

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dale of elections: December 12, 1972

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of the Supreme People's Assembly, whose terms of office were extended since November 1971. Previous elections had taken place in November 1967.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the Democratic People's R-epublic of Korea, the Supreme People's Assembly, comprises 541 Deputies elected for 4 years\*.

### Electoral System

All citizens who have reached the age of 17\*, including members of the armed forces on active duty, have the right to vote, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views and religion; ineligible, however, are the insane and those disenfranchised by court decision.

Electoral lists — on which registration is compulsory — are made public within sub-constituencies 15 days prior to election day.

All qualified electors may be elected to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Candidates for Deputy are recommended by political parties and social organizations (which may recommend joint candidates), or at meetings of employees of state organs and enterprises, of members of co-operative farms and organs, and of servicemen. The recommended candidate must agree, in writing, that he is willing to be elected from the constituency concerned.

The election of Deputies is valid only when more than half of the voters in a given constituency take part in it. That candidate who has received the greatest number of votes and more than half the votes of all electors of his constituency is declared elected. Each elector may cast only one vote for one candidate of one constituency.

In case of any parliamentary vacancy arising due to death or recall of a Deputy, a by-election is held pursuant to a decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 9 and 10.

## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On November 9, 1972, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly issued a decree fixing general elections for December 12, on which day local officials would also be selected.

On polling day, the people unanimously supported President Kim II Sung, who had emphasized the need for upUfting socialism and communism and striving for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. According to the figures published by the Central Election Committee, there was 100% participation in the election, with all the votes cast going to the candidates proposed by the Korean Workers' Party.

Among the new Deputies were 347 manual workers, 72 farmers and 122 clerical personnel, as well as 113 women.

President of the Republic Kim II Sung, as well as the members of central State organs, were elected at the first session of the Fifth Legislature of the Supreme People's Assembly, which took place from December 25 to 28, 1972.

### Statistics

#### 1. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Under 40. . . . .	96
41-50. . . . .	280
51-60. . . . .	126
Over 60. . . . .	39
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