

*FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUCHE-ORIENTATED LITERATURE AND ART*

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LITERATURE AND ART

A Letter Sent to Those Attending the National Meeting of Active  
Cultural Workers and Artists  
March 31, 1981

It is particularly significant that a national meeting of active cultural workers and artists is being held at a time when a new, historic change is taking place in the development of our revolution. In the 1970s literature and art in our country underwent noticeable development and reached a higher level.

A revolutionary change has taken place in every sphere of our literature and art: they have been made completely Juche-orientated. The evil remnants of anti-Party factionalism, which remained in the field of literature and art for a long time, and the influence of alien ideological trends such as revisionism, dogmatism and flunkeyism, have been completely eliminated through a campaign to carry out the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the literary and artistic policy of the Party, and literature and art in our country have advanced steadily along the Juche-orientated road. In the course of this our literature and arts established the tradition of Juche more firmly and were able to defend and develop its purity.

Thanks to the leadership of the Party, immortal works have been adapted for film, opera and stage and fiction, many revolutionary masterpieces created and a new era of 'Sea of Blood'-type revolutionary operas and 'Mountain Shrine'-type revolutionary dramas has dawned. Our literature and art have reached the world standard in all aspects; they have become an example of the revolutionary literature and art of our times, enriching the treasure-house of human culture. Our people were repressed and trampled down by the imperialists for many years; their talent and excellent cultural traditions have developed and blossomed in our era. Our country, the motherland of Juche, is demonstrating its dignity and honour throughout the world in the field of literature and art, too. In the course of their work to build and develop Juche-orientated literature and art, our writers and artists have been further tempered and have grown stronger with regard to their ideological and artistic qualifications. It is our great pride that we have a large body of talented writers and artists who are unfailingly loyal to the Party and the leader, to the working class and the people.

A solid material foundation for the development of literature and art has been laid.

Truly, the 1970s witnessed the golden age of our literature and art when they developed and blossomed in accordance with the Party's revolutionary line on literature and art.

The proud successes achieved by our literature and art are the brilliant embodiment of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the Party's line on literature and art; they are the result of the wise leadership of the Party.

These successes are also attributable to the writers and artists who, upholding the Party's leadership, have dedicated all their creative enthusiasm and talent to the noble work of building Juche-orientated literature and art.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my warm thanks to all the writers, artists and those others who are attending this meeting who, in full support of the Party's policy on Juche-orientated literature and art, have worked with devotion to carry out this policy.

Literature and art are now faced with the weighty yet honourable task of contributing to the cause of modelling the whole society after the Juche idea, in ardent support of the historic report made by the great leader at the Sixth Congress of the Party.

Literature and art play a very important role in fulfilling the cause of modelling the whole society after the Juche idea.

Revolutionary literature and art are a powerful means of training people into communists and inspiring them in the revolutionary struggle and construction work. It is only when literature and art are developed still further that it will be possible to train people to be true communists who have a steadfast, revolutionary outlook on the world and high cultural attainments. Revolutionary literature and art give the working people strength and courage, confidence and optimism, and inspire them to perform feats of heroism. By producing large numbers of fine literary and artistic works we will be able to encourage our people powerfully to fulfil the cause of achieving the complete victory of socialism and the reunification of the country.

We must also develop our literature and art still further for the victory of the world revolution.

All writers and artists should create more literary and artistic works which are high in ideological and artistic quality and will contribute to the revolutionary cause of Juche; they should raise literature and art in our country to a higher level.

The revolutionary tradition of literature and art that was established in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle is the historical root of literature and art in our country and the cornerstone for their continuous development.

Inheriting our Party's revolutionary tradition of literature and art is important in defending the Party and the revolution and deciding the future of our literature and art. Writers and artists should understand this clearly and staunchly defend and splendidly carry forward the revolutionary tradition of literature and art established by the great

leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. In particular, you must work hard to adapt the immortal classics written by the leader into a variety of literary and artistic works.

Creating a portrayal of a working-class leader is an important aspect of the building of socialist and communist literature and art.

Working-class literature and art must embody the revolutionary idea of the leader and serve the revolutionary cause of the leader.

Therefore, if they are to fulfil their mission, they must depict the revolutionary activities of the leader in full.

We have put great efforts into creating revolutionary works describing the great revolutionary history of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and his communist traits, and have achieved precious successes in this respect. Writers and artists should create more literary and artistic works which depict, at a high ideological and artistic level, the glorious revolutionary activities of the leader over half a century and his communist traits. By doing this, they will be making an active contribution to educating the people in the Party's monolithic ideology.

