

Subject : War-Veteran's Letter
To : Ukrainian Brethren

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Reason : Mutual Interest

Copy to : Embassy of Ukraine in Seoul
: Embassy of USA in Seoul
: Delegation of the EU
to Republic of Korea in Seoul

Representative of International Red Cross in Seoul

I am a Korean War veteran.

As a young man I saw my country being overrun with tanks, shelled and bombed into total ruin, my family members and friends killed and maimed. I thought about what it meant to fight for and to pay for the cost of freedom.

Then, as now, the choice was crystal clear: Do we want an open, democratic, law-based, globally-trading economic country like the Republic of Korea or a closed, controlled autocratic dictatorship like North Korea?

In June 1950, North Korea abruptly attacked the South on all fronts. The on-going negotiations for the mutual exchange of top-notch political prisoners had put us at ease, and entirely not ready for the sudden aggression. By that time North Korea had already secured from Joseph Stalin a clandestine promise for supporting such an all-out surprise attack. The war did not end until July 1953, some four months after Stalin's death.

By the time of the fragile agreement on a cease-fire, the whole Korean peninsula had seen total destruction, and it was left with a pile of debris.

Now the treachery is happening again on display on the other side of the Eurasian landmass. I believe that the Russian aggression towards Ukraine is the second chapter of the Kremlin's attempt to defeat the free world. The cry of Ukrainians and the brutal behaviour of the invaders are triggering in me afresh old memories of the war in Korea I had experienced.

Then, as now, North Korea called for a sacred coming together of the nation, a forced reunification of the land, with zero regard for the human rights and the sentiments of the millions of people in the South.

As a teenager, I experienced firsthand the real nature of invading the then Soviet-backed North Korean communists when their army came to my hometown. It was all based on false narratives, distortions to truth, and brutality. For everyday over 18 months under the occupation, we were compelled to praise Joseph Stalin the Great Liberator, and his abruptly fabricated henchman KIM Il-Sung, “the Unique Leader for Korea”. Kim was a lieutenant in Soviet Army then.

Together with millions of other freedom-seeking Koreans, my family voted with our feet (under cover of darkness) and inevitably sought refuge in the free South.

Future historians will surely record Ukrainian resistance to Russia’s illegal invasion as a sacred crusade for freedom and for sovereignty, as a fight against totalitarianism, against human behaviour based on brute force, against the philosophy of might is right. Ukrainians are battling a world which the ancient Romans described as “*Homo homini lupus*” (*Man is wolf to man*).

I am writing this letter to you with the hopes that some of the practical lessons that we painfully learned decades ago here during the Korean War will prove useful to you at this difficult time. This letter consists of three (3) parts:

- A. War Tactics,
- B. Mid-term Strategy, and
- C. Long-term Techno-economic Development.

A. War Tactics

People tend to be more afraid of a sword when it is kept in its sheath, and the owner acts as if he would deploy it any minute.

When the Russian sword was unleashed on 24 February 2022 aiming at Ukraine, people began to see that this sword is, in fact, dull and corroded. Its dullard of cutting edge reflects the Russian leader's total miscalculation as to the latent capability of Ukraine in fighting back, and its metal being corroded signifies the corruption of Russia's ruling class. That's why, in spite of Russia's obvious numerical superiority in soldiers and weaponry, the big & shining sword deployed by the invader, cannot ultimately prevail against Ukrainians, and cannot easily win.

In terms purely of military might, it will be like the battle between David and Goliath of Biblical times. For all the odds, I am convinced that, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," and the morally righteous will prevail in the end in the fighting grounds of Ukraine.

To help further this end, I offer herewith several ideas gleaned from our decades-long experience vis-à-vis North Korea, with the hopes that they may lead you to the proverbial smooth stones in the stream that can be hurled by the Ukrainian Davids at the military juggernaut that is the Russian Goliath.

1. Spread and Stay Thin

If, as looks likely, the Russian invasion of Ukraine turns into a prolonged war of attrition, please avoid costly frontal battles with the Russian army. Instead, engage them with harassing tactics, striking at unexpected places and times, day and night, far and near, and here

and there. You are doing this already. Above all, Ukraine is your home ground, while it is entirely an “away” combat field to the invading forces.

To help wage this kind of warfare, constructing foxholes interconnected by tunnels, and sprawled in a 360 degree layout, may be helpful. From these protected foxholes, Javelins, Stingers and NLAWs may be launched at the enemy at unexpected moments, and Ukrainian soldiers can run off to another foxhole immediately, to avoid being targeted. Ukrainian military units operating these foxhole locations should be lean and mean, and small in size, preferably at 5 persons or less.

2. Design & Construction of Foxholes and Interconnecting Tunnels

For the construction work, I recommend Doosan’s remotely controllable digging machine which operates without humans, shown in Figure 1. The maker claims that it is the world’s first of kind. I have confirmed this by meeting with the managers at the manufacturer.



Fig. 1. Doosan’s remotely-controllable manless-operating digging machine

The purchase of this equipment in significant quantities can perhaps be financed through donations from peace-loving people in the free world.

After your guns and artillery pieces have discharged shells and projectiles, it is reasonable to expect an immediate counterattack from the enemy's battery, especially if they are equipped with GPS capabilities. To keep suffering losses to a minimum in this context, we suggest that you consider using this layout configuration for trench warfare (shown in Figure 2).

