SOUTH KOREA UNDER MILITARY RULE

What Happened in One Year After the Military Coup in S. Korea

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE
Pyongyang, D.P.R.K.
1962

On May 15, 1962, the Committee for the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland, the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Central Committee of the Korean Peasants Union, the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Youth League, the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union, the Central Committee of the General Federation of Literary and Art Unions of Korea, the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union, the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association, the Korean Democratic Scientists Association and the Korean Students Committee issued under joint signature Denunciation of crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi military fascist clique since the "military coup" stagemanaged by the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

We publish here the full text of the Denunciation:

One year has elapsed since the military fascist oppression tightly gripped the whole land of South Korea, smothering at the point of the bayonet the unanimous aspiration of the masses for the unification, freedom and liberation of the fatherland.

The past one year in South Korea following the military coup has shown that the fascist oppression perpetrated by U.S. imperialism for the seventeen years since liberation has reached its zenith.

Under the military fascist oppression, everything precious for men has been brutally trampled upon and even the last vestige of "democracy" and "freedom" stamped out.

The arrogant U.S. imperialist aggressors and the military fascist hordes with bayonets are lording it over South Korea, and all that is national, patriotic, progressive and beautiful is suppressed and stifled.

People are even deprived of the freedom of private gatherings and walking in the street, to say nothing of social and political activities.

The lamentation of young people over being unable to live due to the lack of freedom, the curses of the unemployed on the world for their unbearable poverty and the mere petition of

mothers for providing their children with opportunity for learning—all these are subject to harsh punishment.

South Korea has been turned into a huge prison and the cauldron of horror not only for the patriots who were put on the gallow or subjected to heavy punishments because of their demand for the peaceful unification of the fatherland but for all people who live there.

The economic bankruptcy has been all the more aggravated and the privation of the people's livelihood steadily worsened.

No place of safety has been left for anyone in South Korea and people of all strata are grasped by deep suspense and resentment.

It has become clear to all today what the military coup meant.

All facts prove that the military coup in South Korea was the last agonizing machination of U.S. imperialism to strangle the sentiment for the peaceful unification of North and South Korea surging higher and higher among the South Korean people and to prop up the tottering foundation of their colonial rule in South Korea.

In the past one year the U.S. imperialist aggressors added a record of evermore bloody crimes to their history of sanguinary aggression covering the period of seventeen years of their occupation of South Korea.

We expose and condemn before the whole world the hair-raising crimes committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and

the Pak Jung Hi military fascist outfit and denounce them before the entire nation.

I

An ominous gun report was heard at dawn on May 16. 1961, and the land of South Korea was placed in the dark iron clutches of a most rabid and frantic military fascist rule.

Stringent martial law drove all the people to the state of suffocation. All the apparatus for preservation of order were replaced by blood mongering bayonets and clubs and one proclamation was enough to take away thousands, tens of thousands of patriotic personages and guiltless inhabitants to prisons and gallows.

All the political parties and public organisations were disbanded, the press organs and publishing houses shut down and even the puppet national assembly which was nothing but a tool for embellishing the colonial ruling machine was dissolved. Thus, South Korea has turned into an unheard-of land of darkness under the sway of fanatic "anti-communist" clamour and unbridled murder and terrorism.

After the April popular uprising, the South Korean people started a vigorous struggle under the slogans "Unification is the only way out!" and "Let's achieve self-dependent unification by pushing aside outside forces," in their firm belief that the only way for dispersing the dark clouds hovering over them and seeing a new, bright day lay in repulsing outside forces and realising the peaceful unification of the country.

"Let's go to the North! Come to the South! Let's meet at Panmunjom!"—This shout of the whole nation that rang throughout the country, stirring the hearts of the entire Korean people, hastened that historical moment when the rusty barbed-wire entanglements along the Military Demarcation Line would be torn down and the North and South would communicate with each other. Much confused, the U.S. imperialists cast off all the masks of "freedom and democracy" and set out to resort to the last, adventurous means—military coup.

Over the last one year, the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist elements have newly built and expanded in a big way fascist suppressive apparatuses—the army, police and prisons—and covered South Korea with a malicious intelligence network.

No trace is left of the freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, demonstration, strike and thought—the elementary norms of democracy.

In a matter of ten months following the military coup, they manufactured more than 2,000 evil laws of all descriptions and they brand by law as a crime even the elementary demand of the South Korean popular masses for freedom, democracy and existence. The military fascist clique, in only one week, forcibly dissolved 23 political parties and 238 public organizations, closed down more than 2,300 press organs and publishing houses, arrested and put in prison hundreds of thousands of people.

The military fascist clique arrested and imprisoned tens of thousands of patriots; butchered cold-bloodedly numerous public figures in prison, among them Choi Keun Woo, chairman of

the "Socialist Party" and Li Hoon Koo, politbureau member of the "United Socialist Party"; and hanged many patriots including Choi Baik Keun, chief of the organizational department of the "Socialist Party" and Cho Yong Soo, publisher of the *Minjok Ilbo*. And all this merely on the ground that they had advocated the peaceful unification of the country.

The military fascist gang ban unconditionally any gathering that is not to their liking; even wedding and funeral ceremonies require advance permission, and people walking in the street in groups of five or six are punished on the charge of "violation of the Public Meetings Regulations."

How can people live in peace even a moment in such dismal circumstances which have no parallel in any age and in any country.

Worse still is the suppression of the press.

