and daughters of Korea rose and took up arms to follow the General.

"During the hard 15-year-long struggle they shed much blood and sacrificed much.

"Bleeding and breathing their last, they cherished the preciousness of the motherland, separated from which one cannot exist."

Her speech helped the students to fully understand how valuable is their motherland.

Talking of the revolutionary forerunners who had laid down their lives for the liberation of our country, she gave an account of the last moments of Choe Hui Suk.

"In the days of small-unit operations Choe Hui Suk was wounded in the leg and arrested by the enemy in a skirmish, while on her way to Headquarters with an important battle

report. The enemy subjected her to brutal torture to wring secrets of her small unit out of her. They lashed her with a leather whip and burnt her body with a redhot poker. She fell unconscious from this brutality.

"Regaining consciousness, she looked the enemy in the eye and said, 'You might kill me. But we have General Kim Il Sung and 30 million fellow Korean compatriots. You will never put out the fire of the revolution by force. Do you think you are so strong? No, you are just going downhill. Communists see this clearly.'

"Unable to bring her to her knees through torture or appeasement, the enemy gouged out her eyes. Though she had lost her eyes, she shouted in front of the firing squad:

" 'I have no eyes. But I can still see victory in the revolution, the day of national liberation when the 30 million Korean people will be cheering.'

"Then she shouted, 'Long live General Kim Il Sung!' and 'Long live the Korean revolution!' before breathing her last."

As Kim Jong Suk was telling them this, the girl students could not help sobbing.

I, too, felt tears come to my eyes as I remembered the comrades-in-arms who had fallen, never to see the day of national liberation.

Kim Jong Suk said in a hoarse voice that the day of liberation had come and the motherland been restored at the cost of the blood of the anti-Japanese revolutionary pioneers.

After reminding them of the preciousness of the liberated country, she instructed them what to do for the motherland.

Stressing that the country needed great numbers of national cadres, she said that competent people should be produced

from among students and so they should study hard, not for their career advancement or their own honour, but for the completion of the General's cause of nation-building for the prosperity of the motherland.

She said, "You, students, should not waste your young days full of enterprising spirit. A wasted youth does not return. You must learn much and work hard in your youth; only then can you adorn your life with feats of labour for the motherland.

"Today I appeal to you to study hard for the precious motherland.

"Your days in middle school are particularly important, because a sound life in middle school will lead you continuously along the correct path and the knowledge you acquire in that period will serve as a foundation for specialized studies in the future and for social life in general."

Her words taught them how to live their middle school days, their youth, for their motherland.

Looking at the students, who were filled with fresh hope, she went on to say that they should strive to acquire sound ideology, profound knowledge, noble morality and strong physiques, and to this end they should first of all get rid of the outmoded ideology spread by Japanese imperialism and arm themselves firmly with the great leader's ideology on nation-building.

The students, who had been at a loss what and how to learn, even though they rejoiced in their chance to learn now that the country was liberated, finally knew what they had to do.

Kim Jong Suk said that the rising generation, who would shoulder the future of the country, should cherish the spirit of loving their country and fellow people and acquire national

dignity and self-confidence and, for this purpose, they should learn effectively the history, culture and nature of Korea. She also instructed them to acquire comprehensive knowledge by studying mathematics, physics, chemistry and other natural sciences subjects and by paying deep attention to physical culture, music and other art subjects. She also told them to sincerely take part in organizational life so as to train themselves to be fine revolutionaries.

Concluding her speech, she said that she expected all students to study hard and so be prepared as excellent workers of democratic Korea.

Moved by her oration and persuasive words, the teaching staff and students expressed their full support to her by clapping and cheering.

They keenly felt how precious the liberated motherland was and firmly decided to study hard with the consciousness of being masters of new Korea so as to become people faithful to General Kim Il Sung.

Kim Jong Suk then enjoyed a performance put on by the students.

Starting with a grand chorus, there were solos and choral singing, skits and cross-talk. The revolutionary songs *Red Flag* and *Guerrilla March* made an especially strong impression on the audience.

Giving them a big hand, Kim Jong Suk said it was good that students sang revolutionary songs and that all students should be encouraged to sing many more revolutionary songs. She then said to the headmistress sitting beside her that when students sing revolutionary songs, they acquire revolutionary consciousness quickly and become resolved to add lustre to the motherland that had been restored at the cost of the blood of revolutionary pioneers.

Thus she not only brought home to the rising generation how valuable the motherland was, but also instructed them to study hard for the benefit of the motherland.

"Be Dependable Pillars of New Korea"

One November day in 1945, Kim Jong Suk took us to the seaside after acquainting herself with the work of the anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans who had been dispatched to North Hamgyong Province in advance.

She understood our yearning to see the sea, for we had fought Japanese imperialism all the time in mountains.

At the seaside we were enchanted by the sea.

Then we heard singing coming from a hill, a song quite familiar to our ears.

We grow up in a land of freedom.

We blossom forth in a land of peace.

Sing, children of the new country,

We have nothing to envy in the world.

Kim Jong Suk turned her eyes to the hill.

Five or six pupils carrying books in cloth wrappers were climbing down the hill along the path that led to the wharf and beach.

Quite delighted to hear a song in the northern coast of the liberated motherland, the song which the Children's Corps members had sung in guerrilla zones in the past, she said to us, "Children in this region have already learned that song. It's wonderful!"

She waved at the children to come.

As they rushed to us, she stroked their heads and asked how old they were, which grade they were studying in and how long they had been attending school.

The youngest-looking boy answered cheerfully, "I am nine years old and have been studying in the second grade from the first of September."

"You are quite clever and lively. Aren't you cold? Your clothes are unlined and your shoes worn out...."

The boy's clothes had been patched up here and there and his toes were visible through worn-out shoes.

However, the boy answered full of vigor, "No. I am not cold."

She held his hands in hers and said again he must be cold.

The tallest boy, putting on the air of a grown-up, said they did not feel cold as they could now learn.

Looking at the boy with satisfaction, she asked him:

"How old are you?"

"Fourteen."

"What does your father do?"

Another boy answered for him:

"His father died while working at the wharf."

Her face was clouded in an instant. She had said on many an occasion that she could not go to sleep when thinking of orphaned children.

I asked the boy how he managed to go to school when his family might find it difficult to make ends meet.

He replied that he was now happy, for he was studying as he had always wanted, thanks to General Kim Il Sung. He added that he had not been able to go to school before liberation and had to carry loads at the dock.

Saying that she wanted to know what they were learning at school, she unwrapped one boy's cloth wrapped package, took

out a notebook and turned its pages one by one.

She read.

"A patriot and hero of all ages, General Kim Il Sung. The golden tapestry of 3,000-ri. Mt. Paektu. Mt. Kumgang...."

'Looking at the boys, she said;

"I am very happy to meet you today.

"The General will be very pleased to see you going to school singing cheerfully. He loves you very much.

"I have experience of teaching and training Children's Corps members like you, and he instructed me to do it. The members fought bravely against the Japanese as the sons and daughters of the General. Many of them fell without seeing these happy days.

"You must make sure that the precious blood of the revolutionary pioneers was not shed in vain. You must not only study hard, but also train your bodies and become good-mannered."

Then she asked them what they had done at the wharf.

They answered that on their way home from school they dropped in there and did things helpful to the country, either by helping workers repair damaged cranes or by collecting scrap iron.

Praising them, she said, "Study hard and be dependable pillars of new Korea to extol the brilliance of our beautiful country."

"Yes, we will."

Looking at them, she said to us that we should expedite the work of forming a political organization of schoolchildren. She was regretful that they were singing revolutionary songs, but not wearing red neckties as the Children's Corps members had done. She was planning to train the schoolchildren of the liberated new country to be dependable reserves of the revolution

by drawing on the rich experience she had gained during her work with the Children's Corps.

Autograph

One day when I was writing about Kim Jong Suk, my six-year-old granddaughter, who was watching TV, came to me and asked:

"What is an autograph, grandma?"

I was surprised.

"Someone was signing an autograph on TV just before."

I put down the pen and thought how to answer the childish question.

Then I was reminded of an unforgettable anecdote about an autograph.

One December day in 1945 we returned to our lodgings with Kim Jong Suk after conducting political work at the destroyed factories.

Some girl students who were waiting for us saluted us.

Kim Jong Suk greeted them warmly and asked them why they had come on such a cold day.

They said that they were students of the Chongjin Girls' Middle School and had come to see her as they had been greatly moved during her visit to their school two days previously.

Saying that she could not bear to see guests shivering with cold, she ushered them into the room.