- a. The foxhole and tunnel depth of roughly two (2) metres could be optimal.
- b. A railway line should be installed to run along the tunnels connecting the foxholes. If your launch pad is lighter than 0.1 ton, a single railroad may suffice, it should be able to handle the load. For heavier guns, double track rails may be necessary.
- c. To deal with air blast from enemy shelling, side tunnels with differential depths could help soldiers deal with shock waves.
- d. For further protection against air pressure shocks and fire, air blast protection gates can be installed at emergency-escape exit points in the tunnel.
- e. So the fighters manning the foxholes can keep their morale high, comfortable living accommodations should be provided at the foxhole locations.

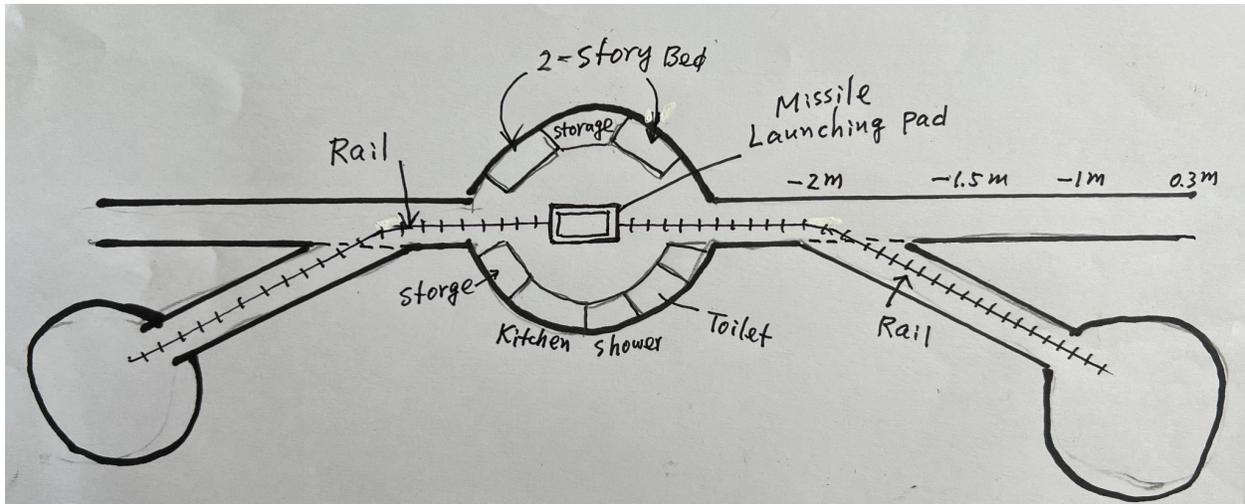


Figure 2. Design for foxholes and connecting tunnels

If needed, I will ask Doosan for the design and production of a land-mine sweeper based on this manless-operating digging machine, and it will contribute to the protection of Ukrainian soldiers and people in the war-torn region.

It is said that the cost of detecting and clearing land-mines is many hundred times of the mine per se. When we recall the words of Gen. Zukov, the supreme commander of Soviet army during WWII, we become extremely gloomy, who once said: The best way of dealing with land-mines is to let infantry troops pass through the suspected area. We shouldn't be members of an infantry troop!

3. Mud-Conquering Vehicles

Both Napoleon and Hitler failed to conquer the interior regions of Russia/Eurasia due to the harsh realities of nature. The first major obstacle their armies faced was the extreme cold weather. The second main impediment was the *Rasputitsa (muddy field)*, the muddy terrain caused by the spring thaw and heavy rain in autumn: tanks, big

artillery guns, trucks, horses, and soldiers' boots all got bogged down in the sticky mud caused by the massive melting of snow in spring.

Even the fast-moving cavalries of the Mongol army under Genghis Khan and his sons were mindful of the *Rasputitsa*: traversing the heavily forested woodlands of Europe, their horsemen made intelligent use of frozen rivers in wintertime, they rode their horses on river ice to make their lightning-quick attacks.

And earlier this year, we saw how the *Rasputitsa* made a mess of the Russian Army's invasion plans as hundreds of their "Z"-marked tanks and armoured personnel carriers got stuck in the mud, and were put out of action, abandoned.

So, whoever can overcome the problem of the *Rasputitsa* will have a decided advantage on the battlefield.

I am developing, therefore, a machine which will be able to overcome the difficulties presented by deep mud. The machine will be equipped with hundreds of rotating fins which will propel it over the muddy fields, carrying along tanks, trucks and/or military supplies during the *Rasputitsa* season. It will move somewhat like a hovercraft over water. Of course, this equipment will have several wheels to prop up the heavy load.

I have already applied for a patent for the concept, and we hope to fabricate a prototype model and test it. An economic evaluation and an engineering competency analysis together with an on-site study will be conducted. After that, I will ask a manufacturer to consider producing this vehicle, making the units both efficiently and economically. If there is sufficient global interest in this new product, and sufficient funding, then we will proceed with the manufacturing of this vehicle, and make the units available to the Ukrainian Army.

No doubt a Russian manufacturer will start producing a similar kit soon after we have put the units out on the field, having stolen the idea. We will have to keep upgrading the mud-conquering vehicle to stay ahead of the game, to maintain our superiority in combat with the Rus. all the time.

4. Main Targets

It is reasonable to suppose that Russian troops will not pull out from the occupied parts of Ukraine in the near future. Their talks of retreat or of mitigating their attacks are intended to mislead you.

Facing this hunkering down scenario, I think we will all agree that attacking the exposed “liquids” of the Russian garrisons will be a good way of weakening them:

- Fuel storage tanks,
- Water supply and purification systems,
- Vodka bottles,
- Communication systems,
- And, importantly, their supply routes.

Since wars are decided by one’s ability to maintain a stable and reliable supply route, it would be a good strategy to attack the vulnerable points in their supply lines. The difficulties for a defender in war can be said to be only 1/4 or 1/3 that faced by an invader, and we already know that the morale of the Russian conscripts fighting a war they do not understand and in unfamiliar territory, is at absolute bottom. In analogy to sports games, Ukrainians are the home team, whereas Russians are the away team. It is also true that the fighting ground leans against them. Above all, referees are in favour of Ukrainians.

As we know, the final winner in a marathon is not the runner who makes the first move, but the runner who maintains a steady pace, controlling his breath, keeping himself hydrated with water and, constantly aware of his body's state and limits & endurance levels, stays mentally strong throughout. Keep running without ceasing! Please remember that hundreds of millions of peace-loving people all around the world are rooting for Ukraine, and it is their ardent desire that Ukraine be crowned the victor's laurels at the finish line in this martial marathon.

5. Negotiations

The peace-talk negotiations toward the end of the Korean War (1950-53) dragged on for more than two years. It was a drawn out quibbling with no apparent end that tested the limits of one's patience and of human rationality.

Your negotiations with the Russian delegates should be favourable to you, because the entire free world is on your side, and many are actively supporting you, whereas Vladimir Putin is under pressure to attain his wartime goals before too long. Perhaps it will be in Ukraine's interest to deliberate on the neutrality issue, maybe in conjunction with Belarus, where the two countries can become a temporary "peace belt" of Europe, somewhat like the role of Austria in the Cold War era.

Please bear in mind to invite some international organisations to be rooted in Ukraine similar to the cases of Geneva or Wien. Some said, one international organisation in a country has more latent influence than keeping one military division or corps.

6. Help from I.A.E.A.

Since the Russian invaders started attacking even the nuclear power plants in Ukraine, nuclear safety has become a key issue. The critical mandates for nuclear power plants are to maintain the operational integrity of ECCS (Emergency Core Cooling System) together with the safety of spent fuel storage pool. These are the absolute bottom-line for the safety and security of nuclear power plants.

I, therefore, sincerely ask you to seek help from IAEA authorities in Wien to enable you to better protect these facilities and thus ensure the nuclear safety of Ukrainian civilians. Besides, securing Ukraine's nuclear plants in the invaded zones will ensure the status of Russian soldiers on Ukrainian soil does not sink to that of a war criminal.

7. The International Red Cross

If not already done, an official request should be made to the International Red Cross for help. It is sure that international organisation has already been on ground in Ukraine.

In this regard, let us refer to the example of Henry Durant who provided medical services to the wounded on both sides, supplied food to people in hunger, and sleeping gear, clothing and tents, especially for children and old folks, in regions affected by warfare.

I myself have remitted a couple of hundred dollars (via my son) to them soon after the outbreak of the Ukrainian War (website: <https://donate.redcrossredcrescent.org/>). My sincere hope and prayer are that people in Ukraine will never experience the extreme suffering that the Korean people, especially my family, had to endure during the Korean War.

During the Korean War there were tens of thousands of prisoners of war (POWs), people who had either surrendered or had been captured by us. In the camp, the POWs were grouped into a few categories according to their background or social origin (left vs. right; elite vs. labouring class) in order to ensure their security.

The POWs that were most tricky to deal with, always hostile and unbending, were the former Communist Party members from North Korea and China. These men perpetually complained about camp conditions and how they were being treated and, citing the articles of the Geneva Convention, demanded more & more freedom and better & far better living conditions.

In fact, their demands served their propaganda needs, as they spotlighted on negative aspects of the war as seen from our side. One day the delegation comprising North Korean communist POWs urged that they be allowed to meet the camp authorities in an “amicable” meeting to address pending issues, and they were very quick to mention articles in the charter of the Red Cross.

Given the vehemence with which their complaints were voiced, the U.S. authorities relented, and agreed to hold a meeting with the representatives of the POWs. The interpreter at the time, Mr. KIM Seun-ho, however, stated his opposition to this naïve capitulation, smelling sinister motives behind the bait-click. Mr. Kim warned that the U.S. side was always playing into the propaganda campaigns actively waged by the North Korean regime.

Annoyed by strong warnings issued by Kim, the U.S. camp authorities told him, in effect, to shut up. They said: “You are neither an advisor nor a consultant to us. You are merely an interpreter. Your mission is simply to translate what is being said. So, keep your silence! Shut up!!” Kim was pushed into a corner, and his mouth was Scotch-taped.

The U.S. Army camp superintendent (one star general) was an excessively good-natured person who stressed the importance of human rights. He was proud to meet with the North Korean POW delegation. Amicable greetings and words of mutual friendship were exchanged, and accordingly handshakes and smiles, too.

Suddenly, the tenor of the meeting changed as the communist radicals used force to grab and kidnap the U.S. general. This may have been the first time in history that a POW superintendent was taken prisoner by his prisoners, and forced by them to admit to the world that his treatment of them had been cruel and inhumane. After this fiasco, we formulated a new proverb which we repeated among ourselves:

“It is foolish to learn lessons from one’s own experiences alone. It is wise, though, to learn lessons from the experiences of others, viz., from history.”

KIM Seun-ho certainly was a smart guy, familiar with the experiences of others, familiar with what was going on in history. What transpired at the POW camp elevated him in the common people’s eyes to the prophet and seer category.

And, given the experience overload (wars, colonialism, poverty, then development, the Cold War, and defending ourselves vis-à-vis North Korea) we all had to handle and how we constantly shared our stories and insights with each other, I would venture to say that most folks of my generation belong to this “prophet” class, we are a nation of prophets when compared to countries whose citizens never experienced so much upheaval and changes in their lifetimes.

B. Mid-term Strategic Points

When dealing with communists, extreme care must be taken to counter their unscrupulous modus operandi, their ruthlessness, use any means to justify their ends philosophy.

1. Widespread counterfeit

In 1948 the South Korean Communist Party printed fraudulent and bogus South Korean banknotes by tons in Seoul in order to fund its party operations. They also wanted to roil and upset the then fragile South Korean economy.

When the wicked deed was revealed, the South Korean Communist Party Chief, PARK Heun-young, sneaked out across the border over to Pyongyang, where he was immediately feted and appointed the Deputy Prime Minister there.

Mr. Park, 48 years old at the time, was provided by the North Korean regime with a bride who was younger than half (1/2) his age. At the quickly arranged wedding, the North Korean leader and absolute dictator KIM Il-Sung was the most notable among all the well-wishers greeting the bridegroom (See Figure 3).



Fig. 3: On 9 September 1948, Kim Il-Sung presented a bouquet at Park Heun-young's wedding after the latter's successful escape from South Korea (where he had been the communist party chief) to the North.

Both Kim and Park established a North Korean delegation that was sent on an official visit to the Kremlin twice seeking approval for the planned surprise attack on South Korea (June 1950), and pleading for, soliciting for, weapons from Joseph Stalin. For all his good services to further the cause of North Korea, Park was arrested after the end of the Korean War, interrogated mercilessly for one year, at the end of which he was executed, shot dead. In the world of autocratic dictatorships, if you are no longer useful, you can quickly be made to disappear without a trace. This was true then, and this is true now. The purported charge for his crime was spying for "The American Imperialists". Who knows what really happened, what was the truth behind this man's untimely end.....

Majority of South Korean defectors to the North also met with the same or similar fate to their former boss when in the South. Only handful of them that survived were those who praised Kim as the living God, repeatedly claiming that General Kim alone defeated Japanese forces with the hand-made-grenade immediately fabricated

by means of pine cones, and then crossed the Yalu River by promptly building a ship using tree leaves, etc., etc., etc. They advocated that their Great Leader is able to move one thousand kilometre distance on foot at night.

I still remember what was written at the beginning of all scientific and engineering academic thesis papers published in North Korea when their living God Kim was alive. The papers should start with the following statement, such that “these creative academic works have been carried out by the suggestion of the Great Leader. Consequently, the authors are greatly indebted to their grace of His Special Favour.....and the like.”

All the counterfeit-related fellows were released from prison when the North Korean army invaded Seoul in June 1950, and they became patriots under the Communist rule. As the tide was turned back after a few months, however, these Communists patriots got into hide. Then they attempted the second try of counterfeit printing by purchasing a significant quantity of paper, necessary chemicals, seals and also fabricating printing machines. Unfortunately for them, they were arrested prior to spreading the printed counterfeits. The team consisted of several members under the command of Son Keun-wook who was the printing expert at the first attempt. In fact, Son was an apprentice of printing technique in his teens and then printing specialist for ten years at my father-in-law's printing & publishing company long before. Well-built strong guards were not able to protect the counterfeit team.

2. Opium

The North Korean government encouraged the cultivation of poppy flowers at some of the country's high elevation locations under the

guise of growing “white bellflowers”. The quality of opium harvested was top notch, excellent. In China, the nickname for poppy flowers was Devil’s Grass and it was widely cultivated in the northern east part of China, Manchuria. During the war years, my military unit arrested many Korean refugees from the North who possessed opium.

Nowadays many North Korean businessmen, and even their diplomats, are engaged in illegally selling opium in overseas black markets, to generate foreign exchange for their embassies, which are required to be self-funding. Opium is also a useful foreign exchange earner for maintaining the dictatorship.

3. Smuggling of counterfeit currency (the so-called Super-notes), luxury goods, wines, tobacco, etc. using diplomatic pouches

4. Bio-chemical Weapons

In late 1952, with the war still raging on, we received information, deemed reliable, from a number of sources that many North Korean soldiers were suffering from a pest-stricken illness in the northeastern region of the Korean peninsula.

To confirm the accuracy of these rumours, my intelligence unit decided to dispatch a commando group deep into enemy territory, and snatch a medically afflicted patient. I volunteered for the operations but was rejected because my North Korean dialect & accent are from the northwest, and I would be found out at once in the northeast, where the regional accent & dialect are very strong. Furthermore, I am very poor at linguistic imitation, so was placed in the rear instead to give direct support to the operations.

My comrades in the commando group were successful in nabbing a patient from Wonsan Hospital, the largest hospital in the east coast, and in bringing him back to the South. Subsequent medical tests ascertained that this patient was suffering from a thyroid illness, whose symptoms are similar indeed to those for pestilence.