Any honest report that would afford a brief glimpse of the rampant social evils in South Korea, not to speak of the slightest complaint against the "military regime," is liable to severe punishment.

The military fascist band have already taken repressive measures against scores of thousands of journalists and pressmen on all sorts of absurd charges, and are still forcing the press organs to "purge themselves" in an attempt to expel the honest journalists, on the pretext of so-called "purge of the press."

The military fascist clique inflict penalties upon thousands of people every day on the charge of violation of traffic regulations

alone, arrest and punish large numbers of people and proprietors every day, every hour and everywhere—at theatres, cinema houses, restaurants, hotels, barber shops, gay quarters, etc., charging them with violations of various decrees.

They have gone so far as to compel people to fit wedding, funeral and other ceremonies to the so-called "national etiquette regulations" in disregard of the long-established formality handed down from our ancestors; people are even forbidden to wear clothes according to their own tastes and forced to wear name tags on their breast, which is just what the Japanese imperialists did in the closing years of their rule.

In this way, the military fascist clique, wielding all kinds of "laws" and "proclamations" they arbitrarily fabricated, indiscriminately arrest and imprison people at any time and at any place, and are incriminating all the inhabitants.

The South Korean prosecution handled more than 140,000 "criminal" cases and the arrested numbered over 230,000 in only 8 months, which means one out of every 100 South Korean inhabitants was punished during the 8 months.

When one takes into account the number of criminal cases of all descriptions handled by so many investigation, intelligence and police organs, one cannot but ask how many South Koreans have not been punished by the military fascist clique.

Thus arresting and imprisoning the South Korean inhabitants at random, the military fascist clique boast of their record speed of summary trials by disposing of 900 cases a day or one case in every 30 seconds, by the fascist method of "package

trial," "quick decision," etc.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors try to justify this criminal military fascist, terror rule in the name of "anti-communism."

In the past, U.S. imperialism tried to camouflage its colonial enslavement policy, bragging that they would turn South Korea into a "bastion of freedom" and a "showcase of democracy" for "anti-communism."

Today the U.S. imperialists claim that the military fascist rule is necessary in South Korea for this very "anti-communism."

But there is nothing new in this.

Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo also put up the slogan of "anti-communism" when covering up their aggressive acts, and all of them met their doom without exception.

The South Korean people know only too well through their experience of more than ten years under the Syngman Rhee's fascist rule what the "anti-communist" racket means.

Under the pretext of "anti-communism" the U.S. imperialists are pursuing the most vicious aggressive policy in South Vietnam, Thailand and Argentina, in all parts of the world where their colonial rule is shaking to its foundation.

The Pak Jung Hi clique, the thrice-cursed traitors who are executing the U.S. imperialist aggressive policy brazen-facedly alleged that the military coup "inherited the spirit of April" in a wicked attempt to conceal their true colour.

What a shameless claim it is!

The heroes of April 1960 fought, shedding blood, against the dictatorial regime which drove the South Korean people into the abyss of hunger, poverty and non-rights.

The April heroes came out against the foreign aggressive forces.

But the Pak Jung Hi clique are indulging in every conceivable country-selling, treacherous act in order to bring even the Japanese militarists into South Korea which is already subjugated by U.S. imperialism.

The April heroes came out in demand of the peaceful unification of the country and contact and interchange between the North and South. But the Pak Jung Hi clique are suppressing most cruelly all those who insisted on the peaceful unification of the country.

It was for freedom, democracy, a new government, and new life that the April heroes shed their blood of youth. But the Pak Jung Hi clique arrested, imprisoned and murdered these patriots.

The fact itself that the cutthroats talk about the April spirit, while jailing patriotic youths and students who fought shedding their blood on the April square, is an intolerable insult to the April heroes.

The Pak Jung Hi clique claim that the present fascist terror rule is necessary for preparing a "foundation of democracy."

But how can a "foundation of democracy" be prepared by

destroying and trampling underfoot even the last vestiges of freedom and democracy?

What they call "democracy" is nothing but the extension of fascist suppression.

The murderous military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their servitors is bringing untold sufferings and misfortunes to the South Korean people.

Today the South Korean people of all social strata under the military fascist rule are forced to permanent slavery without any prospect for the future.

The U.S. imperialists and the military fascist hordes are running more wildly to prolong such prison-like dark rule.

It has become already clear that the so-called "transfer of power to civilians" is nothing but a farce of transferring power from the left hand to the right hand.

The military fascist outfit are frantically making preparations for realizing their sinister desire to remain in power for a long time through the so-called "state national reconstruction movement," a rehash of the "national general mobilization federation" in the last years of the Japanese imperialist rule.

They want to frame up the "constitution," "election law" and all other ruling apparatus as they wish, and are going to suppress all the forces that oppose it at the point of the bayonet.

The so-called "law on the purification of political activities," one more fascist law trumped up recently, further glaringly laid bare their sinister design to remove in advance all the patriots

and the forces opposed to the "military regime," and to maintain their fascist terror rule, changing their army uniform for plain clothes behind the curtain of "transfer of power to civilians."

One year's experiences under the military fascist rule enabled the South Korean people to draw a clear conclusion.

The fanatic military fascist dictatorship of U.S. imperialism shows clearly that the foundation of its colonial rule has been weakened, not strengthened.

The more frantic the suppression of the American imperialists and the military fascist clique becomes, the fiercer the resistance of the popular masses will grow.