Though exhausted, as she had inspected factories in the biting cold, she sat face to face with them.

Hearing about their lives and school work, she said to them that they should first of all zealously learn to become capable

builders of new Korea and told them how the Korean People's Revolutionary Army soldiers had studied.

She asked them if they had done their homework.

They hung their heads.

Fathoming that they had not done their homework, she told them that no one could study for them and that, as genius meant hard work, only one who studied perseveringly could become an excellent person.

Pointing at us sitting beside her, she said that the women guerrillas of the KPRA had learned our language at the Children's Corp schools in the guerrilla zones and studied hard in the difficult days of the guerrilla struggle and thereby became excellent guerrillas and skilful political workers.

As the girl students looked at us with envy, I recollected how I had learned our mother tongue at one of those schools under her guidance.

Kim Jong Suk, exceptionally intelligent and diligent, guided the Children's Corps members efficiently in their study, so everyone wanted to place himself or herself under her guidance.

I learned how to write at a Children's Corps school in the guerrilla zone, for I had been too poor to go to school. Kim Jong Suk guided me in my study. This helped me to lead others in their studies and to eventually be able to read newspapers, history books and novels as well as Chinese newspapers.

The girls' faces were full of determination to study hard as Kim Jong Suk instructed them and become excellent builders of new Korea.

Kim Jong Suk spent much time talking with the girls.

They asked her to pose for a photograph with them.

"Photograph?"

"Yes. It's our wish."

"If that is your wish, then let's have a photograph taken together. What about having it taken on Sunday so as not to interfere with your studies?"

The girls cheered in approval.

Then they each produced a notebook and requested her to sign an autograph for them.

She was at a loss what to do and looked at us. We too did not know what to do, for it was the first time for us to find ourselves in such a situation.

She then said to them.

"Yes, I will."

She wrote in each of the notebooks:

Be true daughters of new Korea!

Kim Jong Suk
December 8, 1945

Each word of hers was permeated with her earnest wish that all members of the young generation train themselves to be pillars shouldering the democratic new Korea, as expected of them by General Kim Il Sung.

Reading her autograph in my mind, I thought that it should be a banner of faith and struggle not only for the girls present but also for all their generation, the future of our liberated country. In true response to the leadership of General Kim Il Sung, the youths and students of the country, holding aloft this banner, built a new democratic Korea, performed heroic feats in the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War and built a socialist paradise, overcoming the difficulties and hardships of the postwar reconstruction.

Looking back with emotion on bygone days, I explained to

my granddaughter in easy terms what the word "autograph" meant.

On Her Turn to Cook

When she was staying in Chongjin Kim Jong Suk took her turn to cook meals.

One November day—one day after we had arrived in Chongjin with Kim Jong Suk—a girl, called stepdaughter by the host and hostess of where we were staying, asked me who that woman was, pointing at Kim Jong Suk. I was in the kitchen with the girl after breakfast. She related to me what had happened at dawn that day.

Instructed by her stepmother to prepare breakfast for the women guerrillas early in the morning, the girl woke up at the break of dawn. As she rushed into the kitchen, she was surprised.

The woman guerrilla who had been so busy the previous night was already making a fire in the stove.

The girl asked her to go into the living room, saying how could someone in military uniform possibly be allowed to do kitchen work.

Declining her request, Kim Jong Suk went outside with a bucket and fetched water from the pump. She then rolled up her sleeves and did kitchen work. She worked as though she was in her own home. She was so fast and assiduous that the girl was surprised.

The girl told me that thanks to her help she could prepare breakfast in time.

Hearing what she was saying, I felt guilty.

Others also were sorry to have slept late into the morning on the excuse that the hostess would prepare our breakfast.

In this way Kim Jong Suk mixed freely with our host family from the first day of her stay in the house. She also lived the same as we did.

When we gathered after breakfast she asked us whether we knew who had prepared breakfast for us.

Saying that the adopted daughter of the house had prepared it, she told us about the little girl's sad life.

The girl was bereaved of her mother at age 7. Her father, a woodcutter, drove his three children out of the house as he was unable to support them under the harsh exploitation of Japanese imperialism. Her elder brother went to search for a job and the girl, with her 4-year-old brother, went to the house of a Japanese, the headmaster of a school, to work as his servant. From then on she served under all sorts of humiliation and contempt in this or that rich house without ever enjoying parental affection. She worked hard all day, sparing no pain, in rain or snow, but all she received were abuses, beating and hunger. She could not count how many times she fell into the muddy water on a rainy day, or in snow heaps in the blizzards of winter, while carrying a boy as tall as her to school pick-aback. On such days she wept sadly, missing her mother, who had left her alone in this cruel world.

We all shed tears at her pitiful fate.

Kim Jong Suk was concerned for the girl, who was only working, without even having a chance to cry out her sorrows, in spite of the liberation of the country. She asked us if we could eat with a light heart a meal prepared by the servant girl when we had fought for the happiness of poor people. She said that as we were staying in the house, we should draw up a cooking duty roster as we had done in the mountains and live plainly, cooking meals and cleaning the inside and outside of the house on our own.

We fully supported her proposal. Then we told her that she should be excepted from this duty.

Appreciating our good intentions, she said:

"How can I be excepted from cooking duty? Then I might become an idler. I should take my turn. This will also have a positive influence on the family of this house."

She then said that all of us should do this or that work as political work was a task assigned not only to her alone but to all of us.

Thus a cooking duty roster was drawn up, just like in the days of the guerrilla struggle, and a well-regulated routine was established.

It was very difficult to prevent Kim Jong Suk from taking her turn cooking. She was very busy every day, guiding factories and other establishments during the day and receiving many visitors at night.

Once when we advised her not to bother cooking, even though it was her turn, she admonished us, saying, "I hate most those who exercise privileges and assume an air of importance on the grounds that they were engaged in the revolution for some years. If you are determined to make me one of them, then please stop me from preparing meals in my turn."

From that day on we did not dare refrain her from preparing meals.

When it was her turn she did not allow any one to help her.

One day the adopted daughter of the hostess went into the kitchen to help her. When the little girl asked her to have a short rest, Kim Jong Suk told the girl to rest herself as she had experienced a hard life in her young days.

Seeing this, the hostess asked Kim Jong Suk to come into the room and leave the kitchen work to the girl.

"Thank you, but I should do what I have to do. How can I leave my duty to the little girl?"

After looking at her skilful and assiduous work for a while, the hostess asked her admiringly when she had learned how to do kitchen work, as she had fought in the mountains. She wondered if Kim Jong Suk could not spare herself from doing such an unpleasant job.

Kim Jong Suk said:

"Don't mention it. A person should not forget his or her origins.

"I am the daughter of a poor peasant.

"A person feels the worth of living and happiness only when he or she works."

The hostess blushed and said nothing, apparently from a guilty conscience.

On the day when it was my turn to cook the adopted daughter of the hostess was helping me making a fire in the stove while I was preparing lunch. The girl was singing softly.

Surprised to find the girl singing a merry song, I asked her where she had learned it.

She answered that Kim Jong Suk had taught her. She added proudly that on the days of Kim Jong Suk's turn she had told her many things about the world, taught her songs and given her a book and a pencil for learning.

I was quite moved. After all, she not only did kitchen work but also educated the girl on the days when it was her turn.

Having opened her eyes and learned to read and write under Kim Jong Suk's persevering and positive guidance, the girl subsequently worked as a social activist.

Fifty years have passed since then, but I cannot forget those days when she never missed cooking when it was her turn.

5. UPHOLDING THE CAUSE OF ARMY BUILDING

In the days immediately after liberation on August 15, 1945, the situation in the country was very strained.

Ambitious to swallow the whole of Korea, the US imperialists intensified their colonial rule of south Korea and at the same time frantically prepared for a new war.

In this situation, developing our revolutionary armed force into regular forces was vital for building a prosperous, independent country and for safeguarding our revolutionary achievements.

Upholding the great General's line of army building, Kim Jong Suk devoted a great deal of effort, both mental and physical, to developing our revolutionary armed force into regular forces.

The following are some anecdotes about her, which I witnessed for myself.

"Our Revolution Is Not Yet Finished"

In mid-August, 1946, I returned to Pyongyang from north-east China where I had helped my husband, who was working there on a mission to carry out the new policy put forward by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great sun of our nation, on his triumphal return to the homeland.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the liberation of our country, on August 15, the streets of Pyongyang were decorat-

ed in festive colours. Slogans and placards with inscriptions "Hurrah for the wise leader Comrade Kim Il Sung!" "Hurrah for Korea's liberation!" were put up all over the city. The humming of the tramcars, ringing bells and the happy sounds of the crowds thronging the streets sang out the joy of the liberated, prospering new country.

