

Stand-off Between Self-reliance and Sanctions

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea was held amid the great interest of the world.

At this meeting, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK, said that the DPRK-US stand-off which has lasted from one century into the next has now boiled down to a clear stand-off between self-reliance and sanctions.

The summit meeting and talks between the DPRK and the US were held on three occasions and June 12 Joint Statement was adopted at the Singapore Summit, aimed at establishing a new relationship between the two countries. However, the present DPRK-US relations are still in deadlock. The US is intensifying comprehensive sanctions and military threat upon its dialogue partner while wasting time away under the signboard of peaceful dialogue and negotiations. The US double-dealing behaviour reveals the true nature of the "peace strategy" of the US style. In a nutshell, the US real intention is to capitalize on the DPRK-US talks, which reflect the aspiration of the DPRK and the world after peace, for achieving its ulterior political and diplomatic purposes for the upcoming presidential election and the stability of state affairs, and completely stifle and crush the country through harsher sanctions.

Under the prevailing situation, Kim Jong Un called the meeting, the main spirit of which is to make a breakthrough head-on in order to defend the sovereignty, right to existence and security of the country and open a pivotal phase. This is why the present DPRK-US relation has turned into a full-scale stand-off between self-reliance and sanctions.

Under the worst-ever sanctions and blockade, the DPRK has accomplished one achievement of self-reliance after another. This fact tells much about the prospect of this acute stand-off.

In the end of last year, the country completed the construction projects of the city of Samjiyon, Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery and Phalhyang Dam of the Orangchon Power Station. The agricultural sector exceeded the peak-year level even under unfavourable weather conditions.

Construction of the Wonsan Kalma coast resort, Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, Tanchon Power Station and other major projects were pushed ahead, and multiple successes were achieved in all the sectors of the national economy, including the metal, coal-mining, building materials and light industries. All these are a deadly blow to the sanctions-almighty theory.

Since the emergence of the word *sanctions* in the present world, no other country has been suffering from and overcoming such stubbornly harsh sanctions and blockade as the DPRK has been. The development course of the DPRK aspiring to building a thriving socialist country proves that the country will never yield to the sanctions, and the more intensified the sanctions are, the firmer its people's spirit of self-reliance and will to build an independent power grow.

Kim Jong Un is making breaches in the chain of sanctions and opening up a pivotal phase of building a powerful state of independence through mass campaigns for increased production and practising economy and by putting the national economy on a Juche-oriented, modern, IT and scientific footing, recycling, and attaching importance to science and technology and talents. His outstanding leadership and the single-hearted unity of the Korean people rallied firmly behind their leader are the source of the strength with which to work miracles in the full-scale stand-off between self-reliance and sanctions.

At the plenary meeting, Kim Jong Un said that the Korean people learned how to live on their own, deal with enemies and difficulties and defend their dignity and rights in the protracted and harsh environment unprecedented in history, and clarified that it is their firm revolutionary faith that they will defend the dignity of their country and defeat imperialism by achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance and even by tightening their belts.

Upholding the slogan "Let us break through head-on all the barriers to our advance!" set forth by Kim Jong Un, the Korean people will surely achieve final victory by frustrating the sanctions by the hostile forces on the strength of self-reliance.