

## CHRONOLOGY

### Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (February 25, 2002-May 25, 2002)

#### February

25 SK Unification Minister Jeong Se-Hyun announces that SK will move ahead with plans to turn Dorasan Station, SK's northernmost stop on the Kyongui Railway, into a tourist attraction and meeting place for separated families.

26 KCNA announces that NK has recently translated the Chinese version of the important Buddhist scriptures, "Tripitaka Koreana," or "Palman Daejangkeong," into Korean and published it in 17 volumes.

27 NK cancels a joint celebration of the new lunar year by SK and NK private organizations at NK's Mt. Kumgang in protest SK's rejection of applications by 46 pro-NK activists who were not allowed to attend the festivities.

NK leader Kim Jong-il meets Ho Jong-man, who is the second man in Chongryon as "responsible" vice chairman of its Central Standing Committee.

#### March

1 German Ambassador to North Korea Doris Hertrampf hosts a reception at the Taedonggang Club for the diplo-

matic corps in Pyongyang on the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Germany.

NK and Thailand conclude in Bangkok three agreements on investment, cultural cooperation, and the exchange of news.

3 French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation, one of four bidders competing for SK's fighter jet procurement project, won the highest marks in the Air Force initial field tests last year, SK officials announces.

5 A US fact-finding mission for cruelties reportedly committed by U.S. armed forces during the Korean War (1950-1953) visits Pyongyang.

SK and Japan inaugurate their joint historical research body as a follow-up to the agreement reached between President Kim Dae-jung and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in October of last year.

6 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman criticizes the US *Human Rights Reports 2001*, which included NK on the list of nations whose "human rights record remained poor."

- 7 A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman announces a rise in military spending to 166 billion yuan (\$20 billion dollars) this year as part of its 2002 budget, a 17.6% rise than last year.
- NK has disapproved or postponed all upcoming SK visits to NK except for those relating to economic cooperation. Three groups with economic cooperation purposes made their visit to NK as planned on March 2, right after the cancellation of the New Year's joint celebration, *The Korea Times* reports.
- The US State Department, for the first time in decades, granted a visa to a Taiwanese defense minister, Tang Yiau-ming, who plans to attend a defense conference in the US.
- 10 A classified report, the "Nuclear Posture Review," sent by the US Defense Department to Congress outlined the possible use of nuclear weapons against countries that possess or are developing WMDs. The countries named in the report are China, Iran, Iraq, Libya, NK, Russia and Syria, *The Los Angeles Times* reports.
- 14 A group of 25 NK citizens, 14 adults and 11 children seek asylum in the Spanish Embassy in Beijing.
- Members of various civic groups led by the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan hold their 500th protest rally in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul demanding an apology. Eight women who were subjected to sexual slavery by the Japanese army during World War II (known as comfort women) participated.
- 15 Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces troops leave Hokkaido's Muroran port for East Timor aboard an amphibious force ship, the first contingent of the main unit that will engage in UN peacekeeping operations there.
- US special envoy to NK Charles Pritchard met NK official Park Gilyon in New York this week for the first time since President George W. Bush's State of the Union address, *Reuters* reports.
- 18 NK asylum seekers, who entered Spanish Embassy, arrives in Seoul via the Philippines.
- 21 Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi begins a three-day visit to SK to focus on trade, investment and the upcoming World Cup soccer tournament.
- The joint US-SK Combined Forces Command in Seoul hold a joint exercise, RSOI/FE 02, between two forces for training efficiency until March 27. The drill is the biggest exercise since the Korean War.
- 22 A spokesman for the NK Red Cross Society proposes to hold talks with the Japan Red Cross Society regarding Japanese citizens listed as "missing" since the 1970s.
- 27 The fifth session of the 10th-term SPA is held in Pyongyang, with the participation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.
- 28 David Morton, the World Food Programme chief in Pyongyang, announces that NK's food stocks are likely to run out in April or May and without further support from donor countries, food aid will be exhausted

- by July.
- 29 A symposium of social scientists is held at the Grand People's Study House to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of Kim Jong-il's work, entitled, "On Juche Ideology."
- NK leader Kim Jong-il meets with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri in Pyongyang.
- US and SK sign an agreement to close half of US bases in SK by 2011 without reducing the number of US troops stationed here.
- April**
- 3 NK has opened its first E-business center operated by the Korea Namchongang Hitech Engineering Co., the KCNA reports.
- SK special envoy Lim Dong-won visits Pyongyang.
- 4 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman urges the U.S. to deliver on time heavy oil, which the US is providing the North under the 1994 Agreed Framework.
- Kim Yon-ja from SK, who is a well-known singer in Japan, visits Pyongyang to take part in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival, designed to mark the 90th birthday of former leader Kim Il-sung.
- 5 The Pyongyang-Khabarovsk regular air route is reopened under an agreement on air service between NK and Russia.
- 6 A ceremony of the completion of the Pyonghwa General Motors Factory, which is being operated by a joint venture company with the South, is held in Nampo, southwest of Pyongyang.
- SK and NK simultaneously release a joint statement containing a six-point agreement of inter-Korean cooperation, which was concluded in Pyongyang between Lim Dong-won and his counterpart Kim Yong-sun.
- The leader of Japan's opposition Liberal Party, Ichiro Ozawa, says in a seminar that Japan could easily make nuclear weapons and surpass China's military might.
- 8 A national meeting is held in Pyongyang to celebrate the ninth anniversary of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's inauguration as Chairman of the National Defense Commission.
- SK and Japan sign an extradition treaty to go into effect before the 2002 World Cup finals start May 31.
- 9 Former US Ambassador to SK Doanld Gregg arrives in Seoul after an informal visit to NK.
- Senior officials from SK, the US, and Japan hold TCOG meeting in Tokyo.
- The Japanese Lower House of the Diet unanimously adopts a resolution urging the government to stand firm against NK on the sensitive issue of alleged abductions of Japanese citizens by NK.
- 10 Lieutenant General Leon J. LaPorte, deputy commanding general and chief of staff of the US Army Forces Command, is named the next commander-in-chief of the ROK-US Combined Forces Command.
- The NK Committee for the Promotion of International Trade

