

## **DPRK AUTHORITIES BAN THE SALE OF JAPANESE GOODS**

In response to Japanese sanctions against North Korea, DPRK authorities have passed down an order to cease trading in Japanese products. According to an inside source quoted by the “Daily NK,” North Korean authorities recently passed down an internal order to do away with Japanese goods across the country within three years, beginning with Pyongyang. The source went on to say that “Recently there has been displeasure with Japan’s posture during six-party talks. . . these measures appear to have been laid down, in particular, due to Japan’s recent extension of sanctions against the North.”

During the six-party talks, Japan has refused to provide assistance to North Korea unless Pyongyang first take steps to provide information on the Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korean agents. On April 10, Tokyo decided to extend sanctions against North Korea for another six months. According to the source, this caused Chinese and South Korean goods to move into the spotlight in North Korea. “With trade of Japanese goods halted, North Korea has grown more dependent on not only Chinese goods, but on South Korean goods as well. A Dandong customs agent stated that there has been an increase in the import of Korean goods as well as Chinese refrigerated and cargo-carrying trucks.”

While the source feels that used Japanese cars and refrigerated trucks are cheaper and higher quality than those made in China, traders are reluctant to purchase Japanese goods due to the order passed down by authorities. “An imitation of South Korea’s ‘1,000-won Mart’ (Dollar Store) called the ‘10-won Mart’” (10 DPRK won equals 1,300 ROK won) “has opened, and all of the goods in the store are South Korean made, while most of the customers are North Korean traders.” Goods that are selling well in North Korea include “*banchan*” (side dish) ingredients,

lunch sets, all kinds of shoes, and clothing. In addition, South Korean appliances with the South Korean labels removed are making their way into the North, with Sungkwang Electronics' "Cuckoo" rice cookers especially popular with North Koreans.

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