The South Korean people will not put up indefinitely with the sufferings and non-rights of today. They will certainly overthrow the military fascist rule of the American imperialists and their lackeys.

Those who turn their back on the people will be severely punished by the angry people.

No cruel military fascist rule can break the aspiration of the South Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country.

The criminal machinations of the U.S. imperialists to salvage their crumbling colonial rule are bound to meet with an inglorious end.

II

During the past one year of military fascist rule, the South

Korean economy has slid down deeper into a fatal crisis, and mass hunger and poverty are sweeping all South Korea.

Economic catastrophe has reached the climax in all domains of production and commodity circulation, finance and banking.

Even a South Korean publication coming out under the pressure of the "military regime" noted that "the economy has been floundering in the slough of stagnation and that though one year has already elapsed it finds itself still in the morass of stagnation." Radio Seoul lamented that today South Korea has become "a society where a huge army of the unemployed is wandering about the streets, housewives weep over the price hike and peasants cry over the slump in the prices of farm produce."

The medium and small enterprises accounting for 97 per cent of enterprises in South Korea are closing their door one after the other due to the shortage of raw materials, power supply and funds as well as marketing difficulties resulting from all kinds of oppression and plunder by the military fascist gang.

This year already 1,378 medium and small enterprises have closed down and those holding the overwhelming proportion of the output of foodstuff, fabric, chemical, brick and metal industries find themselves in an unprecedented crisis.

More than 15,000 stores, and service trade establishments have been removed by force or have been deprived of their business licenses.

Today factories in operation are only 10-20 per cent of the total in South Korea, and mines around 10 per cent. As the

South Korean papers put it, such "industrial areas" of South Korea as Seoul-Inchon district, Pusan and Taegu are "sleeping like the dead" and the equipment of the factories is "gathering rust."

The industrial production accounting for two-thirds of that in the days of the Japanese imperialist rule dropped again by 10 per cent in the period from the time of the military coup to the end of last year, and it continues to be on the downward trend this year.

The production indices of key industries went down last year by 8.3 per cent as compared with the already meagre figure at the time of the military coup, of which mining industry dropped by 62 per cent, power industry by 24.6 per cent and manufacturing industry by 2.3 per cent.

The South Korean agriculture has been further devastated.

Last year's grain output was 75 per cent of that in the closing days of the Japanese imperialist rule. An acute food crisis is sweeping the whole of South Korea.

The "liquidation of usury in the farming and fishing villages" by the military fascist villains further impoverished the living of the small peasants.

The issue of paper money which had broken the record as of the end of last year due to the overissue of paper money by the "military regime" for the disbursement of stupendous military-police expenses, shot up again by 20 billion hwan as of March this year, reaching a total of 350 billion hwan.

As a Western journalist pointed out, South Korea has become "a country with more paper money than paper."

The public service fees including the railway charges and electric fees have been sharply raised. The market prices in general jumped by 20 per cent last year. But, wages have been "frozen" and the price of rice has been nailed down below the production cost. The purchasing power of the population has dropped to one third or one half.

The frantic fascist suppression and deepening economic crisis are making the life of the people harder.

Having lost the means of livelihood, people of all social strata of South Korea are groaning in the mire of famine and poverty.

The problem of the unemployed, a most pressing issue in the South Korean society, has become more grave since the military coup.

That is why the South Korean papers were obliged to admit that "the difficulties of living of the people remain just the same, because unemployment has not decreased and the cost of living of the masses has further risen."

It is not fortuitous that a South Korean paper editorially pointed out: "It is said that the military regime is trying to absorb the unemployed as workers for national development projects and the like. But it is no use as the fire in the neighbourhood cannot be extinguished with the water in the distance."

Entering the lean spring season the wretched plight of the peasants is beyond description.

How miserable must be the conditions of the people in the

coastal areas along the East Sea and the Woolneung and Cheju islanders today, when the Honam and Ryungnam granaries are hit by lack of food and hunger!

According to the official figures made public by the "military regime" authorities, now there are 3.4 million foodless peasants in South Korea requiring immediate relief. And it is expected that the number of foodless people will swell to 10 million in June.

Where can the people find a means of living in such a land of poverty? The South Korean press deplored:

"The misery of the peasants finds expression in the fact that they live on grass roots and tree bark in lean spring months. But the poorest in towns cannot get even the grass roots and tree bark. Hence the untold tragedy of whole families committing suicide."

Everyday witnesses an unending train of suicide cases among the South Korean people everywhere who can not eat nor live despite all their efforts.

A mother, thrown into despair by the difficulty of living, killed herself and her three little ones with poison in Changsin-dong, Seoul, and another mother while her husband was out looking for a job killed her three children and herself with poison in Taegu and the husband, upon returning home, hanged himself to follow his family—such tragic cases are daily occurrences in today's South Korea.

The number of those who received first-aid treatment at sev-

en hospitals in Seoul after their attempted suicide by poisoning during last January amounted to 129.

Various other tragedies resulting from the difficulty of living are also too many to enumerate.

How many bitter tears the mother must have shed who deserted her forty two-day-old baby in the street to save her family of eleven that was about to starve to death after her husband lost job!

What bitter pain must have torn the heart of the forty-year-old mother of five children who has been compelled by the difficulties of living to become a prostitute! What agony must have overcome the demobilized soldier when he had no choice but to advertize himself as a slave to feed his family of seven!

All these numerous sorrows bring tears to the eyes of the readers and rend their hearts.

