

KIM JONG IL

**ON FURTHER DEVELOPING
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**

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Juche 110 (2021)**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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**SOME PROBLEMS ARISING IN IMPROVING PUBLIC
HEALTH**

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ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Talk to Senior Officials of the Health Service Sector

April 9, 1974

At a meeting of the Political Committee of the Party Central Committee on April 5, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung appointed you to responsible posts in the health service sector and took a number of measures for developing health work. You should always bear in mind his great political trust, add lustre to Juche-oriented medicine, which embodies his unique idea on public health, and further develop the health service with the main emphasis on Juche-oriented medicine.

First of all, you must implement to the letter the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

As the leader has said, socialist medicine is preventive medicine. In socialist society the principal task of medicine is to prevent disease and protect and improve the health of the people.

In capitalist society, where everything is dominated by money and medicine serves as a means of making money, preventive medicine is inconceivable. Preventive medicine can be realized only in socialist society, where the people

are the masters of the state and society. In this sense we can say that preventive medicine is an important index of the essential differences between socialism and capitalism in the field of public health.

If you are to implement the Party's policy on preventive medicine fully, you must conduct wide-scale hygiene information work. Only then will all the people become knowledgeable about hygiene and develop an understanding of medical science, live in a hygienic and civilized way and carry out as one the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

Hygiene information work can be conducted through lectures and exhibitions, through the mass media, including the radio, newspapers and magazines, and through films; it can also be done by forming hygiene information teams. You should conduct hygiene information work in various forms and ways under the leadership of the Party organizations concerned.

Hygiene information work should be conducted in plain language that is understandable to all. It is pointless to express it in terms comprehensible only to specialists.

You would do well to enlist in this information work many students from universities, colleges and senior middle schools. If lecture plans are drawn up for them to do this work, they will make a good job of it. In addition to hygiene information work, you should disseminate a wide knowledge of hygiene by preparing a large number and variety of materials.

In fully implementing the Party's policy on preventive medicine, you should work hard to spread sanitary culture.

Preventive medicine is inconceivable without building up urban and rural communities along sanitary and modern lines. A mass movement should be organized to make streets and villages hygienic and civilized, and to develop and encourage the use of decent bathhouses, barber's shops and other cultural and welfare establishments.

Factories and enterprises should pay close attention to establishing cultured habits in life and production.

In particular, you should pay close attention to preventing air pollution. Developing industry does not necessarily mean creating air pollution. No matter how developed industry is, air pollution can be prevented if factories and enterprises take the necessary measures. The problem lies in the attitude and view of officials toward promoting the health of the population. The health service sector should set up a well-regulated system for monitoring air pollution, exercise strict supervision and control over factories and enterprises to stop them causing air pollution, and promote scientific research into its prevention; in this way our country can be made a good place to live in, free from air pollution for ever.

Improving hygiene and anti-epidemic work is extremely important in implementing the Party's policy on preventive medicine. Many diseases and sources of epidemics have been eliminated from our country thanks to effective hygiene and anti-epidemic work.

The health service sector must not neglect this work, but continue to put great efforts into it. You should improve vaccination work among the population and step up medical inspections at frontier railway stations, airports and trading

ports so as to prevent epidemics; should an epidemic break out, you must take strict measures to prevent it from spreading. Disease prevention centres should be furnished with plenty of modern testing apparatuses, equipment and disinfectants. They should improve their research into infectious diseases so as to produce a large number of efficacious preventive medicines.

Next, medical services should be improved.

Medical services for the people are not mere technical work; they are important political work. Only when these services are good will people really appreciate our socialist system established by the leader and devote everything they have to making it prosper.

To improve medical services, it is important to promote the devotion movement among medical workers.

Devotion makes a flower bloom even on a rock, as the saying goes. If medical workers display complete devotion, they will be able to cure any disease in the world. Through their devotion to their patients, they offer a shining expression of their great love for people and their spirit of dedication to them. A medical worker who has neither love for his fellow people nor the spirit of dedication to them can never treat his patients with complete devotion, nor is he qualified to work in the health service sector, even though he may possess considerable medical skills. Doctors, nurses and all other medical workers should display complete devotion when treating their patients, out of revolutionary comradeship and great love.

The devotion movement in the health service sector, if it is to be promoted, must be properly organized. This

movement can not be conducted extensively if it is dealt with spontaneously. The matter of devotion should be the first consideration when medical establishments give assignments and review them, as well as when they assess the activities of doctors, nurses and other medical workers; in this way they will ensure that the devotion movement is conducted vigorously at all medical establishments.

Traditional Korean methods of treatment should be widely introduced.

It is an important public health policy pursued by our Party to develop medical science by a proper combination of traditional and modern medicine.

Koryo medicine is our nation's precious legacy, created and developed by our ancestors. It has many good points as regards medical treatment and curative value. Currently, introducing Oriental traditional medicine is a worldwide trend.

Scientific diagnosis is essential for the extensive introduction of Koryo medicine in the treatment of patients. Scientific diagnosis makes it possible to write a correct prescription and take effective steps for treatment. However, Koryo medicine is still failing to guarantee scientific diagnosis. In the future you should combine traditional Koryo and modern medicine properly, so as to put the former on a scientific basis.

Folk remedies have been handed down by our people since ancient times; they are a good method of curing illness in a simple way. You should examine and register folk remedies, and organize them in a scientific and theoretical manner; then you should introduce the

worthwhile ones widely in medical treatment. In addition, you should use every means to explore new medicinal herb resources and step up research into them, so as to produce efficacious traditional medicines in large quantities.

In order to improve medical services for the people, you must expand the network of hospitals and strengthen their material and technical foundations.

At the Fifth Party Congress the leader set the important tasks of building more hospitals and strengthening their material and technical foundations, thereby improving medical services for the people. Following the leader's instructions, the health service sector should step up the work of converting clinics in rural villages into hospitals and establishing a children's ward in every ri.

Close attention must be paid to setting up new traditional Koryo medicine hospitals and developing Koryo medicine departments at hospitals.

To provide the hospitals with solid material and technical foundations, it is necessary to increase the production of medicines and medical appliances. The pharmaceutical and medical appliance industries should maintain steady production, increase the variety of medical supplies and appliances, and improve their quality, and in particular radically improve the packing of medicines.

You should make great efforts to raise the level of specialization at hospitals.

In future, when clinics in rural villages have been turned into hospitals, a system of specialized medical services will be established, even down to the rural ri. As the nation's economic foundations become stronger and medical

technology develops, we plan to build a greater number of modern specialized hospitals, including maternity hospitals, children's hospitals and dental disease preventive hospitals.

As the level of specialization rises, the health service sector should establish well-equipped specialist departments in all hospitals, increase technical guidance to them and thus improve medical services for the people.

Next, you should put great efforts into developing medical science and technology.