In unusual excitement, for I had spent nearly one year away from the motherland, I went to the place (now the Party Founding Museum) where the respected General was staying.

Informed of my arrival, the General called me into his office.

As I found out later, he was about to set out on a journey on-the-spot guidance.

I knew that he was under the pressure of work dealing with all the affairs of building a new country, but I hurried to his office because I was eagerly longing to see him after living away from him for such a long time.

The General received me cordially, as if he were a father welcoming his own married daughter home after a long separation. He said I must be very tired after such a long journey.

I said that though I had come a long way, I was always happy at the thought of coming to the General and Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

The General laughed heartily and then remarked that I had said a similar thing when I went to Xiaowangqing for the first time as a member of the Children's Corps entertainment group from Yanji.

I was always immensely grateful to him for the benevolent care he had taken to bring me up to be a decent revolutionary ever since my innocent Children's Corps days. Now I could not repress my swelling emotions of thanks to him for his

thoughtful parental care for me, even back in the embrace of the liberated motherland.

The General looked out the window for a few minutes, probably thinking about the days at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp in the howling blizzards. Then he said that he had received a report that Comrade Choe Kwang, my husband, was fighting reactionaries in the Luozigou area, and asked me where he was operating at the time.

As I answered that he was still staying in Luozigou with Comrade Kang Kon, the General was lost in deep thought, and looked tense.

Commenting that if the situation in Luozigou settled down, the overall situation in northeast China could be considered settled, the General said that then he would recall them to the motherland. He told me that in the homeland the preparations for developing the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into regular armed forces were in full swing, and that when they returned home they would do their bit in making these preparations.

At that moment the General's aide-de-camp came in and told him that it was time to set out. Only now did I realize that I was delaying his important journey.

I stood up, feeling sorry, and said that now that I had greeted him on my return home, I would call on him again later.

Seeing what my feelings were, the General said that now I was back in the motherland we could meet often.

Suddenly feeling eager to see Kim Jong Suk, I said I would like to see her.

The General remarked that Comrade Jong Suk had always been talking about me, and that just that morning she was expecting some news of me, saying that it was high time I arrived back in the homeland.

I told the General that Kum Sun and I had basked in her

affection since our days in the Children's Corps entertainment group in Beidong.

With a smile on his face, the General gazed at me for a while, and then called the guard unit commander. He told him to show me to Comrade Jong Suk. He added that when I met her we would have a lot to talk about.

As I entered the gate of her house that evening, Kim Jong Suk recognized me, hurrying out of her room and calling me by name; she then embraced me.

"We were all waiting for you, expecting your arrival any minute, you know," she said. "How are you?"

Even before I could find time to greet her, she asked after my health, pushing up the stray lock of hair on my temple.

In her embrace I was filled with a surging emotion, which I had felt when I met the respected General.

With tears trickling down my cheeks in spite of myself, I answered in a thick voice that I was in good health and that I had hardly endured my longing for my motherland and comrades. She said that I must have had a long, tiring journey, and then led me by the hand into her room.

Her room was empty. When I was seated, she asked me first about developments in that part of northeast China where I had been living. To restore a quiet situation in northeast China was extremely important from the point of view both of the prevailing situation in our country and of the internationalist duty devolving upon our people.

Hearing my detailed explanation of the developments in that part of China, Kim Jong Suk pondered over something for a while, and then said that the General had sent Comrades Kang Kon, Choe Kwang, and Pak Rak Kwon there in August the previous year in order to be ready to meet the great event of national liberation on our initiative. And she went on:

“Our revolution, which started on Mt. Paektu, is not yet finished. The armed units which those comrades organized while engaging in hard-fought battles will play a major role in developing our army into regular armed forces. The General instructed that in order to build an independent sovereign state in the liberated country we should have regular revolutionary armed forces of our own.”

Only now did I understand clearly why the General had said a short while before that he was going to call back Kang Kon and Choe Kwang to the liberated motherland as soon as possible and why he had talked in earnest about the need to develop our army into regular revolutionary armed forces. So I felt ashamed of myself before Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

In fact, I had been secretly proud of the fact that I had participated as a woman in the war against the Japanese and devoted myself to the struggle against reactionaries in a foreign land for nearly one year after the liberation of our country. I was mentally relaxed, and thinking of first taking a good rest on my arrival in Pyongyang.

When I spoke my mind frankly, Kim Jong Suk said, smiling, "No one will blame you, Comrade Ok Sun, for the thought of taking a rest. because you haven't even a single room for your home life even though it is over one year since the country was liberated. Even during the war against the Japanese we used to have pleasant recreation after a good fight. A revolutionary must rest in a revolutionary manner if he or she is to relax. You had better stay with us, taking a rest and learning about the situation in the motherland until Comrade Choe Kwang returns."

In China at that time a civil war was raging. In our country, however, under the wise leadership of the General the peasants came to own land, women were taking an active part in socio-political life with equal rights with men. the industrial workers were freed from the state of wage-earning slaves, and the major

industries were to be nationalized. These were epoch-making events for our people, who had long suffered under the yoke of colonial, semi-feudal institutions. Many other surprising changes were taking place in our country in the course of carrying out the General's policies for building the Party, the state and the army.

I had heard of only a few of these great events.

I asked Kim Jong Suk to teach me a lot. She held my hand warmly and said that a revolutionary should learn diligently and that she was learning many things from the people, as well as from books. She emphasized this, saying. "The working people are the real teachers. Let us learn together from now on for the sake of the revolution."

Time slipped by and it was supper time.

Kim Jong Suk stood up and said, "You like noodles, I'll prepare cold noodles in this hot weather and I hope you will tell me what you think of them."

My heart warmed at the thought of her remembering the food I liked and her kindness to prepare it for me, so I could not remain seated.

As I followed her towards her kitchen, she stopped me, saying that I should be treated as her guest and that she herself was on "kitchen duty" that day.

Staying with her that night I learned from her the need to continue the revolution in the liberated motherland as well as the prospect of our revolution and the way to carry it out.

Like My Own Mother

On his return to the liberated homeland towards the end of August 1946, my husband attended a short course on army building.

One day in mid-September I learned that he was appointed to a responsible post with Unit One of the Security Officers Training Centre. He, a mere company-grade officer of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, was now entrusted with a very important duty, thanks to the General's great confidence in him.

Wishing to tell Comrade Kim Jong Suk the happy news, I hurried to her home.

When we met, I found her face wet with sweat. She was just back from her inspection of a garment factory in Pyongyang.

I knew that she had visited many places in the city in the morning to see how the law on the nationalization of major industries was being implemented. In the afternoon she had been out again without taking a rest.

How much tired she was, having walked about many places in the city all day, in the morning and in the afternoon, without taking a car, in the mid-summer heat that would drench a sitting man with sweat. With a bright smile on her face, however, she led me into her room, without revealing any sign of fatigue.

I remarked that it was wrong of her not to take care of herself and that it would be awful if she suffered from heatstroke in that sweltering weather.

Kim Jong Suk said, "How can we, the General's fighters, afford to live in an easygoing way when the General himself is working day and night, dealing with all the affairs of the country?" She added that a task one had undertaken of one's own accord would never be a burden.

Her words brought me to reflect upon myself. Although I said that I would devote my heart and soul to the General's cause of new national building, I was spending day after day

doing nothing in particular.

Even at the news of my husband's appointment to a responsible position in the army, I felt nothing in particular. I just wanted to tell the news to Comrade Kim Jong Suk and share my pleasure with her.

She said, "Comrade Choe Kwang is said to have been appointed chief-of-staff of Unit One of the Security Officers Training Centre. Don't you think you must go to him immediately?"

Unable to give her a ready answer, I simply asked her whether she had already been aware of the news.

She nodded and commented with confidence in my husband that Comrade Choe Kwang would acquit himself well as chief-of-staff since he had distinguished himself in building up the main force of Unit One.

I told her casually that I would have to go to Kaechon in South Phyongan Province, where his unit was stationed.

She agreed to my idea and said pleasantly that I would play an important role in realizing the General's cause of army building.

I was bewildered by her expectation. Although I had participated in the anti-Japanese armed struggle, I as a woman had mostly worked in the sewing unit and the cooking unit. One thing I had learned was the work of a radio operator, and participated in paratroop drops several times.

I frankly told her about my poor preparedness.

She laughed loudly and blamed me for being timid when she was expecting I would volunteer to do great things in view of my open-mindedness and lively character.