In an endeavour to evade the responsibility for the ever-deepening destitution of the South Korean people, the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist hordes have again come out with the antiquated "over-population" theory.

However, nothing can cover up the fact that the economic ruin of South Korea is the product of the colonial predatory policy and the frantic armaments expansion policy persistently pursued by the U.S. imperialists under the unctuous name of "aid" and of the country-selling, treacherous policy of the military fascist clique toeing such policies.

This is clearly manifested also in the deceptive nature of the

"five-year economic reconstruction plan" the military fascist clique are advertizing under the slogans: "establish a self-dependent economy" and "wipe out poverty."

The military fascist clique rant that the next five years will witness a 40.7 per cent growth in the South Korean economy and, on this pretext, they plan to double the tax collection from the people. Commenting on this, the South Korean *Chosun Ilbo* said that "as the five-year plan is implemented the people will have to pay at a rate higher than that of the increase of their income."

When one makes study of the rate of increase of the national income, leaving alone tax imposition, one can see that the plan provides for a marked drop, and not an increase, in the absolute income for the masses at large.

The military fascist clique declare that the national income will increase 41.4 per cent during the five years. But, it is envisaged that the lion's share will fall into the hands of foreign capitalists and comprador capitalists.

The plan envisages a growth of only 1.66 times in the income of the workers. But during the same period, the workers employed in mining and manufacturing industries, transport and commerce are to swell 1.64 times.

Is it not too clear that there will be no increase whatsoever in the workers' individual income?

Though the aggregate income of the peasants, fishermen, and small traders and manufacturers is planned to go up 1.15

times, the hard fact that during the five-year period the number of the peasants alone will increase 1.26 times proves that in the final analysis the individual income will be less than it is now.

All this shows that even if the "five-year plan" is carried out, only more miserable living will await the people.

This is why even the foreign press wrote that "it is really surprising that a 'plan' envisaging a more acute bankruptcy is being mapped out."

It is not without reason that the military fascist clique themselves stress repeatedly that the people will have to continue "austerities" even after the five-year period.

The real aim of U.S. imperialism and the Pak Jung Hi clique is not to build a "welfare society" but to exploit the people ruthlessly for aggression and war machinations. This is patently substantiated by the very fact that more than 50 per cent of the total investment envisaged in the "five-year plan" will go mainly to further increasing military potentials such as railway, communications, harbour and road projects, not to key industries which are of prime importance in economic construction.

The military fascist clique themselves confessed that "the five-year plan is directly linked up with the strengthening of the military potentiality."

The military fascist clique say that "the introduction of foreign capital is the key to the successful fulfilment of the five-year plan." This lays bare the treacherous nature of the plan.

The military fascist clique are frantically working to bring in

monopoly capital running into 1,400 million dollars from such capitalist countries as the United States, Japan, West Germany and Italy.

To this end, they have even worked out the "Law on Promoting the Introduction of Foreign Capital" which stipulates all privileges for foreign capitalists, a humiliating and treacherous law which is without precedent in the world.

U.S. imperialism is running wild to bring into South Korea the Japanese monopoly capital and maintain its colonial rule by putting up the Japanese militarists as their shock brigade.

The "five-year plan" so noisily advertised by the military rulers is an out-and-out military plan, a plan of subjugation, a plan for plundering the people, and an empty plan without any guarantee or assets.

What on earth are they going to leave of South Korea after selling it at extraordinary sacrifice to those avaricious foreign monopolist forces?

The *Eastern Horizon* of Hongkong pointed out, "General opinion is that no matter how miserable the present situation of South Korea may be, the future of that country will be still gloomier." And it is not fortuitous. How can the pack of military rogues who know nothing but the bayonet and who have neither wherewithal nor ability, put right the South Korean economy ravaged by the U.S. imperialists' colonial predatory policy during the past 17 years? It is the height of folly that those who cling to the sleeves of their American masters intend to carry out a "five-year plan" by bringing in foreign monopolist capital as well as

the Japanese militarists who mercilessly oppressed, exploited and plundered our people in the past.

So long as the U.S. imperialists occupy South Korea, the situation will never change no matter who may become their puppet, and the hardships of the people will only go from bad to worse.

III

Since the military coup, only most vicious social evils and various horrible diseases have spread with increasing rapidity in the South Korean society, the sight of which no one can endure.

Today when the political and economic crisis has become most acute and the people's plight has reached the extreme in South Korea, the social evils with their fin-de-siecle features that defy all human imagination, are spreading to every nook and corner of the society.

Hardly a trace of the beautiful manners and customs handed down from our forefathers can be found; instead, the social life is filled with murder, robbery, larceny, violence, fraud, embezzlement, degeneration, depravity, sale and purchase of offices and all manners of briberies.

For all the clamours of the military fascist hordes about the "rectification of irregularities and corruption" and the "cleaning-up of the old evils," nothing has changed.

On the contrary, "irregularities and corruption" have assumed still more alarming proportions than under the "preced-

ing regimes." The high-ranking officials squander and line their own pockets with "national funds" which have been raised by bleeding the people white; the gendarmes and policemen rob the people of their property on false charges of "violating the law"; the traffic policemen wrest from car drivers what little money they earn; the judicial officials and revenue officers empty the pockets of the poor.

Left neglected in this muddy stream of "irregularities and corruption," the teenagers have no other way of living but to pick pocket, pilfer, or join thieves' bands and a girl of fourteen reduces herself to a plaything of the Yankees in order to save her starving old parents, tragedies too painful to behold.

