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*State Affairs Commission*  
*Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea*

## SPECIAL REVIEW



DELIBERATION ON THE TOPIC OF REUNIFICATION  
AND NATIONAL POLICY  
BY THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WORKER'S PARTY OF KOREA

9 March 2019

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Crisis Director Letter,

Hello delegates, my name is June Yoo and I am grateful to be your crisis director for LBIMUN 2019. I am currently a fourth year in CSULB majoring in political science. I have been in Model United Nations for the past 4 years and I have had the privilege of meeting great friends through this club. One of my favorite aspects of Model United Nations are the crisis committees. These committees allow delegates to scheme and create the most elaborate and ridiculous plans and arcs. A crisis committee is one where a delegates imagination is the most powerful weapon. It is why I believe that crisis committees offer one of the most enjoyable experiences for delegates. I hope you all enjoy them as much as I have for the past 4 years. I also hope to read some interesting and out of the box directives in our time in committee.

June Yoo  
Crisis Director.

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Dear delegates,

It is my great honour to be your chair for LBI's crisis this year. I am senior here at CSULB as well as our Model UN Club President for 2018-2019. I've been involved in Model UN for four years, and have enjoyed every minute. I am majoring in history (emphasis on US history and modern European history) with a minor in the Italian language.

Crisis committees are very interesting beasts. They, to me, represent the most intense, yet most enjoyable type of committee MUN has to offer. I want to see this simulation unfold not necessarily in any particular way, but successfully and in a manner of which will honor contemporary history, and sticks moderately close to the facts and events. Despite this, let's just say that fun is very much encouraged.

Sincerely,

Marcus Gerstein  
Chair  
CSULB MUN President

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## Memorandum for the Political Bureau:

### Introduction

Glory to our Supreme Leader, the Honorable Kim Jong-un! May his reign be eternal!

Good morning delegates, the day is March 9th, 2019. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is currently undergoing one of the largest reforms in the international community. They have met with both the South Korean and United States presidents and been vocal in their cooperation with others. It's clear that on the surface everything looks optimistic for all parties. However underneath there are still major concerns and crises to be dealt with. North Korea is still one of the largest human rights violators as well as one of the harshest dictatorships in the world. The new administration of Kim Jong-un has added another layer to the politics of North Korea as he has become more friendly towards other nations and keen on establishing formal relations with the United States and South Korea.

You delegates are meeting as the Politburo of the Workers' Party of Korea. The biggest challenge is what to do with the current political climate and how to rectify with your neighbors from the south. On your plate is a litany of topics that will dictate the future of North Korea. This year's crisis committee will be one that challenges delegates in how well they can work together. The People's Democratic Republic of Korea is one of the largest political enigmas in our time. We know so little about them. This provides an extra layer of both mystery and freedom as delegates are free to interpret both their role in the committee and the role of the country. Delegates will have to rely on their wits and negotiating skills to ensure that not only the nation survives but their character as well. Yet one question remains. Will North Korea reunify with the South peacefully?

### History of The People's Republic of Korea

From 1910-1945, the Korean peninsula had been colonized by the Empire of Japan. This era had been marked by what most scholars in North Korea would call the "The dark Japanese Imperial Period" (일제암흑기). The colonization of Korea resulted in widespread exploitation and

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oppression. The military government by the Empire had issued several laws restricting Korean heritage and freedoms. Koreans were forced to change their names to Japanese ones as well as be forced to move as forced migrant workers in mainland Japan or Manchuria. This had resulted not only in massive displacement of Koreans and also the rise of "comfort women". Discrimination was widespread and almost all land was seized by the government, leading to widespread poverty and inequality among Koreans in colonial days. These issues are still one of the most controversial topics in Korean discourse and still directly connects to both inter-Korean politics and Korean-Japanese relations.

The Korean Independence Movement was a military and political operation in which multiple Korean groups worked together to establish independence. One of the key figures in the movement was Kim Il-sung who had been a anti-Japanese guerilla operative in China during the occupation period. Many Koreans at this time had fled north to China and joined the Communist Party to gain connections to already established powers. This resulted in the first wave of Korean communists. Kim Il-sung and other Koreans served with the Chinese armies in Manchuria, stationed until the end of the war. This has been a key reason why Sino-Korean relations had been incredibly important in the history of North Korea and why China is one of the strongest supporters of North Korea.