She continued on to say:

"The General said that our army must be developed into a regular revolutionary armed force capable of modern warfare,

and that to this end the soldiers should not only be equipped politically and ideologically but also prepared to handle modern weapons and equipment skilfully. You handled modern radio equipment when receiving regular army training during the preparations to meet the great event. Communication is referred to as the nerves of the unit. So your skill will help the army greatly. In addition, you were a good singer and dancer in the Children's Corps entertainment group, weren't you? Don't think of burying yourself in your home but go out to the unit to live among the soldiers and teach them how to dance and how to handle radios. I believe you will be perfectly able to do these things if only you are determined to do it."

Only now did I realize how short-sighted I was and I bowed to her.

Kim Jong Suk gazed at me for a while, held my hand and asked me if I could do that. I said I would without fail.

She said smiling that I was better qualified than to be a radio communications platoon leader at the unit.

A few days later, an officer came to see me from Unit One of the Security Officers Training Centre. He told me to move to the training centre immediately. I had no furniture or kitchen utensils. So all that was needed to go was myself.

I agreed to the request gladly as I had already promised to Kim Jong Suk that I would go. I went to her home to say good-bye to her.

She said she knew I would come to take leave of her and received me warmly. She produced special food she had prepared for me.

I said I had already eaten my lunch. She protested, saying that we would not see each other often after that parting, and that she would feel at ease at least if we ate together.

So I sat at her lunch table. She served me with noodles,

mustard pickle and meat dumplings, which I had especially liked when fighting in the mountains.

Before my departure Kim Jong Suk spread a sheet of wrapper with beautiful patterns on it and wrapped up a reel of knitting yarn, some parachute cloth, clothing material suitable for my age and a length of striped shirting material. She said.

"I've always been sorry for not having given you anything when you were married at the training base. At that time it couldn't be helped because we were fighting in the mountains to win back our lost country. But things are a little different now. Though humble, please accept them as a token of my best wishes. When we are well-off some day, I'll make you a present of smart clothing."

At that moment I felt a surging emotion as when a flood-gate suddenly opens, and cried, "Sister!" burying my face in her lap.

Since the day I entered the Fuyandong guerrilla zone as a teenage orphan I regarded her as my own sister and mother and followed her at all times. In her embrace I grew up to be the General's fighter and was now building up a new life in the liberated motherland. Now she was as considerate as a benevolent mother, trying to add something to the new home which I was building up without parental help. In those days Kim Jong Suk herself had not a suit of clothing worth mentioning. She was always wearing a one-piece dress made of parachute cloth.

Stroking me on the back as a mother would do when sending away her dear daughter on her wedding day, Kim Jong Suk said:

"Kaecheon is a few hours car ride from Pyongyang. Please let me hear from you often. I will always be waiting for happy news that you are working hard for the unit in good health. Be sure to do this."

She stood outside her gate for a long time, following me with her eyes.

At the Parade Ground

One day in early February, 1948, a grand parade was to be held in Pyongyang to demonstrate the might of the Korean People's Army, which had developed into a regular revolutionary armed force under the wise guidance of General Kim Il Sung.

That morning Kim Jong Suk and I left her home with her young son for the parade ground.

The streets were full of people out to cheer the parading soldiers. I was unusually excited at the sight of the festive decorations on the streets and the people's lively and happy looks.

To tell the truth, I had never dreamed of attending the parade until only a few days before. But I had come to attend from a place many miles away from Pyongyang. That was why I was so excited.

Two days before I had looked up towards the sky above Pyongyang, picturing in my mind's eye the parade to be held and recollecting with deep emotion the proud road along which the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, which was founded in the forest of Antu on April 25, 1932, had developed into the Korean People's Army.

The mere thought of the proud features of our People's Army, which had grown into a regular revolutionary armed force, was enough to make my heart swell, the heart of a woman who had joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army during the raging war against the Japanese and developed into a soldier of the General.

Past mid-night that day the telephone rang. Picking up the receiver, I was surprised to hear the voice of Comrade Kim Jong Suk.

It was so unexpected that I even forgot to greet and simply asked her why she was still sitting up, calling long distance.

Instead of answering me, she asked whether my work at the unit was difficult and expressed her apprehension that I might be overworking myself doing the job at the unit and also taking care of the household chores.

I said that unit work was not difficult and that working under the comrades' loving care was encouraging. She said I was right and that I, who had been competitive from childhood, would not lag behind anyone in anything.

To be honest, ever since my childhood I have hated lagging behind others in doing anything; whether singing, dancing or delivering secret messages. I even competed with men comrades in the guerrilla army, so I used to be called a tomboy.

Kim Jong Suk knew this aspect of my character better than anyone else.

She asked me why I was still sitting up when the night was deep.

I said frankly that sometimes I could not sleep well because of deep recollections of past events.

Kim Jong Suk said that a grand parade would take place in Pyongyang and that the thought of it would keep me awake.

She paused for a moment, and then called me.

Her voice touched my heart so strongly that I was unable to answer.

"Do you hear me?" she asked again. I answered in the affirmative.

She said in a gentle voice, "I understand how you feel. Why shouldn't you want to participate in the first parade of the regular revolutionary army to be held in the liberated motherland? Moreover, you took up arms in your childhood and fought Japanese imperialism to liberate the country. Come up to Pyongyang tomorrow. Let us attend the parade."

She said she had phoned me to invite me to the parade.

"I see," I said in great excitement and delight. "I'll come up without fail."

As I realized later, Kim Jong Suk would remember me whenever there was a national festival or an important function. She also used to say that she would like to come to see how I was doing in my unit. That day, too, she was talking with a veteran of the anti-Japanese armed struggle about the forthcoming parade and suggested inviting me from the field where I was serving.

I had not come to see her often from the province and even failed to greet her properly, but she knew the depth of my mind and took warm care of me. How can I express all my thanks to her here?

Kim Jong Suk said she would wait for me and put down the receiver. But I stood with my receiver in hand for a long while, as if petrified. Her gentle and kind voice continued to ring in my ears.

That night I could not sleep for a long time. Sparkling stars could be seen high up in the sky through the window. Seeing the stars I thanked Comrade Kim Jong Suk for her unlimited benevolence.

"I will prove myself worthy of her love and benevolence with all my heart"

While I was dunking these things the car passed the crossroad near the Taedong Bridge.

The avenue that led to the parade ground was more crowded than other places. In the car Kim Jong Suk talked to her young son about the parade of the People's Army to be held that day.

I thought how noble it was that Comrade Kim Jong Suk had devoted special efforts to bringing up her son to the sound of the howling blizzard and gunfire during the anti-Japanese revolution.

The car pulled up at the foot of the platform on the parade ground. The parade ground was packed to the limit with soldiers of the People's Army who were to parade and Pyongyang citizens who were out to cheer them.

Kim Jong Suk and I mounted the left wing of the platform, taking her son with us.

At 10 a. m. General Kim Il Sung, the founder and commander of our revolutionary armed forces, mounted the platform, acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers of the soldiers and other people.

Looking around with satisfaction at the sturdy soldiers who lined up for the parade, the great leader made a historic speech.

Pointing out that the Korean people had a regular revolutionary armed force of their own for the first time in their history, he said:

"The Korean people, who have been subjected to all manner of persecution and suppression under the bayonets of the Japanese imperialists, took power into their own hands after liberation and set out to create a new, happy life. And now they have their own full-fledged regular army to defend the country and nation."

Kim Jong Suk was all ears, listening to his speech.

The great leader said in the concluding part of his speech that the development of our revolutionary armed force into a

regular army registered another victory in the history of our nation and that our friends throughout the world, as well as our people who were still fighting for the freedom and independence of their country, were celebrating the success.

The great leader's speech was followed by the parade.

The ranks of the reliable revolutionary armed forces, which the great leader had raised in the forest of Antu where he declared the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army and strengthened through endless battles, passed in front of the platform in fine array, their bayonets glittering in the sunshine, demonstrating the might of a regular army.

The great leader raised his hand in acknowledgement of the salute of each formation that passed by the platform, with its colours in the van.

The august image of the General was a historic picture that would shine for ever in the history of our nation.

Kim Jong Suk's eyes, which were fixed on the General, became moist with hot tears.

Saying that the General had made immeasurable efforts to bring about today's glory, victory and joy, she said emphatically:

"No general in the world has ever raised an army and strengthened it at such a great cost and in such arduous conditions as our General has done. In this sense, our People's Army must remain the great General's army, not only today but forever."

Hearing her words, my heart throbbed with pride in having the great leader as the Supreme Commander of our revolutionary army.

