

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 08885046 0

Press Conference
Given in Pyongyang by Former
South Korean Airmen Who Came
Over to the Northern Half
of the Republic

Pyongyang, D. P. R. K.
1969

JAX
B-21164

Airmen Yu Byong Ha and Choe Sok Man who served a South Korean aviation company before coming over to the northern half of the Republic on December 11 with a "YS-11" plane against the U.S. imperialist aggression and the anti-popular reactionary rule of the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique, were interviewed by home reporters in Pyongyang on December 20.

Present there were many reporters of the Korean Central News Agency, the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, Rodong Sinmun, Minju Choson, Pyongyang Sinmun and other organs of the press.

The press conference proceeded in a free and cheerful atmosphere from beginning to end for the joy of meeting kindred at one place after a separation of more than two decades.

Follow the accounts of the press conference:

*

*

*

Chairman:

We are today having a really glad meeting. Now we begin a press conference with Messrs. Yu Byong Ha and Choe Sok Man, former South Korean airmen who courageously came over to the northern half of the Republic with the airplane on December 11 against the cursed colonial policy of the U.S. imperialist aggressors in South Korea and the anti-popular reactionary rule of the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique, their stooge.



Former South Korean airmen, Yu Byong Ha and Choe Sok Man, are warmly welcomed

Allow me, first of all, to extend, on behalf of the comrades journalists here present, warm congratulations and fervent greetings to Messrs. Yu Byong Ha and Choe Sok Man who have done such patriotic deeds.

Present at this press conference today are many reporters of various press organs including the Korean Central News Agency, the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee, Rodong Sinmun, Minju Chonson and Pyongyang Sinmun.

I hope you tell many good words at this significant meeting of kindred who had been separated from each other for a long time.

Have you anything to say first Messrs. airmen?

Yu Byong Ha:

Allow me to say first a few words of greetings. Present here our hearts are now overflowing with infinite emotion and joy.

It is common to all to grope for light in darkness, I believe.

Sitting here with you, having come over resolutely to the North as we had decided to seek light, we feel unbounded happiness, infinite pride and boundless glory of having been embraced at last in the bosom of our genuine fatherland, in the warm bosom of our great Premier Kim Il Sung, and we find it hard to repress our surging joy over your warm hospitality.

Choe Sok Man:

I fully share the sentiments just told by Mr. Yu Byong Ha.

Moreover, from the very moment I set foot in the northern half, I witnessed with my own eyes the dazzling reality of the northern half where tremendous changes have taken place under the sagacious leadership of Premier Kim Il Sung whom we had always adored and felt a surge of warmth in my heart with the infinite pride of having been born a Korean and felt afresh immense pride of our having such wonderful fatherland.

I am now enveloped in unbounded emotion. I now feel as if I were a "triumphant general."

Chairman:

Right you are.

You have done really righteous deeds, Messrs. Please have a talk with each other now.

A reporter of Rodong Sinmun:

We are also infinitely happy to sit here with you Messrs.

Not only we but the entire people of the northern half sincerely and warmly congratulate you on your patriotic deed of coming over to the North.

We should be much obliged if you could tell us, to begin with, the motive of your coming over to the North.

Choe Sok Man:

The motive of our coming over to the North is, in a word, that we could not discard the national conscience of the Koreans and that we could no longer tolerate the tragic reality of South Korean society which has been turned into a colony of the American villains.

In South Korean society we once served in the army and lived as civilians at another time. Everything striking our eyes evoked irrepressible national wrath in us who had received a certain degree of higher education and tried to judge things somewhat fairly.

The land is Korea, but it is the American rascals who lord it over there, and such filthy human scums as Pak Jung Hi serve the Yankees as their dogs.

These days even Japs are being ushered in there and Koreans are not treated as human-beings, the American and Japanese rascals having the field to themselves everywhere in South Korean society.

The American rascals say they "aid" South Korea, but, in fact, it is none other than the American rascals who hold all real power in South Korea.

How can a man of national conscience see without a fire of fury in his eyes the South Koreans undergoing maltreatment and hunger and suffering from non-rights under the colonial rule of the American rascals?

We became conscious that we could never live any longer the way we did in that corrupt South Korean society.

So we decided to come over to the northern half of the Republic where Premier Kim Il Sung administers the affairs of the state, the land we had always looked up to as the beacon of hope.

I felt fresh strength in my hand holding the control stick when I veered to the North in the air, determined to carry out our plan. This was not the feeling of me alone, but the sentiments shared by us all coming to the North.

Yu Byong Ha:

That's true.

Anyone who has a shred of national conscience cannot live even a day in such South Korean society where the American rascals lord it over and decide everything.

The rascals hold power in politics, economy and even in the cultural domain and completely seize the prerogative of supreme command in the affairs of "defence."

And the Pak Jung Hi clique, a dog of the American rascals, resort without hesitation to a most brutal fascist rule to conceal the aggressive design of the American rascals.

They wantonly arrest anyone who utters a word

of peaceful unification and throw into jail unquestioningly anyone who praises the northern half. Yet they are loud-mouthed about "freedom" and "democracy."

But, what freedom and democracy can there be in South Korea infested with special agents and informers everywhere? No wonder even the politicians of opposition conservative parties lament that "democracy has come to an end."

And the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique send to South Vietnam a large number of South Korean youths and students to die dog's deaths as shell-shields of the American rascals, practise irregularities and dream of money-making through shady graft.

And he is madly driving at staying in office for a long term, even fabricating the "constitutional amendment for third-term election" by irregular method, defying the demonstrations of numerous students, youth and people against it.

He who served the Japs yesterday as an officer wearing a sword at his side, shouting "Long live the emperor!" has turned today into a dog of the American rascals and is running about wildly in South Korea in the "presidential" hat put on his head by the rascals.

We could under no circumstances live in South Korea, bearing the disgusting sight of that mangy rogue strutting about on his high horse.

A reporter of KCNA:

Would you tell us please the details of how you could come over here so easily when the guard of the American rascals and their stooges was strict?

Choe Sok Man:

Let me answer the question first.

Their watch and guard in South Korea is strict, to be sure. But, there is nothing impossible when one is firmly determined.

Already when we were in the army, I and Mr. Yu Byong Ha were familiar acquaintances and we always shared the wish to come over to the northern half of the Republic.

We watched for a chance on many occasions, but could not attain our aim, conditions still faulty.

On December 11, as luck would have it, I

chanced to be flying back from Kangrung in the same team with Mr. Yu Byong Ha. From the geographical point of view, as you know, Kangrung was a point favourable for coming here, being near from the North.

It was cloudy that day. Cloudy sky provided a good screen for hiding the plane.

As far as I remember, it was about 12:27 when we took off at the Kangrung airfield, from where we flew some distance toward Seoul.

Because, the plane was yet outside the cloud. Had we taken a northern course from the start, it might have excited suspicion among those who were watching us in the airfield.

So we flew for some time in the direction of Seoul and when we came near the Taegwan-ryong mountain range, the plane flew in the cloud. There we veered to the North and kept flying straight to the eastern coast, giving a wide berth to the mountain area.

A reporter of the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee:

How far is it from Kangrung to the Taegwan-ryong ridge?

Choe Sok Man:

More or less 15 miles, I suppose.

The speed being low for some time after the plane takes off, it takes six or seven minutes to reach the Taegwan-ryong ridge.

Chairman:

Do you have anything to say, Mr. Yu Byong Ha?

Yu Byong Ha:

Mr. Choe Sok Man has just told you the details. We had tried from long ago to find a chance of coming here, looking up to the northern land as a beacon of hope. And on December 11, Mr. Choe Sok Man and I thought we should not let the chance go.

Chairman:

We have heard at length about the motive of

Messrs. airmen's coming over to the North. If you have any other questions, now ask them.

A reporter of Rodongja Sinmun:

Hearing about the motive and details of your coming to the North, we marvel anew at your patriotism and boldness.

On this occasion, we would like to hear from you more detailed accounts of the South Korean situation as you saw yourselves.

Yu Byong Ha:

Well, in a word, the poor live in dire poverty and the rich roll in wealth, and they are as far from each other as heaven from earth.

Choe Sok Man:

The overwhelming majority of the population are poor, the rich numbering hardly one for



every one thousand people. You may well imagine for yourselves the actual living conditions of the South Korean people.

Yu Byong Ha:

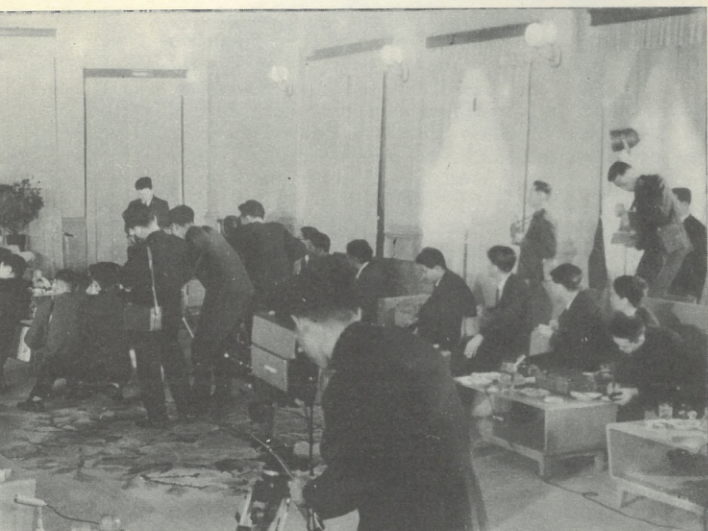
Those without money and power can hardly earn a living, however hard they may try. This is the reality of South Korea. It is a miracle, one may say, that the workers, peasants and lower-grade public servants are keeping their body and soul together.

From this, you may see how the unemployed fare. Now in South Korea, the unemployed and semi-unemployed are simply countless, and the streets teem with the unemployed and beggars.

No wonder, in South Korea, university graduates hawk rice-jelly and demobbed high-ranking officers become street porters.

People go to hospitals not to get medical treatment but to sell blood. Has there been any other such land of darkness for all ages and in all places?

A scene of the interview in Pyongyang given to home reporters by former South Korean airmen who came over to the northern half of the Republic



It is not without reason, I think, that South Korea is called the "kingdom of poverty."

A reporter of Minju Choson:

Landlords, comprador capitalists and reactionary bureaucrats, the U.S. imperialists' lackeys are well-clad and well-fed, living in magnificent houses, while the South Korean people are languishing in hunger and poverty, as you have said. Please tell us about their corrupt life.

Yu Byong Ha:

Their life is, indeed, poles apart from the life of the common people. They squander hundreds of thousands of won in one evening in gay quarters. Pak Jung Hi the villain, it is said, has millions of or tens of millions of dollars deposited on the sly in U.S. and Japanese banks, and the exact sum no one knows.

People say South Korea is a "land of irregularities and corruption." Embezzlement and stealing is an everyday story in South Korea. They are solely interested in feathering their own nests by raking money in every possible way, sucking the blood of the people and selling the country to the U.S. and Japanese rascals, and this is the reality of South Korea.

Pak Jung Hi the rascal talks about "clean-up of corruption" in an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the people. But how can corruption be cleaned up when this rascal himself is a big robber? Only when the upper stream is clean, so is the lower stream.

Choe Sok Man:

Truth to tell, South Korea today is a land where a handful of "privileged circles" subsisting entirely with the help of American rascals roister and swagger. We South Korean people, the legitimate master of this land, live in intolerable humiliation.

A reporter of Rodong Chongnyon:

Recent reports indicate that the infiltration of the foreign monopoly capital into the South Korean economy is very alarming. I hope to hear what your view is on this, Messrs.

Yu Byong Ha:

An airman by profession, I have poor knowledge of economic problems. But, it is common knowledge that the introduction of the foreign capital has ruined South Korea.

The Pak Jung Hi puppet clique have brought in foreign capital, without restrictions, and now it far surpasses the 2,000 million dollar mark, I was told. There is a vociferous public opinion about South Korea sitting on a heap of debts.

Choe Sok Man:

Pak Jung Hi pays lip service to a so-called "independent economy" and "modernization" these days. But he has completely ruined the medium and small enterprises of South Korea by introducing foreign capital without restrictions in South Korea and he totally bound the economy in bondage to the foreign capital.

To talk about building an "independent economy" with others' money, others' raw material, others' goods and others' strength, as you all know, is as ridiculous as talking about fishing in a mountain.

And there are many other ludicrous things. We may construe that "independent economy" much advertised by Pak Jung Hi in South Korea means, to be brief, a dependent economy and "modernization" means "Americanization" and "Japanization."

A reporter of KCNA:

You are quite right. You hit the nail on the head when you said we may construe the "independent economy" on the lips of the Pak Jung Hi traitorous clique means a dependent economy and their "modernization" means "Americanization" and "Japanization."

It is beyond dispute when the American rascals and the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique, by origin, are accustomed to describing aggression as "aid," treachery as "patriotism" and dependence as "independence," as you know. You must have already heard about the incident of the "Pueblo" and the incident of the spy plane. In the incident of the "Pueblo" and the incident of the spy plane, the U.S. imperialists signed letters of apology for their brigandish, aggressive acts against the nor-

thern half of the Republic, and firmly pledged not to perpetrate such act again. But how the things go? As you know, they have kept committing since then the manoeuvres for the provocation of an aggressive war against the northern half of the Republic. Have you anything to say about this?

Yu Byong Ha:

What the American rascals and the Pak Jung Hi clique are now doing is all for the provocation of a new war, we may say. The Pak Jung Hi clique have gone the extent of declaring a "tax war" to turn the pockets of the people inside out. They leave no stone unturned in a drive to collect the staggering taxes to the tune of 300,000 million won. This is all for raising funds needed in the preparations for a war, I believe.

Their much-vaunted "modernization" is aimed at militarizing the South Korean economy and "construction of rapid-transit road" and "harbour construction" also are all for the preparation of a war.

The American rascals and the Pak Jung Hi clique are now staging numerous war exercises in the air, on the sea and land under the name of "Focus Retina" operation and so forth, introducing in succession many aircraft, warships and new-type weapons from the United States.

Choe Sok Man:

Besides the army in active service, there are the reservists in South Korea.

This is how we judge the thing. Why on earth should more than two million South Korean youths be armed?

You journalist here just said that the American rascals persist in aggressive acts after signing letters of surrender and pledging not to commit barbarities again. The rascals blab: "There is the threat of 'invasion of the South.' We are preparing a war against possible aggression."

Yu Byong Ha:

The scoundrels wrote even letters of apology not once but two or three times after committing aggressive acts against the northern half of the

Republic, and yet they call aggression "defence." They must be the villains who are accustomed to speaking the reverse, I think.

A reporter of the Korean Central Broadcasting Committee:

We would like to hear about this.

The crimes of aggression and treachery committed by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique have very grave consequences in the cultural field, too.

Would you tell us about the crimes of the villains who have obliterated national culture and poisoned our beautiful customs and manners in South Korea?

Choe Sok Man:

Yes, I will say a few words about this matter as I think.

In fact, the U.S. scoundrels, having crept into South Korea, are today playing the master there.

So, it is quite natural that national culture peculiar to us has almost withered away.

It can be said that the so-called "films on gangsterism" of the Yankees and "Japanese culture" have taken its place to contaminate South Korean society totally.

Such thing is under fire even in South Korea. To take an instance, there happened such a thing.

Some years ago a daughter of a dignitary went to the United States to study. After studying there for three years she returned home. She arrived at the Kimpo airport.

As you think, many of her relatives turned out to see her. What surprised people was that she said she had completely lost the Korean language during that time and could speak only in English.

Even those who came out to see her were confounded.

But, I think, this is not simply a laughing-matter.

We think we must see that that foreign culture is completely corroding our national spirit.

Of course, this is an extreme instance. In South Korea those who interlard their talk with so many foreign words that one can hardly know whether they are speaking in English, Japanese or Korean can pass for "cultured men."

As is the case with language, clothes and dressing fashion, women's dressing fashion in parti-

cular, all such things are following the corrupt American style. This is the case with music and movie, too. Vulgar Japanese songs grate upon one's ears and in the cinema houses only "yellow films" and "films on gangsterism" are screened. The same is the case with T.V. and radio broadcasting and newspapers, to say nothing of books and magazines in bookstores.

Is there anything youths and children growing up in these circumstances should learn?

This is why all kinds of innumerable horrible crimes—murder, rape, robbery, etc.—are rampant in South Korean society.

Chairman:

As you said, goings-on in South Korea are deplorable indeed. We can understand it all the more clearly as we hear.

We can say, it is only natural that today the South Korean people should fight against the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, Pak Jung Hi clique.

Yu Byong Ha:

Yes it is.

A reporter of Pyongyang Sinmun:

We can hardly hear without indignation.

We think that all the rotten dirt of South Korea can be swept away only when the U.S. scoundrels are driven out of South Korea and the fatherland is unified as soon as possible.

We cannot keep down national indignation each time the U.S. scoundrels insult people, murder them at random and humiliate them in South Korea.

Yu Byong Ha:

Of course, we cannot.

I attended a chemical school in Alabama State, the U.S.A., for nearly three months in 1962. At that time I had suffered a lot of insults by the U.S. rascals. I cannot forget that I was forced to walk along the road for Negroes only.

Insult, humiliation and murder—such acts committed against the South Korean people by the



Former South Korean airmen who came over to the northern half of the Republic give an interview to home reporters

U.S. villains entrenched in South Korea are innumerable, not counting those reported by South Korean newspapers these days, we think.

The U.S. rascals are shooting people to death or killing them by running cars over them for a mere fun of it, and beating and insulting them. Owing to such outrages not a day passes in South Korea without our fellow countrymen shedding their blood and not a day passes without our kith and kin being insulted.

Choe Sok Man:

Yet Pak Jung Hi, the villain, vindicate the Yankee scoundrels each time they commit such outrages.

Yu Byong Ha:

Yes, it's true. How can he as the running dog of the U.S. rascals act otherwise? Through my ex-

perience of life in South Korea I realized that as long as the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys are left as they are, the masses of the people cannot be freed from the wretched plight of today nor can the unification of the fatherland be achieved. Therefore, I supported and expressed sympathy with the youths and students who, unable to repress national indignation, rose up in the struggle against the "constitutional amendment for third-term election" of the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique.

A reporter of KCNA:

That's right. It is quite natural that the South Korean people are fighting against the U.S. imperialists and Pak Jung Hi puppet clique.

As long as the great sunrays of Marshal Kim Il Sung, the sun of our nation, are spreading over the South Korean people, they will fight with a firmer confidence and certainly win victory in the end.

Choe Sok Man:

Yes, I will tell you what I saw and felt about this in South Korea.

It is true that today the masses of the people in South Korea are living, subjected to indescribable hardships under the oppression by the aggressors. But the South Korean people are living with confidence and fighting with staunchness, not losing hope because Premier Kim Il Sung, our Leader, is in the North.

All people in South Korea from children to grey-haired aged folks know well about Premier Kim Il Sung who fought down the Japanese imperialists, the enemy, for the long period of 15 years, personally pulling through all kinds of trials and difficulties in the thick forests of Paekdu and the vast plains for the great cause of the restoration of the fatherland and restored the lost country, regard it as the highest glory and happiness to have him as the great Leader of the nation and cherish it as their greatest desire in their life to be under the politics of the Premier even once during their lifetime.

So, the hope of the South Korean people today is to be embraced in the warm bosom of the Premier, our Leader. The only desire of the South Korean people is to live under the warm soli-

citude of the Premier at the earliest date.

We can no longer tolerate such situation in which the fatherland is partitioned. The South Korean people are fighting to bring as early as possible the day when the country will be unified and the brothers and sisters of the North and South will live in happiness, before the respected and beloved Leader is 60 years old.

Yu Byong Ha:

Indeed, the people in South Korea infinitely respect and adore Premier Kim Il Sung who came from among the masses of the people for the first time in the 5,000-year-old history of our nation and is carrying on a government for the masses of the people and performing the greatest and new political exploits of national prosperity.

The people in towns and villages are eagerly waiting for the day when the politics of the Premier will be extended to the whole of South Korea, saying that as the Premier was born with the spirit of Mt. Paekdu-san, he created the wonders of nature, appearing in the east this moment and in the west next moment when he was fighting against the Japanese imperialists, the enemy.

I firmly believe that the day will surely come when the brothers and sisters of the North and the South will embrace each other in the presence of the Premier on the plaza of unification. As you have said just now, it is beyond all doubt that the day of national unification will surely come before long.

A reporter of Choguk Tongil:

Now, please tell us what you felt after you were embraced in the bosom of the socialist fatherland where there is Premier Kim Il Sung.

Yu Byong Ha:

Yes, I will speak.

What we felt after we were embraced in the bosom of the fatherland where there is Premier Kim Il Sung, the great sun of the nation, the fatherland which we had always longed for in our hearts makes us unable to repress boundless joy and pride.

When I was in the South, I directly heard that the economy has made big strides. I also heard,

as I have already mentioned, the people are all well off in the northern half.

But I had never imagined that it is so wonderful as we see now.

When we flew over the Demarcation Line after we took a northern course I saw many factories emitting smoke from their chimneys, and when I commanded a view of beautiful cities and rural villages where modern dwelling houses were standing in rows, I thought this is my genuine fatherland. At this thought my eyes were dimmed with tears.

Choe Sok Man:

I felt a lot of things. After I set foot in the North, I saw everything here is quite different from South Korean society where the Yankee scoundrels are entrenched.

In cities built in all grandeur, tall buildings are standing in rows. Not a single beggar, jobless man or child roaming about carrying an empty can could be seen.

People walking along the streets were all vivacious, full of life. The faces of boys carrying satchels were all overflowing with smiles, happiness and hope.

Yu Byong Ha:

Seeing the brilliant realities of the northern half, I also came to have a conviction that no matter what slanders and calumnies such scoundrel as Pak Jung Hi may heap on the northern half, he can never dampen the sentiments of the people of South Korea longing for the northern half of the Republic.

Choe Sok Man:

I have come to realize all the more clearly, seeing the full-significant realities with my own eyes, that the very socialist system in which Premier Kim Il Sung is carrying on a government is the best system under which people can live in freedom and happiness, the realities that I heard when I was in South Korea.

My heart aches when I think that the South Korean people are suffering in a dark land,

though this splendid society with the splendid system is within a calling distance.

The unification of the fatherland is a question whose solution brooks not a moment's delay, I think. We must drive out the Yankee scoundrels and unify the fatherland independently at the earliest date so that the brothers and sisters in South Korea may also live in a bright society.

We will devote all our wisdom and energies as young men of intelligence for the day when the South Korean people will get rid of the present misfortunes and sufferings and lead a happy life in the warm bosom of Premier Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the nation.

Chairman:

We have had good talks.

Comrades reporters, have you anything more to ask? Well, a lot of time has passed. Now, let's close this press conference.

