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TRENDS IN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
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S U P P L E M E N T

DPRK AID AGREEMENTS WITH PRC AND USSR

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KOREA

DPRK AID AGREEMENTS WITH PRC AND USSR

The DPRK has recently signed economic aid agreements with the PRC and the USSR, Vice Premier Chong Chun-taek leading a DPRK Government delegation to both countries for the purpose. Moscow has signed a number of aid accords with Pyongyang in recent years, but the agreement with Peking is the first to be publicized since 1960. The activities of the delegation in the USSR received little publicity from either side, and Pyongyang only barely mentioned the fact that the agreement was signed. By contrast, the government delegation was preceded in Peking by a separate DPRK economic delegation, and the activities of both groups were amply publicized in the media of both sides.

The Sino-Korean accord comes against the background of the trend of improving PRC-DPRK relations evident in the past year, but Peking's comment on the occasion is cautious in expressing its commitment to the North Korean cause and in discussing issues of mutual concern to the DPRK's and the PRC's security. This circumspection, similarly evident in other recent Chinese comment on Korea, contrasts with North Korean statements underscoring mutual security interests. It also contrasts with comment on Korean anniversaries in June and July, when both sides played up mutual interests and portrayed a common threat to the DPRK and the PRC posed by the United States.

OCTOBER AGREEMENTS WITH PRC

On 17 October NCNA reported that an agreement on Chinese "economic and technical aid" to Korea and an agreement on trade for 1971-1976 were signed that day. A trade protocol for 1971 was signed at the same time. A similar KCNA report on the agreements appeared somewhat belatedly on the 19th. That military aid, though not specifically mentioned, may be involved is suggested by the presence at the signing ceremony of PLA Chief of Staff Huang Yung-sheng and his deputy Li Tso-peng, in addition to Premier Chou En-lai.

The last known similar PRC-DPRK agreements, signed in October 1960, provided for Chinese loans for 1961-1964 and for the supply of Chinese equipment and technical aid. The DPRK group at that time was led by Vice Premier Yi Chu-yon. Although no aid agreements

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have been publicized since then, trade protocols have been reported annually.

The DPRK Government delegation led by Chong Chun-taek arrived in Peking on 14 October, and both sides reported that it was feted at a banquet on the 15th by Li Hsien-nien and was received by Chou En-lai on the 17th for a "very cordial and friendly conversation." This delegation was preceded by a DPRK Government economic delegation led by Kim Kyong-nyon, chairman of the DPRK commission for foreign economic relations, which arrived in Peking on 20 September. The economic delegation was similarly entertained at a banquet hosted by Li Hsien-nien and addressed by Fang Yi, chairman of the PRC commission for foreign economic relations, and was also received by Chou En-lai. NCNA publicized a generous round of hospitality for both delegations, including visits to other cities and tours of various economic enterprises. The economic delegation left for home on 19 October, and the government delegation departed on the 23d.

Although Peking gave considerable publicity to the delegations, its caution in discussing issues affecting Chinese security interests seemed reflected in Li Hsien-nien's banquet speeches. While the NCNA report of the signing of the agreement notes that it is aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries "in the common struggle against U.S. imperialism and Japanese militarism," Li was vague in his banquet speech on the 15th in portraying a U.S. threat to Chinese security and ignored issues of common concern raised by the Korean speaker. Chong Chun-taek recalled that the Chinese and Koreans had fought "shoulder to shoulder" during the Korean War, and he stated that the people of Korea and China stand together in "still closer unity" today in the face of intensifying war maneuvers by the United States and Japan. He scored U.S. occupation of Taiwan and the "two Chinas" plot as well as alleged U.S. war preparations in South Korea. He quoted Kim Il-song as having asserted that if "U.S. imperialism and Japanese imperialism" launch a new war the Korean and Chinese people will fight them to the end. In contrast, Li failed to mention these themes and quoted Kim Il-song as warning only the "Japanese militarists" against launching a new war.