For all the harangues of the military fascist band about their plan to "wipe out the gangsters," the gangsters have never disappeared, and ordinary criminal cases are on the steady increase.

The military fascist gang who were loud in advertising their intentions to punish illicit money-makers, are appointing them "special envoys" and "advisers."

The military fascist bandits, far from "doing away with poverty" or "relieving the people from their dire plight," have made no scruple to evacuate the board-hovels on the pretext of beautifying the townscape. Owing to this outrageous act, people have been driven out even from their board-hovels and left shelterless.

How can anyone expect the gang of military hooligans, which has from the start formed a huge organized system of "irregularities and corruption," to eliminate "irregularities and cor-

ruption"?

For fear of exposure of all this truth, the military fascist clique have recently arrested and jailed a *Tonga Ilbo* reporter because he had reported objectively about an aged man who died of hunger in the tent village at Samyang-dong, Sungbook district, Seoul, a village called "Barren Hill"; the military fascist bandits also tried a reporter of the *Hankook Ilbo* at the "high military tribunal" on the fabulous charge of "helping the enemy," because he had reported facts as they were about gangsterism being still rampant.

With all these despotic measures, however, the military fascist band is powerless to conceal the truth about the misery, injustice and corruption predominant in South Korea.

Even according to the data released by the "military regime," the number of cases of larceny committed throughout South Korea in January this year alone stood at 6,049, and other criminal cases reached 13,713.

The number of pickpockets and pilferers arrested throughout South Korea during February this year reached 8,857.

The South Korean *Seoul Shinmoon* had this to say: "with the advent of spring, there has been a sharp increase in the number of thieves and pilferers. And particularly salient are juvenile delinquencies."

According to the South Korean *Hankook Ilbo*, about 200 families living in Hawolkok-dong, Sungbook district, Seoul, have been robbed by thieves on nearly 100 occasions since last

spring.

Now "the villagers here heavily lock the door, closet, wardrobe and kitchen and, at night, they organise guards with family members and stand on guard alternatively with cudgels in hands. They lock all the doors as soon as dusk falls." Otherwise, it is said, they cannot go to sleep.

The *Hankook Ilbo* deplored in an editorial: "We shudder with shame at the mere thought that we have heard more than once the harsh criticism of foreign journalists that our country has been given the disgraceful name of a country of thieves."

This is not all that makes the South Korean people feel uneasy.

All the people are swept by anxiety every day, every hour, due to the unbroken chain of various accidents such as traffic accidents and fire in the thick of confusion and disorder.

The people cannot walk, take cars or go to playgrounds and theatres freely without the fear of accidents.

In 1961, 5,736 traffic accidents took place, killing or wounding 8,298 people. This is a record in the post-liberation period. Horrible diseases are spreading more and more rampantly due to the utter lack of public health service on top of the subhuman life there.

The tuberculars number as many as 17,500,000, or 70 per cent of the entire population, of which critical cases requiring immediate treatment alone reach 800,000.

The South Korean Parasitological Society announced that

41 per cent of the total population of South Korea are distoma cases, 90 per cent have roundworms and more than 40 per cent have hookworms.

Indeed, today's South Korea has turned into a land of darkness where people cannot breathe freely, where they cannot live without anxiety and fear.

No wonder, under such gloomy conditions in South Korea today there are 300,000 psychopaths and 2,000,000 hyperaesthesia cases.

In disregard of such extreme hardships of living and decadent state of affairs, the most brazen-faced military fascist clique speak of their "exploits" and claim that "the society has become bright."

It is also an outcome of the systematic and planned policy of the U.S. imperialists to maintain the foothold of their colonial rule that social evils of all kinds and decadent trend have become ever more rife in South Korea.

In the past one year U.S. imperialism and the military fascist clique have stepped up in every way the machinations for fanning nihilism and the idea of submission among the people and for obliterating their national pride and fighting spirit under the slogans "human remoulding" and "spiritual revolution".

As part of the colonial obscuration policy zealously pursued by them, 21 colleges were closed down and the number of college students decreased by more than 100,000 during the past one year.

As an aftereffect of the forcible "rearrangement of colleges," most of the remaining colleges are confronted with serious difficulties in keeping themselves going and are compelled to dismiss faculty members en masse.

The *Seoul Shinmoon* reported on March 5 that even the "Seoul University," the so-called "State University," was "hit so hard by dismissal of all lecturers, mass call-up, etc., that it can hardly continue to give lessons." Still worse is the situation of primary, middle and high schools in towns and villages.

Even according to the announcement made by the "military regime," in 1961, the absolute shortage of classrooms in primary schools numbered more than 35,000.

It is common practice for the South Korean primary schools, where an acute shortage of classrooms is felt, to accommodate as many as 120 pupils in a classroom for 60, packed like sardines in a box, as South Korean papers ruefully put it. There are many schools where five pupils share one chair, tents or playgrounds are substituted for classrooms and where lessons are given in the open-air without chairs and blackboards.

Schools whose collapsing classrooms create a pandemonium, schools where, with the rotten pillars supported by props, lessons have to be stopped whenever the wind blows, for the pupils must run out of the classrooms as the buildings may collapse at any moment. Such schools are too many to enumerate.

And the school-age children who are kept outside such schools which can hardly be called schools number 800,000. There are many children who have neither textbooks nor teach-

ers to teach them though enrolled in schools.

The scientific world, too, has been more stagnant since the military coup.