- signs in Pyongyang an agreement on economic and technological cooperation with a Swedish industrial organization.
- 11 A delegation of the Workers' Party holds in Pyongyang talks with a delegation of the Danish Communist Party.
- A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman says that NK is of the view that a suitable environment for talks has not yet been created, stressing that NK-US talks will be resumed any time when conditions are created.
- The SK government decides to provide the famine-stricken NK with 200,000 tons of fertilizer as relief aid this year.
- 14 A national meeting is held in Pyongyang to mark the 90th birthday of Kim Il-sung, with the participation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.
- KCBS announces that China recently decided to give goods worth 50 million yuan (6 million dollars) in aid to North Korea.
- 15 An Air China passenger plane, CCA-129, with 167 people aboard, crashes near Busan's Gimhae International Airport amid rain and fog. Of the 155 passengers and 12 crew members, 112 were found dead, 39 survivors were rescued and 16 are still missing.
- 16 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Cabinet endorses new bills that give the Prime Minister greater powers to deal with a foreign military attack, including the authority to issue orders to local governments and public organizations. Cabinet endorsement brings the set
- of three bills a major step closer to ratification.
- 17 Inter-Korean trade reached around \$88 million for the first quarter of this year, a 15% increase from last time, the SK Unification Ministry announces.
- US President George W. Bush renews his call for action against "axis of evil" states that produce WMDs and support terrorism.
- 18 A rally of Pyongyang citizens is held in Pyongyang to mark the 10th anniversary of the Pyongyang Declaration. The declaration, protecting and advancing socialism was issued by socialist party leaders who gathered to celebrate Kim Il-sung's 80th birthday.
- A NK Foreign Ministry mission led by Vice Minister Choe Su-hon leaves Pyongyang to participate in a ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Non-aligned Movement to be held in Durban, South Africa.
- 19 In telephone communications between SK and NK military officials, NK rejects an SK proposal to discuss when to resume work on re-linking a cross-border rail line, Kyongui (Seoul-Shinuiju) Railway.
- US aerospace company Boeing wins a \$4.5 billion contract to build 40 F-15K fighter jets for SK's air force.
- 20 China, Japan and SK environment ministers meet in Seoul to discuss measures to reduce damage from the yellow sand that blows east from the Gobi Desert, clouding the air in all three countries.

Japan's Defense Agency Director-General Gen Nakatani meets SK ministers in Seoul to explain legislation recently submitted to the Diet to prepare Japan for a military emergency.

The KCNA says North Korea is compelled to maintain a high degree of vigilance regarding U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Wolf's April 16 remarks that the North sells missiles to foreign countries.

21 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pays a surprise visit to Yasukuni Shrine, which commemorates Japanese war dead, including some convicted war criminals .

22 SK Unification Minister Jeong Sehyun states that the SK government will provide equipment and material for NK to complete its part of a project to relink the Kyongui Line before October.

23 China's Vice President Hu Jintao starts a 11-day tour that includes Malaysia, Singapore, and his first visit to US.

24 North Korean leader Kim Jong-il meets Konstantin Borisovich Pulikovskiy, President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to the Russian Far East.

25 A NK refugee clammers into the German embassy in Beijing and claims asylum.

NK holds a large-scale military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the Korea People's Army. NK leader Kim Jong-il makes a rare public appearance during the parade.

28 The fourth separated family members

reunion, 565 participants from SK and 283 from NK, is held in Mt. Kumgang until May 4.

The NK CPRF issues a statement denouncing SK Foreign Affairs-Trade Minister Choi Song-hong's reported remarks during his visit to the US on April 23.

29 Arirang, a two-month gymnastic and artistic extravaganza, opens in Pyongyang.

During a Red Cross meeting held in Beijing, NK and Japan agree to resume the search for Japanese citizens listed as missing persons (suspected by Tokyo of being abducted), while arranging more hometown visits for Japanese women who emigrated to NK along with their pro-Pyongyang Korean husbands in Japan.

