

Song Resounded across Banquet Hall

A grand state banquet hosted by the then Indonesian President Sukarno was held at a hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 17, 1965, in honour of Asian and African leaders and delegations on a visit to Indonesia to attend the event to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Bandung Conference.

The banquet lasted from 8 pm to midnight.

When it was at its height, *Song of General **Kim Il Sung***, an immortal revolutionary song, was solemnly played.

The moment it started to be played, silence fell over the hall as all participants looked at Comrade **Kim Il Sung** with respect and admiration as if they had promised to do so.

Among the audience was Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. Holding Comrade **Kim Il Sung**'s hands in his, Zhou said that *Song of General **Kim Il Sung*** was being played.

And he told Sukarno who was sitting opposite that the song is about Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, a great world-renowned man.

At this Sukarno told that he knew the song well and all Indonesians could sing it and said to Comrade **Kim Il Sung** that just as the latter is famous around the world, the song is being known as a world-famous song.

Comrade **Kim Il Sung** responded with a smile that Sukarno was overpraising him. It was extremely rare to play the song of the Korean leader alone at an official state banquet attended by many foreign leaders.

But Sukarno did not hesitate to breach the diplomatic etiquette as a token of his unusual affection and respect for his Korean counterpart.

That day he enthusiastically moved his arms to the tune of the song like a conductor as if he were singing the song to himself.

The banquet seemed to turn into a concert of *Song of General **Kim Il Sung***.

The uncommon occasion was a privilege for Comrade **Kim Il Sung** who won global recognition and enjoyed the greatest respect and admiration.