

September 10, 1959

Report, Embassy of Hungary in North Korea to the Hungarian Foreign Ministry

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Summary:

Hungarian Ambassador Karoly Prath summarizes a conversation about the timing of the reunification of Korea.

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Translation - English
Translation - Korean

[...] at the cocktail party I gave on 20 August this year, the highest ranking Korean guest was Comrade Deputy Premier Ri Ju-yeon. [...] As we were having a friendly conversation about generalities, Comrade Ri Ju-yeon suddenly put the following question to Comrade [Soviet Charge d'Affaires] Pelishenko: "In Comrade Pelishenko's opinion, when will North and South Korea unite?"

[...]

The question obviously also took Comrade Pelishenko by surprise. Nonetheless, he briefly gave the following answer: He is convinced that the peaceful unification of Korea will take place in a historically short time. He repeatedly emphasized in a historically short time, and by that he meant that it would not unite today, tomorrow, next year or in a few years but rather in the course of the worldwide triumph of the socialist idea. The existence of the socialist world system led by the Soviet Union, the rapid expansion of popular movements of [national] liberation in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Latin American states, and the unprecedented anti-war mood and desire for peace of the world's peoples were all facts which made possible the worldwide triumph of the socialist idea in a historically short time, Comrade Pelishenko stressed.

In our opinion, the Korean leaders may harbor the idea that the division of Korea was caused by the Soviet Union, and, thus, its unification also depends solely on it. Comrade Pelishenko certainly became aware of that. This is why he emphasized that Korea would unite in a historically short time--thus, he practically referred to the fact that the history of the division of Korea had been related to the objective historical events that happened in the last stage of World War II.

The dialogue described above consisted of just one question and one reply. Comrade Ri Ju-yeon tacitly acknowledged what had been said by Comrade Pelishenko.

Karoly Prath
Ambassador

