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United States Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Secretary's Morning Intelligence Summary

July 9, 1994

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Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Gonfeld, Dir.
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The Secretary's Morning Intelligence Summary



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July 9, 1994

DPRK: Death of Kim Il Sung

Kim Il Sung died suddenly yesterday after a heart attack, according to North Korean media. Pyongyang announced a period of national mourning until the July 17 funeral. The official announcement confirmed Kim Jong Il's standing as the "great successor" and leader of the party, the people, and the armed forces. The announcement called for continued pursuit of economic development and peaceful reunification. Kim Jong Il headed the list of members of his father's funeral committee; the composition of the committee followed the expected protocol ranking. There are no indications of unusual military activities on either side of the DMZ.

Comment: Kim Jong Il has been in charge of most affairs in North Korea for years, and his father's passing, though an emotional shock, does not portend leadership turmoil or policy discontinuity. The younger Kim has been taking credit and calling the shots for the third round of US-DPRK talks. We expect them to continue along the lines of the July 8 session after a short break during the period of mourning. Whether the North-South summit goes ahead depends largely on Seoul, but initial indications are that it probably will. The North will be hypersensitive to the tone of ROK statements during the next few weeks.

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