To this end you should, above all, reinforce our medical research institutes and ensure that they step up scientific research.

Thanks to the just policy of the Party and the state, reliable centres for medical research have been established in our country. The health service sector should staff medical research institutes with able people, provide favourable working conditions for them and solve problems promptly. In addition, it should give the scientists clear study assignments and tighten control over how they are carried out.

The rapid progress of medical science and technology requires extensive scientific and technological exchanges with other countries. This will enable us to keep up with world trends in the development of medical science and technology and to introduce the latest medical science and skills from abroad.

When adopting medical science and technology from abroad, we must adhere strictly to the Juche-oriented stand. We will not be able to develop our medical science and technology by idolizing foreign things and introducing

them willy-nilly. When we accept advanced medical science and technology from abroad, we must do so critically, taking into consideration the specific conditions in our country and the physical constitution of our people.

In order to develop medical science and technology, we must raise the level of medical education.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Public Health, in taking overall charge of health services, should pay close attention to the work of the universities and colleges under its jurisdiction. The leader has said that it would be a good idea for the Ministry of Public Health to have a vice-minister who would concurrently direct the education bureau and control and guide in a coordinated manner provincial universities of medicine. It is essential that the contents and methods of education at medical universities and colleges are improved, they are supplied with plenty of teaching facilities, appliances and materials, and adequate conditions are furnished for experimental and practical training.

If medical science and technology are to develop rapidly you must establish the revolutionary habit of study among medical workers. They should always read books and study hard, becoming well versed in their specialist spheres, and learn at least one foreign language. They should also make strenuous efforts to improve their clinical qualifications. As the leader has said, the Minister of Public Health should attend a research institute for two or three days a week to perform surgery and conduct scientific research.

You should continue to pay close attention to remoulding the medical workers on the revolutionary patterns and assimilating them into the working class.

In recent years the health service sector has been successful in its vigorous efforts to transform many doctors, nurses and other medical workers in a revolutionary manner and assimilate them into the working class, but it should not rest on its laurels. In order to train them all to be communist revolutionaries of the Juche type and genuine medical workers of the Party who are unfailingly loyal to the leader and the Party, unremitting efforts are required to remould them on the revolutionary patterns and assimilate them into the working class.

To this end, you should give them efficient communist education with the main emphasis on Party policy, revolutionary traditions and class awareness.

You should see to it that the revolutionary organizational life is strengthened among medical workers. An organizational life enables people to be tempered along revolutionary lines; it eliminates all obsolete ideas, including laxity, and fosters a collectivist spirit. You should ensure that doctors, nurses and all other medical workers participate conscientiously in an organizational life with a correct attitude towards their organizations and that they fully establish the habit of relying at all times on their organizations. In addition, you should encourage them to intensify criticism and self-criticism so that they are constantly tempered through criticism and an ideological struggle.

Party guidance over public health care must be strengthened.

Whether the health service sector fulfils the tasks facing it or not depends on the Party's guidance. Only when the

Party's guidance is strengthened can the health service sector carry out its tasks successfully and steadily improve health services.

Party organizations in this sector should promptly explain and propagate to the administrative officials, doctors, nurses and other medical workers the policies on public health advanced by the Party at every stage, and actively help them in their work so that they carry them out with credit.

It is imperative to enhance the functions and role of the primary Party committee of the Ministry of Public Health.

This committee is responsible to the Party for the work of the Ministry of Public Health. In the past, however, it only organized the political studies of ministry officials and checked and controlled their participation in the weekly routine; it did not work properly to organize and mobilize them for the struggle to carry out the leader's instructions and Party policy.

The primary Party committee of the Ministry of Public Health should pay primary attention to implementing the instructions of the leader and Party policy with regard to the health service sector and actively mobilize ministry officials to implement them. It should step up its guidance of their Party life, dissuade them from creating illusions about individual officials, strengthen the system of collective discussion and establish the strict discipline of handling matters of principle that arise in Party work in line with the unitary conclusion of the Party Central Committee.

The role of the Education Department of the Party Central Committee should be enhanced. It should render Party assistance to health work and solve problems

promptly, so that the Party's policy on public health is implemented to the letter.

For the health service sector to carry out its tasks, it is imperative for its senior officials to enhance their role.

They should establish a well-regulated work system and order, based on the leader's instructions and Party policy, and control and guide the lower echelons effectively. They should not spread their efforts too wide, but finish one task at a time.

Senior officials in the health service sector should regularly visit their subordinate units, acquaint themselves with the situation there and break any bottlenecks. They should organize and mobilize all medical workers including doctors and nurses for the struggle to implement the leader's instructions and Party policy.

You should not regard yourselves as special beings, nor should you think that you were born to be cadres; you must at all times be modest and simple. To be modest does not mean diminishing the demands of your work. In your work you should impose strong demands and follow principles, whereas in your life you must be modest.

You must not indulge in subjective and arbitrary behaviour, but always lend an ear to the voices of the masses, respect their opinions and set examples in all matters. You should not regard your work style simply as a matter of personal character, but take it as an ideological matter and try hard to do away with the old work style.

I believe that you will raise the work of the health service sector to a higher plane, and so live up to the great trust and expectations placed in you by the leader.

ON THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

Letter to the National Conference of Medical Workers

April 21, 1985

Thirteen years have passed since the last national conference of medical workers was held in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Since then great advances have been made in health care under the wise guidance of the Party and the leader. The adoption of the Public Health Law, which is the crystallization of the Party's Juche-oriented guideline for the health service, provided a legal guarantee for the consolidation of the socialist health service system in our country and for the development of health care. Over the past years the health service sector has worked hard to implement the Public Health Law. As a result, medical services have further improved, medical science and technology have developed rapidly, the ranks of health workers have increased, and the material and technical foundations of the health service sector have become stronger. Thanks to the measures taken by the Party and the state for the good of the people, the general standard of health care has risen, and our people's average life span has now reached 74 years and our country

is gradually becoming a land where everyone enjoys a long and healthy life.

The marvellous success achieved in health care during this period is thanks to the unsung efforts of the health workers who have devoted themselves to preserving the lives and improving the health of the people. These health workers have worked hard through thick and thin in order to carry out the Party's health policy, and have discharged their noble mission and duty to the Party and the revolution with credit. A large number of medical workers have devoted their whole lives to the treatment and prevention of illness. They do not hesitate even to offer their own bones and skin if it is for the sake of the lives and health of their fellow people. Many of them are unassuming heroes who have made a great contribution to the development of medical science and technology and to curative and preventive work in our country by displaying all their creative talents and overcoming all difficulties and hardships, fiercely loyal to the Party whether they receive recognition or not. Our people are proud of the many laudable deeds and facts associated with them, events which touch the heartstrings of the people.

I fully appreciate the achievements made by the health workers in carrying out the Party's health policy, and extend, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, my thanks to those attending this conference and to all the other health workers throughout the country.

Today the health service sector is faced with the heavy task of bringing about a great change in the public health services to meet the new requirements of the developing

revolution. On the occasion of this meeting of health workers from all parts of the country, I would like to highlight some questions that are arising in the improvement of the health services.

1. IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IS A MAJOR REQUIREMENT OF OUR DEVELOPING REVOLUTION

Health care is an honourable and worthwhile revolutionary undertaking that preserves the lives and improves the health of the people.

Improvement in health care is essential to providing the people with a better chance to lead an independent and creative life.

A man's physical strength and hygienic living conditions are just as much a guarantee for his independent and creative activity as his independent ideological consciousness. Even if he has the revolutionary idea and is endowed with creative talents, he will be unable to carry out independent and creative activity satisfactorily and perform his role and responsibility as the master of nature and society unless he is physically sound; nor can people lead a cultured and happy life to the full unless they are provided with hygienic living conditions. We must develop health care if we are to ensure that the people perform their role and responsibility properly as masters of nature and society and lead a more independent and creative life.

Improving health care is a major requirement for better

displaying the advantages of our socialist system.

The socialist system in our country is the best social system, under which the working masses are the masters of everything and everything in society serves them. The true superiority of this system finds clear expression in the people-orientated health services by which the state assumes full responsibility for the health care of the people. The Public Health Law guarantees everyone in our country medical treatment, and universal and entirely free medical care is given to the working people, so that they are relieved of any worry in this regard. A well-organized medical service system has been established, covering provinces, cities, counties and ri. General medical centres and specialized curative and preventive organizations have been set up and provided with modern equipment, and the working people receive medical benefits from the state. Through their own experience our people are convinced that our socialist system, which provides them with a cultured and happy life, is, indeed, the best social system. In order to allow the superiority of the socialist system in our country to extend its influence, we must improve health care and consolidate and develop the people-orientated health services, and see that medical benefits from the state reach the people more effectively.

An improvement in health care is a major influence on accelerating the revolution and construction.

Physical strength is the basis of the revolutionary struggle and of the building of a prosperous society. It is only when they are sturdy that the people can use all their creative power and talents in the revolution and construction.

Putting a great effort into health care becomes all the more important in the course of the building of socialism. Naturally, the people's living conditions improve with the progress of socialist construction. Meanwhile, however, industrial establishments are springing up throughout the country and all sorts of raw materials, power and technical equipment are used more and more in production, and, in consequence, the amount of harmful waste materials discharged from factories is increasing. In these circumstances, it is imperative to take far-sighted health measures to dispose of the harmful waste materials so as to protect and improve the health of the people, and ensure that they make a better contribution to the building of socialism.

Developing health care is also very important in successfully carrying out the tasks of the cultural revolution for the building of socialism and communism. One important task of this revolution is to wipe out all sources of disease and unhygienic practices which have been handed down from the old society, and to establish thoroughly a new socialist way of life, modern work practices and a cultured lifestyle. The development of health care is essential for preventing epidemic and other diseases, for developing clean and healthy living environments in line with the socialist way of life, and for raising steadily the general level of cleanliness and hygiene in the country.

All health workers must have a good understanding of the important position of health care, and must improve this work further as the developing situation demands.

2. ON THE THOROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTY'S POLICY ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

The Party's policy on preventive medicine is the basic policy for the public health services, a policy which represents the inherent needs of socialist medical science. Socialist medicine is, in essence, preventive medicine, and its basic mission is to prevent disease and preserve and improve the lives and health of the people. In socialist society prevention must be stressed ahead of treatment. Unlike in capitalist society, where medicine serves as a means of money-making, in socialist society the fundamental principle of medicine must be the prevention of disease. The health service sector must adhere to and implement the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

The principal task in implementing this policy is to improve hygiene and anti-epidemic work.

An important factor in this regard is the development of clean and healthy living environments and working conditions. If we do this we shall not only be able to prevent infectious diseases breaking out, but also keep them from spreading if they do. Streets, villages, homes and workplaces must be kept clean, and bathhouses, barber shops and other amenities must be improved hygienically and run properly.

Another important factor in this work is to prevent epidemic diseases. Epidemics are a remnant of the old

society. Whether or not there are epidemics in a country is a criterion by which to measure the degree of civilization there. You must step up disinfection and vaccination work, and immediately identify and isolate epidemic cases and those who have had contact with them. You must, at the same time, improve quarantine work and prevent the infiltration of epidemics from abroad.

In order to improve hygiene and the prevention of epidemics it is necessary to enhance the role of hygiene and anti-epidemic institutions. These institutions are the outposts which implement the Party's policy on preventive medicine, and are directly responsible for organizing and conducting hygiene and prevention. They must make a regular inspection of hygiene and anti-epidemic conditions in the districts in their charge, take scientific and technical measures to improve hygiene and anti-epidemic work, establish a proper system of hygiene and prevention for institutions, enterprises, cooperative organizations, residential quarters and households, and see that their living environments and working conditions are kept clean and healthy. They must step up the inspection and control of hygiene and anti-epidemic work, and ensure that all sectors and units, particularly the production and construction, commercial and distribution, and communal service and public catering sectors, strictly observe hygiene and anti-epidemic regulations. It is necessary to apply appropriate administrative and legal sanctions to those units which neglect the proper upkeep of living environments and working conditions in violation of these regulations, and make sure that such violations do not occur again.

An increase in the efforts to prevent disease is very important in carrying out the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

The social causes of disease have now been completely eliminated in our country. Many of the fatal diseases which had menaced the lives and health of the people for ages have been wiped out. Not all diseases, however, have been eliminated, because some outdated habits still persist, as do the generally low standards of hygiene and preventive work and of medical science and technology. The health service sector must continue to concentrate efforts on preventing diseases.

An important task in combating disease is to take proper steps to prevent the diseases that affect the cardiovascular system, tumours, diseases of the metabolism and others which have a high rate of incidence and are very destructive of the ability to work.

In order to prevent diseases, it is necessary to develop the medical services provided by specializing in preventive medicine. This type of medical service is a positive and effective method of preventing diseases or diagnosing them in time and curing them promptly. You must improve the hospitals for preventing dental and all other diseases, and they must provide better medical services.

The popularization of preventive care is an important way to prevent diseases. Preventive medicine is an undertaking for the people and by the people themselves. We must conduct widespread campaigns such as the one for disease-free ri so that all the people join the struggle against diseases. In particular, we must encourage working

people to make it a daily routine to take physical exercise to suit their age and constitution.

An important task in the implementation of the Party's policy on preventive medicine is to press ahead with the work of preventing environmental pollution.

Air pollution is a major cause of deadly diseases. Air pollution control is not just a technical or business-like undertaking. It is an important political activity that preserves and improves the lives and health of the people, and provides them with cleaner and healthier living environments and working conditions. The health service sector must always pay particular attention to the prevention of air pollution.

A system to monitor air pollution is a prerequisite for pollution control. We must set up observation posts in the districts where they are needed, and measure the state of the air, water and earth regularly so as to spot pollutants promptly and take steps to eliminate them. The effects on people's health of the harmful substances from factories and enterprises must be constantly monitored.

If we are to prevent air pollution we must exercise strict control over industrial establishments and keep them from discharging pollutants at random. When factories and enterprises are to be constructed, the health service sector must take an active part in examining how they are designed, in inspecting them in the interim period and in investigating the finished structures, to discover polluting elements and take measures to eliminate them. In addition, they must keep themselves informed of the operations of such facilities to remove pollutants from factories and other

enterprises, and see that these facilities are operated properly.

In order to carry out the Party's policy on preventive medicine, it is necessary to improve information about cleanliness and hygiene.

This information work is political work aimed at mobilizing the masses efficiently in the implementation of the Party's preventive medicine policy. Only by intensifying this work can we equip the working people fully with the Party's health policy as it stands at any given moment, and encourage them to participate with the attitude of masters in raising their standards of cleanliness and hygiene, and in creating healthy living environments and working conditions.

If we are to intensify the publication of information about cleanliness and hygiene, wide sections of the population must be enlisted. Since this undertaking involves all members of society, health workers alone cannot do it successfully. A large number of people must become information workers for cleanliness and hygiene, and this is the way to spread such information throughout society. The health service sector must mobilize not only its own forces and resources of information work but also those of society. Students at universities, colleges and senior middle schools must be provided with information materials on cleanliness and hygiene, and sent to circulate them among the population after school. The media such as radio, newspapers and magazines must also be mobilized for this work.

This information work must be conducted by different

ways and means. This will enable you to do it without being limited by conditions and circumstances, and thus increase its effectiveness. Oral, visual, artistic and various other ways and means must be employed widely in this work.

Information materials on cleanliness and hygiene are the basic means of doing this. The health service sector must compile these materials in accordance with the Party's health policy as it stands at any given moment, by dealing with real problems in simple terms so that everyone can understand it upon reading or hearing it.

If we are to carry out the Party's policy on preventive medicine, we must strengthen the district doctor system.

The district doctor system is the best system for taking care of the inhabitants of each district, a system capable of meeting the intrinsic requirements of preventive medicine. Today this medical care system is in force in our country, so that everyone is given responsible and systematic assistance and constant health protection by the doctor in charge.

Health workers must take care of the health of the inhabitants of the district in their charge in a more responsible manner. In the past, the prime task of the health services was to eliminate acute, infectious diseases and improve unhealthy living environments and working conditions. But the main task today is to ensure that the working people enjoy a long life and good health. Health workers must improve medical services in line with any qualitative change in the content of health care, and must raise the standard of health care for the inhabitants of the district in their charge. In particular, the system of medical responsibility for workshops and pits in the mining,

metallurgical, chemical and other heavy industries must be improved so as to make sure that the standard of health care for the workers is raised.

In order to strengthen the system of district medical care, it is necessary to appoint the units of responsibility properly and organize their assignments carefully. Although it is a good system of health care, the district medical care system cannot prove its worth to any great extent unless the units of responsibility are properly appointed and their assignments organized carefully. The units of the district medical care system should be defined on the principle of combining production units and residential units. Assignments for each district should be given by taking into account the number of inhabitants, state of their health, conditions of cleanliness and hygiene, doctors' qualifications, amount of work to be done, and various other details. The doctors who take charge of districts should be selected from among the more able ones, and given the post for a long time so that they can make a systematic study of the health of the inhabitants of their districts and take appropriate preventive measures. In order to improve the district medical care system, it is also necessary to review its work regularly. Only when you do this will you be able to correct any slight mistakes and shortcomings promptly, and develop the system steadily so as to meet the needs of the developing situation. You must keep yourselves up to date with the work of the district medical care system and review it weekly and monthly in detail, correct slight mistakes and shortcomings immediately, and publicize useful experiences.

3. ON IMPROVING MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical services are an important undertaking that provides the people with adequate medical benefits which the Party and the state accord them under the system of free medical care. You can only preserve and improve the lives and health of the people and give full scope to the advantages and vitality of the universal free medical treatment system when the medical services are efficient. The health service sector must continue to improve medical services in conformity with Party policy on preserving and improving the lives and health of the people, desiring to enjoy a long life, good health and unrestrained happiness under the socialist system.

In order to provide good medical services, it is imperative to improve the way diagnosis and treatment are carried out.

This is essential for raising the standard of medical services. It is only when you improve the way diagnosis and treatment are carried out that you can raise the level of treatment and preventive work and cure disease so that your patients recover their health quickly. The health service sector must concentrate great efforts on improving its diagnosis and treatment methods.

An important task in this regard is to adopt a wide range of advanced methods. The development of curative and preventive work and success in medical services depend largely on how advanced methods of diagnosis and

treatment are adopted. Curative and preventive organizations must introduce into their work such advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment as new ways of conducting clinical and laboratory tests, functional examinations, intestinal transplants, microsurgery, and the use of radio-isotopes, lasers, and so on. The conventional method of depending totally on medicines for treatment must be eliminated, and natural elements such as hot springs, and mineral water and mud, which are all abundant in our country, must be used widely for treatment and prevention.

Next in importance in improving diagnosis and treatment is to combine Korea's traditional medicine and modern medical science properly.

A good combination of the two is an important policy followed by our Party in curative and preventive work. It can ensure the optimum use of the advantages of both, so as to take the correct measures for treatment in keeping with the living environments and habits of our people and their physical characteristics, and thereby increase the effectiveness of treatment. You must work hard to put traditional Korean methods of diagnosis and treatment onto a scientific basis, combine the modern method of diagnosis and the Korean method of treatment, organize rationally the way folk medicine is used and apply it widely in treatment.

Adopting widely new medicines and modern medical appliances is an important way to improve diagnosis and treatment. New methods of diagnosis and treatment require good medicines and modern medical appliances to suit the new methods. We must not hesitate to introduce in curative

and preventive work new medicines and modern medical appliances which are based on the latest achievements of medical science and technology, and raise our methods of diagnosis and treatment to the world standard as soon as possible.

Moreover, if you are to improve medical services, the standard of specialization must be raised.

This means subdividing curative and preventive organizations and medical specialization further, and raising the scientific and technological levels of treatment and prevention. Only then will you be able to improve medical services to suit the people's physical characteristics and the symptoms of the diseases, and achieve any notable success in your curative and preventive work. The rapid development of medical science and technology and the growing daily needs of the people for medical services urgently require that the standard of specialization in the medical services should be raised.

To this end, you must set up a large number of specialist hospitals and specialist departments in hospitals. You must do this in tandem with the progress of medical science and technology and as the real situation of medical services requires, and make the advance in curative and preventive work from specialization by system to detailed specialization by organ and disease. We must also put great efforts into services provided by sanatoria and other means of recuperative treatment which need less expense and are highly effective.

In order to raise the standard of specialization in

medical services, consultation among doctors in specialist branches must be intensified. This is the way to enlist the collective wisdom of medical workers as much as possible, so as to make a correct diagnosis and take the right steps in specialist treatment and quickly raise the scientific and technological level of curative and preventive work. The curative and preventive organizations must establish a correct system of consultation by specialists, hold doctors' consultations regularly, and eliminate the subjective and arbitrary views of individual doctors so that every doctor can express his opinion fully.

If you are to improve medical services, they must be properly organized.

Efficient organization of the medical services is the way to ensure that medical staff and facilities, medicines and other medical resources are used effectively and that medical services are provided efficiently to suit the characteristics of each district, section of the population, occupation and disease.

An important factor in improving the organization of medical services is to make the medical service network more rational and make effective use of medical appliances. It is necessary to investigate closely how the hospitals and clinics of the institutions and enterprises are being run, and then redistribute those that have been distributed illogically by merging or adjusting them, concentrate efforts on supplying them with medical supplies and see that they use them as effectively as possible.

Another important factor in improving the organization of medical services is that the curative and preventive

organizations should direct their main efforts to the treatment of outpatients.

Concentrating efforts on inpatients is an outdated mode of medical services. If you concentrate on inpatients, you cannot meet the requirements of the socialist health system, the requirements that people's illnesses should be diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The establishments for treatment and prevention must strengthen their technical staff for outpatients and improve the treatment the latter are given, visit them, give them treatment at work, conduct medical checkups, take care of patients with chronic ailments and carry out various other medical services. Emergency cases must receive particular attention.

The organization of medical services for the rural population must be improved. This is necessary in order to eliminate the imbalance in treatment and preventive work between urban and rural communities. We must improve the people's hospitals in the counties and ri as well as the clinics, appoint good medical workers to them and raise the standard of medical services for the rural community.

The organization of medical services for women and children must also be improved. We must improve the skill and experience levels of the staff in the children's hospitals and pediatric departments of hospitals so as to provide good medical care for children. Nutrition for the children in nurseries and kindergartens and care of their hygiene must be improved so as to bring them up healthily. Maternity and other hospitals must conduct consultations with women and take care of the health of pregnant women

systematically, improve the obstetrics and gynecology departments and delivery rooms, receive women not only from the cities but also rural areas to give them midwifery care, and provide them with good treatment and preventive care before and after delivery, so that they will not contract women's diseases or any other ailment. They must pay particular attention to the care of women who are carrying triplets and must take good care of their health.

In order to improve medical services, medical workers must have a higher sense of responsibility and must enhance their roles.

Medical workers are the engineers of human life and are in direct charge of medical services. Without a higher sense of responsibility and enhancing their roles, it is impossible for them to carry out treatment and preventive work efficiently.

The main factor in this regard is devoted work for their patients on the part of medical staff.

Devotion is the spiritual and moral quality required of health workers, whose duty it is to take charge of people's lives and health. Medical workers must press ahead with their campaign for devoted service and dedicate everything to treatment and preventive work, with warm love for the people and with hearts devoted to their patients.

If they are to play their role as they should, the medical workers must raise the level of their clinical skill. The standard of medical services depends largely on the level of their clinical skill. It is only when they have a high degree of clinical skill that they can make a correct diagnosis and give prompt treatment.

Doctors must work hard to raise the level of their clinical skill steadily through self-study, medical training courses, clinical discussions, demonstration lessons and various other ways and means. Medical workers must make great efforts to learn at least one foreign language, so that they can read plenty of foreign medical literature and acquire advanced clinical skills. Nursing staff must also study medical technology more, so as to acquire an ample theoretical knowledge of the content and methods of nursing and take good care of their patients.

4. ON DEVELOPING MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVING TRAINING OF HEALTH WORKERS

Developing medical science and technology is an important task facing the public health service sector today.

Health services are an important scientific and technological undertaking to care for the lives and health of the people. The development of medical science and technology is essential for the successful solution of all problems arising in curative and preventive work, and for putting the health services on a highly scientific and technological basis. The public health service sector must devote great energy to developing medical science and technology to meet the requirements of the technological revolution.

The most important factor in the current development of medical science and technology is to concentrate on

solving the pressing scientific and technological problems in the health services. Medical science should bend its energy to research into the prevention of diseases whose incidence and mortality rate are high, among which are those of the cardiovascular system and cancerous diseases. It should also strive to place traditional Korean medicine on a scientific basis and combine it appropriately with modern medicine, help to prevent air pollution, and increase the variety of medical supplies and appliances and improve their quality. At the same time, a long-term plan should be put into effect for research to advance the fields of basic medicine, including virology and genetics. In addition, in-depth studies must be conducted to explore new fields of medical science and introduce the latest advances of science and technology into curative and preventive services. Drawing on the successes already achieved, medical science must plunge into the fields of genetic engineering, immunology and molecular biology, and stimulate research to adopt widely in curative and preventive services the latest scientific and technological achievements, including electronics and laser engineering. In the meantime, it should also conduct a careful study to give the management of health establishments a scientific basis.

In order to develop medical science and technology, we must form a correct plan for their development, and establish rigorous discipline to ensure its implementation.

The correct planning of this work is an important requirement for meeting the requirements of the Party and state for scientific research and for carrying it out under a

long-term plan. Medical science institutes and curative and preventive organizations must make accurate assessments of their own scientific and technical forces and, on this basis, plan the development of science and technology in accordance with the practical needs of curative and preventive work and the world trend in medical science and technology.

At the same time, they should conduct scientific research purposefully in conformity with it. In order to develop medical science and technology, we must form a correct plan for their development, and establish rigorous discipline to ensure its implementation. Medical science institutes and curative and preventive organizations must assign clear research tasks to medical scientists and technicians in keeping with their level of preparedness and ability, provide them with adequate conditions for their research, and regularly supervise and control their studies. The medical science sector must concentrate good medical scientists and technicians and study facilities on important and urgent problems, and achieve effective cooperation between research institutes so that these problems may be solved promptly.

Enhancing the sense of responsibility and role of medical scientists and technicians is one of the important ways of developing medical science and technology. These scientists and technicians are the true masters of this undertaking. They ought to be deeply conscious of their heavy responsibility to the Party and the revolution and work hard to develop medical science and technology. They must establish the Juche orientation thoroughly in

scientific research, and study many weighty scientific and technological problems appropriate to the specific conditions of our country.

If they are to carry out their scientific research effectively they must improve their qualifications and gain experience of real situations. They must acquire the revolutionary habit of study to inform themselves of Party policy on public health and possess profound knowledge of their special fields as well as the correct methodology for scientific research. Medical scientists must not confine themselves within the bounds of their own research institutes; they should visit curative and preventive organizations frequently, learn from reality and cooperate with health workers in order to solve scientific and technological problems.

In order to develop medical science and technology we must build up medical research centres and enlist our scientific potential to the full.

Building up these centres is an important condition for the advancement of medical science and technology. State investment must be increased to provide medical research institutes with sufficient up-to-date laboratory equipment, so that the Academy of Medical Science and other medical research institutes can be developed as dependable centres for scientific research. The existing research centre must be developed further, its functions and role enhanced still more, new specialist institutes set up in line with the trends in medical science and technology, and branches of the Academy of Medical Science must be established in places where medical science forces have been prepared.

Our potential in the scientific field must also be enlisted to the full. The health service sector has many people who are capable of studying medical science other than those scientists belonging to specialized institutes of science. Medical universities and large curative and preventive organizations have persons academically authoritative as well as a large number of young scientists, who are quick to pick up new ideas and enthusiastic about scientific pursuits. People who can study medical science while doing their duties in these universities and establishments must be fully mobilized so that they can play their part in developing the nation's medical science and technology. In particular, intellectuals in their twenties and thirties who are growing to become the medical scientists and technicians of the future should be brought extensively into scientific research and encouraged to solve numerous vital scientific and technical problems. Meanwhile, a unified system of guidance for research work in medical science should be established, and medical scientists and research facilities that are now scattered should be merged and adjusted so that they can make greater contribution to scientific research.

For the development of medical science and technology, we must increase exchanges of information on medical science and technology with socialist and third world countries and many other nations throughout the world.

This will keep us informed of the world trends in medical science and technology, and enable us to adopt other countries' advanced medical science and technology. We must work hard to establish Juche in the study of

medical science and, at the same time, develop exchanges of information on medical science and technology with other countries.

In the future we should invite leading medical scientists and doctors from socialist countries which are advanced in medical science and technology, let them deliver lectures at our medical universities and give short courses to our medical scientists and technicians and to lecturers from the medical universities. We must also send our medical scientists and health workers to these countries on educational visits or for practical training, as well as sending our students abroad to study advanced medical science and technology. While increasing the exchange of scientists and technicians with socialist countries in the public health sphere, we should develop scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges with countries of the third world.

We must also improve information work on medical science and technology. In the sector of medical science research, for instance, we should set up an institute aimed at studying and publishing information on advanced foreign science and technology, systematically collect materials on foreign medical science and technology and spread the information. Medical journals of different fields and bulletins on medical science and technology should be published in large quantities to pass on the information promptly to the general public about the new successes in medical research.

The training of health workers must be improved.

By improving the training of health workers we will be

able to satisfy our growing need for them and steadily raise the level of medical services.

A system for training future health workers should be established properly in keeping with the increasing number of curative and preventive establishments and with the rise in the levels of specialist medical services, and a large number of competent health workers must be produced.

Many doctors and pharmacists should be trained.

Because new specialist hospitals have been built and clinics in farm villages have been turned into hospitals in recent years in accordance with our Party's people-oriented measures for public health, the demand for doctors and pharmacists is increasing all the time. On the basis of a correct calculation of the long-term needs for the development of health services, we must determine the scope of the annual training programme and train medical and pharmaceutical specialists in a systematic way.

It is important to increase the proportion of women who are training as health workers. Women are well-suited for health care in view of a number of characteristics of this work. It is necessary to examine in detail the composition of the existing body of health workers and train large numbers of women health workers at medical universities and other medical education institutions.

We must also devote efforts to continuous education for health workers on active service. If we neglect this, we shall be unable to improve the standard of their practical work, nor shall we be able to achieve the success in curative and preventive work that the developing reality

requires, because medical science and technology are advancing all the time. The public health service sector should establish a proper system of reeducation for active-duty health workers and send them to study at the continuous medical education institutions in a planned way.

In order to improve the training of health workers it is essential to enhance the role of medical education establishments.

Universities and other educational establishments of medicine are important centres for training health workers. The quality of these workers depends largely on how these establishments train their students. The principles of socialist pedagogy must be applied thoroughly, and the quality of education developed and taken to a higher level. They ought to establish Juche thoroughly in education, raise the scientific and theoretical levels of education and make constant improvements in teaching methods. In medical education, practical training along with theoretical instruction should be intensified. The finest medical skill can be acquired through the combination of profound knowledge and rich experience in clinical practice. In medical education it is necessary to strengthen practical training—laboratory work and specialist practice—while giving precedence to theoretical instruction, so that all students will be trained to be good health workers equipped with both theoretical and practical abilities.

If we are to enhance the role of the medical education institutions we should build up universities and colleges of medicine. We have to develop Pyongyang University of

Medical Sciences in particular, the top training ground of our medical education, into a modern exemplary unit, and train future cadres for the medical science and education sectors under a long-term plan.

5. ON IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF MATERIALS FOR AND GUIDANCE OF HEALTH SERVICES

Providing adequate materials for the health services is an important way of bringing about a new change in health work. Adequate material provision will enable the health organizations to strengthen their material and technical foundations and improve health services steadily in line with how the situation is developing. We must pay close attention to health care, and improve material provisions for the health service sector.

In this regard it is important to supply the health service sector with sufficient medicines and medical appliances.

Medicines and medical equipment are the basic means of treatment and prevention, and the standard of medical services depends on how they are provided. Adequate medical supplies enable the curative and preventive organizations to diagnose illnesses correctly and cure them in good time.

In order to provide adequate medical supplies we must put their production on a regular basis and increase it by completing the structure of the pharmaceutical and medical appliance industries. Pharmaceutical factories should

mass-produce a variety of medicines, including highly effective broad-spectrum antibiotics and vitamins, make them of a better quality and radically improve their packing. The medical appliance factories should mass-produce various kinds of electronic medical equipment, including instruments for X-rays and functional diagnosis. The provinces should build more small and medium-sized pharmaceutical and medical appliance factories to produce the ordinary medical appliances and drugs which are needed in large quantities by developing a campaign for mass technical innovation. At the same time, they must create solid bases to produce traditional Korean medicines everywhere and plant a wide variety of medicinal herbs including *Astragalus membranaceus*, *Codonopsis pilosula* and *Eucommia ulmoides* to meet the people's need for traditional medicines.

In order to meet the need for medicines and medical appliances, we must improve their supply. On the basis of a scientific estimate of demand and availability, the public health service sector must plan their supply correctly and establish strict discipline and order for supplying them according to this plan.

It is also important to provide the curative and preventive organizations with sufficient non-staple food. It is only when adequate amounts of non-staple food are supplied that these organizations can administer proper nutrients to their patients, apply diet-therapy successfully and improve the results of treatment. They should be supplied liberally with meat, eggs, cooking oil, vegetables, and similar foodstuffs.

The people's government organs must improve the guidance of the health services.

This duty of the people's government organs is very important. Only when the people's government organs take health care in hand and guide it properly, can they preserve the lives and health of the people, and improve their well-being steadily.

The most important thing in their guidance of health care is to supervise and direct correctly the work of curative and preventive organizations.

These organizations must direct their main efforts towards treatment and prevention.

Their prime duty is successful treatment and prevention. People's government organs must ensure that the curative and preventive organizations subordinate everything to the work of treating and preventing illnesses and put their management on a regular basis and make sure that it is up to standard. In particular, they must see that doctors and nurses put their hearts and energy into treatment and prevention, without being distracted by other tasks which have nothing to do with their duties.

The people's government organs must make sure that the curative and preventive institutions establish a correct system of keeping, managing and handling medicines, medical appliances and other supplies, and refrain from damaging or wasting them.

Another important factor in the guidance of the health services by the people's government organs is to increase public support for the health services. The people's government organs must encourage institutions, enterprises,

cooperative organizations and inhabitants of the districts under their jurisdiction to give active material and manpower support to the hospitals, clinics and nurseries by repairing them and managing them in a hygienic and cultured way, and in increasing their capacity.

It is an important task of the people's government organs in their guidance of the health services to press ahead with the campaign to win the title of "model health-service county."

This is a mass campaign to bring about collective innovations in curative and preventive work and in hygiene and cleanliness by organizing and mobilizing everyone. If all cities and counties press ahead with the campaign to win the title of "model health-service county," a vast improvement will take place in preserving and improving the health of the working people and in raising the standards of hygiene and cleanliness of the whole country. People's government organs must work hard to develop the campaign by making it their concern. They should correctly define their long-term objectives for winning the title and their targets for each stage to suit the characteristic features of each district. They should encourage institutions, enterprises, cooperative organizations and inhabitants to implement their resolves to the letter. People's committees should review the campaign at regular intervals and publish news of useful experiences widely so as to develop the campaign steadily.

To strengthen Party guidance of the health services is the fundamental guarantee for bringing about new changes in this field. Only then can the health services be developed

continuously in accordance with Party policy. Party organizations at all levels must strengthen their guidance of the health services as the developing situation demands.

What is of the utmost importance in Party guidance of the health services is to build up the ranks of health workers. Since it is their responsibility to care for the lives and health of the people, health workers must be more loyal to the Party, love the people more deeply, and possess a higher sense of responsibility and better technical and practical qualifications than anyone else. Party organizations must build up the ranks of health workers with people in whom the monolithic ideological system of the Party is firmly established, who are ready to devote their all to the people and have a good grounding in medical science and technology.

It is important to leave health workers at their posts, in addition to strengthening their ranks. Party organizations must not haphazardly recall or transfer doctors and nurses who have long clinical experience, but must keep them in their posts, and ensure that they take care of the lives and health of the people responsibly and continue to improve their medical qualifications.

What is important in Party guidance of the health services is to work hard to transform them in a revolutionary way and assimilate them to the working class.

Revolutionary and working-class transformation is very important for health workers who look after the lives and health of the people. Only when they are transformed on the revolutionary and working-class patterns, can they

become staunch revolutionaries who devote themselves to the Party and the leader, to the country and the people, and fulfil their mission and duty as health workers of the Party.

Party organizations must intensify education in the Party's monolithic ideology and communist education among health workers, and press ahead with the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement and the campaign to follow the example of the unassuming heroes, thus training them to become true health workers who are unfailingly loyal to the Party and the leader, and have the spirit of serving the country and the people devotedly with sound communist morality. They must make sure that health workers are trained in a revolutionary way by putting their organizational life onto a regular basis, and intensifying criticism and the ideological struggle among them. At the same time, their organizational life must be combined closely with their revolutionary practice so that the process of their medical services becomes blended with the process of their revolutionary and working-class transformation.

Another important factor in Party guidance of the health services is the organization and mobilization of health workers efficiently in the struggle to carry out the Party's public health policy.

The aim of Party guidance of health care is not for its own sake but to rouse health workers to action to carry out the Party's health policy. Party organizations must convey the instructions of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the decisions and directives of the Party to the health workers on time, so that they are well-versed in Party policy on health care and think and act according to this

policy. Party officials must mix with health workers, help them to solve their problems and difficulties in and out of work, so that they strive to carry out Party policy on health care with conviction and courage all the time. In particular, they should work well with doctors and nurses so that the latter may display their high responsibility in the work of treatment and preventive work.

Today the health service sector is faced with heavy yet honourable tasks, and the Party expects a great deal from the health workers.

I firmly believe that all health workers will transform the health services by thoroughly implementing the Party's policies on health care with fervent loyalty to the Party and the leader and in the spirit of devoted service to the people.

SOME PROBLEMS ARISING IN IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH

Talk to Senior Officials in the Sector of Public Health

July 22, 1992

Public health is a vitally important sector that is geared to promoting the health of the people. In a steady endeavour to improve public health, our Party has introduced important policies in each period and taken steps to solve the problems arising in this sector on a priority basis.

Our country's socialist health service system established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is the best of its kind in the world. There is no other country in the world that holds itself responsible for taking care of the health of all the people, from the children and mothers of babies to the elderly, and that offers them medical services that are entirely free of charge. However, in recent years the public health sector has failed to keep abreast of the requirements of the developing situation, and this is due to the scant concern shown by officials. We should channel great efforts into the sector so as to effect a drastic improvement in the prevention and treatment of illness.

Hygiene and anti-epidemic work should be carried out in an all-out, nationwide movement.

Primary attention should be directed to the prevention of infectious diseases.

Combating viral hepatitis, serum hepatitis in particular, has emerged as a worldwide concern. Data show that most cases of viral hepatitis are serum hepatitis, divided into hepatitis B and hepatitis C according to the virus type, which, without timely treatment, is likely to develop into chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis or cancer of the liver.

Preventive measures to combat viral hepatitis should be introduced that are infallible. Particular attention needs to be directed to the measures against hepatitis B and hepatitis C, which are infections carried in the blood. Thoroughgoing steps should be taken to prevent hepatitis being transmitted through blood transfusions. If a healthy person is given a transfusion of blood from a carrier of the hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus, he or she is likely to be infected. Such an occurrence would be so grave as to be little short of criminal. The health service sector should build up the blood-supply institutions and establish a well-ordered system of testing, collecting, storing and disinfecting blood.