After the atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the Empire of Japan surrendered. Korea was then divided on the 38th Parallel between the United States and the Soviet Union. The People's Democratic republic of Korea was officially founded in September 9th, 1948. The Republic of Korea was then founded shortly after. Then in 1950, the Korean War began as North Korea invaded past the 38th parallel in an effort to unite both halves. The following 3 years began one of the bloodiest wars in Korean history as over one million Korean civilians and soldiers died. The Korean Armistice Agreement officially ended the fighting on July 27th, 1953. South Korea never signed the agreement as then President Syngman Rhee refused to accept any peace with North Korea. The Demilitarized Zone sits at the 38th Parallel as the official division between North Korea and South Korea. No official peace treaty or agreement to end the war has been signed.

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Following the Korean War, North Korea had still began a movement to end the South Korean government. This was through various attempts to assassinate several presidents such as the 1968 Blue House raid to kill President Park Chung-hee and the Rangoon Incident. During this time North Korea also began a series of skirmishes and raids on the DMZ to antagonize the South. The August Incident also began the rise of true North Korean independence as Kim Il-sung defeated several attempts to unseat him. During that time pro-China (Yan'an) and pro-Russian leadership began devising a plan to remove Kim as leader in favor of more democratic practices in line with Nikita Khrushchev's de-stalinization. However Kim had maneuvered around his usurpers and united the Workers Party to expel all dissenters. This left virtually all members of North Korea's political party as pro-Kim supporters. One likely reason for the failure of the Soviet and Yan'an factions to depose Kim Il-sung was the nationalist view by younger members of the party who had joined since 1950 that the members of these factions were "foreigners" influenced by alien powers while Kim Il-sung was seen as a true Korean. Thus began the cult of personality for the Kim Dynasty. In 1959, relations with Japan had improved somewhat, and North Korea began allowing the repatriation of Japanese citizens in the country. The same year, North Korea revalued the North Korean won, which held greater value than its South Korean counterpart. Until the 1960s, economic growth was higher than in South Korea, and North Korean GDP per capita was equal to that of its southern neighbor as late as 1976. By the 1980s the economy had begun to stagnate; it started its long decline in 1987 and almost completely collapsed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, when all Soviet aid was suddenly halted. The North began re-establishing trade relations with China shortly thereafter, but the Chinese could not afford to provide enough food aid to meet demand.

## 1. Unification Topics For the Committee

### **The United States Forces Korea.**

The first unification attempt by both North and South Korea was the July 4th North-South Korea Joint Statement in 1972. Both nations began debating on several key topics still relevant today such as 1) independence, 2) peace and 3) nation-wide unity. This discussion would center around the removal of the United States Forces Korea (USFK). The north also wanted all removal of US arms and military contracts with the South. However nothing came of these meetings as

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neither country had the stability to enact unification. Right now the United States Forces Korea are still active in the south with multiple military installments near the DMZ and Seoul. This will be one of the largest topics that the committee must decide to act upon.

Another topic to discuss is the fact that US-SK military drills are still a major thorn to North Korea's side. While President Moon of South Korea has ended the annual drills, the military presence in South Korea warrants intense internal discussion amongst the committee members.

## **Re-Union.**

The next major part was the Sunshine Policy of South Korea. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung began a policy to have a better relationship with North Korea. He started with 3 major policies, 1) No armed provocation by the North will be tolerated, 2) the South will not attempt to absorb the North in any way, 3) the South actively seeks cooperation and promote reconciliation. The change from reunification to integration did little to soothe fears in the North that people would begin to lose their national identity once other nations began influencing North Korea. This in turn made the government more rigid in compromise and the Sunshine Policy went nowhere early on. The long lasting result of the Sunshine Policy however is the fact that it established humanitarian aid from the South. Another major talking point in this one was the fact that North Korea refused to allow reunion centers for families separated by the war. Things were made more difficult as newly elected president Bush of the United States declared North Korea an "axis of evil". From this moment on, the Sunshine Policy was virtually dead as North Korea removed all UN observers and restarted nuclear development. The policy would be revived as North Korea re-negotiated humanitarian aid from the South and also opened the Kaesong Industrial Park. In 2006 however, the Sunshine Policy was declared dead as North Korea fired off several missile tests and had established a nuclear warhead.