An important task facing our literature and art is to create many works which describe our stirring life.

Literature and art in our country should deal with our magnificent reality in which a powerful advance is being made under the banner of the three revolutions; they must also portray the worthy lives and heroic struggle of our new, Juche-type men.

In creating works based on socialist reality it is important to mirror, in a lifelike way, our people who are conducting a powerful speed campaign under the banner of the three revolutions and depict, in great detail, models of the advance guards of the three revolutions and the unassuming heroes who are working with complete devotion for the Party and the leader, for the country and the people. Writers and artists should create more, excellent works which portray, in great depth, the noble moral traits of the new, Juche-type men of our era such as the vanguards of the three revolutions and the unassuming heroes. In this way they will encourage our people more powerfully in their struggle to carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural.

The prevailing situation and the current reality in which the revolution is being undertaken by a new generation, demand that more literary and artistic works capable of contributing to the revolutionary and class education of the people be created.

Writers and artists should create more works based on class education and about the Fatherland Liberation War. In this way they will help the working people and the coming generation clearly to understand the corruptness as well as the reactionary and aggressive nature of imperialism, bear an implacable hatred for the exploiting classes and establish a correct view of war.

Writers and artists should also produce greater numbers of works which deal with our people's struggle against the aggressive schemes of the US and Japanese imperialists and the traitorous acts of the military fascist clique in south Korea, as well as with their efforts

to achieve the reunification of the country, the long-cherished aspiration of the nation.

An improvement should be made in cinema, opera, drama and all the other spheres of literature and art.

An invariable policy pursued by our Party is to concentrate efforts on cinematic art to make a breakthrough in this sphere and then to spread the success gained here to all sectors of literature and art.

In order to develop cinematic art you should give priority to the scenario. It is only when many good scenarios are produced that a rich crop of films can be produced. The scriptwriters and the officials in charge of guiding the creative process should produce greater numbers of good scripts and thus bring about fresh innovations in film production.

Our cinema should reach a high level not only in its ideological and artistic aspects but also in its technical aspect. Film makers should raise the artistic and technical levels of our films to new heights in the near future by boldly discovering new descriptive methods and ceaselessly improving their technique.

Documentary and scientific films play an important role in educating our working people, young people and children in our Party's ideology and teaching them a lot about nature and society.

Documentary films depicting our socialist life vividly, the scientific films which are urgently needed in making the national economy Juche-orientated, modern and scientific and children's films which contribute to the revolutionary education of the younger generation should be produced in greater numbers and in a better way.

Writers and artists must consolidate the valuable experience and success they have gained in the opera revolution and, at the same time, create operas based on new themes.

Writers and artists should stage more operas showing the worthy and happy life of our people, in addition to those depicting their revolutionary struggle. They should adapt national classics for opera.

In opera you must continue to improve the descriptive method and the form of presentation to suit the seed and content of the given work on the principle of creating 'Sea of Blood'-type revolutionary operas.

In the field of drama you should work hard to consolidate the success achieved in effecting a revolution in drama and, at the same time, diversify the themes and improve the level of portrayal. Dramatic artists should produce greater numbers of 'Mountain Shrine'-type revolutionary dramas which provide a vivid portrayal of our stimulating life and our people's moral traits, and should polish their method of portrayal still further.

Greater numbers of a variety of musical pieces and dances with profound meaning should be created now, when the modelling of the whole society after the Juche idea is making good headway and great changes are taking place in the ideological and cultural life of our working people. The music and dance world should produce more masterpieces and introduce fresh innovations in the stage presentations of existing fine works. In particular, you should be bold in introducing new forms in the presentation of stereophonic

music, musical arrangements and composition.

In the fine arts you should give priority to Korean paintings and develop various kinds and forms of fine arts in a comprehensive way; you should also promote the work of creating grand monuments.

In circus you must develop our Juche-orientated circus to a higher level by producing a lot of new and elegant acrobatic pieces which are socialist in content and national in form.

Literature is the basis for all the other forms of art. Without giving priority to literature you can neither develop other forms of art nor meet the daily-increasing aesthetic demands of the people.

Writers should embody the requirement of Juche-orientated humanics in their creative work and create many literary works, such as novels and poems, which portray the noble moral traits of the people of our time in great philosophical depth.

