

DPRK PREPARES TO LAUNCH 3RD KIM JONG IL GOVERNMENT

The 12th election of representatives for the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly, scheduled for March 8, and the opening of the session of the 12th SPA, expected to occur in late March or early April, will mark the launch of the third government under Kim Jong Il.

With the election of SPA representatives, the ailing Kim will further strengthen his grasp on the regime and reinforce the North Korean public's view of him as the chairman of the National Defense Commission. The (North) Korean Central News Agency announced on February 1 that Kim had been nominated as a candidate for SPA deputy. It is also expected that the election will be used to help establish the groundwork for a stable transition of power in the future. February 16 will mark Kim's 67th birthday and, together with the election, presents an opportunity to further boost solidarity in the North.

Minister of the People's Armed Forces Kim Il Chol announced Kim Jong Il's nomination at a meeting of the Constituency No. 333, stating, "The glorious history of the DPRK is closely associated with the immortal exploits Kim Jong Il has performed," and that Kim Jong Il had developed Kim Il Sung's Juche' ideology-related ideas, "demonstrating the dignity and might of the DPRK with the unique Songun [military-first] politics." Kim Il Chol also stated that the election would serve as a "historic" opportunity to prepare the way toward building a "strong and prosperous nation" in North Korea.

Kim Jong Il was elected to his current position of NDC chairman by 10th SPA in 1998, and was reelected in 2003 by the 12th SPA. In those cases, as well, the Constituency No. 333 announced his nomination. It is expected that all other election constituencies across the country will begin holding celebratory events for Kim soon in order to disseminate propaganda portraying Kim as the representative for all the North Korean people.

Following these events, around the time of Kim's birthday, he is expected to register as a candidate at the Constituency No. 333, where he was originally nominated, when propaganda stressing the strength of the Kim regime and 'Military-first Politics' is expected to peak.