

June 21, 1960
Journal of Soviet Ambassador in the DPRK A.M.
Puzanov for 21 June 1960

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Summary:

Puzanov reports on a meeting with Choe Yong-geon, noting that Choe was recently "awarded the title of Hero of Labor of the DPRK."

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JOURNAL
of Soviet Ambassador in the DPRK A. M. PUZANOV for the period
13 through 28 June 1960

Pyongyang

[...]

21 June 1960

All the ambassadors and chargés d'affaires visited Choe Yong-geon at the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and congratulated him in connection with his 60th birthday and brought a basket of flowers.

Choe Yong-geon invited all of us to breakfast. A conversation was held during breakfast. For my part I spoke in especially great detail about the issue of the peaceful coexistence of countries with different economic systems. Choe Yong-geon and the ambassadors regarded my statements approvingly. The Chinese ambassador only listened (through an interpreter). There were no comments or statements from him.

On 22 June a Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly was published in the Korean press about Choe Yong-geon being awarded the title of Hero of Labor of the DPRK. It is noteworthy that the decree begins with the following words: "Cde Choe Yong-geon, the closest comrade-in-arms of Cde. Kim Il Sung, in the darkest period of the rule...", etc. And here they could not avoid glorification of the personality of Kim Il Sung.

[...]

USSR AMBASSADOR IN THE DPRK
[signature] (A. PUZANOV)

Five copies printed - vp
1 - to Cde. A. A. Gromyko
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