In the immediate future literature and art must make good preparations for the grand art festival which will be held to celebrate the 70th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

You should mobilize all forces to promote the work of creating a new form of music and dance epic drama which represents the leader's great revolutionary history and immortal feats. Furthermore, you should produce original and distinctive films, plays, novels, poems and works of art.

In order to carry out the tasks facing literature and art, the writers, artists and other officials in this field should arm themselves fully with the great leader's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the Party's policy on literature and art, and fully implement them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the Party's policy on literature and art are the sole guiding principle for their development and a firm guarantee for building communist literature and art to meet the requirements of the time and the aspirations of the people.

Writers and artists should closely study and grasp the great leader's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the Party's policy on literature and art so as to make them their lifeblood, and conduct their creative work by relying firmly on them.

You must, above all else, firmly establish Juche in literature and art and fully embody the Party spirit, working-class spirit and serve-the-people spirit in them.

The principle of Party spirit, working-class spirit and serve-the-people spirit is the fundamental principle which our Party maintains in the building of Juche-orientated literature and art. We should thoroughly establish the monolithic ideological system and the leadership system of the Party in literary and artistic work and fight uncompromisingly against every reactionary ideological trend such as naturalism, formalism, restorationism and revisionism. In this way we will develop our literature and art and make them blossom into Juche-orientated revolutionary literature and art which serve the

Party, the working class and the people.

You should foster originality in creative work and undertake this work boldly and on a large scale.

By nature, creation is not repetitive but original. Life and the people's requirements for art are varied and the creative individuality of writers and artists varies. Therefore, artistic depiction should also be original and distinctive. True, creating the new is not easy and sometimes there will be failures in the course of creation. Writers and artists should throw themselves into their work without hesitation and create original and distinctive works with no fear of failure.

In the field of literature and art we should consistently maintain our own, revolutionary system of creation.

Our system of creation is a Juche-orientated system that enables all the workers engaged in the work of creating literary and artistic works to maintain a stand and attitude befitting masters and fulfil their role at their own post. For the new creative system to prove effective, creators and artists should be entirely responsible for their own work.

All creators and artists should maintain the attitude and standpoint of master and display a high degree of Party responsibility, revolutionary enthusiasm and creativeness in their work.

Putting literary and artistic activities on a mass basis is an important guarantee for the further development of literature and art in our country.

The popular masses create and enjoy literature and art. It is only when wide sections of people take part in literary and artistic activities that many good literary and artistic works which vividly depict the pulsating reality of today and the worthy and happy life of the people will be produced and their ideological and cultural levels will be raised rapidly.

We should do away with the tendency of professionals alone engaging in literary and artistic work and develop literature and art on a mass basis.

Our aim is to make the whole country engage in artistic activities by developing popular art so that every member of society takes part in it and enjoys it. You should ensure that literary and artistic activities at factories and other enterprises and cooperative farms are not confined to circle members but undertaken by everyone. If you do this, everybody will be able to write accounts, draw pictures, sing songs, play musical instruments and perform dances. Then songs and instrumental music will ring out not only from workplaces but also from homes.

Professional artists from national and provincial art troupes must go to factories, enterprises and cooperative farms and there they must mix with the workers and farmers to help them in their literary and artistic activities; they should discover many new buds among them and train them into fine artists.

In developing popular art you must guard against the tendency to engage exclusively in artistic activities. Mass-based art should be

simple and popular, vivid and realistic. Art circle members should neither leave production and engage exclusively in artistic activities nor imitate professional art troupes in their creative work.

The work of disseminating literary and artistic works should be conducted properly.

A long time ago we did away with the old method in the distribution of literary and artistic works and established a well-organized system by which we are able to distribute them promptly from the capital to the provinces, cities, counties and ri.

The workers in charge of distributing literary and artistic works should draw up a proper plan to meet the direction and demand of Party ideological work in each period and fulfil it on time and without fail. They should explain and propagate the contents of literary and artistic works to the people in a variety of forms and ways so that they understand them clearly.

A powerful campaign to put the ideological content of literary and artistic works into practice should be launched. You should conduct this campaign effectively among the masses in various forms and ways such as through film shows, public discussions on novels and poetry recitals. If you do this the masses will conduct the revolutionary struggle and construction work still better, following the example of the heroes depicted in the works. Intensive artistic agitation should be conducted among the producer-masses.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla artistic agitation now being conducted at the sites of socialist construction throughout the country rouses the working masses dynamically to the implementation of Party policy.