In a speech at a banquet hosted by the DPRK Ambassador on 22 October, Chong Chun-taek similarly referred to U.S. "occupation" of both South Korea and Taiwan, repeated the quotation from Kim, and added for good measure a quotation from

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Mao to the effect that so long as "U.S. imperialism" refuses to give up its aggressive schemes "the only course for the Chinese people is to remain determined to go on fighting side by side with the Korean people." He also mentioned the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the participation of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in the Korean War. Li Hsien-nien again avoided all such references, expressing Chinese support for the Korean people's struggle against "U.S. imperialism" only in generalized terms.

Li Hsien-nien had been similarly circumspect at banquets hosted by the DPRK Ambassador on 12 October marking the Korean Workers' Party anniversary and on 9 September marking DPRK National Day, while the DPRK Ambassador had recited the usual litany of charges tending to portray a common threat to both North Korean and Chinese interests. The Chinese had been more forthcoming in this respect in comment on the June and July anniversaries of the outbreak of the Korean War and the signing of the armistice. On these occasions the Chinese repeatedly pointed to a common U.S. aggressive threat to the security of Korea, China, and Indochina and to the U.S. presence on Taiwan and "provocations" against the Chinese mainland; as was appropriate on these anniversaries, they also recalled vividly the sacrifices of the CPV during the Korean War. This year, for the first time, Peking directly linked its observance of the outbreak of the Korean War with the anniversary of U.S. "occupation" of Taiwan.

SEPTEMBER AGREEMENTS WITH USSR

On 15 September TASS reported the signing that day of an agreement on "economic cooperation" with the DPRK, which provides for Soviet assistance "in the building and expansion of a number of industrial enterprises." A separate agreement was signed on cooperation in developing the DPRK's machine building industries, a "considerable portion" of the products of which are to be exported to the USSR. The DPRK Government delegation, which arrived in Moscow on 27 August according to TASS, was received by First Deputy Premier Polyanskiy for what Moscow on 15 September characterized as a talk in "a warm and friendly atmosphere."

Pyongyang gave the agreements minimal publicity, KCNA and the Pyongyang domestic service ignoring them and NODONG SINMUN briefly reporting on the 19th the signing of "an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the governments of the DPRK and the

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Soviet Union." The only other available Pyongyang publicity for the delegation's visit to the USSR consisted of brief KCNA reports--also published in NODONG SINMUN--on 27 August of the group's departure for Moscow, on 17 September of its return home, and on 23 September of a reception held for it at the Soviet embassy in Pyongyang.

There is no mention of a trade agreement in available comment, but on 2 October the Moscow domestic service briefly reported that Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev received the visiting DPRK Foreign Trade Minister Kye Ung-tae for a discussion of "problems of trade relations between the two countries."

Similar Soviet-DPRK aid agreements, signed in June 1966 and reported by KCNA and Moscow media, provided for "economic and technical cooperation," with the Soviets furnishing help in the expansion of several North Korean industrial enterprises, and also included a trade agreement for 1966-70 and an agreement on fishing cooperation. The group--led by Vice Premier Yi Chu-yon, who had signed the agreement with the PRC in 1960--was received by Brezhnev during its stay in Moscow. Protocols to the trade agreement have been signed annually since then.

In March 1967, when First Vice Premier Kim Il visited the USSR, an agreement was signed on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and on cooperation raising the DPRK's "defense potential,"* but no details were given. In October 1967, Yi Chu-yon again visited the USSR as the head of a DPRK economic delegation, signing an accord on the formation of a USSR-DPRK "consultative commission for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation" which holds semiannual meetings and signs protocols. At the same time, lower-ranking members of the delegation signed a trade protocol and an agreement--presumably a protocol to the 1966 agreement--on cooperation on the construction of industrial enterprises.

* The last previous military aid agreement had been signed in May 1965.

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