



성균관대학교  
SUNGKYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY

## 1972 Korea and *Yushin*

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# 1. Nixon Doctrine

1969

- Made during the middle of an international tour in Guam

- Nixon stated that:

1. *First*, the United States will keep all of its treaty commitments.

2. *Second*, we shall provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of a nation allied with us or of a nation whose survival we consider vital to our security.

3. *Third*, in cases involving other types of aggression, we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested in accordance with our treaty commitments.

But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defense.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8adwPV2Bx5U>

# US – China *Détente*

- July and October of 1971 – US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made 2 secret visits to China
- February 1972, US President Nixon visited China and met Chairman Mao Zedong



*“The Week That Changed The World”*

# July 4<sup>th</sup> North-South Joint Statement

1972

- **Representative of North Korea:**

Organization and Guidance Department Director Kim Yong-Ju

Vice Premier Park Sung-Chul

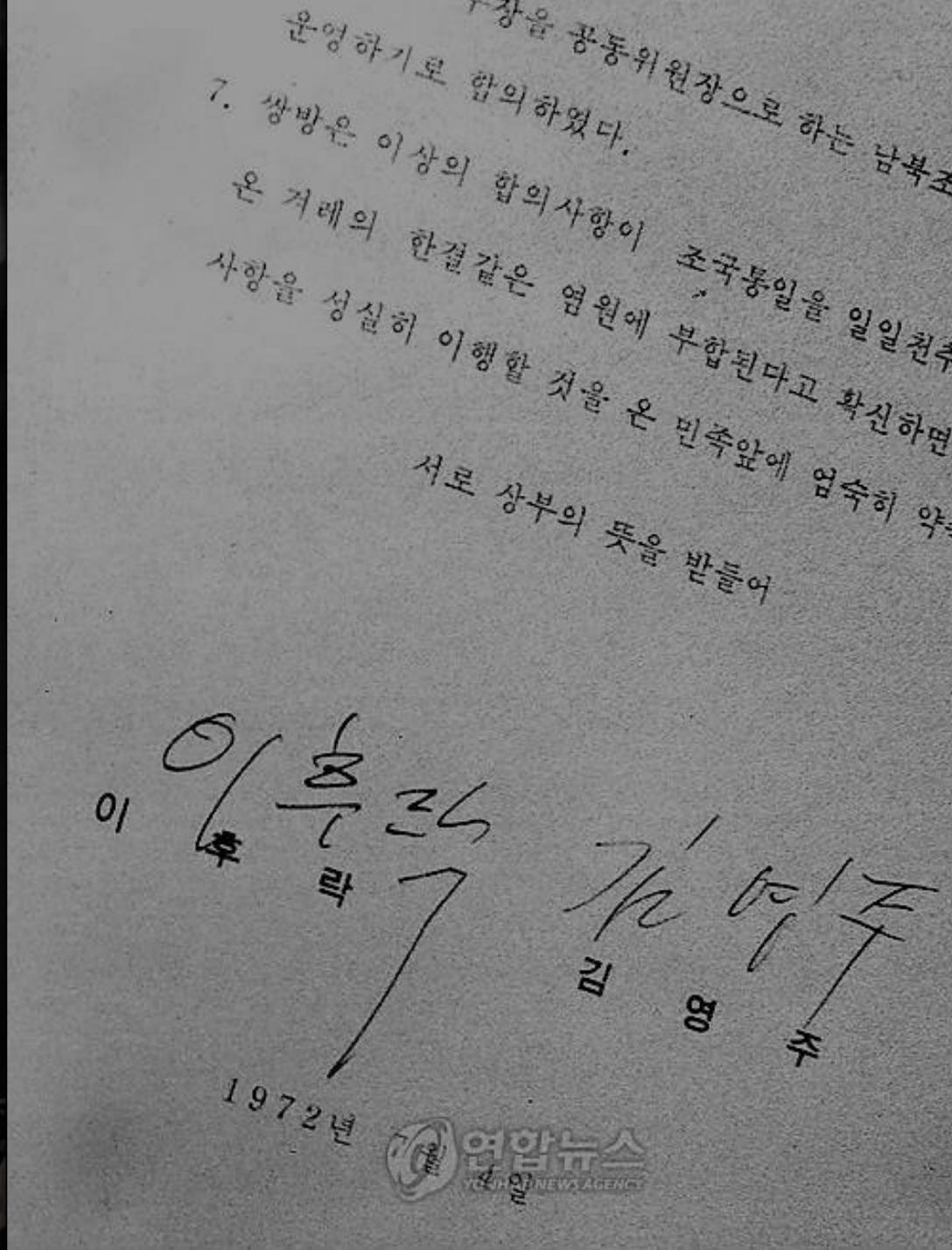
- **Representative of South Korea:**

KCIA Director Lee Hu-Rak



# Contents of the Joint Statement

1. First, unification shall be achieved independently, without depending on foreign powers and without foreign interference.
2. Second, unification shall be achieved through peaceful means, without resorting to the use of force against each other.
3. Third, a great national unity shall be sought first, transcending differences in ideas, ideologies, and systems.



# Yushin & Park Jung Hee

1972

- So called October Yushin was an October 1972 when Park Jung Hee assumed dictatorial powers.
- From 1972 to 1979, power was monopolized by Park and his Democratic Republican Party under the “Yushin System”
- Yushin in Korean means “rejuvenation” or “renewal”, but also could be translated as the restoration of Meiji Restoration, enabling Park to have enormous power of the government in his hands.

- Then How Yushin Constitution was created?

## →1. Third term of the presidency

- Under the constitution of that time, the president was limited to two terms only in office. However, Park could be elected for the third term due to the fact that the National Assembly, which was dominated by Park's party amended the Constitution in 1969 initially.