Artists should conduct intensive artistic agitation at socialist construction sites and call on the producer-masses to fulfil the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction ahead of schedule. Artistic agitation should be conducted not only by provincial art propaganda squads but also by national art organizations, and the form and method of artistic agitation should be improved continuously to meet the requirements of the actual situation and the aesthetic tastes of the working people.

We should conduct extensive artistic activities abroad.

Our artists have enhanced the international prestige of the country and demonstrated the might of our Juche-orientated art through conducting extensive artistic activities in many countries. In the future, too, they should conduct extensive artistic activities abroad and thus widely introduce and propagate the brilliant successes of our Juche-orientated art throughout the world and contribute to strengthening international solidarity with our revolution.

In order to carry out the honourable tasks facing literature and art and to develop Juche-orientated literature and art and take them to new heights, writers and artists should radically improve their political and professional qualifications.

It is only when they do this that writers and artists will be able to create works which are high in ideological and artistic quality, works which meet the requirements of the time and the aspirations of the people.

Writers and artists should closely study and grasp the Juche idea and the theory on Juche-orientated literature and art, have expert knowledge on and skill in literature and art and acquire a wide range of knowledge on nature and society.

Accumulating experience in real-life situations is very important for writers and artists to widen their political knowledge and improve their artistic ability. They should feel the vibrant spirit of our time, identify the noble moral traits of the people by acquainting themselves with the present situation in our country and find good seeds for the creation of excellent works.

Training future writers and artists is important for the continuous development and blossoming of our literature and art. It is particularly urgent in view of the fact that old writers and artists must be replaced by young people.

In order to train future writers and artists, art troupes should improve the training of new people and the specialized art educational institutions should enhance their role.

In accordance with the 'Theses on Socialist Education'± put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, and the Party's policy on artistic education, art educational institutions should give absolute priority to the political and ideological education of their students, combine theoretical education on art properly with practical education, base the content of their education on Party policy to keep abreast of the changing circumstances and improve their method of teaching continuously. They should, in particular, improve the education of people from childhood and build up 'genius education'± to train soloists of world-wide fame in singing, playing instruments and dancing. Art educational establishments must ensure that effective education through correspondence courses is conducted to enable all those writers and artists who have had no access to high education to become university graduates.

In order to improve the quality of art education the teaching staffs should be composed of able writers and artists, the teachers' qualifications should be improved steadily and the students should implement the Party's study-first policy to the full and improve their ability.

Intensifying Party guidance to literature and art is a decisive guarantee for building revolutionary literature and art. It is only when this is done that the ranks of writers and artists will be strengthened as required by the task of modelling the whole society after the Juche idea and that Juche-orientated literature and art will be developed continuously.

The basic task of the Party organizations in the field of culture and art is to train writers and artists to be Juche-type revolutionaries who are unflinchingly loyal to the Party and the leader, and to encourage them to create greater numbers of fine works by displaying their revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity to the full.

Party organizations should step up the education of writers and artists in loyalty to the Party and the leader and ensure that they fully embody the Party's intentions and requirements in their creative



work, displaying unfailing loyalty to the Party and the leader. An important aspect of Party guidance to literature and art is to encourage writers and artists to preserve the achievements of the Party in this field and continue to add lustre to them. In the field of literature and art you must at all times conduct all work by giving pride of place to the work of staunchly defending the exploits performed by the Party and enriching them. Party organizations should ensure that writers and artists fully implement the Party's policy on literature and art and steadfastly defend the system and method of work established by the Party and the creative achievements gained by it, and continue to develop them. Party organizations should see to it that writers and artists think and act in accordance with the Party's idea and theory on Juche-orientated literature and art, regarding this idea and theory as the basis for creation, the guide in the creative process and the criterion for reviewing creative work, and that they display to the full the revolutionary spirit of being absolutely and unconditionally loyal in implementing the Party's idea and theory. In addition, Party organizations should ensure that senior officials in the field of literature and art nature of our own system for guiding the fully grasp the intrinsic creative process and our own creative system and display their and that writers and artists strictly abide by the Party's standards for depiction set by the Party whatever the circumstances.

All writers and artists should implement to the full the great leader's thought on Juche-orientated literature and art and the Party's policy on literature and art, and create greater numbers of revolutionary literary and artistic works conducive to modelling the whole society after the Juche idea.

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