



Ri Je-gang

Current position:

Senior Deputy Director, Organization and Guidance Department

Member, KWP Central Committee

Delegate (deputy), 12th Supreme People's Assembly (Representing Electoral District #20)

Born: 1930

Education:

Kim il Sung University

Positions held:

1973: Cadre, Organization and Guidance Department

Ri Je-gang tutored and assisted Kim Jong-il in his rise to directing the Organization and Guidance Department, a position General-Secretary Kim attained in February 1974.

1975: Deputy Director, Organization and Guidance Department

2001: (July) Senior Deputy Director, Organization and Guidance Department

2003: (October) Senior Executive Deputy Director (1st Vice), Organization and Guidance Department

In 2003, Mr. Ri replaced Jang Song-thaek as the Senior Deputy Director of the Organization and Guidance Department, with a portfolio supervising the DPRK's internal security apparatus. Because of Mr. Ri's personal ties to Kim Jong-il's third wife, Ko Yong-hui, it was rumored Mr. Ri displaced Mr.

Jang from the OGD over a succession dispute. Mr. Ri is also a significant player in the DPRK's semi-privatized corporations. His son-in-law Mun Ma-chol is one of the DPRK's wealthiest executives running an import-export corporation with business dealings in China.

2009: Delegate (deputy) 12th SPA (Representing Electoral District #20)

There are questions as to whether Ri Je-gang's influence and status have diminished. His public appearances and participation in Kim Jong-il's guidance tours have decreased. In December of 2007, Kim Jong-il reconstituted the KWP Central Committee Administration Department and placed Jang Song-thaek as director. The Administration Department is responsible for the daily management and reporting of the DPRK's internal security apparatus. It is not clear whether the Administration Department assumed the personnel controls enjoyed by Mr. Ri's job as Senior Deputy Director of the OGD, or whether the Administration Department merely approves the personnel appointments submitted by the OGD, as an added control. Jang Song-thaek's job is certainly intended as a bureaucratic check against the OGD gathering too much influence and power, but it is more likely that the DPRK's internal security apparatus (particularly the State Security Department) still has some reporting responsibilities to Ri Je-gang and the OGD.