Committee members must decide how to approach both the international community and re-union attempts with South Korea as a means of negotiation and leverage.

## **Official Peace Treaty.**

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President Moon Jae-In, the current president of South Korea has seemed to re-establish the Sunshine Policy. This in turn lead Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un to agree to send a united Korean team to the 2018 Winter Olympics. On April 27, 2018, both leaders met for the first time at the Joint Security Area in the DMZ. This marked the first ever meeting between the two heads of state ever. Both had agreed to sign an official end of the Korean War in a year. The Panmunjom Declaration was signed by both, stating a commitment to peace and improving inter-Korean relations. On May 26th the two leaders met again to further improve relations. The third meeting would happen again in September as both met to remove landmines from the DMZ and North Korea vowed to stop nuclear testing.

The committee must decide if they are willing to sign a peace treaty and on what conditions it would be signed under.

## **The United States.**

The relationship between the two nations have been difficult to say the least. However on June 12, 2018, President Donald Trump met with Supreme Leader Kim in Singapore. The first ever meeting of its kind. This shift in tone seems to indicate a positive relationship between the two forming. As this is a continuing aspect of a somewhat spontaneous US foreign policy in the era of President Trump, what the committee decides to do will have to be on the most recent information available. I would advise you to check President Trump's twitter and/or Fox News to determine how the committee deals with the United States.

## **China.**

The major ally of North Korea, tensions between the two have simmered since the time of Kim Jong-il. China had been the biggest sponsor and friend of North Korea since the birth of the nations. During the Korean War, the PRC went to great lengths in order to ensure that North Korea did not fall to the South. Following the Korean War, China has spent the next several years watching over the country and played a heavy hand in the politics. This ended during the August Incident in 1956. Following that was a more independent North Korea and a China that seemed to distance itself more and more. While on official terms, China is still heavily on North Korea's side it seems that China has become less enthusiastic about the presence of North Korea and the array of problems caused. North Korea seems to openly disregard China's authority, going so far as to abduct a Chinese

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government official in 2013. Relations between the two nations have reached a historic low. Even still however China is still North Korea's largest provider of economic aid. Whether or not China is still a valuable ally or if North Korea can seek help elsewhere is a question for the Politburo.

## **Nuclear Testing.**

Building of a nuclear energy facility could be linked to 1962 as North Korea began a new push for a military-first national policy. The Soviet Union provided help by training a new class of nuclear scientists and building facilities for a peaceful nuclear energy program. The Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center was created by Soviet engineers who had supplied North Korea with assistance. When North Korea began promoting the prospects of using the nuclear energy for military reasons, both the Soviet Union and China refused to help, wary of them gaining weapons of mass destruction. It was not until 1980 that North Korea began the actual process of militarizing the nuclear energy. This came as North Korea obtained the ability to fabricate uranium.

Efforts by the United States and the United Nations to halt the nuclear testing would occur regularly as North Korea signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1985. Agents from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) asked for permission to visit the nuclear energy sites. To this day all requests have been denied and North Korea has refused to allow any outside monitoring. North Korea has declared they were leaving the NPT twice, once in 1993 and again in 2003. While the precise date is unknown, North Korea is suspected of having nuclear weapons since 2005 and had their first successful test on 2006.

There have been several talks with North Korea to end their nuclear weapons testing, including a six-party talk in 2017 where the United States would send aid and normalize relations in return for North Korea shutting down their testing facilities. This made the most headway as IAEA monitors reported that North Korea had in fact shut down the facilities. The United States did send aid in return. However in 2009 all talks ultimately failed as North Korea began missile testings. This same cycle would continue as North Korea would repeatedly stop the program as negotiations would begin and then end.

