

**July 16, 1973**

**Text of Address of July 10, 1973, by Prime Minister  
Kim Jong-Pil, "Relations between South and North  
Korea in World Politics"**

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**Summary:**

Excerpts from the address delivered by ROK Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil on the 10th of July, 1973.

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# FROM KOREA

OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF  
KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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# NEWS FROM KOREA

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THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 540, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017, Tel. (212) PL 2-4656

No. 7/73

July 16, 1973

Text of the Address of July 10, 1973 by  
Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil on "Relations  
between South and North Korea in World  
Politics."

Excerpts from the Address Delivered by  
His Excellency Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil  
on the 10th of July, 1973  
at the Opening of the  
Sixth International Conference  
of the Korean Institute of International Studies.

(Unofficial Translation)

"As all of you know, Korea had to undergo the ordeal of territorial division, with the 38th Parallel as dividing line, immediately after Liberation at the end of World War II. Contrary to the desires of her people, the nation was sundered amidst the strife of international power politics, with the United States and the Soviet Union as the main antagonists.

In the ensuing 28 years, the two zones have maintained an intransigent confrontation, a focus of tension that has threatened constantly to disrupt world peace. This has remained the case despite the unceasing aspirations of the Koreans to achieve the reunification of their tragically divided fatherland.

The era in which we live is now rapidly shifting from one of confrontation to accommodation. The cold war, in which nations and blocks vied with each other sharply over ideology and spheres of influence, has given way to a situation of thaw, emphasizing more traditional diplomatic approaches whereby nations seek their best interests through compromise and negotiation, transcending barriers of dogma and ideology.

Along the lines of this international shift in emphasis, the Republic of Korea has seized the initiative to attempt an easing of the tensions which have continued and even increased on this peninsula with the passage of time.



Our new approach has been reflected in the series of policy shifts effected by the Republic, starting with the Aug. 15, 1970 declaration of a new diplomatic approach to peaceful unification. This was followed by our proposal for Red Cross talks between the two zones in August, 1971, and by the announcement of the south-north joint communique a little over a year ago, in 1972.

As is evident from these actions, a basic philosophy has guided us in our efforts since the Aug. 15, 1970 declaration. This philosophy will continue to shape our policy in the future. Let me summarize it briefly under the following four points.

First and foremost is our tenacious determination to make a positive contribution to the easing of world tensions.

To prevent the pressures on the Korean peninsula from increasing at all costs constitutes the basic direction of our policy. Aggravation of tensions in Korea, which has been one of the focal points of the cold war ever since the premeditated surprise attack by the north Korean Communists on the Republic in the early morning hours of June 25, 1950, might develop into a regional confrontation in all of northeast Asia, and even jeopardize world peace itself. This must be prevented at all costs.

South Korea has devoted all its efforts to achieving independent prosperity and self-reliance as the basis for eventual national reunification, ever since the rehabilitation of war damages undertaken after the 1953 armistice. In sharp contrast, north Korea has made an all-out attempt to consummate its own version of unification through communizing the entire peninsula by force of arms. To this end it has concentrated on

acceleration of arms production and a thoroughgoing militarization.

We have made consistent efforts to prevent the recurrence of conflict and to ease tensions by creating a situation which might persuade north Korea to desist from armed provocations, or force it to abandon its warlike intentions, though these were already far advanced or completed.

President Park Chung Hee proposed to the north Koreans on Aug. 15, 1970, a bona fide peaceful competition in development, construction, and conditions conducive to peaceful unification. Subsequently the Korean National Red Cross made a proposal on Aug. 12, 1971, to help 10 million members of dispersed and separated families locate each other and reunite. These proposals opened the south-north dialogue.

Later the director of the R O K Central Intelligence Agency was dispatched to Pyongyang for negotiations which resulted in the announcement of the July 4, 1972 joint communique, and the establishment of the South-North Coordinating Committee, the meetings of which were intended to continue the dialogue on a different plane.

With President Park's firm belief in the need for eliminating tensions, his untiring resolution, and under his wise leadership, the south-north dialogue has been initiated with the purpose of breaking down barriers of national division which have endured for over a quarter of a century, as you all know well. We are firmly resolved to continue this dialogue in order to make a significant contribution to the easing of world tensions.