30 A mission from KEDO visits Pyongyang to participate in high-level expert negotiations for the implementation of the agreement to provide light water reactors.

#### May

1 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry denies an earlier report of the Reuters that NK has invited former US President Bill Clinton to visit Pyongyang to mediate talks between NK and the US, aimed at easing the tough US posture toward NK.

The South Korea Water Resources Corp. announces that if it rains 100 millimeters an hour for more than three hours in the summer rainy season, Geumgangsán Dam in NK could collapse.

3 Y. Seyyid Abdulai, general director of the OPEC Fund, arrives in

- Pyongyang and meets with Cho Chang-dok, deputy premier of the Cabinet.
- 4 The SK National Intelligence Service announces that a total of 312 NK citizens have defected to SK in the first four months of this year, more than half of the last year's total 538 defectors.
- 6 FIFA President Sepp Blatter visits Pyongyang.
- NK cancels the Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee talks planned for May 7-10 in Seoul.
- SK President Kim Dae-jung resigns from his ruling Millennium Democratic Party and apologizes for a recent series of corruption scandals involving his sons and some confidants.
- 7 A KEDO delegation visits Pyongyang to take part in negotiations for the implementation of the agreement on the provision of light-water reactors signed between NK and KEDO.
- Five relatives of NK defector Chang Kil-su, who successfully sought asylum in June last year along with six other family members, attempted to enter the Japanese Consulate in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang, but were whisked away by Chinese police.
- North Korea is generating 30 billion won worth of electricity a year from the Anbyon Youth Power Station, a hydroelectric power plant on the east coast, by using the waters of the upper Bukhan River from the reservoir at Geumgangsán Dam, *Joongang Ilbo* reports.
- 8 The CPC delegation led by Jia Qinglin, member of the CPC Politburo, attends the performance of the "Meritorious Choir" of the North Korean People's Army and the mass gymnastic and artistic show, Arirang, in Pyongyang, along with a group of senior NK officials, including Choe Tae-bok, associate member of the Workers' Party Politburo and concurrently secretary of the Party Central Committee.
- To mark the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relations, two Chinese frigates visit a SK port for the first time, in return for the first visit by SK navy ships to Shanghai last October.
- 10 A group from the South Korean Jeju Islander's Movement for South-North Cooperation flies into Pyongyang at the invitation of the North's National Reconciliation Council.
- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry denounces the US for labeling NK a state suppressing religion, saying that religious freedom is fully guaranteed by law in NK.
- The US House authorizes \$383 billion in national security spending for 2003, the largest increase in decades.
- 11 NK opens a festival for the 90th anniversary of Kim Il-sung's birthday (April 15). To celebrate Kim's birthday, NK is gearing up for some festivities including the Arirang Festival, a mass gymnastics performance, along with an art exhibit show, and the April Spring Friendship Art Festival, an international event.
- 13 North Korean leader Kim Jong-il

- meets in Pyongyang with SK Assemblywoman Park Geun-hye, the daughter of former President Park Chung-hee.
- 15 Francesco Frangialli, secretary general of the World Tourism Organization, visits Pyongyang.
- SK offers to provide \$30 million worth of rails and ties to NK to help build Kyongui Railway Line across the demilitarized zone.
- The SK Unification Ministry announces that the trade volume between SK and NK continues to increase every month. Inter-Korean trade from January to April this year recorded \$129.987 million, a 21.4% increase from the same time last year.
- 18 A ceremony is held in Sariwon, a city of North Hwanghae Province, to deliver to NK frozen beef donated by Switzerland.
- 19 Ten NK nuclear and airport officials arrive in SK for a six-day study tour as part of the KEDO program.
- 21 In its annual report to Congress, the US State Department again lists NK as a state sponsor of terrorism for the past year, along with Iran, Sudan, Libya, Iraq, Cuba and Syria.
- 22 A family of five NK defectors, two men, two women and a three-year-old girl, depart for SK after being detained in China for two weeks during a diplomatic row between China and Japan.
- 24 US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir V. Putin sign a nuclear weapons reduction treaty, the Treaty of Moscow. Under the treaty, each country will reduce its arsenal to between 1,700 and 2,200 nuclear warheads by 2012.
- 25 A SK defense ministry spokesman announces that the ministry will not publish this year's *Defense White Paper*.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

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|------------------|--|-------------|---|
| <b>Chongryun</b> | Pro-Pyongyang Association of Korean Residents in Japan     | <b>KEDO</b> | Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization    |
| <b>CPC</b>       | Communist Party of China                                   | <b>NK</b>   | North Korea   |
| <b>CPRF</b>      | Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland | <b>OCHA</b> | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| <b>IAEA</b>      | International Atomic Energy Agency                         | <b>SK</b>   | South Korea   |
| <b>KCBS</b>      | North Korean Central Broadcasting Station                  | <b>SPA</b>  | Supreme People's Assembly                           |
| <b>KCNA</b>      | North Korean Central News Agency                           | <b>TCOG</b> | Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group         |
|                  |  | <b>WMD</b>  | Weapons of Mass Destruction                         |