

May 26, 1960
Journal of Soviet Ambassador in the DPRK A.M.
Puzanov for 26 May 1960

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Summary:

Puzanov and Kurt Schneidewind discuss East German-North Korean relations and North Korea's request for equipment from the GDR.

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to [[illegible name]] and
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JOURNAL

of Soviet Ambassador in the DPRK A. M. Puzanov for the period
29 April through 30 May 1960

Pyongyang

[...]

26 May 1960

An evening of friendship between officials of the Embassy and Soviet Embassy officials was held in the GDR Embassy. Up to 25 Embassy officials were present together with me, the Trade Representative, and several specialists.

Ambassador Kurt Schneidewind told me that the DPRK government had addressed a request to the GDR government through its ambassador in Berlin about the delivery of equipment for a synthetic fiber production plant being rebuilt.

In reply to my question, in what conditions the Korean friends would like these deliveries to be conducted, the Ambassador replied that they are asking this be done against the trade agreement for 1960 since according to this agreement deliveries of goods from the GDR are to be for the amount of 18 million rubles and so far the order was given for about 10 million rubles. However, the Ambassador said, we have all the enterprises producing equipment for the textile industry completely busy and it is hard to carry out the request of the Korean friends. The Ambassador then asked my opinion about whether the DPRK really is very much in need of the delivery of equipment for this production.

I replied to the Ambassador that the Korean friends actually need the delivery of this equipment since they are making great efforts to bring the production of textiles up to 30 meters per capita in the next two or three years against 17 meters in 1959. As Kim Il Sung recently reported in a conversation, last year an average of only 10 meters per capita was sold to the population.

The Ambassador completely agreed that the DPRK actually needs help to be given in this matter and that while he is at the SED CC Plenum in July he will try to report about this to Cde. Walter Ulbricht personally and ask that this request of the Korean friends be decided favorably.

The Ambassador also told about the great enthusiasm in Berlin and throughout the entire republic in connection with Cde. N. S. Khrushchev's visit to Berlin and his speech at a rally.

For my part I informed the Ambassador about the work of the special session of the Security Council.

[...]

USSR AMBASSADOR IN THE DPRK

□□□□□[signature]□(A. PUZANOV)

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