

August 30, 1973

Text of August 29th Statement by Director Hu Rak Lee, Seoul Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee regarding the South-North Dialogue

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Summary:

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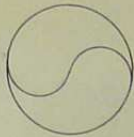
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(For Background Information Only)

C O N T E N T S

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"Kim Yong-Ju, Pyongyang Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee, at 6 p.m. on August 28 abruptly issued a statement declaring unilaterally that he would not proceed any further in the Coordinating Committee activities with myself, Lee Hu Rak, with the excuses that "the Central Intelligence Agency engineered the abduction of Kim Dae-Jung," and that "the Seoul Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee failed to translate into action those items agreed on in the South-North Joint Communiqué and avoided taking actual steps while calling, by words only, for complete opening of both societies," further charging that "the Central Intelligence Agency has intensified anti-communist activities, arresting and oppressing numerous pro-communist persons, has arrested and killed a great number of spies, and arrested and placed under detention those who violated the national security law," and that "President Park Chung Hee's foreign policy declaration for peace and unification was designed to create two Koreas."

Because of this unilateral declaration of the north Korean side, the south-north dialogue, which has been in progress with the object of paving the way to permanent wellbeing and prosperity for the fifty million Korean people by bringing about lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, improving south-north relations and seeking independent and peaceful unification of the divided fatherland, has arrived at a grave stage.

We cannot help but regard this abruptly changed north Korean attitude as a fanatic makeshift approach adopted when the north had become perplexed over the widespread domestic and overseas support for President Park's June 23 foreign policy declaration for peace and unification, as well as over the fact that north Korea would be in an unfavorable position at the upcoming General Assembly Session of the United Nations. The changed attitude also indicates the north's attempt to arrest progress of the peace-oriented south-north dialogue.

Looking back, I visited Pyongyang risking my life in obedience to President Park's noble ideal, and negotiated with the north Korean side sincerely thereby paving the way for the south-north dialogue.

President Park dictated my mission to me, which was 1) to avert the danger of recurrence of war on the Korean peninsula, 2) to establish peaceful relations between the south and north, and 3) to seek a method of realizing peaceful unification of the fatherland.

From the outset when I visited north Korea, I did not conceal my status. I disclosed clearly and proudly my post as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I also explicitly explained to Kim Il-Sung that I was heading an organization entrusted with the duty of dealing with those who violate such laws as the anti-communist and national security laws.

At that time, Kim Il-Sung made a significant remark to me, saying that "I believe you because you are the hunter of communists. If someone else had come, I might have not trusted him."

In view of these bygone happenings, it is contradictory and hardly understandable that north Korea now brands me a "national traitor who executed patriots" simply because I arrested and punished those who violated the anti-communist law.

If such logic is permissible, then I may say that I myself cannot sit down together with Kim Yong-Ju, Director of the Organization and Guidance Department of the north Korean Workers (communist) Party, which provoked the Korean War and subsequently massacred millions of people: which arrested many genuine patriots, calling them reactionaries and killing them brutally: and which still sends numerous patriots to forced labor in the Aoji coal mine.

It is extremely dangerous to allow personal sentiments to affect important national programs. This is why I have endeavored to continue the dialogue with sincerity, rising above all sentiments of bygone days.

North Korea, in its August 28 statement, made various accusations against me and the Republic of Korea, contending that the Republic of Korea violated the agreement of the July 4 South-North Joint Communique, and opposed the implementation of various programs for the improvement of south-north relations.

I am now going to make things clear.

We have time and again proposed establishment of a Joint Secretariat, the early inauguration of a Joint Secretariat, and the construction of a Joint Secretariat building at Panmunjom in a mutual effort between south and north for effective and fruitful operation of the South-North Coordinating Committee. But it was the north Korean side which rejected all these suggestions.

Despite the fact that south and north agreed in their July 4 South-North Joint Communique of last year not to slander one another, and in the second meeting of the Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee they agreed not to engage in propaganda broadcasts directed against each other, north Korea has continued to put on the air slanderous propaganda broadcasts directed south in outright violation of the agreements.

We have proposed the openings of the societies of both south and north Korea to each other, and also broad exchanges and cooperation between the two sides. It was north Korea likewise that opposed this logical proposal.

Moreover, it was the north Korean side which showed an insincere attitude. The so-called Co-Chairman who represented the Pyongyang side did not show up at any of the past meetings on grounds of illness.

It is self-evident which side has violated the spirit of the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué: which side stood in the way of the implementation of various programs for improvement of the south-north relations. That north Korea has made these present accusations amounts to the case of a thief crying thief.

They denounce President Park's June 23 foreign policy declaration as a scheme to promote "two Koreas." I would like to make perfectly clear here that the June 23 declaration is a realistic peaceful unification policy aimed at bringing genuine peace to the Korean peninsula and promoting unification of the fatherland through peaceful means, in line with the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué.

If north Korea faithfully respected the spirit of the Joint Communiqué and refrained from infiltrating agents into the south, there would have been no reason for us to arrest spies. Likewise, there would have been no arrests of those violating the anti-communist and national security laws if north Korea did not keep on attempting to instigate violent revolution in the south.

When I met Kim Il-Sung in Pyongyang last November, I said that "our hope is to build a society where there is no need of the anti-communist law and the national security law," and that "for this, north Korea should stop handing out instructions for a violent revolution in the south."

The seeds of all the problems referred to in the statement issued by the Pyongyang Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee were sown by none other than themselves.

I am confident that the 50 million people in the south and north aspire toward stable adherence to the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué, which is the great charter of the nation, serving for the realization of peaceful unification of the fatherland.

If anyone attempts to destroy the spirit of the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué disregarding the ardent desire of the people for peace and unification, he will be brought before the court of history and condemned for his treachery.

In my capacity as Seoul Co-Chairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee, I strongly urge the north Korean authorities to return to reason once again, and promptly to withdraw their August 28 statement which violently tramples upon the basic spirit of the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué.

At the same time, I take this occasion to pledge before both the country and the world that there is no change whatsoever in our determination to continue proceedings with the south-north dialogue in compliance with the people's expectations, no matter what difficulties we may face, in line with the spirit of the July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué."