

KIM JONG IL: ONLY FOUR YEARS AWAY FROM PROSPEROUS, POWERFUL NATION

As Kim Jong Il continues to make on-site inspection and guidance visits, he recently emphasized focusing on the construction of a “strong prosperous powerful nation.” It is only on rare occasions that Kim specifically mentions this campaign to create a ‘kangsongdaeguk’ by the year 2012.

An article run on December 25th by the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) mouthpiece, Rodong Sinmun, reported that Kim visited the Chollima Steel Complex, “lighting a torch for bringing about a fresh revolutionary surge.” He also reportedly, “called on the entire party and army and all the people to bring about a new revolutionary surge with the conviction of sure victory and indomitable spirit and thus fling open the gate of a great prosperous powerful nation by 2012,” the year marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of his father and North Korea’s only other leader, Kim Il Sung.

The Chollima Steel Complex was introduced as being an integral complex “associated with [Kim Il Sung’s] history of nation-building,” with Kim Il Sung having visited there no less than 47 times during the early years of North Korea’s existence, and the article noted that it had “made a great contribution” to the North Korean economy and the country’s industrialization. Kim Jong Il also stressed that the steel industry would need to play a central role in the “many difficulties and trials to be weathered” during the campaign to build up the economy and the nation by 2012, and emphasized that only four years are left.

Further emphasizing the need for economic recovery, a national meeting was held on Christmas Day marking the 30th anniversary of the publication of Kim Il Sung's "Let Us Further Accelerate Socialist Construction through Efficient Financial Management." The Rodong Shinmun emphasized, "a new effect should be brought in the financial and banking work to reliably guarantee the building of an economic power financially in order to thoroughly implement the line of economic construction set forth by the WPK."