Scientific research institutions suffer from lack of research facilities and funds and, as there is no guarantee by the state, inventions and devices made by the painstaking efforts of individual scientists are thrown away.

Under the sway of fascist discipline enforced by the military fascist gang scientists are totally deprived of even the freedom of research work.

Our traditional national culture and art and all the beautiful and graceful things of our nation are trodden underfoot and destroyed by the decadent Yankee culture and our precious cultural relics are constantly demolished and pillaged.

Men of literature and art are persistently forced to engage in "anti-communist" propaganda only; they are allowed only to preach submission to foreign forces and misanthropy, encourage corruption, degeneration and eroticism, fan war and extol death and pessimism.

The Chumsungdai in Kyungjoo, the world first observatory and a pride of our nation, is leaning to the point of collapse, and the Sukkoolam (stone grotto), a cultural heritage of world fame, and the South Gate in Seoul are in such a deplorable condition since they were recently dismantled at random for "capital repair" that they can hardly be restored to their original state.

Such destructive policy of the U.S. imperialists and their

stooges regarding education, culture and science adds to the destitution of the men of science and culture and educationists.

The South Korean *Kyunghyang Shinmoon* wrote: "It is a characteristic feature of South Korea that professors hop about from one school to another, like a peddler, with brief cases under their arm, because otherwise they cannot earn a living".

But the military fascist gang, even banning the professors from doing so, are driving them into further distress. Some one hundred scholars and professors who have been forced to retire under the age limit are leading an indescribably miserable life.

Even the comparatively prolific writers have no money to see a doctor and are driven out of their house because they can not pay the rent. And even famed actresses have to walk the streets at night to earn a livelihood.

All these miseries arouse the indignation of all the Korean people with conscience, and add fuel to their burning hatred toward the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, the Pak Jung Hi clique.

IV

The U.S. imperialist aggressors rigged up the military fascist coup as a desperate means of obstructing the peaceful unification of the North and South by the Korean people themselves and have further intensified the frantic manoeuvrings to unleash another fratricidal war.

The last one year after the military coup in South Korea has

been a year of hair-raising terror and massacre, it has been days of criminal war preparations reeking of gunpowder.

The U.S. imperialist aggressive army which occupies South Korea is being reinforced on a large scale and continually equipped with new-type weapons, and the dark clouds of war hang ominously over the South Korean people.

Last year four U.S. army battle groups equipped with new-type arms were brought into South Korea and deployed in the vicinity of the Military Demarcation Line.

Although factories were closed, industry destroyed and farmland devastated, the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist clique have been only running amuck to expand military installations, building airfields, ports, military roads and depots.

The bellicose generals of U.S. imperialism coming to South Korea one after another clamour frenziedly for the "completion of war posture".

The U.S. imperialists and the military fascist clique are pressganging a large number of young and middle aged people into the puppet army and staging incessantly provocative military manoeuvres along the Military Demarcation Line.

Last August, the U.S. imperialists staged on the east coast the "joint amphibious landing operations" in the "simulated atomic warfare" led by the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

And in October, the "manoeuvre of crossing Rimjin River" under the "simulated atomic warfare" was held in the vicinity of the Military Demarcation Line. In February this year, over

75,000 U.S. and puppet troops were mustered up to stage a "joint mobile manoeuvre" designed to "attack" the northern part of the Republic.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Decker said that "war posture" had to be completed because the armistice in Korea was a "mere truce". U.S. Army Commander in South Korea Merroy clamoured that they should "reexamine the operational programme" of the U.S. and puppet armies for "you cannot tell when war will start" and everything should be arranged for the full preparation of "war posture".

The military fascist clique openly made the warlike utterances that "unification should be attained by real power" and are frantically preparing for a fratricidal war.

The U.S. aggressors who hold full commanding power over the puppet army have adjusted and strengthened its commanding system suited to an aggressive war, replacing senior puppet officers with bellicose pro-American agents and "modernizing" the equipment of the puppet army with various new-type weapons.

The Pak Jung Hi hordes fixed the number of persons "liable to military service" at 300,000 for this year alone, and are driving out young and middle aged people and pressing all the discharged officers and soldiers into the "reserve army" herding them to army drilling grounds.

When he wormed into South Korea last April, Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Lemnitzer declared that "there is no area where such high level of combat readiness is maintained so

incessantly as in South Korea."

The so-called "national construction corps" put up by the military fascist clique on the pretext of relieving the unemployed is, in actual fact, designed for nothing but to mobilize people forcibly to building military installations and munitions industry.

Since the military coup, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have violated the Armistice Agreement more frequently.

How frenzied the war preparation manoeuvrings of U.S. imperialism in South Korea are is seen unequivocally in the mere fact that 281,440,000 dollars, 31 per cent of the sum of their military "aid" for the Far East, were allotted to South Korea and that 25 per cent of the expenses for the construction of overseas military bases were allocated for South Korea.

In order to realize their sinister aggressive aims, the U.S. imperialists are busying themselves to bring even the revived Japanese militarists into South Korea and align them with the South Korean military fascist clique in the aggressive "Northeast Asia Military Alliance".

The Japanese militarists, our inveterate enemy, who occupied our country for nearly half a century and brought immeasurable sufferings and pains to the Korean people, are again stretching the evil hand of reaggression, openly claiming that they have to take hold of South Korea to "defend" Japan.

The Korean people cannot tolerate the criminal manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and Pak Jung Hi clique who are attempting to provoke another fratricidal war in our land.