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In 2016 it was noted by North Korea that they have developed a hydrogen bomb. This followed several missile tests. One over Japan which triggered an international crisis. It is also clear that North Korea has developed ICBMs for their arsenal. They seemed to have the ability to reach the continental United States.

## 2. Ideology

### *Juche.*

*Juche* is the official state policy of North Korea. It is "Kim Il-sung's original, brilliant and revolutionary contribution to national and international thought". As such the entire country revolves around this ideology. It is a nationalist approach to Marxist ideology. It prioritizes the Korean heritage and the people over all else. Kimilsungism was the beginning ideology of how North Korea would remake itself as a communist nation. This self-reliance on the Korean people began massive economic change during the developing years. North Korea and the *Juche* ideology seemed to have been successful during the beginning of the nation.

"The revolutionary theory of Kimilsungism is a revolutionary theory which has provided solutions to problems arising in the revolutionary practice in a new age different from the era that gave rise to Marxism-Leninism. On the basis of *Juche* (idea), the leader gave a profound explanation of the theories, strategies and tactics of national liberation, class emancipation and human liberations in our era. Thus, it can be said that the revolutionary theory of Kimilsungism is a perfect revolutionary theory of Communism in the era of *Juche*."

Kim Il-sung also noted the idea of Socialism of Our Style in which North Korean socialism must be based on Korean history and social system. The reason that communism in the east block failed was because the Soviets enforced the wrong type of socialism to these other nations. Unlike Marxism-Leninism, which considers improvements in the material conditions of production and exchange as the driving force of historical progress (known as historical materialism), *Juche* considers human beings in general the driving force in history. And so this became the part in which North Korea created a cult of personality. They needed a single powerful leader to gather the poor uneducated peasants. Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il both used this to build up their power as the leader.

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## ***Songun.***

Songun is the ideology that the military, the Korean People's Army, is to be prioritized above anything else. In regards to politics and economics, the military comes first. While the government would unofficially abide by this during the pre- and post-Korean War era, it would become official state doctrine in 1995. The "military-first" approach ensured that the Kim Dynasty and the leaders would always control or at least be a part of the military. This was also in relation to the political climate in which North Korea believed themselves to be surrounded by enemies and be in constant threat of invasion. Kim Il-sung had developed this when he was a guerilla fighter during the colonial days of Korea, highlighting that a strong military was the most necessary thing for a nation. The impact of Songun would to ensure that the North Korean Army was always capable of defending and attacking at any time.

This became even more valid of a view when the Soviet Union began to collapse in 1991. North Korea then lost one of their most crucial allies and aid packages. This was further exacerbated by the death of Kim Jong-il in 1994. *Songun* and *Juche* were both complimentary as the Kim Dynasty needed the military to create the cult of personality that the *Juche* created. Since the creation of the country, the military was always the strongest position to hold. It's why Kim Il-sung and his son carried several titles in the military and held the Commander-in-Chief position.

The North Korean Army is currently one of the largest in the world, with almost 1 million active duty and 5 million reserve. Due to mandatory conscription and Songun, every young man from the age of 12-29 is able to be called up. This ensures that up to 12 million able bodied men and women could be called up for military duty. Currently the budget of the North Korean Army is about 25% of the North Korean GDP.

The effects of *Songun* is the fact that the military has essentially become the army of the wealthy. In order to remain in power and in favor with the Kim dynasty, the elite class of North Korea supported the military and ensured that leaders came from the upper class. This was especially important during the economic depression and famine times of North Korea where the military served as labor and the workforce. Songun would also mean that all resources would be

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dedicated to the military first, creating a greater shortage of food and other supplies.

