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INFORMATION ON THE KIM CH'AEK POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN P'YONGYANG

Kim Ch'e-yon (Kim Cher Yen)

[Information contained in this report is taken from a Soviet translation of an article which originally appeared in the Korean periodical Inmin Choson (People's Korea), No 12, 1953. Korean names are given according to the McCure-Reischauer system, followed by the transliteration from Russian in parentheses.]

The Kim Ch'aeK Polytechnic Institute returned to P'yongyang after the armistice, having been evacuated to the mountains during the war. The institute is temporarily located in a half-destroyed building on a small hill near the south bank of the Taedong River. Some 2,200 students are studying there in the new scholastic year, of whom 926 are new, a figure 40 percent larger than last year. Many of the students are returned veterans of the Korean People's Army.

The entire faculty and student body is enthusiastic about the rebuilding of the institute, and plans for the new building have been drawn up under the guidance of the Soviet architect, Professor Abramov [fnu].

The Kim Ch'aeK Polytechnic institute has only been in existence for about 5 years, but in this period it has prepared 1,067 young engineers for plants, factories, mines, and other industrial concerns of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

There are six faculties in the institute -- electrical engineering, mechanics, metallurgy, mining and geology, transport, and textiles -- and 18 chairs. There are, in addition, an Industrial Academy for the preparation of technical cadres, a night school for the improvement of specialists on a part-time basis, and a workers faculty (rabfak) for workers and peasants who do not have the necessary qualifications for entering the institute.

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The development of the institute is closely linked with the friendly assistance of the Soviet people. At the time of the opening of the institute, there were in Korea few professors and specialists with the necessary knowledge of advanced theory and techniques. Soviet scientists gave assistance, however, and Professors Vitoshkin and Puchkov, Docents Rogov, Alekseyev, Kadenskiy, Savel'yev, Sobolev, Saprykin [all fnu] and others worked in various faculties of the institute, and under their guidance, the young engineering cadres of the republic grew up.

During the war years, the institute was twice forced to move from place to place. On dark nights, along dirt roads, under machine-gun fire from aircraft, students and instructors carried laboratory equipment, books and teaching aids on their shoulders. With them lived and labored Soviet Scientists Abramov, Botolov, Fedotov, Golovin, Razevich and others.

During the war years, the institute carried out work assisting Korean industry in addition to teaching students. Thus, Pak Ch'a-chon (Pak Tkhya Den), instructor in the Faculty of Mining and Geology, improved the regulation of air circulation in the Chedon (Teyudon) mine, where it had been impossible to carry on work because of the high temperatures in the drifts. Thanks to his improvements, work recommenced. Yu Chon-chin (Yu Del Gyn) and Ch'oe Chi-hwa (Tscy Chi-hwa), both instructors, mechanized shaft sinking in the Kyesan (Kesyan) mines.

Docent Pae Chun-ho (Pya Dyun Kho), Head of the Chair of High Current of the Electrical Engineering Faculty, and Professor Ch'oe Ch'an-ha (Tsoy Chan Kha), who were both giving lectures on the resistance of materials, worked with the Main Administration of Electric Power of the Cabinet of the Korean People's Republic, and completed work on the standardization of the frequency of Korean electric power stations with the frequencies of other Asiatic and European countries.

Instructor Che Yun-ho (Te Yun Kho), Head of the Chair of Hot Working of Metals of the Faculty of Metallurgy, together with an engineer of an automobile construction plant, successfully completed scientific research on the substitution of steel by cast iron without loss of hardness.

The invention by Kim Tok-mo (Kim Dek Mo), director of Aspirants of the institute, of a machine for planting rice seedlings, the successful solution by Kwak Che-kon (Kvak De Khon) of problems on introducing peat coke into industry have made enormous contributions to the further industrial development of our country.

At present, the institute is carrying out active study of the country's natural resources, a study which has enormous significance in the reconstruction of the postwar economy and further industrialization. Work is being carried out in different parts of the country by geological survey groups consisting of students and instructors of the Faculty of Mining and Geology. The largest of these is the electrogeological survey being carried out in the Kapsan region of Hamgyong-pukto.

A research group under the leadership of Professor Yi Son chun (Li Sen Dyun) has for several months been carrying out research work on industrial production. The results of this research will have an important role in the development of industry.

The Labor Party and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea give continuous assistance to the institute. Thanks to this and the assistance given by the Soviet Union and People's Democratic Republics, the institute will be able to attain successes in its work.

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During the war, the institute received nearly 1,000 scientific books from the Library of the Leningrad Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR, and in October 1952 it received another valuable gift of laboratory equipment and reagents which were badly needed. The first shipment contained mineralogical and other microscopes, the equipment for an X-ray cabinet, electrical measuring apparatus, etc., a total of 133 different pieces of laboratory equipment and 79 different reagents.

The Chinese people invited graduate students to obtain industrial experience in Chinese plants. At the invitation of the Chinese government, in 1952, more than 50, and in 1953 more than 200 graduates had practice and wrote their graduate theses at the Harbin Railway Depot, the An-shan Metallurgical Combine, the Tientsin Machine Building Plant, the Peiping Telegraph Directorate, the Shanghai Textile Factory, and in other industrial enterprises.

Thanks to active work of chairs and students scientific circles, the best scientific reports have been heard at scientific conferences. Aspirant Yi Kye-chin (Li Khe Din), thanks to the experience and knowledge gained in China, defended his dissertation "The Extraction of High-Siliceous Acid-Resistant Cast Iron in a Cupola Furnace of Anticorrosion Cast Iron." Kang Chin-ya (Kan Din Tkhyia), Instructor of the Metallurgical Faculty, wrote his dissertation on the theme "Development of Ferrous Metallurgy in Korea", and Kim Ch'an-sun (Kim Chan Sun) published his work on the copper-bearing deposits of Kapsan.

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