I remembered clearly the days when the General was fighting bloody battles against the Japanese aggressors, the General who, rising high as the sun of our nation in the years of nation-

al suffering when the whole country was writhing in disgraceful colonial slavery, founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, the truly revolutionary army of the Korean people. I could see in my mind's eye the Red flag that had been hoisted high in the Xiaowangqing and Yaoyinggou guerrilla zones, the strange land of Ningan in northern Manchuria, across Laoyeling, the blood-stained mountains in Changbai and the turbulent waters of the Amnok. I could hear the gunfire that had roared at Pochonbo and Musan.

After liberation, the great leader had set up the Pyongyang Institute and then the Central Security Officers School, that would play an important role in developing our army into a regular revolutionary armed force. He had appointed competent commanding officers of the KPRA to these establishments and given them meticulous guidance to ensure that military and political education was given in our own way. In addition, he had organized new units in different parts of the country, frequently visited them and given them very important instructions needed for combat training and for strengthening their combat power. He had paid two visits to the unit to which my husband and I belonged, helping us solve our problems and teaching us to make innovations in increasing combat efficiency.

The more I thought of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's words that our People's Army should remain the great leader's army for ever, the more profound meaning they had for me.

In an excited tone of voice I asked her son what he would do when he was a man.

Raising his thumb, he said confidently. "I'll become the commander of the People's Army. Like the General, my father."

Comrade Kim Jong Suk looking at her son with maternal

pride, said, "It is a good thing that you become the commander of the People's Army, so you carry forward the will of the General, your father."

Several decades have passed since then.

On April 25, 1992, a grand parade was held in Pyongyang in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

That day, in the formation of the anti-Japanese veteran fighters, I marched in front of the platform where the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il reviewed the parade.

Looking up at the great leader and the dear leader, the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, I shouted in my mind.

"Comrade Kim Jong Suk, your earnest wish has come true today on this parade ground where the might of the invincible People's Army is demonstrated. Comrade and anti-Japanese heroine, please be happy."

Encouraging a Young Man to Join the People's Army

Immediately after liberation Comrade Kim Il Sung set forth the policy of developing our revolutionary armed forces into a regular army, with the backbone of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters reinforced with the fine sons and daughters of workers, peasants and other working people.

While explaining to the people the correctness of the leader's policy on developing the army, Comrade Kim Jong Suk paid close attention to preparing young people from among workers and peasants as reserves for the revolutionary armed force.

Immediately after liberation Kim Jong Suk was working in Chongjin. One day she met a jobless young man in a hotel. He did not know what to do. Born in the Soviet Union, he had become an orphan in his childhood and moved to northeast China, where he had become a servant. He had come to Korea to find his grandparents.

Hearing about the young man's tortuous past, Kim Jong Suk asked him what he wanted to do.

The young man said that he was a good-for-nothing without any knowledge or technical skill and was going back to the place where his parents lay buried and where his only younger brother was living.

Kim Jong Suk said that nobody could stop him from going back to where there were his parents' tombs and his only younger brother. But she asked him if it was not desirable for a liberated young Korean to think a little deeper about the matter.

He straightened himself up, as if his heart were touched by the words "liberated young Korean" and looked up at her. She asked in a gentle but earnest tone of voice if he had ever thought about why his parents died miserable deaths in a foreign land and why he had to part from his dear brother.

He did not answer but dropped his head, probably in remorse.

She told him that his family had suffered misfortune because the country was occupied by the Japanese imperialists, and that the great leader had founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in the forests of Mt. Paektu in order to save the people from their misery and liberate the country and fought bloody battles against the Japanese imperialists for 15-long years until he liberated the country.

These words reminded him of his bitter past life.

Looking at the young man, who seemed to have been moved a little, Kim Jong Suk said:

"The motherland liberated by the General is the mother and cradle of us all....

"In order not to repeat the sad plight of a ruined nation, we must build an independent and sovereign state, democratic and prosperous, as soon as possible."

Her words had a strong impact on the young man. Tears trickled down his cheeks, probably because he remembered his parents, who had lamented over their lot of being buried in a foreign land with an acute longing for the motherland and the people at home, as well as his own image of a little boy parting with his brother and setting out on a journey in accordance with his father's last will that at least one of his sons should survive and return to his homeland.

Kim Jong Suk, who was looking at the young man feeling so remorseful at having thought of leaving his homeland and forgetting the duty of a liberated young Korean, explained him the importance of the position and role of young people, the masters of the liberated country,

She also explained the situation created by the U S imperialist occupation of south Korea after liberation and emphasized that the situation made it imperative to have an armed force to defend the country which was liberated at the cost of blood and to be built into a new Korea where the people could live in happiness.

Then she asked, "What about you, who have gone through many hardships, becoming a soldier who defends the country with arms?"

To become a soldier of the People's Army to defend the country!

It was like a dream. The young man couldn't believe his

ears and looked around. We glanced at him encouragingly.

The young man rose confidently to his feet and said, "I will become a soldier of the People's Army and defend our country."

Kim Jong Suk said that to become a soldier to defend the country was the greatest honour for young people and then added:

"I should like to see you when you are a soldier of the people. Then we will talk about today like an old tale."

She told him to study hard in preparation for joining the revolutionary army.

Kim Jong Suk met him from time to time, talked to him, learning about how he was studying, telling him how the guerrillas had fought courageously in support of the General during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and advising him to rectify his character, that had become rough in the cruel world.

The young man gradually acquired a correct understanding of the motherland and revolution and improved his way of life noticeably. Then he entered the Security Officers Training Centre.

The young man devoted all his energy and talent to political and military training and became an exemplary soldier.

One summer day in 1947 the young man was seconded for an assignment to oversee a public function to be held at Mangyongdae, where he met Kim Jong Suk again. Although he had changed beyond recognition in less than one year, she recognized the young man standing in khaki raising his hand in salute. Beaming with satisfaction, she squeezed his hand warmly.

She patted the young soldier on the shoulder. He was smart in his uniform and holding his rifle.

“I am really glad to see you in uniform,” she said. “Because the sons of workers and peasants who were down-trodden as you were now stand at the post of national defence, so no enemy can dare provoke the country recklessly. You must become a true son of the country who, inheriting the noble fighting spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary pioneers, fights devotedly for the General and for the country.”

These words were not only for the young man but also for all the soldiers who were defending the nation.

“I will bear your words in mind.” His answer reverberated far and wide, carrying the unanimous will of the soldiers to tread on the road of loyalty in support of Comrade Kim Jong Suk’s noble will.

Her Noble Idea of the Knapsack Design

One night in February, 1947, I went to see Kim Jong Suk at her home on my way back to my unit from an official trip to Pyongyang. It was near mid-night, so I entered her gate rather hesitatingly. But her room was lighted brightly.

As I stood on her doorway, she recognized me and came out to meet me.

“I was hoping I would see you,” she said inviting me into the room. “This is a happy coincidence!”

With a smile on her face, she led me by the hand. I perceived a new excitement and enthusiasm in her glance.

What is making her sit up so late, I wondered. I found the answer to this question as I stepped into her room. Newly cut pieces of khaki cloth were spread on the floor.

When I asked what she was doing so late, instead of going to bed, she smiled brightly and handed me a piece of cloth,

telling me to guess. At first I didn't see what it meant.

She gazed at me for a while, for I was bewildered. She said that she was designing a sample knapsack for the People's Army and that she had not yet chosen a satisfactory style.

Only now did I see that the piece of cloth in my hand was intended for the back of a knapsack.

"Oh, how is it that you are working on the sample knapsack in the dead of night!" I said, and could say nothing further. Kim Jong Suk replied:

"Yesterday, the army clothing factory brought the General several samples of knapsack, and they were not up to the mark. One of them was like a string bag used by our ancestors in the old days, another was like the leather bag of the Japanese army, and still another was designed after a rucksack.

"The General said that the knapsack should be in harmony with the appearance of the regular revolutionary army and at the same time convenient for combat action, and that the style of the knapsack used by the anti-Japanese guerrillas will have to be considered, because none of the samples brought to him was satisfactory. So I was designing the sample knapsack in line with the General's far-reaching idea by referring to the one used by the guerrillas during the war against the Japanese."

Then she spread the cut pieces on the floor. Extolling me as a woman with a good eye as well as deft hands, she told me to help her.

In fact, it was too much of her to say this. Nobody was her equal in sewing or cooking during the trying years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

I was afraid I might look haughty, but tried to put the pieces together, for she was so earnest in asking me to do.

The sample resembled the guerrillas' knapsack in many

ways, but the straps were thick and stiff with close stitches, and strings were attached to the back so that a blanket and other equipment could be tied, all in all to be convenient for the modern regular army. A pocket was also intended at the back for carrying things for ready use.