The findings from the perilous efforts undertaken by our commando unit were corroborated later by another commando mission, in which a special team from the MacArthur's Command in Tokyo was able to collect stool samples of patients at a hospital in Hamheung, the biggest city in North Korea's eastern half.

The work of these secretive commando raids put spotlight on the incontrovertible evidence that North Korea was trying to engage in biochemical warfare. Some commentators have made the case that our highlighting this heinous aspect of the North Korean military leadership helped to stop a premature pulling out of the U.N. forces from Korea, which would have meant the handing over the peninsula to the communists of North Korea and China.

When Genghis Khan conquered the world, China also became to endure the Mongolian yoke later on. Chinese were, however, able to expel the Mongolian rulers some hundred years later by the effective and timely use of chemical weapons that were colourless, order-free, tasteless but extremely poisonous.

Being contained in a delicious cake, it was given to all the Mongolian rulers and their hangers-on together with strong liquor, singing, dancing, clapping and laughing on a special festival day that was Full Moon Day, 15th of August by lunar calendar. Their chemical warfare was thus successful, and from that event, it has been called "Full Moon Cake".

After regaining power from the Mongolian, Chinese started the forthcoming project that was reducing the Mongolian population by indirect use of biological weapons. For that, Chinese authorities imposed heavy tax and heavy labour work upon all the Mongolian young men to start with.

There was, however, an exception, a haven, to the Mongolian. That was the Tibetan (Mongolian) Buddhist Temple and monks who were exempted from such heavy duties. Consequently, many Mongolian young men went to Buddhist temples to become monks. Under such circumstances, Chinese authorities issued tax-free & labour-free privilege to the Buddhist temples. At the same time, restaurant-hotels were permitted to operate near the temples.

The employees of the restaurants must have met the following four conditions: First, female; Second, young; Third, beautiful; and Fourth secret. An intimate Chinese friend of mine informed me of the secret ...that was V.D. (Venereal Disease) patient. By applying these conditions at the Buddhist temples, Chinese could control the Mongolian population to such a minimum number as we see now. Chinese were so talented in making use of bio-chemical weapons for dealing with the foreigners.

5. Professional Liars

When they start taking peace, you must immediately prepare for war. Their sugar-coated pronouncements about peace are usually made to lull you into complacency, they help them gain time, time for their invasion preparations. One must not be taken in by their sweet talk, and let one's guard down, especially in a war situation.

After returning from a meeting with KIM Il-Sung (the grandfather of KIM Jong-Un, the present dictator of North Korea) some decades ago,

the Sunday-school-teacher-type presidents of The Republic of Korea and of USA started advocating “peace and sure peace”, giving full credence to Kim’s proclamation: “North Korea has neither the intention nor the capability of going the nuclear path. We all abide by peace!”

The scene was reminiscent of the case of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain going to München in 1938, and proudly declaring peace after his meeting with the professional liar, in what is called Appeasement which, however, did nothing to prevent WWII.

Let us recall that these two leaders who were duped by the professional liar in Pyongyang were both awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, which comes with millions of dollars. What is ironic is that these Nobels were handed out in part on the hopeful premise that these leaders had been able to secure an agreement that North Korea would remain without nuclear weapons, a premise that turned out soon to be fallacious and unfounded, and North Korea is now bristling with nuclear bombs and intercontinental missiles.

In contrast, the sceptical and nay-saying soothsayers in the free world were routinely, continuously and savagely condemned as haters and warmongers. Let me say that, in this regard, I belong to the “warmonger” category since I was not so easily swayed by the claims of communists masquerading as peaceniks.

In my way of thinking, to be truly for peace is not to be so easily deceived by warlike parties pretending to be for peace.

Kim Il-Sung’s seeming advocacy for non-nuclearisation within the Korean peninsula was widely welcomed by the free world, except by most South Koreans. Moved by the North Korean dictator’s outwardly peace-loving gestures, the world restarted donating food, fuels, commodities, and even constructing 2 nuclear power plants to consumer goods to North Korea. The aftermath, however, has not

gone the way of expectations, as today we can all see clearly as day. A small North Korean submarine wrecked on the eastern seashore of the Korean peninsula had lots of emergency food in its kitchen, and it was the relief food supplied by the American churches, under the name of *Save Orphans and Patients*.

We can easily imagine how the triumphal smile of the North Korean leader repeatedly shown on North Korean media can play to his subjects, as it is perpetually explained to them that his diplomacy skills are so superior as to be always victorious over the gullible leaders from the capitalist world. Their propaganda to their people will make the claim that their success in developing nuclear weapons, along with ICBMs, can be attributed to how their great leader was able to hoodwink and deceive those capitalists and democracy advocates.

When we say Yes, they think No. When we say No, they plot Yes.

6. Cyber Warfare

Cyber warfare is an important dimension of modern warfare, and cyber attacks can cause much damage remotely. North Korea practises cyber warfare on an industrial scale, and reportedly some 6,000 IT specialists and hackers over there are engaged in nefarious activities online, and they have had success in hacking into banks and bitcoin domains, and stealing hundreds of millions of dollars, as well as precise design of important production facilities. Cyber attacks can cripple the infrastructure of an enemy nation. One should definitely be prepared for this aspect of modern warfare as well.

C. Long-Term Development

I have not given sufficient thought to this part as of yet, a long-term techno-economic development plan for a badly damaged nation in the post-war era. One small thing to mention is that, counterintuitively, there was actually a significant long-term benefit for South Korea from the massive destruction of all the public and private facilities during the war. With every standing edifice reduced to rubble and ashes, we had no choice but to start from the bare ground up, and here was a new, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a brand new infrastructure based on rationality and on the newest technology.

That means that we were able to boost the national electric distribution voltage from 100V to 220V. The old, pre-war 100V distribution system to the residential sector had mostly been bombed to non-existence by the devastating war. The post-war voltage upgrade from 100V to the new standard of 220V now provides us with a four-fold benefit in efficiency terms. Consequently, Uncle Sam's America and Japan, both of which still operate a 100V grid, both envy us. Likewise, there may be some sectors in your infrastructure that are now being destroyed or degraded by the enemy that, when time comes to rebuild, can be upgraded to more modern standards to everyone's benefit. The new massive post-war rebuilding effort should enable Ukraine to leapfrog other nations in infrastructure capabilities.

And herewith, I submit the following radical scheme to you, it's an idea of mine that could prove beneficial to you, in terms of economics, and with time-saving benefits. These ideas have recently been patented in my country, and I am working to get these patents approved in the EU

too. These ideas are suggested for your application free of charge (and only for Ukraine). It is my sincere hope that my ideas could, in some way, prove beneficial to your reconstruction efforts in the future.

1. Joint Use of Common Pit

One of my recently patented ideas is related to the power (electricity) transmission problem. Nowadays, it has become more difficult in Korea to transmit high-voltage electricity thru densely populated regions than acquiring a proper site for power generation facilities. Furthermore, the purchase of land for transmission towers and lines is costly and is becoming more difficult than ever. Environmentalists strongly oppose the installation of transmission lines in the residential areas. We also know that transmission towers and lines are vulnerable to typhoons, flying helicopters and also plausible attacks from the potential enemy.

To get rid of all such problems on the surface, I proposed to go down underground, say, below 40-50 metres downward from the surface, so that no one can claim the ownership of land there. If a common pit is built therein, then its mutual utilisation would be made available for the transmission of electricity, fresh water, sewage water, gas, internet line, two-way mail, two-way cargo, waste, even passengers and many others together. The common use of this pit should undoubtedly increase the efficiency & convenience of transportation in each sector, and also decrease the imposed operating cost drastically. Figure 4 illustrates such advantages.

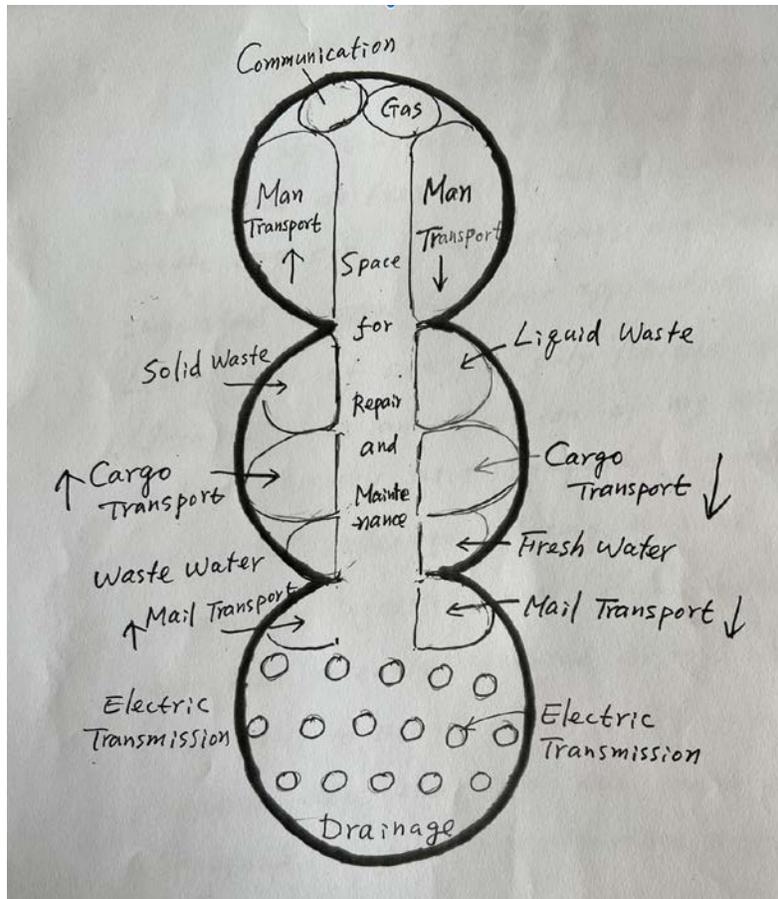


Fig 4. A Utilisation Example of a Deep Underground Common Pit

Problem is how to get general consensus for the implementation of this joint project from all the interested entities concerned.

2. Change in Your industrial Infrastructure

It may be certain that most of, if not all, your industrial facilities are of Russian design, and are, therefore, dependent upon the supply of parts and components from the Russian Federation. As Russia cuts her gas supply to her neighbouring countries often, she will certainly attempt to do the same to you after the war.

For instance, Ukraine operates 16 nuclear power units, and Korea has 24. It is sure that 16+24 will upgrade our negotiation power for mutual benefit in the international market. There are many other areas and subjects beside this. Your embassy in Seoul and the Korean embassy's commercial attaché in Ukraine could bridge two respective partners in this regard.

3. Comparative Per-Capita GDP

When Korea was divided into two after WWII, the South became jam packed with returning people from Japan, China and Manchuria in addition to millions of political refugees from North Korea. At that time, North Korea was well-off compared to the South resulting from the blessed natural resources and industrial facilities, although much was deprived of by the so-called Liberation Army.

After 7 decades, it is now shown that the comparative figures of per-capita income between the two turn out to be 2 x 27 (or 3 x 27) vs, 1 x 1 in favour of South Koreans (Table 1). Above all, South Koreans have achieved this significant difference while enjoying freedom and defending their human rights. Therefore, this comparison could certainly become a good material for demonstrating to the outside as lessons to be learned.

Table 1. Comparison between South and North Korea

		South Korean	North Korean
Comparative Per-Capita Income	Before and After Korean War	1	2-3
	Now, 2022	27	1
Youngster's Height & Weight	Before and After Korean War	1	1.1
	Now, 2022	1.2	1
Youngster's Daily Worries		Obesity due to Over-eating, More & Better	Hunger, Frequent Meetings, Continued Watch

Societal System	Based on Freedom	No Human Rights
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Next Table (Table 2) shows an economic comparison of the Republic of Korea with the Russian Federation and Brazil. Note that the IMF's GDP ranking estimated for this year (2022) is No.10 for Brazil, No.11 for Russia and No.12 for Korea. Korea is able to compete with these resources-rich giants not by quantity but by quality, not in terms of horizontal expansion but through vertical elevation, inter alia, with technology.

Table 2. Comparison of Korea with Russia and Brazil

Item	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Brazil
Comparative Number of Population	1	3.3	4
Comparative Area	1	170	85
IMF's GDP estimate for 2022, Billion \$	180.46	182.90	183.32
GDP World Ranking	No.12	No.11	No.10
Comparative GDP/capita, 2022	3.3	1	1.2
Economy Based on	High Tech	Fossil Fuels	Natural Resources
Democracy	Yes	No	

In the decades following the end of the Korean War, my generation worked very hard. Our weekly work schedule took the pattern of Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday-**Friday**-and **Friday**.

As a result of this extreme devotion to work, there were targets reached, goals attained, and many notable achievements. However, in the shadows lurked some unpleasant aspects of rushed development and of building everything at such a frenetic pace.

For instance, the Seoul-Busan Expressway, constructed “within the shortest possible construction time” “at the cheapest cost”, was often cited at the time as a big success story.

The overemphasis on speed and low cost meant, however, a tragic toll of 77 worker deaths, and many more injuries, some serious, by the time the highway was ready to take on traffic. Moreover, the forced rush, in this case, spelled shoddiness in output, so that, in the ensuing years, road repair costs actually ended up exceeding the “cheap” cost of the original construction. The lack of underpasses below the expressway is negatively influencing the local residents. Same may be true to the wild animals, insects and others.

In hindsight, we now recognise that the emphasis on “the shortest time for completion” and “at the cheapest cost” represented nothing but a politician’s vanity with large, a public relations dream concept for his political ambition.

In summary, there can be, there should be, no easy short-cuts, even though some politicians may demand them. The safety, security and the welfare of the citizens must have priority over any political ambition.

4. People’s Free Will in a Democratic Society

I am convinced that when a society runs in a way of democracy & free market system, people automatically tend to demonstrate their bona fides. I will list two examples proving this argument:

1) When Korea fell into foreign debt crisis in 1997, we were obliged to beg for a loan from the IMF, and that eventually compelled us to tighten our belts in daily life. However, Korea succeeded in paying the borrowed 21 billion dollars back to the lender within 3 years. The most significant contribution to that repayment was the “voluntary gold collection campaign” by the people, of the people and for the nation.

2) Another voluntary contribution of the people took place just before and during the Seoul Summer Olympics in 1988. Prior to starting the Olympics, a group of civilians voluntarily gathered together at Incheon (a western port city to Seoul), and they made self-determination for the voluntary suspension of their business during the Seoul Olympics. The group of people was said to have been the Nation-wide Pickpocket Association in Korea. I am, therefore, proud of quoting this spontaneous resolution of the people in a democratic free-market society. One thing to mention here is that I am not related to this Association at all.

3) My generation worked hard by shedding lots of perspiration together with putting aspiration into the work. Quite often, we took respiration to recharge ourselves. By doing so, we could induce some sort of inspiration from above. Inspiration came to us not from horizontal dimension but from vertical highness. We then organised our efforts into a form of multi-spirations for the future work and also as lessons to our children and grand-children. We expect to share our experience with Ukrainian brethren.

5. The Optimal Political System

Political pundits and historians often point to two Asian leaders from the modern era who belong to that rare category of personally “unselfish autocrats” who did a whole lot of good for their own

countries. As you may have guessed, one is PARK Chung-hee of the Republic of Korea and the other is LEE Kuan-yew of Singapore.

They were both authoritarian leaders with a strong hand whose enlightened policies brought immense economic benefits to their citizens. At the same time, unlike so many others in their position, they did not at all enrich themselves at the expense of the national treasury, they were honest, incorruptible straight-shooters.

One can say, I suppose, that these two leaders truly taught their people to “learn to fish”, instead of merely handing over to them a meal of fish to consume for one time.

“If one is given a fish, it is good for one meal.
If he is taught how to fish, it will give him meals for the lifetime.”

One contributing factor to their ability to stay in power for so long was the continuing threat from their neighbouring big powers. In the case of tiny Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia posed such a threat, while for South Korea, it was China and Russia, on top of the always menacing North Korea under the Kim dynasty.

Park Chung-hee’s 18 year tenure as president came to a tragic end, however, when he was assassinated by his trusted aide, the K-CIA head from the same hometown as Park, who pulled a Brutus on his boss.

On the other hand, Lee Kuan-Yew died of natural causes, and such a blessing was soon followed by an ugly scramble for political power among his sons.

Even though for us amateurs, our general preference among political systems is for a democratic government that is organised by free

elections based on the secret ballot, it may pay us to heed the American maverick Mark Twain, who wise-cracked:

“Politicians are like diapers.
They should be changed regularly and for the same reason.”

To this, I would like to add one more thing: “Diapers may be allowed for reuse, but only after a thorough washing and drying process under the sun.”

6. Bicycle Rider

Having been an engineer for life, and never having sided with any political party, either on the right or on the left, and not even with a neutral-trending one, I can, therefore, claim to be, on balance, impartial and immune from outside influences. I am hoping that my opinions will be seen and treated as an unbiased, unfiltered voice from the wilderness.

In analysis, it is sometimes useful to resort to analogies, and I use the idea of the Bicycle Rider when performing a comparative evaluation of nation states.

When climbing up a steep road with a heavy load strapped to the back rack, a bicycle rider has to push down on pedals furiously in leg pumping motion and, at the same time, bob his head up and down to maintain his balance, and not fall. These motions perfectly mirror those of a middle-ranking bureaucrat or civil servant who tramples ruthlessly on his subordinates, and keeps his underlings on a tight leash under his boots as, at the same time, he sucks up to his superiors, nodding his head up and down in apparent total agreement, and with his two hands joined together in seeming obeisance, while he repeats the soothing mantra to his bosses: “Yes, Sir! You are super,

you are a total genius ... blah blah blah... “; and I call such a person a “Bicycle Rider” (Radfahrer).

The speed at which the bicycle will travel will depend on the slope of the road and the weight of the loads carried. The Bicycle Rider’s loads, typically, will consist of illegally-obtained wealth accumulated from bribery and from the misuse of his power, the loot filched by an unscrupulous, thieving kleptocrat.

Bicycle Riders are found everywhere in the world, and they have been around for millennia for as long as there have been human societies. We can use this Bicycle Rider concept as a litmus test for evaluating the status and level of development of a country.

Under my simple definition, if the role of Bicycle Riders is generally and widely accepted as being useful for the management of a country, then this country is an **underdeveloped country**. In an **advanced country**, however, Bicycle Riders will normally be considered harmful to the nation, and will be frowned upon and taken to task.

The Role of Bicycle Riders	Useful = Underdeveloped country
	Harmful = Advanced country

The fall and decline of all the Korean kingdoms of the past can be attributed to an overactive participation by these Bicycle Riders in government affairs. Ditto for the two dozen dynasties of China’s history spanning the past 2-3 millennia: China’s empires declined and collapsed as these Bicycle Riders proliferated, and assumed outsized roles.

In my definition, Bicycle Riders can be categorised by their dominant trait: Flatterer, Luxury-loving, Arrogant and Corrupt (FLAC). They are FLAC, in acronym-form. The middle-ranking civil servants and administrators who are honest, conscientious, and hard working---in short, the very opposite of FLAC---tend to be Polite, Initiative-taking, Clean and Creative, they are the PICC people.

One can assume that one FLAC bureaucrat can produce as many as 100 communists while, in reverse, a single civil servant in the PICC would have the effect of converting 10 communists to decent, law-abiding citizens that aspire to democratic principles. It is critical to nurture and grow this PICC camp, and try to get government employees to serve all people with a humble attitude.

Epilogue

In school, I read “War and Peace” by Leo Tolstoy, and the great thoughts contained in that book helped to open my eyes, I went from having a rather monochromatic view of nature and of humanity, to a more nuanced view, capable of seeing all colours of the rainbow spectra and, dare I say, even the ultraviolet and infrared regions of spectral wavelengths.

I was fascinated, too, by the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky, which I read while listening to the music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Like many, I became a Russophile, a “-sky admirer”, and the deep admiration still remains within me. And it is my sincere hope that this long-cherished admiration will not be damaged or diminished by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

One hopes for a day, too, when the countless number of decent Russians currently living unfree under the power-crazed dictator will be liberated and set free, together with all my fellow brethren in North

Korea currently suffering under the cruel oppression of the Big Brother and his henchmen there. We pray for the day when those two countries will become just “normal” countries, where human liberties and rights can be enjoyed by every citizen.

Allow me to quote the words from “Dr. Zhivago” by Boris Pasternak:

*“Don't you see, we are not in the same position.
You were given wings to fly above the clouds, but I'm a woman,
mine are given me to stay close to the ground
and to shelter my young.”*

Finally, I will close this letter by quoting a sentence in “the Persians” written more than two thousand years ago.

*“Human beings have to abide by discretion.
Once a hybris (self-indulgence) flower comes into full blossom
and is well ripened,
it tends to be automatically followed by the ear of delusion.
When matured, it will result in a tearful harvest.”*

It is advised that this is the very message to the Kremlin and Pyongyang, and is also a preceding warning to us all. Thanks.