Instances of hepatitis being transmitted by syringes should be eliminated. I hear there are quite a few such instances. In order to prevent their occurrence, it is essential to sterilize syringes and to use them on an individual basis. The Ministry of Public Health should take prompt, revolutionary steps to produce disposable syringes and supply them to all the health institutions across the

country. This step alone will go a long way to preventing contagious diseases.

A strict system for sterilizing needles for acupuncture should be in place. From what I have heard, some doctors use needles on different people randomly, without ever sterilizing them properly. Cleaning a needle with a piece of sanitary cotton once or twice is not the way to disinfect it properly.

Drastic measures should be adopted for the disinfection of medical equipment, since serum hepatitis is passed on mostly in the course of treatment in hospitals.

Measures must be adopted to ensure the correct diagnosis of and screening for infectious diseases. In particular, it is imperative to adopt proper methods of diagnosis and to improve the standard of screening for the symptoms of hepatitis C and other forms of hepatitis.

Infectious gastrointestinal diseases, including paratyphoid fever, must be curbed by improving prevention and treatment. To this end, it is essential that steps be taken to disinfect the water supply and sewage systems and improve hygiene conditions, and that strict discipline be established in the quarantine service. We should prevent cases of infection by redoubling the efforts we put into preventive medicine.

The effective prevention and treatment of infectious diseases requires the mass production of a wide range of preventive medicines. Some of the vaccines currently being produced in our country are low in quality. We should improve the quality and increase the variety of preventive medicines.

It is necessary to build up the material and technical foundations of our hygiene-service and anti-epidemic centres, enhance their role and ensure the prompt supply of sterilizing materials to them.

It is important to devote close concern to promoting the health of women.

Since the inauguration of the modern Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, considerable achievements have been made in health care for women and babies. The hospital is now extremely popular with the public. A dozen years have passed since it was opened, and it must continue to be run efficiently. The Ministry of Public Health should improve its equipment under a yearly plan, and provide it with sufficient quantities of a wide variety of spare parts, hygiene equipment and materials, along with medicines. It will be impossible for the hospital to operate properly if we fail to build on its initial facilities. We should also improve maternity hospitals in the provinces, the obstetrics and gynaecology departments at hospitals and the delivery rooms in ri people's hospitals in order to guarantee effective care during childbirth, and take care to ensure that women do not contract any erosive or other diseases.

A variety of the equipment and materials needed in the care of women's health should be produced and supplied in large quantities. The Party has adopted the relevant measures, but leading officials have abandoned their implementation halfway on one pretext or another. This is glaring evidence of the officials' poor regard for women. They should correct their approach, apply their minds to

the issue of women's health and ensure the regular supply of the items needed.

Children's health is another area of vital concern. Bringing up children with strong bodies is a highly important matter that has a bearing on the future of the nation. We intend to start work soon on building a modern central children's hospital in Pyongyang. Once open, it will make a major contribution to caring for the health of our country's children. Measures are also needed to reinforce the prevention and treatment institutions for children and the nurseries and kindergartens in local areas, and to take proper care of children's hygiene and nutrition while they are growing up. In particular, a strict approach should be adopted by nurseries and kindergartens in their disinfection and anti-epidemic work for the prevention of contagious diseases.

A boost in the development of dental care is required.

Dental care is now a matter of great public concern. Strong teeth are vital for eating a hearty meal and working hard with a healthy body. Unhealthy teeth can cause digestion problems because food is not chewed properly, and result in discomfort.

We plan to attach a dental hospital to the central children's hospital to be built in Pyongyang, and this will make it possible to provide better dental care, both preventive and curative, for children. Proper dental hygiene should be observed from childhood; otherwise, oral diseases may be contracted in childhood that cause lifelong discomfort.

Propagation of information about oral hygiene should

be intensified among children and adults so that people always keep their teeth clean. Keeping the teeth clean is the way to prevent tooth decay and various dental diseases, including pyorrhoea.

It is necessary to reinforce the material and technical standards of dental-care centres and drastically improve the technical levels and skills of dentists and prosthetic surgeons. Special emphasis must be laid on raising technical levels in the area of prosthetics and the skills of prosthetic surgeons. The supply of the necessary equipment and materials for dental care is important, for this sector, more than any other area of medical care, requires a wide variety of gadgets and materials. The Ministry of Public Health should adopt measures to supply good quality items in sufficient quantities, after drawing up detailed plans for what is to be produced domestically and what is to be imported.

Great efforts must be directed to the prevention and treatment of cancerous diseases.

Tackling such diseases is proving a tough challenge around the world. They take a huge death toll every year.

In order to prevent cancer, it is important to take care of one's dietary life and take regular physical exercise.

The high incidence of lung cancer among Europeans is, reportedly, caused mainly by heavy smoking. Also their diet, consisting largely of meat, produces a great many cases of constipation and cancer of large bowel.

Meat-rich meals are not good for the health. The many cases of cardiovascular disease among Europeans are also due to an excessive intake of animal fat.

Koreans have eaten mainly vegetables and fish since olden times. Our country is abundant in vegetables that contain a variety of nutritive substances, as well as in fish resources, since it is bordered by the sea on three sides. Fish is rich in protein and unsaturated fatty acids, which are good for the health. Our people's dietary traditions are basically sound. People should refrain from eating salty, hot or too much food.

Self-centredness should be eliminated in developing the network of hospitals.

Industrial establishments, the army, public security organs, the railways and other sectors are currently intent on setting up their own hospitals, on the pretext of something or other to do with their peculiar situation. This is a wrong approach. Setting up a succession of hospitals without any detailed plans for managing them will lead to no good, and only serve to make the medical care system irrational and complicated.

In order to develop public health, it is essential to produce medicines, medical equipment and sanitary materials for hospitals on an intensive basis. It would be a good idea for the Ministry of Public Health to produce large amounts of good quality medicines the effectiveness of which our country is familiar with, and export some of them, as this will yield sufficient foreign currency for importing the medicines and equipment we need. Drastic steps must be taken to improve the quality of domestically produced medical instruments.

We must also adopt measures to make good use in medical treatment of such natural resources as mineral

water, hot springs and mud, which are rich in our country.

The Ministry of Public Health should channel great efforts into developing medical science and technology and improving the technical levels and skills of medical workers, so as to raise the country's medicine up to the world standard as quickly as possible.

In order to improve public health, the Ministry of Public Health should enhance its role, and provincial, city and county administrative and economic committees should provide effective guidance to this sector. The ministry must work out well-considered plans for improving health services and encourage its officials to work with revolutionary drive and enterprise. The Administration Council and local administrative and economic committees should adopt the attitude of masters in this sector and find prompt solutions to its problems, including the modernization of hospitals and the provision of the foreign currency needed for improving prevention and treatment.

By concentrating on the development of public health, we can give full scope to the superiority of our socialist health-care system.

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ON FURTHER DEVELOPING
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