

DPRK STRESSING UNAIDED RESOLUTION TO FOOD CRISIS

On October 22, the North Korean Workers' Party newspaper, *Rodong Shinmun*, reported on the international food crisis, and stressed, 'The only things we can trust in the face of today's severe food crisis are the efforts and self sacrifice of our blood, sweat, and tears,' emphasizing an autonomous resolution to the food problem.

According to the paper, Kim Jong Il stated, "Today in our country, the agricultural problem is a very important problem that must be decisively resolved in order to build a strong and prosperous socialist nation."

In particular, the paper stressed the urgency of the food problems, reporting, "Rice and food are of the utmost importance, like a lifeline to us," while admitting that fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, fuel, and other essential items were in short supply, but adding, "the basis of agricultural production is not physical conditions, but determination." By emphasizing that 'determination' would be key to solving the problem was a way of indirectly admitting that the government did not have the means to provide the supplies necessary to increase agricultural output.

The tone of the article conveys the idea that as the food crisis worsens around the world, international food aid to North Korea is being reduced, causing the worsening of the food crisis in the DPRK. It would appear that the government is trying to calm the people's discontent by blaming outside influences, while at the same time mobilizing the efforts of North Korean farm workers.

While all of North Korea's media sources have been repeatedly reporting the current global food crisis, they have emphasized that most others do not have rice to give, and those that do are not giving it, so that the North's domestic food shortages need to be resolved by the North Koreans themselves.