Why should we, one nation of the same blood, fight each other?

The U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi military fascist clique are perpetrating all these criminal manoeuvres under the outworn pretext of "opposing communism".

Is there really any threat coming from the northern part of the Republic?

How is it possible that the building of socialist paradise in the northern part of the Republic which is materializing the century-old aspiration of the people constitutes "aggression" on the United States?

How is it possible that the machines and silk fabrics with floral designs pouring out of our factories and mills, the abundant grains and fruits grown in the field constitute any "threat"?

The "threat" from the north is a ridiculous empty talk manufactured by the U.S. imperialists and their running dogs. It is nothing but a smokescreen for covering up their occupation of South Korea and their attempt to invade the whole of Korea, smokescreen for deceiving the people.

Stark historical facts show unequivocally who have struggled to get rid of the artificial division of our country and realize the peaceful unification, and who have been opposed to it.

Ever since the first days of liberation, the Korean people have endeavoured to build a unified, sovereign, independent state.

The U.S. imperialists have hampered such endeavour and manoeuvred to split and colonize our fatherland.

The Government of the Republic has been consistent in its effort for the peaceful unification, while the U.S. imperialists responded to this even with a sanguinary war of aggression.

Were it not for the obstructionist manoeuvres on the part of the U.S. imperialists, our country would have long since been unified and the South Korean people would not have suffered such tribulation as they do today.

The Pak Jung Hi clique staged the military coup in the name of the "ROK Army". But what has it brought to the "ROK Army" officers and soldiers now?

They are only trying to herd the "ROK Army" officers and soldiers into the mire of bigger crimes and death.

The military fascist clique are forcing the "ROK Army" officers and soldiers to suppress their own parents, brothers and sisters suffering from hunger and penury and driving them out to a new war against the same nation.

Those heinous traitors to the nation are now scheming to send the "ROK Army" officers and soldiers even to the jungles in South Vietnam as cannon fodder for the U.S. imperialist aggression to die a dog's death.

The crazy war provocation manoeuvres of U.S. imperialism and their running dogs, the military fascist clique, are a criminal act to impose still more intolerable disasters upon the South Korean people and are a grave challenge to the peace of the Far East and the world.

* * *

The one year of the most cruel military fascist rule in South Korea, together with all the historical facts of the 17 years following liberation, shows clearly that the U.S. imperialist aggressors are the most wily and pernicious aggressors, most heinous homicidal robbers, most avaricious plunderers and the inveterate enemy of the Korean people, who has turned South Korea into the dark land of hunger, poverty and non-rights that we see today.

From the first days of their occupation of the southern part of our country, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have drenched our picturesque land with the blood of the resentful Korean people. They are destroying and trampling underfoot everything that is beautiful and graceful in our nation.

How many fellow-countrymen, brothers and sisters of ours have been killed ruthlessly and subjected to intolerable national humiliation and insult by the American beasts and how many parents and wives and children of ours have been deprived of their properties by them and died a grievous death!

The U.S. aggressors are committing without hesitation all sorts of beastly outrages: they raid in groups the houses of our people in broad daylight, shoot our children for target practice, shoot girls picking wild vegetables allegedly mistaking them for pheasants, drive our women out into the streets after shaving their heads and painting the lower parts of their bodies, rob the people of their properties and rape women.

It is this cursed enemy who wirepulls the Pak Jung Hi cutthroats. It is under the aegis of these villainous aggressors that

the Pak Jung Hi clique are frantically rattling the bloodstained sabre of the military fascist rule.

The Pak Jung Hi clique are the most brazen-faced, vicious national traitors surpassing Li Wan Yong and Syngman Rhee, brutal manslaughterers and the heinous enemy of the Korean people.

Pak Jung Hi is an abominable traitor and human dreg who was trained by the Japanese imperialists as an agent and rendered devoted service to Japanese imperialism in the past and, following liberation, has served U.S. imperialism as his new master and pledged his loyalty to its intelligence organ.

Pak Jung Hi has fully laid bare his true colour before the whole world.

When he called on his old Japanese master last fall, this traitor, knowing no shame, entreated his master to "teach him politics," saying that he was fighting with the same spirit as the "loyalists at the time of the Meiji Restoration."

The revived Japanese militarists, guided by their old pet dog, are stretching a hand of new aggression to South Korea.

When he was called to the United States, this traitor was given new instructions by Kennedy to turn South Korea into a cauldron of bloody terror and vortex of war preparation. He "pledged to do everything he could... for the prosperity of the United States" and "thanked God for the U.S. leadership over Korea," thus laying bare his treacherous nature.

Therefore, the Pak Jung Hi clique, from the very outset, have

been hated, rejected and thoroughly isolated from all the segments of the people in South Korea and they have no footing in any circle.

The complaint against and discontent with the evermore rampant outrages and despicable scramble for power of the military hoodlums are mounting higher and higher even in the military.

It is clear that the military fascist rule of the Pak Jung Hi blackguards will not last long.

They maintain their remaining days solely with the help of the U.S. imperialists' bayonet. The U.S. imperialist aggressors are making desperate attempt to maintain and prolong the anti-popular, military fascist rule of the Pak Jung Hi clique.

But, the enemy cannot check by any means the collapse of the reactionary rule which is shaking to the very foundation.

The oppression only provokes the people to still greater anger.

There is no force on earth that can bend the sagacious, brave and indefatigable spirit of our Korean nation which has been tempered amidst the patriotic struggle against foreign invaders and the vigorous resistance against tyranny throughout the five thousand years of history.

