

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (February 25, 2001 - May 20, 2001)

February

- 26 Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine announces for the first time that he will ask the central government's help in transferring some US military exercises from Okinawa to the US territory of Guam.

SK and NK hold the third round of meetings of separated family members since August. A total of two hundred separated family members, one hundred each from South and North Korea will make three-day visits to Pyongyang and Seoul respectively to meet their relatives living in the other side of border.

- 27 SK President Kim Dae-jung and visiting Russian President Vladimir V. Putin issue a joint communique.

US Admiral William J. Fallon delivers an apology from US President George W. Bush for the incident in which a US submarine *Greeneville* collided with a Japanese fishing vessel *Ehime-maru*.

March

- 1 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman criticizes the US for its "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2000."

NK and Germany establishes diplo-

matic relations.

- 2 A special envoy of Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson visits Pyongyang.

Chosun Ilbo reports that NK has deployed more than 100 Rodong-1 missiles with 1,300km range since 1998, according to a high-ranking government official.

- 3 A basketball championship opens in Pyongyang with farmers making up the 21 teams.

A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman issues a statement urging the US to provide a solution to NK's power shortage that was touched off by a delay in the construction of light-water reactors as stipulated under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

In Pyongyang, a memorial service is held for Han Duk-su, who led the *Chongryon* until his death on February 21.

- 4 The SK government calls on the US to have prior consultations with SK before pushing its NMD program, *the Korea Herald* reports. The government, however, avoided revealing its exact position on whether to sup-

- port or oppose the project.
- 5 NK establishes diplomatic relations with Luxembourg.
- 7 US President George W. Bush holds talks with visiting SK President Kim Dae-jung, reiterating the alliance between US and SK but ruling out the possibility of resuming dialogue with NK in the short term.
- 8 NK and Greece agree to establish diplomatic relations.
- 9 NK and Brazil agree to establish diplomatic ties.
- 10 John Kerr, permanent under-secretary and head of the Diplomatic Service of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, visits Pyongyang. He is the first senior British official to visit NK since the establishment of diplomatic relations between NK and Britain last December.
- SK Culture and Tourism Minister Kim Han-gil visits Pyongyang for talks with NK authorities concerned regarding inter-Korean cooperation programs.
- 12 The SK government decides to provide about \$6.3 million worth of humanitarian aid, including winter underwear and surplus fruits, to NK this month, *the Korea Herald* reports.
- 13 NK abruptly cancels the 5th session of inter-Korean ministerial-level talks.
- NK representatives to the UN releases a communique stating that Japan, which is remilitarizing and seeking to become a military power, is not qualified to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- 14 A meeting of experts on border patrol cooperation in the Northeast part of the Pacific Ocean opens in Vladivostok, with Russia, US, Japan and SK delegations, headed by the respective heads of national border guard services, participating.
- The NK media castigates the new US government's hard-line policy toward NK using the term the "US imperialists," a term rarely used in recent years.
- 15 The SK Unification Ministry announces Uzbek laborers instead of North Koreans will work at the construction site run by the KEDO in Sinpo, Hamgyong-namdo, instead of North Koreans.
- Evans Revere, US charge d'affaires ambassador to SK, calls for SK's prior consultations with the US whenever SK and NK seek an agreement that would affect US military presence in SK.
- For the first time since the division of Korea in 1945, Koreans with relatives living on the other side exchange 600 letters, 300 each from the two Koreas.
- 17 A mission of the NK Foreign Ministry, led by Vice Minister Choe Su-hoon, leaves Pyongyang to visit Sweden, Poland and Germany.
- NK and Russia sign an agreement to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in railway transportation, concluding a two-day visit to Pyongyang by Russian Minister of Railway Transport Nikolai Aksenenko.
- 18 The "Korea-OSCE Conference 2001:

- Applicability of OSCE Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Northeast Asia," opens in Seoul.
- 19 US President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori hold summit talks in Washington.
- 20 Chinese President Jiang Zemin asks new Japanese Ambassador to Beijing, Koreshige Anami, to show consideration regarding the Chinese people's concern over the controversial Japanese history textbook.
- Chung Ju-yung, the founder of Hyundai, dies.
- Zeng Qinghong, alternate member of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Party Central Committee, visits Pyongyang, leading a party mission.
- 21 Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen visits Washington for talks with President Bush and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.
- The SK Defense Ministry announces that NK's promised delivery of a signed copy of the agreement on the rules and regulations for the inter-Korean joint governance of the demilitarized zone has been delayed by more than a month.
- 22 A two-day meeting in Pyongyang of "enthusiastic" officials from around the country engaging in product quality control, closes.
- 23 NK leader Kim Jong-il sends a telegram to the family of the late Hyundai Group founder Chung Ju-yung, expressing his deep condolences over Chung's death.
- The SK Red Cross announces that a cargo ship left for NK with 3,000 metric tons of potatoes, apples and pears. It adds that the SK Red Cross will send another 9,000 tons of food within the month.
- 24 Chinese President Jiang Zemin urges that the US not to sell advanced weapons to Taiwan.
- 25 A rally of 70,000 NK farmers and soldiers in South Hwanghae Province is held in Haeju City to mark the People's Armed Forces Ministry's donation of chemical fertilizers and rolls of vinyl sheeting to farms in the province.
- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in the eastern Siberian city of Irkutsk and agreed to hold further talks on resolving the Kuril Islands dispute.
- US Secretary of State Colin Powell announces that the US is in no particular hurry to embrace NK and will set its own time-frame for improving relations, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.
- 26 A spokesman for the International Department under the NK Workers' Party Central Committee issues a statement that Chinese leader Jiang Zemin will visit NK within this year and that China will provide NK with 15,000 tons of diesel oil free of charge this year.
- NK and New Zealand establish diplomatic ties.
- Officials from Japan, the US, and SK hold a meeting of the ROK-US-Japan TCOG in Seoul. The meeting is the first senior-level consultative meeting on NK under the Bush administration.

The SK Foreign Ministry announces that SK's participation in the Missile Technology Control Regime has been approved at a meeting of the world organization in Paris. Under the guidelines, SK agrees not give any other country technology to build missiles with a range longer than 300km (187 miles).

- 28 General Thomas Schwartz, the commander of the Combined Forces Command in SK, told a budget allocation meeting of the US Senate's Armed Services Committee that the NK military was getting larger, closer and more lethal day by day, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.

NK and China sign in Beijing a protocol on the 37th meeting of the inter-governmental committee for scientific and technological cooperation between them.

The NK Religious Believers Council and the SK Religionist Council for Peace end their two-meeting in a hotel on Mt. Kumgang.

- 29 The Hiroshima High Court overturned a 1998 district court ruling that ordered the government to pay a total of \$7,260 to three women who were forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, *the Associated Press* reports.

NK holds a meeting of the youth vanguard from throughout North Korea in Pyongyang, aimed at triggering an "all-out socialist forward march under the red banner."

SK Defense Ministry announces that the US and SK open high-level talks in Seoul to determine SK's financial contribution toward maintaining US

troops stationed in SK, has ended after two days of talks without agreement.

- 30 Educational equipment is delivered to centers for training "computer geniuses" in NK, following the special instructions of Kim Jong-il.
- 31 A Dutch economic delegation, led by Dominique Bauduin, chairman of the Committee for International Trade and Investment at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, visits Pyongyang.

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama visits Taiwan.

April

- 1 A US EP-3E electronic reconnaissance plane collides with a Chinese F-8 fighter jet in the South China Sea. After the collision, the US spy plane lands at Lingshui Airport in Hainan, China.

- 2 A representative of NK's Supreme People's Assembly, Ma Il-young, officially mentioned for the first time that Kim Jong-il will visit Seoul in 2001, but probably not in the first half of the year.

- 3 The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announces that it has approved *the New History and Civics Textbook*, for use beginning in April 2002.

The KCNA denounces the US for sending reconnaissance and spy aircraft over NK 180 times last month.

- 4 China and the Philippines agree to take a number of steps to avoid escalating tension arising from territorial disputes in the Scarborough Shoal of the South China Sea.

The German government approves shipments of beef to NK from cattle being slaughtered in the wake of a mad cow crisis. The government will ship up to 30,000 tons of meat, which will be tested for mad cow disease, or *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*.

NK and Kuwait set up diplomatic relations.

SK and China file formal complaints to Japan over the new middle school history textbook.

- 5 The 10th-term SPA holds its fourth session in Pyongyang to adopt a new budget and policy guidelines that emphasize resolving food shortages and boosting trade and diplomatic relations with the outside world. The approved state budget for fiscal year 2001 sets at 21.57 billion won (\$9.8 billion), up 2.9 percent from last year.
- 6 NK begins construction of 30,000 housing units for Pyongyang citizens, as part of the second stage of its ongoing economic campaign.
- 9 Cultural missions from Tajikistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Mongolia and Cambodia visits Pyongyang to participate in the 19th "April Spring Friendship Art Festival."

Kim Young-nam, chairman of the SPA Presidium, meets the visiting mission of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, led by Franz Von Daeniken, secretary of state of the department.

More than 40 SK civic groups form an alliance to oppose US missile defense programs, claiming that such moves will prevent peace from pre-

vailing on the Korean peninsula. Major nongovernmental organizations, such as the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, and the People's Action for Reform of the Unjust SOFA are taking part in the alliance, the Korean Committee Against NMD-TMD and For Peace.

- 10 SK Ambassador to Japan Choi Sang-ryong has been recalled in protest of Japan's decision to approve school history textbooks which avoid the mention of Japan's pre-World War II invasion of neighboring countries and Japanese troops' use of sex slaves.
- 11 US Ambassador to China Joseph Prueher sends an official letter to Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan. The letter, dubbed the "letter of two sorries," expresses the US concern about the spy plane crisis using the words "very sorry," and asks to release the 24 US crew members detained for 11 days.

NK leader Kim Jong-il attends the performance of a SK female singer, Kim Yon-ja, in Hamhung City of South Hamgyong Province, accompanied by Chong Ha-chol, chief of the Propaganda-Agitation Department under the Workers' Party Central Committee; two full generals, Hyon Chol-hae and Pak Jae-gyong; two first deputy chiefs of departments under the Party Central Committee, Chang Song-taek and Ju Gyu-chang.

- 12 The 24 US crew members, detained in China after their spy-plane landed in Hainan 11 days before, arrive in Honolulu.

The Kimilsung Socialist Youth League, the Union of Agricultural Working People and the General

Federation of Unions hold rallies in Pyongyang to pledge their loyalty to the late leader Kim Il-sung, and his son Kim Jong-il on the occasion of the anniversary of the senior Kim's birth.

The Seoul District Court ordered the SK government to pay a combined total of 132 million won (\$100,000) in compensation to 14 residents of the village of Maehyang-ri who claimed they suffered damages from strafing exercises at nearby Koon-ni range run by the US Air Force, *the Korea Times* reports.

Vietnam gives 5,000 tons of rice to aid NK in a Pyongyang ceremony.

- 13 On the occasion of the 89th anniversary of the birth of the late Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il issues an order to promote high-ranking army officers. The Order No. 00140 made Kang Dok-su a general(three-star); Kim Chong-shik, Han Du-hyon and Li Mun-shin lieutenant (two-star) generals; and Yun Yong-gil and 14 others major (one-star) generals.

The General Hospital of Koryo Medicine (a herb doctors' clinic) opens in Pyongyang, with a total floor space of 14,500 square meters and over 400 beds.

The Pyongyang Children's Food Plant starts commercial operations of its facilities producing powdered milk.

- 15 Leaders of the NK Workers' Party, the government, and the military visit to pay respects at Kumsusan Memorial Palace in central Pyongyang, where the embalmed body of the late leader Kim Il-sung lies.

Wang Wei, the pilot who went missing following a mid-air collision between a US reconnaissance plane and a Chinese fighter jet on April 1, was declared a martyr by the Navy Committee of the Communist Party of China and awarded the title of "guardian of territorial air-space and waters" by the Chinese Central Military Committee (CMC).

- 16 A Brazilian parliamentary mission visits Pyongyang.

NK's fifteen-day "Great Sun Festival" celebrating the birth date of late founder Kim Il-sung officially ends. Some 39 events were held during the period, including the Spring of April Friendly Art Performances, and the Pyongyang International Marathon.

A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry issues a statement to condemn the annual SK-UK joint military exercise, called "Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration 2001 Exercise," scheduled for April 20-26.

David Morton, the WFP's representative in NK, reports that corn and wheat, the main harvest of NK failed to reach its targeted 4.8 million tons, recording about 3.0 million tons instead.

Rodong Shinmun calls for the withdrawal of the US forces stationed in SK.

- 17 An eight-member US delegation, led by Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Peter F. Verga, arrives in Beijing for talks about the return of The US EP-3E spy plane.

NK leader Kim Jong-il has increased

his number of military inspections, *Chosun Ilbo* reports, visiting air force unit 884 on April 10, army unit 2629 on the 15th, and artillery unit 3427 on the 16th. Also, on the 15th toured a fish farm constructed by army unit 580, and a new goat pasture that was made by unit 757.

The NK Workers' Party holds a meeting with the British Communist Party in Pyongyang.

- 19 Chang Jae-on, chief of the NK Red Cross Society asks his SK counterpart Suh Young-hoon for SK's grant of 200,000 tons of chemical fertilizer.

- 20 Japan issues a visa to former Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to visit Japan for medical checkups.

The KCNA reports that NK recently remitted 246.6 million Japanese yen in educational subsidies to *Chongryun*, under the special instructions of its leader Kim Jong-il.

- 22 NK has acquired several Tupolev DR-3 REYS unmanned aerial vehicles, used for reconnaissance, from a military partner in the Middle East, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.

- 23 Japan's reform candidate Junichiro Koizumi defeats Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto 293-155 to win the ruling Liberal Democratic Party presidency.

- 24 Chung Mong-hun, chairman of Hyundai Asan, NK's partner for a joint tourism venture on Mt. Kumgang, visits Pyongyang.

US President George W. Bush approves selling four Kidd-class destroyers to Taiwan, rather than

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers equipped with the Aegis combat-radar system.

- 25 In an interview by *the Associated Press*, US President George W. Bush says that the US will uphold the Taiwan Relations Act and use military options to protect Taiwan from attack by China.

NK's Supreme Commander Kim Jong-il visits Army Unit No. 671, accompanied by three leading vice marshals, Cho Myong-rok, Kim Yong-chun and Kim Il-chol; three generals, Li Myong-su, Hyon Chol-hae and Pak Jae-gyong; two lieutenant generals, Kim Yun-shim and Oh Gum-chol; Kim Guk-tae, secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee; and two first deputy heads of departments under the Party Central Committee, Li Yong-chol, Chang Song-taek.

- 26 The inter-Korean processing trade for the first quarter of the year totaled \$24.34 million, accounting for 31.8 percent of the total trade volume, a 23.1 percent increase from last year, *Joongang Ilbo* reports. It adds, however, that total volume of inter-Korean trade recorded \$76.56 million for first quarter, only 0.8 percent growth from same time last year.

- 27 NK and Russia conclude an agreement in Moscow on cooperation in the field of military technology and between their armed forces, after a meeting between Vice Marshal Kim Il-chol, NK's People's Armed Forces minister and concurrently vice chairman of the National Defense Commission; and I. I. Mlevanov, Russia's deputy prime minister.

NK and Russia sign a protocol on the fourth meeting of the forestry sub-committee of their inter-governmental committee for cooperation in trade, economy and science and technology, which was held in Pyongyang.

- 29 Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jianxuan.
- 30 NK female ping-pong players win second place in the team event at the 46th World Table-Tennis Championship in Osaka, Japan.

May

- 1 SK and NK workers hold a joint function on Mt. Kumgang to mark May Day.
- 2 A high-level delegation of the European Union, led by Goran Persson, President of the European Council and Prime Minister of Sweden, visits Pyongyang. The mission holds meetings with NK leader Kim Jong-il and Kim Young-nam, respectively.
- 3 NK leader Kim Jong-il reveals during talks with the EU delegation that NK will continue with the suspension of its test firing of ballistic missile till the year 2003.
- 4 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry criticizes the US for its annual list of countries sponsoring international terrorist activities, which again includes NK, the KCNA reports.

Japan expels the eldest son of NK leader Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-nam, to China on charges of carrying a forged passport from the Dominican Republic.

SK President Kim Dae-jung holds summit talks with European Union leaders, led by Swedish Prime Minister Persson, at Chong Wa Dae to discuss the European leaders' visit to NK.

The KCNA reports that the 60-plus days of drought hit NK starting in early March, the longest spell of drought since 1982, has adversely affecting crops there.

- 5 A mission of the Irish Labor Party visits Pyongyang.

NK launches a campaign for developing its information industry and making all officials learn how to use computers, in a Pyongyang seminar entitled, "On the Juche-oriented idea and theory on the era of information industry."

- 7 Dutch Ambassador to SK Henry de Vries visits Pyongyang, marking the first time that a top foreign envoy assigned to both Koreas has visited the NK capital.

The KCNA reports that a four-day international trade fair opened in Pyongyang, with the participation of more than 220 companies from 13 countries.

- 9 SK President Kim Dae-jung calls for early resumption of talks between the US and NK during a meeting with visiting senior US foreign policy officials, including Richard Armitage, deputy US secretary of state.

- 10 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi remarks in parliament that Article 9 of the 1947 constitution, barring Japan from using military force as a means of settling international disputes, could be revised.

NK has withdrawn its workers and construction equipment from the site it had been preparing for the reconnection of the severed inter-Korean rail line, *the Korea Herald* reports.

The KCNA reports that the Pyongyang Information Center recently developed a Korean speech recognition and synthesis program, a database program, the "PIC Font," the 3D Cad "San Ak" and a multimedia program called "Korea Today."

The KCBS reports that NK produced 1,300 state-of-the-art computers in a Pyongyang plant in February this year and delivered them to educational institutions including the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace, an educational facility for privileged children. It was the first NK report regarding computer production in NK.

The EU representative office in SK announces that the European Commission, in consultation with the member states of the EU, has decided to establish formal diplomatic relations with NK.

Choe Su-hoon, NK's Deputy Foreign Minister, reports at the UNICEF conference held in Beijing that between 1995 and 1998, 220,000 people died of famine.

The KCNA claims the US has systematically hampered the Mt. Kumgang tourism project in an effort to block reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas and their reunification.

The NK People's Army donates tractors and other farm machinery to farms in South Hwanghae Province

in a ceremony held in Haeju City, with the participation of as many as 100,000 farmers and soldiers.