Kim Jong Suk said that although I might have many things to talk about as we had not met for many months, I should go to bed as the night was advanced. Saying that we should talk the next morning, she made my bed.

I did not go to bed, but joined her in completing the sample.

While sewing up the knapsack, she sang in a low voice:

Women advancing in support of the people's power.
The foundation of the country
Is laid every day by your effort.

This *Song of Women* was her favourite song immediately after liberation.

Factory women and village women.
All with intense love for their country.

When the work was over, there came the grey of the morning in the eastern sky. Wrapping the finished sample knapsack in a clean sheet of red cloth, Kim Jong Suk said:

"The General will be very pleased to see the sample knapsack we have made. If I can give pleasure to the great General who is developing the regular revolutionary army, I will sit up thousands of nights in this way."

Many decades have passed since then. But whenever I see the knapsacks on the shoulders of our soldiers of the regular

revolutionary army, each of whom is a match for a hundred foes, I remember Kim Jong Suk, who worked hard to make the simple knapsack with spotless loyalty to the great leader.

Benevolent Mother of the Children of Revolutionary Martyrs

Since the first day of her arrival in her homeland, the anti-Japanese heroine Kim Jong Suk made every effort to find out and bring up the children of her comrades who had fallen in the revolutionary struggle against the Japanese to be heirs to the revolutionary cause.

On his triumphal return to the motherland, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung instructed:

"The fallen comrades asked us to educate and bring up their children into revolutionaries when the country was liberated.

"During the days of arduous fighting I never forgot their last will.

"Let us find all the bereaved families and children, take good care of them and educate them so that they will grow up to be stalwart revolutionaries who will take up the cause of the revolutionary pioneers."

Following the instructions of General Kim Il Sung, Comrade Kim Jong Suk met each of the officials who then set out to different parts of the country and northeast China to search for bereaved families and children, telling them not to fail on their mission on any account and showing them the names and addresses of the children of her fallen comrades by consulting her notebook, which she had carried ever since the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

As a result, the children of revolutionary martyrs began to come to the Mangyongdae School for the Bereaved Families of Revolutionaries from different parts of the country and northeast China.

One summer day in 1947 Kim Jong Suk paid a visit to the school's temporary building in company with the great leader.

They looked at the children romping in the playground.

Whenever I and other revolutionary comrades suggested that now that the country was liberated she should pay a visit to her home town and her relations, Kim Jong Suk said how she could go in search of her own kinsfolk when not all the children of the fallen comrades whom the General was looking for with great impatience had been discovered. She worked day and night to assemble the bereaved children who might be roaming from place to place, homeless.

What a strong emotion must have gripped the fatherly General and her now that they were going to embrace those children whose names and addresses they used to note down in tears when writing speeches while mourning over their fallen parents during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and whose names they had checked off one by one as each of them was discovered after liberation!

The great leader beckoned the playing children to come to him.

At this moment the child who first recognized the General shouted that the General had come.

Hearing this, all the children came running towards him, hitching up their trousers.

In an instant the playground was bursting with joy.

However, a boy who was running ahead of the others stopped hesitatingly, falling short of the spot where the leader was standing. The other children also halted. They would not

budge when the great leader and Comrade Kim Jong Suk called them to come into their open arms.

Although they had lived, believing in the great General and craving for his warm embrace while roaming about the streets and exposed to rain and cold under the eaves of stranger's houses in the harsh years, they were hesitating to throw themselves into the General's arms because they were embarrassed by their ragged clothes.

Some of the children were trying to hide their toes that jutted out through their straw sandals, and some of them were covering their legs that were exposed through their tattered trousers.

Unable to endure the sight of these miserable children, Kim Jong Suk ran to them and hugged them, saying:

"Children, the General will not blame you for your ragged clothing. It is not your fault."

Encouraged by her words, the children threw themselves into the General's arms and clung to his sleeves, shouting, "General".

Holding in his embrace the children who were bursting into sobs, letting out the long-suppressed sorrow that had accumulated in the rough world, the General felt tears coming to his eyes.

"That doesn't matter," the General said in a thick voice. "Don't cry. Now you'll have as good clothing and schooling as others do."

But the children sobbed harder.

The fatherly leader and Kim Jong Suk took the children towards the school, soothing them and taking their wrists.

The officials of the school who were working in the back yard came out and made a polite report to the great leader.

The leader asked them how many new children had been

enrolled and if they were short of bedroom accommodations. Then he said to the children he would tell them an interesting story and told them to assemble in the dining hall.

The children cheered running to the dining hall, vying with one another.

Watching these innocent children, Kim Jong Suk felt such strong compassion that she paused and said to the officials:

"These children have gone through many hardships, not being properly fed and decently clothed, without anyone to take kind care of them....

"Seeing these children, I feel my heart rending at the thought of the fallen comrades who asked us to bring them up well.

"The General has often gone without sound sleep because not all the children of our fallen comrades have been found. We must find all of them as soon as possible."

Hearing her words, the officials bowed to her for her high sense of revolutionary obligation and her noble personality.

The school was inaugurated before long, and the children who had been down-trodden, going about in rags, learned to their hearts' content, romping about merrily, in uniform, the trousers of which bore red stripes.

As the days went by, more and more bereaved children came, and the school became more and more animated.

One day Kim Jong Suk invited me to her home.

She said that she had asked me to come because she wanted to see me in soldier's uniform, and that she was just back from the Mangyongdae School for the Bereaved Families of Revolutionaries.

Saying that I looked more dignified in uniform, she gave me an account of her visit to the school.

The fatherly leader saw to it that the children were sent to

their home towns during the first holidays.

Many of the children left for their homes, but some who had no homes were staying in the school. They felt lonely when their friends were gone.

They spent tedious days, rolling on their beds, basking in the sunshine, thinking of their dead parents and their homes. For some of them, "home" was distant memory. Some of them would burst into tears in the dead of night after falling from their beds while dreaming of their parents.

Hearing of this state of affairs, Kim Jong Suk immediately visited the school.

At the news of her arrival, the children who were staying in the school ran to the main building.

After exchanging greetings with the senior official of the school, Comrade Kim Jong Suk said:

"Comrade headmaster, the General, who was concerned about the children staying in school during their holidays, has sent me over here. How many children remain here?"

Hearing that dozens of them remained, she went on to say:

"The General is worrying very much over the children who lost all their parents and have nowhere to go.

"Informed during lunch of how the school children were spending the holidays, the General said he was choking at the thought of children who have no parents and cannot visit their home towns. He quietly put down his spoon and stood by the window for a long while."

The children, who were listening to her at a little distance, began to cry, unable to endure their grief.

Wiping her eyes with her handkerchief, she continued to say:

"The children staying here must have envied their friends going to visit their home towns and must have craved for their

dead parents more eagerly. That is really heart-rending.

"They should be given the same parcel of special food as was given to their friends who have gone home. Their lives should be organized so that they can have fun and enjoy their holidays."

She called some pupils over.

Patting the shoulder of a child who came into her arms, wiping tears, she asked:

"Want to go home, eh?"

"No, madam."

"Why not? You can't go because, you have no home. You are simply putting up with everything, right?"

Gazing at her, the child said, "No. General Kim Il Sung is our father, and our mother...." The child could not finish the sentence.

"Right. The General is your father, I am your mother, and the school is your home."

Her words moved the officials, teachers and pupils to tears.

Kim Jong Suk took the children to the most spacious bedroom, told them an interesting story, and then went to the kitchen to prepare special food for them.

Each of the children soon received a bundle of special food.

Kim Jong Suk consoled the excited children and encouraged them before she left the school.

Hearing the account of her visit to the school, I shouted from the bottom of my heart:

"Children of revolutionary martyrs, don't think you are lonely. Comrade Kim Jong Suk is your benevolent mother, indeed."

Saying That We Are Wives of Revolutionaries

My husband, who had been to Pyongyang to receive the great General's instructions, returned to the unit towards sunset one summer day in 1947.

For the sake of my husband, who had returned from a long official journey, I came home soon after the duty hour, prepared supper and waited for him.

But he came home very late at night.

The moment I saw him, I said I was sorry that he did not understand his wife's innermost thoughts.

He said that, availing himself of the opportunity to visit Pyongyang, he went to see Kim Jong Suk at her home, and that she was very much concerned over the fact that some officers' wives were lax and lazy.

My husband had met Kim Jong Suk on the evening before his return to the unit.

She had told him that she had visited a unit and found that some officers' wives at the unit were putting on airs on the strength of their husbands' authority, like high-ranking officials' wives, and were only thinking of building up their homes, paying no attention to the work of the unit.