Second, I would like to reiterate that we will continuously devote our unswerving efforts to the pursuit of peaceful unification, as we have done in the past, as long as north Korea does not again attempt unification by force.

It is a self-evident fact that, in view of the ardent desire of our 50 million compatriots, the unification of our fatherland remains the supreme task facing the nation. However strong and urgent our desire for unification may be, however, we will never resort to force of arms to achieve it.

It is our guiding principle, and the keystone of our faith, that our goal must be pursued by peaceful means, whatever the circumstances.

As early as 1947, we had already complied with the United Nations resolution which called for the holding of free general elections in both south and north Korea to establish a unified government. Pursuant to this resolution, we made all possible efforts to achieve peaceful unification.

However, north Korea rejected the UN resolution, and the golden opportunity for unification slipped through our fingers.

Even after the end of the Korean War, we proposed to north Korea on many occasions the holding of general elections in both south and north Korea under U.N. supervision as a means of forming a unified government with representation in proportion to indigenous population. It is needless to reiterate that the Aug. 15 declaration and the series of epoch-making proposals and policy shifts we have proclaimed were a manifestation of our efforts toward peaceful unification.



Our will to achieve this goal will never be frustrated; and we will continue to persevere in seeking it by proposing ever more positive and resolute measures.

While continuing the dialogue, we will strive for establishment of mutual trust between south and north Korea, and attempt to realize exchanges in fields where such undertakings are easiest and most practical, as a preliminary to more difficult and weighty accommodations.

Third, we are determined to make uninterrupted efforts to move the isolated north Korean society into the international community of nations, making it more and more homogeneous with our society. The barriers of 28 years of national division have made the two societies on the Korean peninsula heterogeneous and antagonistic to each other as things stand now.

It would be a greater tragedy than the territorial division itself if our people, united by ties of blood and a common history and culture, should become completely alien to each other in all fields because of their differences in ideology and system. We keenly realize the crucial nature of this issue in the course of the south-north dialogue.

In order to prevent this second tragedy from occurring, we have proposed to north Korea the mutual opening of both societies to each other, making clear to the international community our sincere intention to pave the way for contacts with north Korea.

When north Korea has had frequent contacts with the United Nations and free countries, we hope that it will observe and learn from this experience what freedom and democracy are really



like, desist from military provocations which obviously run counter to the trend for detente in the international community, and undergo the process of drawing closer to the ideals which form the keystone of our own open society.

We hope that we can make progress in this direction through the south-north dialogue as well, and are determined at the same time to ease the tensions between south and north, coming ever closer to the goal of peaceful unification.

Fourth, we will open our doors completely to all foreign nations. In this connection, we urge nations in the Communist bloc to raise their Iron Curtains and open their doors to us as well. It should be stressed at the same time that the nations of the free world should make positive efforts to persuade the Communist bloc countries with which they have diplomatic relations to open their doors to Korea.

Our new policy demonstrates our strong determination to participate positively in the international trend easing of tensions and seeing peaceful coexistence, thus contributing to peace on the Korean peninsula and throughout the entire world.

At the same time it must be emphasized that those nations which accept our open-door policy, be they of the free world or the Communist bloc, should abide by the principle of balance and reciprocity, in order not to disrupt the balance of power in Korea and thus increase the danger of war.

In other words, if Communist bloc countries keep their doors closed to south Korea, neglecting the principle of balance, while free world nations increase their contacts with north Korea,

this will not only disrupt the balance of power on the peninsula and imperil the stability of north Asia, but might even jeopardize world peace.

The four points I have just enumerated comprise our basic stand in the matter of national unification. They are founded on policy guidelines which we have followed consistently since the August 15, 1970 declaration, and which we will pursue steadfastly in the future. These policies involve various obvious difficulties which lie in our path when we face the Communists at the conference table and deal with a north Korea which, while speaking of peace, continues to indulge in military provocations and false propaganda. It is our purpose to pursue the dialogue with north Korea, come what may, with dedicated effort and sincere perseverance."