## **Government Structure**

Because of the relationship between the Worker's Party of Korea and the state government, things in committee are a little more complicated regarding hierarchy. While the committee characters are based on the state side positions, they also do have various party positions as well. While you are represented as the Politburo of North Korea you will also be in control of pretty much the entire country in both the party and state. As a delegate you would do well to research your character and the powers you hold in both the state and party. Keep in mind however that when push comes to shove, the party trumps the state government.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea is also the highest body of power in the nation. Essentially all policy and decisions come from the Politburo. The new changes during the reign of Kim Jong-un have made the Politburo more relevant. During the reign of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-un, the Politburo was essentially powerless as the Kims would control everything, refusing to give up power. This power struggle would ebb and flow as the People's Assembly would elect more loyalists and powerful leaders in the country. When Kim Jong-un came into power, a new shift emerged as Kim dismissed or killed several old members and brought in his own loyalists into the new regime. The powers of the Politburo and how to handle Kim Jong-un will be one of the largest challenges of this committee.

The triumvirate overseeing North Korea's executive branch, the Premier of North Korea (i.e. the head of government), the President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (i.e. the head of State) and the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission (i.e., the commander-in-chief). On paper, each has powers equivalent to one-third of those of a president's powers in most presidential systems. The SPA presidium chairman conducts foreign relations, the premier handles domestic matters and heads the government, and the SAC chairman (known as the chairman of the National Defence Commission before 2016) commands the armed forces.

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After the Triumvirate is the Standing Committee, also known as the Presidium, which serves as the true elite and powerful of the country. The Presidium makes all laws and control pretty much anything that goes on. The 5 members meet at any moment to determine the next decisions. After the Presidium are various committees or other party departments responsible for policies in the country. Such positions in the Central Military Commission or State Affairs Commission also highlight how the party is responsible for choosing who is chosen to lead the state government decisions.

## 3. National Policy Topics

### **Economy**

The Politburo must decide not only the fate of reunification but of national policy. There has been a division and push among characters on the transition of the economy to a market and consumer based system. Under the new administration of Kim Jong-un it seems that he is moving to a more modern adaption. However the nation has kept hard economic guidelines related to the ideology of *Songun* and how the government must deal with the military.

### **Military**

The military has historically been independent and separated from the Worker's Party of Korea. This was most evident during the reign of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il. However Kim Jong-un has instead forced the military to be integrated back into the Party. In 2016 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea under Kim Jong-un, the party had regained enough power to exert influence over the GPB. Consequently, in 2017 the party Central Committee was ordered to carry out an inspection of the GPB, the first of its kind in 20 years. This will be a point of contention if the country continues to go on in the same path and WPK forces the military to be under them.

### **The Kim Dynasty**

With the role of Kim Jong-un, it seems that the Kim family is at its most powerful. Yet the line of succession seems to still remain a problem for the country. There is no official structure or policy for a line of succession. This is more important currently as officially by National statement, Kim Jong-un has only one daughter who is approximately 9-10 years old. He is rumored to have two other younger children with unknown gender. It is also rumored that he as an illegitimate son when he studied in Switzerland in the 1990s.

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The older brother, Kim Jong-chul, is currently residing in Pyongyang but has no interest in politics and is rather detached from his family culture. In addition it seems that Kim Jong-un has been asserting his sister, Kim Yo-jong into a position of power, indicating that he has a close relationship with her and that the Kim Dynasty is not over so soon.

**Ad-hoc**

In keeping up with the spirit of Crisis committees, any topic of research that delegates wish to bring up is free game and of interest to the North Korean Politburo and the committee.

**Start Date of Committee: March 9, 2019.**

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## Character Biographies

### Kim Yong-nam - President of the Presidium

The Presidium's officially mandated purpose is to conduct policy discussions and make decisions on major issues when the Politburo, a larger decision-making body, is not in session. While the Presidium in theory reports into the Politburo, which in turn reports into the larger Central Committee, in practice the Presidium acts as the most powerful decision-making body in North Korea, and its decisions de facto have the force of law.

Kim Yong-nam has been President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea since 1998. Previously, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1983 to 1998. He was elected a member of the Presidium of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in 2010. Kim had been born during Occupied Korea, having grown up in the north. After the independence of the nation, he joined the WPK and quickly rose up in rank, where he had effectively strengthened his own position in the party. Kim proved himself to be an efficient diplomat. Even after his rise to President of the Presidium, he went through several South American and African tours of diplomacy. He is one of the most shrewd leaders and seems to have a loyal following in the government.