Our long history shines brightly with the glorious names of Generals Eulji Moon Duk, Kang Gam Chan, and Admiral Li Soon Shin, and the noble spirits of the patriotic martyrs still live in the heart of every Korean.

Despite the brutal oppression of villainous Japanese imperialism, the Korean people never interrupted the heroic anti-Japanese struggles against the aggression of the Japanese imperialists including the nation-wide March First Uprising and Kwangju Student Movement.

Notably, in the darkest period of Japanese imperialist rule, the Korean communists headed by Marshal Kim Il Sung waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle with an indomitable revolutionary spirit for 15 years in the thick forests of Mt. Paikdoo and on the plains of Manchuria and accelerated the downfall of Japanese imperialism, thereby demonstrating the heroic spirit of our nation to the whole world.

The Korean nation possessed their own brilliant cultural traditions long before the United States appeared on this globe.

We can no longer tolerate arrogant behaviour, inhuman persecution and national contempt in which the U.S. imperialists indulge in South Korea.

The South Korean people will not stand any longer the colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. invaders, descendants of the pirates who grew rich on murder and robbery, and will eventually rise up resolutely in the nation-wide uprising for national liberation.

Our patriotic martyrs like Chun Bong Joon waged the heroic struggle against tyranny despite such brutal oppression of the feudal rulers of the Li Dynasty.

How can the South Korean people sit idle indefinitely at this

time when the great foundation for building a mighty and prosperous fatherland has been built in the northern half of the country, and in the international arena, socialism is emerging victorious, the colonies being freed from fetters and imperialism going to ruin?

We are deeply convinced that the South Korean people will stand up resolutely in the sacred nation-wide anti-American, national salvation struggle to drive out the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the sworn enemy of the Korean people, and overthrow the Pak Jung Hi clique, the bunch of heinous malignant murderers, to realize the self-dependent unification of the country.

The heroic spirit of the April popular uprising which toppled overnight the fortress of Syngman Rhee fascist rule is still fresh in the memory of the South Korean people.

The U.S. imperialists are enemy No. 1 in the struggle of the South Korean people.

All strata of people—workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth and students, armymen, and middle and petty tradesmen and industrialists—should unite themselves as one and rise up in a decisive battle to kick out the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

Do not give a grain of rice or a gulp of water to the Yankees, give them no place to set foot!

Come out more powerfully to the determined struggle to wipe out the Pak Jung Hi clique and attain the democratic progress of South Korean society!

In South Korea, martial law should be repealed immediately,

the freedom of activities of all the patriotic political parties and social organizations should be guaranteed, democratic freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, demonstration and strike should be realized and all the patriots and guiltless people under arrest or in prison should be released unconditionally.

The South Korean workers should be given jobs, an 8 hour work day and minimum wages should be ensured and social insurance at the expense of the state and enterprisers be enforced.

The factories, mines, railways and banks belonging to the U.S. imperialists, comprador-capitalists, pro-American and pro-Japanese elements and national traitors should be nationalized, the onerous taxes and miscellaneous levies imposed upon the middle and petty tradesmen and industrialists should be abolished and practical measures should be taken for developing the national economy.

All the feudal tenant system must be liquidated and land reform must be enforced on the principle of confiscation without compensation and distribution free of charge, so that land may be owned by the peasants who till it.

The requisitioned land must be returned to the peasants, forcible collection of grain must be banned and realistic measures adopted for relieving the foodless and farm-deserted peasants.

Democratic national education and a universal, compulsory primary education system at state expenses must be enforced, commercialization and militarization of schools must be done away with, full employment of graduates of schools must be en-

sured, and pressganging of the youths and students stopped.

The decadent Yankee culture and American way of life must be rejected, our national cultural and art inheritance must be taken over and developed and complete freedom for scientific research and artistic creation must be guaranteed.

In order to emerge victorious from all this struggle, the South Korean people must have a revolutionary party that defends the interests of the workers, peasants and the popular masses of broad strata, and all the people, irrespective of political view, religious belief and past doings, must unite under the banner of an anti-American, national salvation united front.

Officers and men of the "ROK Army" must wrest commanding power and become a national army, a people's army, defending the interests of the nation, no longer remaining the mercenaries of the U.S. imperialists.

In North Korea there is no enemy of the "ROK Army".

Officers and men of the "ROK Army," level your gun at the U.S. imperialist aggressors who are fanning fratricidal war!

Smite the Pak Jung Hi military fascist clique, heinous running dogs of the U.S. imperialists!

Neither tank, nor gun, nor warship can bar the vigorous onward march of the Korean people who have risen up in firm unity in a righteous struggle for freedom, democracy and the self-dependent unification of the fatherland.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors can never be saved from the fate of ignominious defeat.

Our people will not step back from the struggle, so long as the U.S. imperialist aggressors are stationed in South Korea and the unification and independence of our fatherland remain unrealized.

There is no room for any foreign enemy to remain in the sacred territory of our fatherland.

Korea is one and Korea belongs to the Korean people forever!

Long live the united Korean people!

Committee for the Peaceful Unification of the Fatherland

Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea

Central Committee of the Korean Peasants Union

Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Youth League

Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union

Central Committee of the General Federation of Literary and Art Unions of Korea

Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union

Korean Democratic Lawyers Association

Korean Democratic Scientists Association

Korean Students Committee

Pyongyang, May 15, 1962