These wives were all daughters of workers and peasants who had lived in poverty in the past.

As they became well-off after being married to officers since the liberation of the country, they forgot their miserable pasts and were dreaming of comfort and luxurious home lives.

Seriously apprehensive of this state of affairs, she had said that if officers' wives got in the habit of living in this way, even though it was not a widespread practice, their husbands

would be unable to carry out the General's cause of army building when the liberated country was divided and the Americans in south Korea were looking for a chance to invade the north.

She went on to say:

"That is because they neglect studying and life in Party and Women's Union organizations. There is no born revolutionary. If anybody neglects ideological training he or she may become degenerate."

Her words had profound meaning.

Hearing her words from my husband I reflected upon myself.

I was serving as the radio communication platoon leader at the unit, but on the excuse of being a housewife I did not commit myself to the work of the unit as I should and participated in the training half-heartedly on the excuse of being a woman. That day, too, I came home early and was keeping the house.

I could not repress my feeling of remorse for such an indolent attitude.

Kim Jong Suk was said to have referred to me that day, saying:

"If Comrade Ok Sun considers herself to be a seasoned revolutionary on the grounds that she grew up fighting after joining the anti-Japanese guerrilla army by way of the Children's Corps, she may become a laggard in the revolution. The officers' wives are the wives of revolutionaries. They must stand in the front rank of the unit work to help their husbands and participate enthusiastically in military training so that they can fight in the same trench with their husbands."

Wives of revolutionaries! This was a sign of her great confidence and trust in us, the wives of officers, as well as an honourable title she had conferred on us.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk's love for us, the love expressed in her noble idea of holding up women as legitimate masters of the revolution who were to push forward one wheel of the revolution was always warm and intense, not only in the years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, but also in the post-liberation period of carrying out the great General's cause of army building.

6. ANTI-JAPANESE HEROINE, RESPECTED BY EVERYONE

Comrade Kim Jong Suk regarded holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in high esteem as her highest honour, her greatest happiness and her noblest lifelong duty, and always remained loyal and dutiful following him on the road of revolution.

Kim Jong Suk, who considered ensuring the great leader's well-being to be her foremost duty and her lifeblood, fought in defence of his personal safety at the risk of her own life in the log cabin of the Headquarters at the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, where snow-and-rain storms raged, under ceaseless enemy fire during the war against the Japanese and during the enemy's insidious activities in the post-liberation years, carrying the best wishes of soldiers and people in her heart, she ensured the leader's long life and well-being without a single slip, anywhere, anytime.

Kim Jong Suk staunchly championed the great leader's revolutionary ideas, accepted the revolutionary tasks given by him as inviolable orders and carried them out without question. She led the masses through fire and water implementing the Party's line and policy.

The noble image of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who remained loyal to General Kim Il Sung to the last moment of her life, will live forever, enshrined in the hearts of our people.

Bright Smile

On September 21, 1949, Comrade Kim Jong Suk saw off the great leader who was setting out on a long Journey of on-the-spot guidance to the Thosan area. Wishing him success, she stood at the front gate for a good while.

Although she did not feel well as she was seeing off the great leader, she thought of when he would return, and smiled brightly at him.

Giving him a bright smile was an iron rule for her who always tried not to worry him lest she should disturb him in his work.

Back in her room, she pressed the great leader's military uniform neatly, full of emotion at the thought of him who, always at the helm of the war against the Japanese, brought about the new spring of the country's liberation:

She caressed the neat creases of his pressed uniform for a long time.

From the afternoon of that day her illness went from bad to worse. That evening she was compelled to lie in bed.

Hearing the unexpected word that she was seriously ill, the aide-de-camp came and wanted to inform the great leader of her illness.

"Don't let him know of it," she said, enduring her severe pain. "My slight illness should not disturb the General at work, should it?"

Collecting herself in spite of nearly fainting, she urged the aide-de-camp not to let it be known to him that she was ill.

Irritated by her illness, which was worsening, the aide-de-camp told her that he would phone the great leader,

Kim Jong Suk was silent for a few minutes.

'If the great leader returns back at the news of my illness how much the building of a new country will be held back?'

As she thought of this, she was determined not to worry the great leader, no matter how serious the pain she had to endure. Nevertheless, she wanted to know at least when he would come home. The more acute her pain, the more she craved for his dear voice

"Well, if you are really going to phone the General," she said, mustering her strength with difficulty, "just ask him when he can return. Don't say on any account that I am ill."

The aide-de-camp picked up the receiver.

Receiving the phone call, the great leader felt that was not an ordinary question, but went on working. Only after getting repeated advice from accompanying officials did the great leader get in the car.

Only after receiving emergency treatment in hospital did she recover consciousness. Silently opening her eyes, she looked round the people who were standing by the bed.

As she recognized the great leader, who was watching her with an uneasy look, an immensely bright smile lighted her face.

"General, night is far advanced," she said in a tone of great happiness. "Please don't worry about me too much. Please go and finish your work. As a result of treatment I've recovered consciousness and feel better. I'll go home soon after a little more treatment."

She again smiled a bright smile, as if she had forgotten all the biting pain in an instant. The smile was intended to make him believe that her crisis was over.

The great leader did not leave her sickbed, but tucked the edges of her quilt. Comrade Kim Jong Suk who was lying qui-

etly in his presence, closed her eyes slowly with a happy look.

As she fell asleep, the great leader moved to the next room in order to leave her in peace. In a short while, however, sounds of bitter cries for her were heard from her sickroom.

"Comrade Jong Suk!..."

"Mother!..."

Hearing the voices, the great leader hurried back to her.

Entering the room, he was too surprised to utter a word.

The people in the room burst into tears, burying their faces in her breast.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the anti-Japanese heroine who was most loyal to the great leader, died at 2:40 a. m., September 22, Juche 38 (1949), at the early age of 32. To our great sorrow she passed away without seeing the reunification of the country and the nationwide victory of the revolution which she had craved for so eagerly.

The telephone on the desk rang suddenly at dawn. Wondering if anything unusual had happened at the unit, I watched my husband receive the phone call.

After confirming the message a few times, he said that Comrade Kim Jong Suk had passed away a short time before. He told me to get ready to depart and went out. I prepared for the trip, almost out of my mind at the surprising news, went out to the front yard and got in the car which had been waiting for me. My husband was already sitting in the car.

He ordered his driver to go to Pyongyang. The car rushed through the morning air.

"That she should go first, leaving behind her so much work to do! Could this really happen?"

Hearing my husband's soliloquy, my heart cried. The image of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, whom I had met only one month before, came to my mind.

When I had visited her home she was working in her kitchen garden. Seeing her at work, even though she was ill, I had been too surprised to greet her properly.

Seeing that I had come, she smiled brightly, dropped her hoe, and came out of the garden to receive me cordially as usual. She said that it would be hard for me to keep house at the front line, that she had obtained a sewing machine a few days before to supplement my knitting skill, and that I should take it with me when I return home.

I was moved to tears at the thought of the meticulous care she had taken of me with the heart of a thoughtful mother ever since my husband and I set up home in the early 1940s.

Seeing me off after taking supper with me that evening, she had exhorted me to help Comrade Choe Kwang, who was defending the demarcation line as instructed by the great leader.

I could not believe the death of Comrade Kim Jong Suk, the death of such a benefactor.

The car pulled up in front of the assembly hall of the Party Central Committee, where she lay in state.

We approached her lying still amid live flowers and called bitterly "Comrade Kim Jong Suk!" again and again.

She did not reply.

To believe her death as real was so heartbreaking that we knelt down before her body and let out our deep emotions.

"How could you go leaving us behind, you who promised with us to support the General better in the liberated motherland than we had done in Mt. Paektu?"

I wailed, swallowing tears of blood. Veterans of the anti-Japanese revolution and other mourners who had been standing by her coffin wiped off their tears with their handkerchiefs.

I found out later that the great leader had come to the cof-

fin of Comrade Kim Jong Suk. He gazed at her still body, unable to believe that she who had shared trials and hardships with him throughout the war against the Japanese was dead.

"That she should die when she has just smiled.... That she, who is like fire, should be gone!"

The words of the great leader tore the hearts of the officials nearby.

In tremendous grief, the great leader went on to say in a thick voice:

"Comrade Kim Jong Suk was very faithful to me....

"Whatever she did was all for her comrades, not for herself. She was such a revolutionary comrade that she even postponed her visit to her kinsfolk, saying, how could she leave her place of duty even for a moment when the country, though liberated, was divided into north and south and the situation was so complex.