### Choe Ryong-hae - Vice-Chairman of the State Affairs Commission

The State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the "the highest guiding organ of the material managing organ of matters". As such the SAC is responsible for all party functions and controls most if not all aspects of the government through the Worker's Party of Korea.

Choe Ryong-hae was born in Sinchon County, South Hwanghae Province, on 15 January 1950 as the son of Choe Hyon, who served as defence minister of North Korea from 1968 to 1976. He joined the Korean People's Army in 1967 and graduated from the Kim Il-sung University as a political and economic expert. In 1998, he was imprisoned and almost executed for selling scrap metal to foreign entities. However, after he was pardoned, he quickly rose back into power and gained several party positions. He had essentially been one of the leaders in the attempt to retake control of the military under the party. Choe was again arrested in 2014 but excused. He would then rise in the ranks again for a second time, being appointed as Vice-Chairman.

### Pak Pong-ju - Premier of North Korea

The Premier represents and oversees the cabinet, which is charged with executing the policies decided by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. The office

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has no policy-making authority of its own.

Pak began his career in 1962 as manager of the Yongchon food factory in North Pyong'an Province. He became an alternative member of the ruling Korean Workers' Party (KWP) Central Committee in October 1980, and chief of the Namhung Youth Chemical Combine Committee in July 1983. In May 1993, he became vice director of the KWP's Light Industries Department, and in March 1994, he was the vice director of the party's Economic Policy Supervisory Department. Pak was then elected to his first premiership from 2003 to 2007. After which he still remained a key figure in the party while serving in the executive branch. Pak served a second term of Premier when elected in 2003. He is the top figure advocating for a consumer economy and reducing military funding in favor of a stronger budget and market.

### **Vice Marshall Hwang Pyong-so - Chairman of the Central Military Commission**

The Central Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (CMC) is an organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) which is responsible for coordinating the Party organizations within the Korean People's Army (KPA). One of the CMC's primary functions is to authorize defense and munitions spending and product orders, and to determine how natural resources and products from military-controlled production units are earmarked and distributed domestically and for sale abroad.

Hwang has probably spent most of his career in the Organization and Guidance Department (OGD), gaining reputation as the organization's éminence grise. In September 2010, Hwang was appointed an alternate member of the Party Central Committee, holding the position of deputy head of the OGD since the early 2000s with a military and security portfolio. In March 2014 he was elected to the Supreme People's Assembly during the 2014 SPA election; during the same month, he was identified as the first vice-director of the party organization department. In 2014, he was promoted to Vice-Marshall. He was then in control of the affairs of the KPA General Political Bureau until he was arrested for unknown reasons. He was excused and returned to power as the Chairman of the CMC.

### **General Kim Su-gil - Director of the KPA General Political Bureau**

The KPA GDB is used by the leadership of the North Korean government to exert political control over the military. The GPB is subordinate to the Ministry of People's Armed Forces and operates under the direction of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. The GPB controls units of the KPA on all levels down to company level. It primarily exerts control through propaganda, education, and cultural activities. Under directions of the State Affairs Commission of North Korea, it also controls troop movements.

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Kim Su-gil is a career soldier. In his early career, he held posts in the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and its General Staff Department. He was promoted and demoted several times in the past. He was most recently promoted to a four-star general. Kim became a vice director of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces in 2006. He also served as the Vice Minister of People's Armed Forces since 2010. From this post, he was involved in the purge and execution of Jang Song-thaek in December 2013. Kim is a close aide of Kim Jong-un and often accompanies him in public functions.

## **Ri Su-yong    Chairman of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee**

The SPA Foreign Affairs Committee exercises general oversight on matters related to foreign affairs. All matters of diplomacy must go through this committee. The Chairman focuses on the party side of diplomacy, not the state side.