## →2. 1971 legislative election

- Park Jung Hee was re-elected as the president and Park's Democratic Republican Party took 113 seats out of 204, which means failing again to amend the constitution.

## →3. July 4th North-South Joint Declaration

- After the event of Joint Statement, the enthusiasm for reunification among people of both North and South was heating up. Park used it as a tacit for the amendment of the constitution: *yusin*.

# Under Yushin

1972

Under the Yushin regime:

- Third Republic of Korea was replaced by Yushin Constitution
- “Tongil Juche Geungmin Hoeui (통일주체국민회의) was sat up
  - ➔ In-direct system of electing president
- Elections were held every 6 years, but there were no restrictions on the number of terms one could serve.
- Allowed the president to declare “Emergency Measure” (긴급조치권), enabling the president to promulgate laws without ratification by the National Assembly.
- The president could appoint 1/3 of the members of the National Assembly.

Conclusion?

- ➔ The president with near-absolute power with almost infinite terms of serving.



# Kim Dae Jung Kidnapping Incident

1973

- Under the Yushin Constitution, there were many restrictions and limitations overall in Korea. Park Jung Hee was caring all matters, including policy, entertainments, published news, and even the life of citizens.
- There could be no rebukes against Park's authority as that would be resulted in jailing, physical hurts, and surveillance.
- Then Kim Dae Jung, on abroad at Japan, strongly criticized Park Jung Hee and his party for dictatorship.
- Annoyed by Kim Dae Jung's action, Park ordered KCIA to kidnap and kill Kim Dae Jung.
- Kim Dae Jung was really kidnapped, but was saved by the help of U.S. Ambassador Phillip Habib as he found out the KCIA was involved and intervened with the South Korean government.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b0f3xhU5P4>

# Standpoints of the North & South on the 7.4 Joint Agreement

## South

*“Helped Park Jung Hee’s regime internationally”*

*“Increased popularity and support for the Park government”*

*“Park used this to justify his yushin regime to give himself unlimited power and tenure”*



## North

*“Helped North Korea break out of diplomatic isolation and gain recognition from other non-communist countries world-wide and was admitted into the WHO”*

*“Put through a new constitution to be guided by the juche idea and placed Kim at a semantic par with the Southern leader”*

*“However, neither Kim or Park was seriously willing to national unity on the other’s terms and were unwilling to compromise the policies and interest groups of their regimes for the long term goal of national unity”*

