

Report of the Korean Council of Religionists

(2016)

The Korean Council of Religionists (KCR), delighted that the ACRP EC meeting has been successfully held, offers greetings of peace to Mr. Moderator and Secretary General of the ACRP who are exerting the great efforts for its development and to the others present here.

During the last year, the KCR concentrated its efforts on realizing its tenets in accordance with the guideline of the ACRP and the people-loving policy of the DPRK. Thus the KCR freely arranged and conducted the many religious and patriotic works for giving our religionists the true spiritual life and positively contributing to the DPRK's prosperity and the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea.

In the regular standing committee and plenary meetings, the KCR agreed upon various problems and made strenuous efforts to this end. The problems include the boosting of the interreligious harmony and cooperation between its religious denominations, their active participation in social activities, the enhancing of the religionists' role in building a powerful country, the achieving of the Korean independent, peaceful reunification, a long-cherished desire of the nation, in solidarity between the religionists in south Korea and overseas, and the developing of relationship between the religious organizations all over the world.

For example, in June last year the KCR convened the standing committee meeting to discuss how to work hard for all the religionists and their organizations to achieve prosperity of the DPRK and keep the interests common to the Korean nation and peace, confirming the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea for the powerful socialist country and its line of reunification as the most just and realistic method enabling to translate into brilliant reality the ideals and dreams of all the Koreans including religionists.

Loving human being, nation and mankind is the universal idea of a religious community. It finds good expression in how religionists should make a better base of religious life, the place to live and turn it into a large flower garden overflowing with love.

The KCR had the religious denominations in line with their characteristics do a variety of works helpful to building a earthly paradise of mankind on this land where all the Koreans should lead a happy life without envying anyone in the world, while all the religionists, as not only the citizens of the DPRK, but also believers who value love and peace, made patriotic devotion for the social activities.

Last year, the KCR gave assistance to the disaster-stricken northern areas of the DPRK on several occasions. That was the vivid expression of the spirit of social works

and faith of the religionists who sacrifice their property without reluctance.

A great number of dwelling houses, factories, enterprises and schools in the areas along the River Tuman were destroyed and many hectares of farmland were waterlogged, because a heavy rain hit the areas from August 29 to September 2 of the last year. It was unprecedented in the history of meteorological observation after the country's liberation.

The government of the DPRK chose the housing construction as the major project of the rehabilitation, and enlisted and concentrated all the manpower, material and technical potentials of the state on this effort, so that flood sufferers should not shiver with the upcoming severe cold.

The KCR convened the emergency meeting without hesitation to decide on giving a helping hand to the rehabilitation project, true to people-loving measures of the government to supply the sufferers with the places to living as soon as possible, by unsparingly putting precious funds and materials of the country on the project.

And then it prepared relief materials with all sincerity and sent them to the sufferers and builders several times.

The fierce all-people campaign to recover from the flood damage in the northern area brought about eye-opening changes on the ruins of disaster. In a short span of about 60 days, 3, 000 blocks of more than 11, 900 houses, schools and hospitals were newly built.

The miraculous victory of turning misfortune into blessings achieved on the front of rehabilitation in the northern area is the brilliant fruition of the popular policies of the DPRK that gives absolute priority to the interests of the people by regarding the politics of prioritizing, respecting and loving them as the fundamentals of its activity. And it also is the proud reality of the DPRK that is thriving by dint of self-reliance and self-development as all people are tied with love and affectionate feelings.

The members of the KCR are praying for prosperity of their nation in churches and temples, while taking active part in social works by denomination, region and individual.

To keep peace on the Korean peninsula and achieve the Korea's independent peaceful reunification at the earliest possible date is the long cherished desire of the Korean nation that have suffered from pains and miseries of the national division compelled by outside forces for more than 70 years, and the unanimous desire of the Korean religionists whose religious doctrine is peace and homony

In May last year, the DPRK clarified the principled issues to keep peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world. And this year, too, the government

repeatedly made public its peace-loving will and stand to avoid the military conflict and danger of war on the peninsula.

But the US and its vassal forces persist in applying the most barbarous sanctions to suffocate the DPRK militarily and economically at any cost and bring the situation into an extreme phase, while stoutly denying the active proposals and sincere efforts of the DPRK and condemning the steps taken by the DPRK to build up its nuclear capacity for self-defense to cope with the US's threat of aggressive, nuclear war as a "threat".

Especially, this year the US has waged incessant war games against the DPRK by mobilizing the aggression forces on the largest scale. And it openly advertises that these games are geared to mounting nuclear preemptive attack on the DPRK.

Shortly ago, the US committed to south Korea the nuclear strategic assets including Carl Vinson carrier task force, the main means of overseas aggression and deployed all of sudden THAAD called "the monster to ignite a nuclear war", creating greater danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and escalating tension to the maximum in the Northeast Asia.