Ri was born on 15 June 1940. He studied at the University of International Affairs, studying at the department of French language. Ri has a reputation of being innovative, open-minded and result-oriented among those he has worked with. Ri had been Kim Jong-il's classmate. During his career, Ri took care of many personal and financial affairs of Kim, including his Swiss bank accounts.[16] Ri also guarded Kim's children: Ri was the North Korean representative to the United Nations mission in Geneva in the 1980s. Ri was the North Korean ambassador to Switzerland in the 1990s. Before holding these posts he had worked in African embassies of North Korea. Ri was the vice-director of the Organization and Guidance Department in 2002. He is the third North Korean foreign minister to speak before the United Nations General Assembly.

## **Kim Yong-chol - Director of the Central United Front Department**

The Central United Front Department is responsible of maintaining relations with various important and influential elite individuals and organizations inside and outside North Korea. These are people and entities are outside the Party proper, who hold social, commercial, or academic influence, or who represent interest groups. Through its efforts, the UFWD seeks to ensure that these groups are supportive of and useful to Communist Party rule.

In 1962 he served in the 15th Division, a civil police company guarding the Korean Demilitarized Zone. In 1968 he was appointed as a liaison officer to the United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission, Korea. In 1976, he was made a division commander of the Supreme Guard Command. In 2012 he was promoted to General. In May 2016, he was elected to the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. He was elected as a member of the Politburo of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea and as Vice-Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea.

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## **General No Kwang-chol - Minister of the People's Armed Forces**

The Ministry of People's Armed Forces is essentially an umbrella agency gathering the KPA's logistical, political, and personnel components. The ministry also has departments which coordinate relations with foreign militaries, as well as regulating Government-owned corporations related to the defence industry and other foreign currency earning ventures. The ministry, through the General Staff Department is responsible for the daily operational planning and management of the KPA's ground, naval, and air commands. It develops strategy, conducts education and training, conveys the orders and guidance of the KPA Supreme Command and completes certain signals intelligence tasks.

No Kwang-chol is a North Korean soldier, a three-star general, and a member of the political bureau. In June 2018, he was promoted from first vice minister to defence minister of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces.

## **Vice Marshal Ri Yong-gil - Chief of the KPA General Staff**

The General Staff Department (GSD) of the Korean People's Army (KPA) is the senior military leadership of the armed forces of North Korea responsible for its administrative, operational and logistical needs.

Ri was made a Lieutenant General in April 2002 and given command of the forward-deployed 3rd Army Corps from 2002 to 2007, and later the 5th Army Corps from 2007 to 2012. It was announced during the May 2016 Party Congress that Ri had been appointed a member of the Central Committee of the North's ruling Workers' Party, as well as its Central Military Commission. General Ri was named an alternate member of the Politburo.

## **General Choe Pu-il - Minister of People's Security**

The Ministry of People's Security is a law enforcement agency in North Korea. It operates under the umbrella of the State Affairs Commission. Beyond policing, its services include operating the prison system in North Korea, monitoring the public distribution system and providing bodyguards to important persons. This is the equivalent to the FBI in the United States.

General Choe Pu-il is the current head of North Korea's Ministry of People's Security. He was appointed to the position in February 2013 by Kim Jong-un. In July 2016, he was placed under sanctions by the United States government.

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## **Ri Yong-ho - Foreign Minister**

The government minister in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for conducting foreign relations of the country. The foreign minister deals with the state side of government, not the party side.

Ri was born in 1956; his father is Ri Myong-je, a close aide of the Kim dynasty and a former editor of the Korean Central News Agency. Ri graduated from the elite Namsan High School in Pyongyang in 1973. He majored in English at the Pyongyang Foreign Language University. In August 2017, amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, Ri took part in a rare multilateral meeting with foreign ministers at a summit meeting in Manila, Philippines. Ri negotiated with his South Korean, Chinese, and Russian counterparts, making the meeting only two parties – the United States and Japan – short of the makeup of the six-party talks. On 7 August, Ri said that his country will never negotiate away North Korea's nuclear weapons.

## **Kim Yo-jong - Director of the Central Propaganda and Agitation Department**

The department sets guidelines for all propaganda materials produced and all North Korean media is overseen by it. However, in order to maintain its clandestine nature, actions relating to repression of the media are nominally attributed to the Ministry of Culture. When newspapers are published in North Korea, they go through three rounds of censorship.

