



Kim Pyong-il

Current position:

DPRK Ambassador to Poland

Born: 10 August 1954, Pyongyang

Family: Kim Pyong-il is Kim Il-sung's fourth eldest child and his second eldest son, from his second wife, Kim Song-ae (born 1924). He was given the same name as a son of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-suk (Kim Jong-il's younger brother) who died in a swimming accident in 1947. He has an older sister, Kim Kyong-chin (born 1951) and a deceased brother, Kim Yong-il (1955-2000).

He is married to Kim Sun-kum and has two adult children: daughter Kim Ung-song (born ca. 1980), and son Kim In-kang (born ca. 1982). Both of Mr. Kim's children grew up and were educated in Europe. One report claims Kim Ung-song departed Poland to the DPRK in 2007 to marry a KPA officer.

Education:

Kim Il-sung University, Political Economy (matriculated ca. 1973)
Kim Il-sung Military Academy, Strategy Department

Upon completing his education, Kim Pyong-il was commissioned by the KPA as a Major General.

Positions held:

Kim Pyong-il was put forth as a successor to Kim Il-sung by his mother Kim Song-ae, and may well have been President Kim's "plan b" to Kim Jong-il. There are accounts that

depict Mr. Kim as having more personal approval and popularity among KWP cadres and members of the KPA than the introverted Kim Jong-il. Kim Pyong-il became a member of the Guard Command, and was a security officer for Kim Il-sung, escorting him on his guidance visits.

1976: Unit commander, Guard Command (Bodyguard/Escort Bureau)

Prior to the KWP Sixth Party Congress (where Kim Jong-il was elected a member of the KWP Political Bureau and KWP Central Military Commission), Kim Pyong-il departed the DPRK for east Europe, where he has resided for the last thirty years, as

1979: Military Attache, DPRK Embassy to Yugoslavia

1988: (August) DPRK Ambassador to Hungary

Kim Pyong-il was recalled to the DPRK to protest Hungary which established diplomatic relations with South Korea in 1988.

1989: DPRK Ambassador to Bulgaria

1994: (March) DPRK Ambassador to Finland

1998: (January) DPRK Ambassador to Poland

Kim Pyong-il's reassignment was three months before Kim Jong-il formally dismissed Kim Song-ae from her thirty-three year affiliation as a leader of the Korean Democratic Women's Union (KDWU). Like his sister Kim Kyong-chin, Kim Pyong-il is exiled abroad and deliberately locked out of the power center in Pyongyang.