The war games with an involvement by many nuclear attack means and large-scale aggressor forces carry on in the limited region of the Korean peninsula.

Nobody can vouch when these maneuvers may go over to an actual war, there is no guarantee that an accidental conflict may not develop into a thermonuclear war in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Keeping peace and punishing the troops of aggression are the imperative for the religionists. The evil cycle of escalated tension has witnessed on the Korean peninsula due to the US and its vassal forces. The prevailing situation makes the KCR regard keeping peace and opposing war as the greatest mission and the most urgent task.

In view of the grave situation, the KCR whose tenets are love, peace and justice issued the statement of its spokesman that called for quitting the war game against the DPRK at once and sent the letters to the ACRP and WCRP in March.

The nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula has been raised by the 50 year long-isolation-stifle policy and nuclear threat of the US towards the DPRK.

All the facts obviously prove that the US is the ringleader of aggression and war, disturber of peace, the chief culprit in escalation of tension and satanic group. They also corroborate substantiate the correctness and farsightedness of the DPRK that is steadily building up its self-defensive nuclear deterrent, keeping the line of simultaneously carrying on the construction of the economy and the upbuilding of the nuclear forces.

Had the DPRK not possessed the strongest nuclear forces and made military preparedness to mercilessly cope with the provocation of the US and its followers, the US would have taken brigandish aggressive acts in the Korean peninsula as did in other countries. Furthermore, the sovereignty of the DPRK and their right to existence would have been fully violated, and the base of religious life, the place for happy life trampled down ruthlessly.

Through the anti-US showdown we feel more keenly the philosophical principles that we should solely be strong for ourselves if we are to defend ourselves in the strong wind of history and be faithful to our religion.

The DPRK is steadfast in its will to frustrate the enemy's severe more intensified schemes against it and reliably keep peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and globe on the strength of self-defensive nuclear deterrent forces, with the great spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force.

The religionists of the KCR fully support and approve it. If the aggressors dare to destroy the base of religious life, the place for happy life, the religionists would never forgive them.

This is an unavoidable choice to defend the sovereignty and right to existence from the decades-long threat of constant, direct nuclear attack.

We should improve the inter-Korean relationship and avoid acute military conflict between the north and the south and remove war danger, so as to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and achieve the Korean independent peaceful reunification.

Last year, in reflection of the national desire for reunification and the requirements of the times, the DPRK put forward the Juche-oriented line and policy of reunification and made strenuous efforts to this end.

Especially, the DPRK set forth the patriotic proposals to promote active contact and exchange with each other irrespective of differences in their ideologies and systems, regions and ideals, and classes and social strata, and hold a pan-national, grand meeting for reunification involving all the political parties and organizations including the authorities in the north and south, as well as the compatriots of all strata at home and abroad.

The KCR recognized that the proposal to hold a pan-national, grand meeting for reunification is very timely and correct in view of the intention of the Korean people who desire national reconciliation and unity, peace and reunification and demand the improvement of inter-Korean relationship, given the situation prevailing in the Korean peninsula over which dark clouds of war hang heavily.

So the KCR sent the letters to the religionists and their organizations in the south

and abroad hoping that they would respond to the proposal.

Though the south Korean authorities blocked completely religious exchanges and contacts, all the religious denominations of the KCR endeavored to achieve them. In October last year, the Catholics in the north and the south co-sponsored the meeting in Harbin of China, while the north-south Protestant organizations declared the joint prayers on the occasion of Easter Day this year. These served as the important chances that demonstrated to the world the will to put an end to the interference by outside forces and open up a broad avenue to independent reunification by Korean Nation Itself.

The KCR is convinced that a pan-national, grand meeting for reunification for reunification would be an epoch-making event to improve the inter-Korean relationship and a milestone to open up a broad avenue to independent reunification. It is sure that the meeting would make a positive contribution to removing the danger of war and keeping peace and security on the Korean peninsula. The religionists of the KCR will exert active efforts to hold the pan-national, grand meeting in accordance with the demands of the Korean nation and religion.

In the future, too, the KCR will go a long way towards the Korea's independent, peaceful reunification and national prosperity with the idea of realizing love, peace and justice, while strengthening solidarity and cooperation with the other religious organizations over the world including the ACRP.

For the present, the KCR will conduct brisk activities for contact, exchange and solidarity between the religious organizations of south Korea to positively contribute to national reconciliation and unity, peace and reunification. The Korean religionists with their concerted efforts will take the lead in opposing war and keeping peace.

We will develop the interreligious harmony and joint activities according to religious faith and increase exchange and cooperation between Asian and other world religious organs and the organizations of other countries on the principles of mutual benefit and equality, peace and friendship.

Availing itself of this opportunity, the KCR expresses expectation that the religious organizations attending the ACRP EC meeting should render full support and encouragement to righteous efforts of the Korean people to build a dignified and prosperous reunified Korea and to keep peace of the Korean peninsula and beyond.

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