Kim Yo-jong is the younger sister of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un. She is also the youngest daughter of late leader Kim Jong-il and granddaughter of late founder Kim Il-sung. She is an alternate member of the Politburo and Director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). She and her brother, Kim Jong-un, are said to have a close relationship, due to shared isolated years while studying together in Switzerland from 1996 to 2000, and in North Korea, "where social and emotional isolation appears to have been a defining force in their early lives" possibly because their father Kim Jong-il wanted to bring them up away from the influence of his father Kim Il-sung. She may have studied at the Kim Il-sung Military University after her return. She also studied computer science at Kim Il-sung University.

## **Jong Kyong-thaek - Minister of State Security**

The Ministry of State Security is tasked to investigate political and economic crimes in North Korea, especially for the former on crimes against the Kim family. It's also tasked to conduct VIP protection duties for North Korean diplomats and employees who work in various North Korean embassies, consulates and other foreign missions abroad. In

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addition to its internal security duties, it is involved in the operation of North Korea's concentration camps and various other hidden activities. It is reputed to be one of the most brutal police forces in the world, and has been involved in numerous human rights abuses. It is also North Korea's elite counterintelligence agency.

## **O Su-yong - Director of the Central Economic Affairs Department**

The Central Economic Affairs Department is in charge of leading and supervising economic work for the Worker's Party of Korea. The department is considered the highest body for coordination and discussion on issues related to the economy. Its functions are to study and formulate policies for economic and social development, maintain the balance of economic development, and to guide restructuring of China's economic system.

O is a career technocrat and has had management positions in state-owned production units. His first significant position was in 1988 when he was appointed to the Electronic Automation Industry Committee under the former State Administration Council. In September 1998 he was appointed Vice Minister of Metals and Machine Building Industry. He was promoted to Minister of Electronic Industry in December 1999. O was part of a two year process in which the WPK's economic, finance and planning departments were being reorganized and the leading economic and planning officials were reassigned. In August 2015, O became an alternate (candidate) member of the WPK Political Bureau. In these positions, O became a routine member of Kim Jong Un's entourage when Jong Un inspected civilian factories and production units.

## **Kim Phyong-hae - Chairman of the SPA Deputies Credentials Screening Committee**

The committee is in charge of all members of the communist party and the inner workings of it. As such the Credentials Screening Committee is responsible for keeping members in line with Communist ideology.

Kim Phyong-hae started his career in 1989 when he was elected to become Secretary of Organization in the city of Pyongyang. He would rise up through city level management until elected to the Supreme People's Assembly. He rose up soon in the Party secretariat and communist policy.

## **Thae Jong-su - Director of the Central Machine-Building Department**

The Central Machine-Building Department is the government ministry in the Soviet Union which was responsible for consumer goods production.

Thae Jong Su is a Workers' Party of Korea Vice Chairman and Director of the WPK Munitions Industry Department. He soon became the Director of the Central Machine-Building Department. In that position he is responsible for policy planning and general operational management over the DPRK's development and production of

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conventional and advanced weapons (WMDs), its space program, and machine-building industries. Thae is a highly experienced manager and can be identified as being part of the cohort of technocrats who have come back to power under Kim Jong Un. Tae's career in the DPRK's political culture and the government goes back to the late 1960s and he is part of the peer group of late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il.

### **Jo Yon-jun - Chairman of the Central Control Commission**

The Party Control Committee oversees the party discipline of the Party members and candidate Party members in terms of their observance of the programme and regulations of the Party, state discipline and Party ethics. It administers punishments, including expulsions from the Party. The Party Control Committee also considers the appeals of Party members punished by their local Party organizations.

Jo Yon-jun is first deputy in the Organization and Guidance Department (OGD) of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. He is also elected to become Chairman of the Central Control Commission in the Worker' Party of Korea. In 2016, in a round of sanctions targeted at human rights abuses in North Korea, he was placed under sanctions by the United States as the man who is responsible for the execution of defectors from the country.

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