"I would have no regret if only she had led a comfortable life for even a single day, faring well and dressing well.

"The most heartbreaking part of it is that after spending her whole life in hardship, she left first and I let her go."

We the veterans of the anti-Japanese revolution, who had waded across the seas of fire and blood together with Comrade Kim Jong Suk, again wailed our grief with the other mourners.

At 1:00 p. m. September 24, the Korean people bade their last farewell to Comrade Kim Jong Suk who had been unflinchingly loyal to the great leader.

Her hearse slowly moved into the street. Tens of thousands of Pyongyang citizens lined the funeral route and tens of millions of our people who were listening to the radio broadcast sank into heartbreaking grief.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who had bestowed benevolence

upon us and took loving care of us at every step of our lives, left us in this way.

We, the veterans of the anti-Japanese revolution, got on our way back after burying her at the foot of Moran Hill, but could hardly walk. This was because of our grief, and what a great grief her death must have been to the great leader!

Comrade Kim Jong Suk left us, but the imperishable achievements she had recorded on the road of struggle for the revolutionary cause of Juche, her boundless benevolence and her noble personality will live for ever in the hearts of our people.

In Front of Her Bust

A bust of the anti-Japanese heroine Comrade Kim Jong Suk sits on the Jujak Peak of Mt. Taesong.

The people and the third and fourth revolutionary generations who visit her bust pledge in front of it to be loyal to the great leader and the dear leader just as she was loyal to the great leader all her life.

The image of Comrade Kim Jong Suk will always remain enshrined in the hearts of our people, the young vanguard of the new generation, soldiers and students and schoolchildren and, will encourage them to tread the road of loyalty.

I, who joined the Children's Corps and developed into a soldier of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, a member of the Workers' Party of Korea and a labour heroine under Comrade Kim Jong Suk's unusually loving care, take my son and daughter and granddaughter with me on a visit to the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery every year on September 22, the day she passed away.

In 1992, a year of special jubilation for the whole country, I participated in the celebration of the great leader's 80th birth-

day and the dear leader's 50th birthday as the greatest national festivals and in the parade held in celebration of the 60th-anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army. Together with my son and daughter and granddaughter, I also visited the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's death.

I am filled with emotion when I think of these things. Comrade Kim Jong Suk taught the truth of revolution, led me to join the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and to take up arms for the working class, and ever guided me to loyally support the General's leadership.

Indeed, I owe all my life of highest honour and greatest happiness as the soldier of the great leader, and my glorious political integrity, to the great trust Comrade Kim Jong Suk placed in me, to her meticulous guidance and to her benevolent love for me.

To prove myself worthy of her love, solicitude and benevolence is a moral obligation I must fulfil as a woman who became a revolutionary fighter under her care, I quickened my pace, thinking of seeing her vivid looks.

Half way up Jujak Peak, I paused to catch my breath and cast my eyes over the magnificent city of Pyongyang.

I saw Kim Il Sung University in the near distance. I could see in my mind's eye the reliable young people studying hard to carry the bright future of Korea on their shoulders. A little farther, the torch of the Tower of the Juche Idea and the Cholima Bronze Statue with wings spread high up in the sky were proudly demonstrating our people's mettle. Nearby, the TV tower soared into the sky, and on Jangdae Hill the magnificent Pyongyang School Children's Palace was smiling a bright smile as if it were lovable little children's faces.

The quietly meandering Taedong and Pothong Rivers, and green Moran Hill in beautiful harmony with the Arch of Triumph unfolded like a picture. Between them the Grand Theatre and other cultural buildings rose like beautiful flowers. The houses of working people lined up as far as my eyes could see. Beyond them, the high chimneys of the thermal power station, modern Kwangbok Street and Thongil Street were seen dimly in the mist. Indeed, the site of the cemetery gave a panoramic view of the bright, vast and magnificent capital city of revolution.

I warmly felt that on the occasion of his 60th birthday the fatherly leader had chosen to build the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong in order to show Comrade Kim Jong Suk and other veteran martyrs the magnificent and beautiful appearance of Pyongyang, which has now truly-become a people's new world as wished for so eagerly by these martyrs.

For the sake of his beloved soldiers who had fallen on the road of the revolutionary struggle, the fatherly leader had the martyrs cemetery built on this high Jujak Peak so that they could look into the glorious future of communism.

A large number of people and their families were climbing the peak. I walked with my children among them, feeling very warm in my heart.

In front of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's bust set against the background of the Red flag of the revolution, I halted and thought about her glorious life.

She set out on the road of revolution at a tender age by joining the Children's Vanguard and then the Young Communist League, roused villagers and Children's Corps members to the struggle against the Japanese, and in September 1935 enlisted in the Korean People's Revolutionary Army founded, by General Kim Il Sung, the sun of our nation.

As she joined the People's Revolutionary Army, receiving warm congratulations from the soldiers and commanding officers, she, with her rifle firmly in her hands, said:

"I will fulfil my duty with loyalty to General Kim Il Sung, holding this rifle in my hands.... I'll regard this rifle as one hundred rifles. I will shoot the enemy by regarding this cartridge as one hundred rounds."

She carried out her pledge in the raid on Liushucun, and in the battles of Xinancha and Fusong county town.

She displayed unparalleled courage and self-sacrificing spirit in carrying out her combat mission to defend the "bottle-neck", which was important in safeguarding Headquarters and in ensuring the withdrawal of the main force during the battle of Fusong county town.

That day she killed many enemy troops who had been attacking the gun emplacement on the eastern mountain.

"Comrades, there is our Headquarters behind us," she said. "If we fail to defend the gun emplacement, Headquarters will be in danger. We must not retreat a single step. Let us mow down the Japanese who are attacking the gun emplacement."

Then, she called on her comrades to charge at the enemy and rushed at the head.

Thanks to her heroic action, they defended the "bottle-neck", ensured the safety of Headquarters, and the battle of Fusong county town ended in victory for the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The news of her heroic action spread far and wide among her fellow soldiers and the people.

About her courage, audacity and self-sacrificing spirit displayed in that battle, the respected General said in later days:

"Comrade Kim Jong Suk was an assiduous woman revolu-

tionary. No other woman revolutionary was so firm and faithful in carrying out revolutionary duties."

Comrade Kim Jong Suk, who became renowned in the battle of Fusong county town, later carried out her underground revolutionary activities honourably in Xiagangqu, Changbai County, centring around Taoquanli, and in the Singalpha area, and protected the respected General at the risk of her own life when establishing the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp in the autumn of 1936, during the historic Arduous March, in the battle in the Musan area in May 1939, at the dead end of Dashaha and at the Huanggou secret camp. In the first half of the 1940s, basing herself on the Mt. Paektu Secret Camp, she crossed and recrossed the Amnok and Tuman Rivers, working tirelessly to hasten the liberation of the country. Around this period she brought up the "Shining Star on Mt. Paektu" as the future sun of the nation.

Putting off her visit to her kinsfolk at Hoeryong, her home town, whom she longed so eagerly to see, she worked day and night inspecting factories, farm villages, schools and army units in Pyongyang, Chongjin, Kosong and areas surrounding them in support of the great leader's cause of Party building, nation building and army building.

Comrade Kim Jong Suk spent all her life in the cause of the great leader and the revolution, fighting and working without a single day's rest and going through all hardships and tribulations until her very last hours.

Her life was too short, but her distinguished services, that ensured an unbreakable continuity of the revolutionary cause of Juche that had been pioneered in the forest of Mt. Paektu, will shine for ever down through the coming generations.

As I solemnly thought of her glorious life, my granddaughter said:

"Grandma, what are you thinking about so long? Let us present the wreath to her."

I laid the carefully prepared wreath of flowers in front of Comrade Kim Jong Suk's bust and then greeted her courteously.

As we were climbing down the Martyrs Cemetery, gentle sounds of song expressing boundless respect for her floated from the pine grove:

The dear image never to be forgotten.
That smiles at me as I look up.
Her single-hearted loyalty to the leader
Blossomed on this land bright with sunshine.

Oh, Mother Kim Jong Suk,
Our mother whom we follow with respect.

In support of the leader's will at every step
She walked thousands of miles across Mt. Paektu
Bestowing benevolence everywhere she went
And brought the spring of liberation.

Oh, Mother Kim Jong Suk,
Our mother whom we follow with respect.

She gave her youth and future to the revolution
And her life was glorious.
We'll follow her loyalty, so deep in our minds.
Forever.

Oh, Mother Kim Jong Suk,
Our mother whom we follow with respect.

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 704131



PYONGYANG, KOREA
Juche 86 (1997)