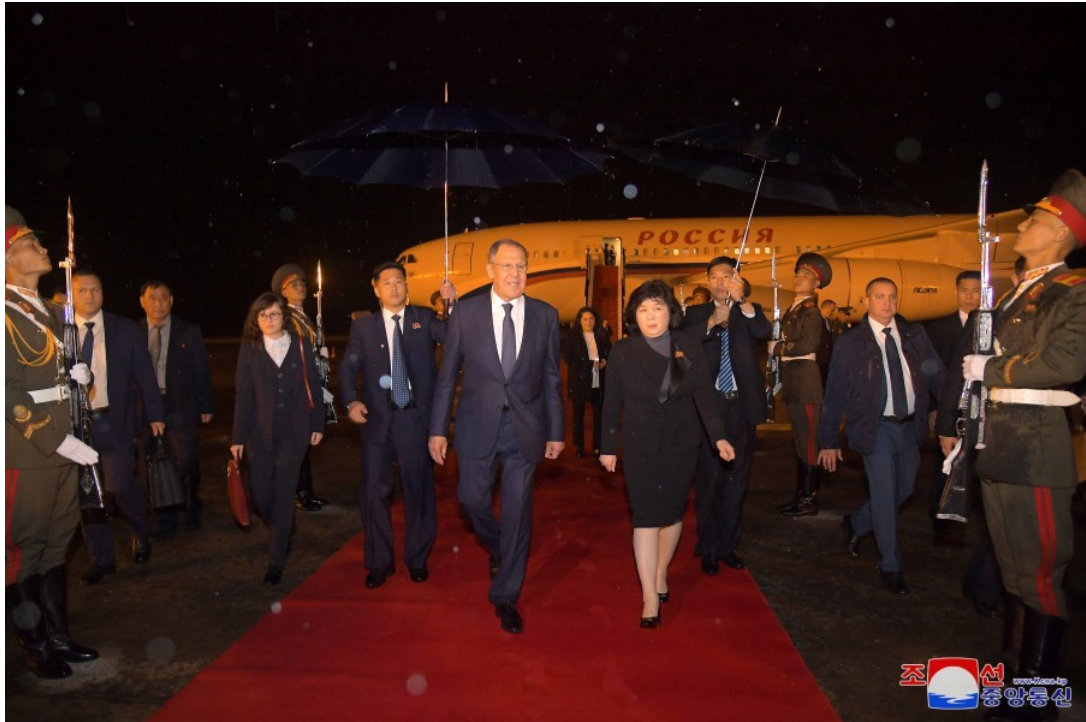


## Russian Foreign Minister Arrives in Pyongyang







Pyongyang, October 19 (KCNA) -- At the time when the traditional DPRK-Russia relations have reached a new strategic level to meet the requirements of the new era, Sergei Lavrov, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, arrived here on Wednesday to pay an official visit to the DPRK at the invitation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry. Pyongyang International Airport was filled with a warm welcome atmosphere to greet the Russian missions visiting the DPRK amid the enthusiasm of friendship growing higher than ever before thanks to the recent historic meeting of the top leaders of the two countries.

Members of the guard of honor of the Korean People's Army lined up at the station before the airport terminal where the flags of the DPRK and the Russian Federation are fluttering.

The peoples of the two countries are further strengthening the bonds of friendship through significant celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as a common holiday.

Lots of people were waiting at the airport to receive the Russian foreign minister and his party visiting Pyongyang.

The guests were received by Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui and officials of the DPRK Foreign Ministry and Russian Ambassador to the DPRK Alexandr Matsegora and staff members of his embassy.

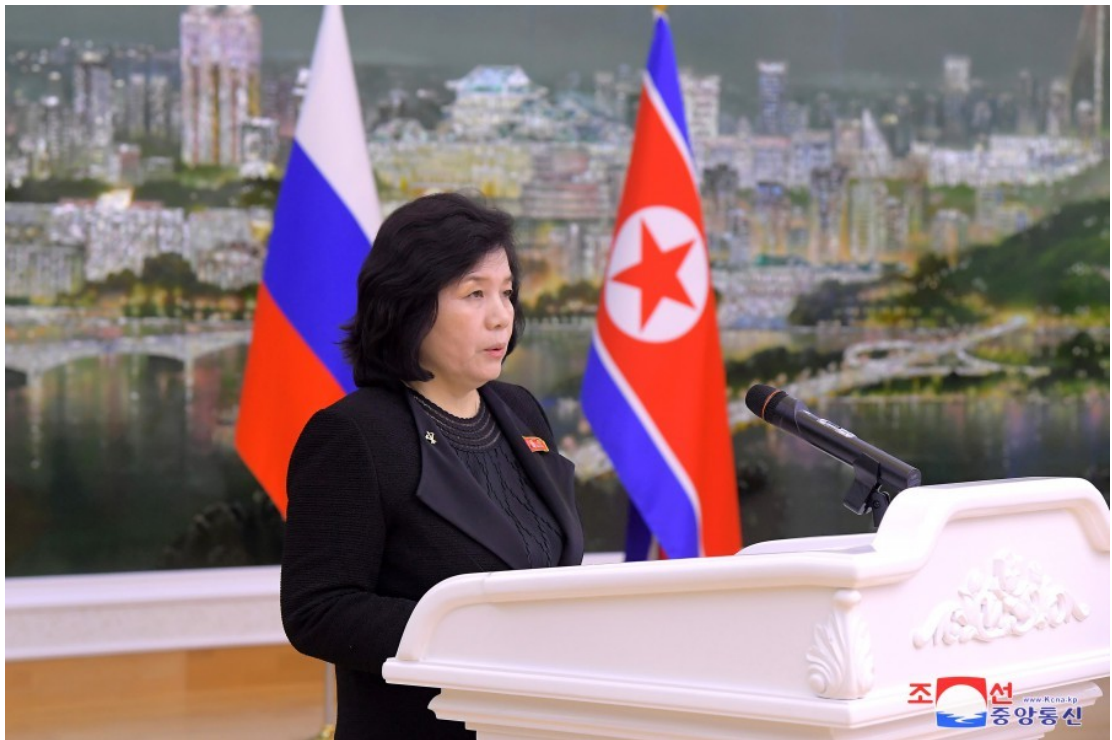
A woman worker presented a bouquet to Sergei Lavrov.

Many citizens warmly welcomed the close Russian friends, waving the national flags of the two countries and bouquets.

The Russian foreign minister's visit to the DPRK will mark a significant occasion in further consolidating the friendship and solidarity between the two countries, promoting the mutual trust, further energizing the bilateral relations in all fields and developing them onto a new high stage, true to the noble intention of the top leaders of the two countries. -0-

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## **Reception Given for Russian Foreign Minister**

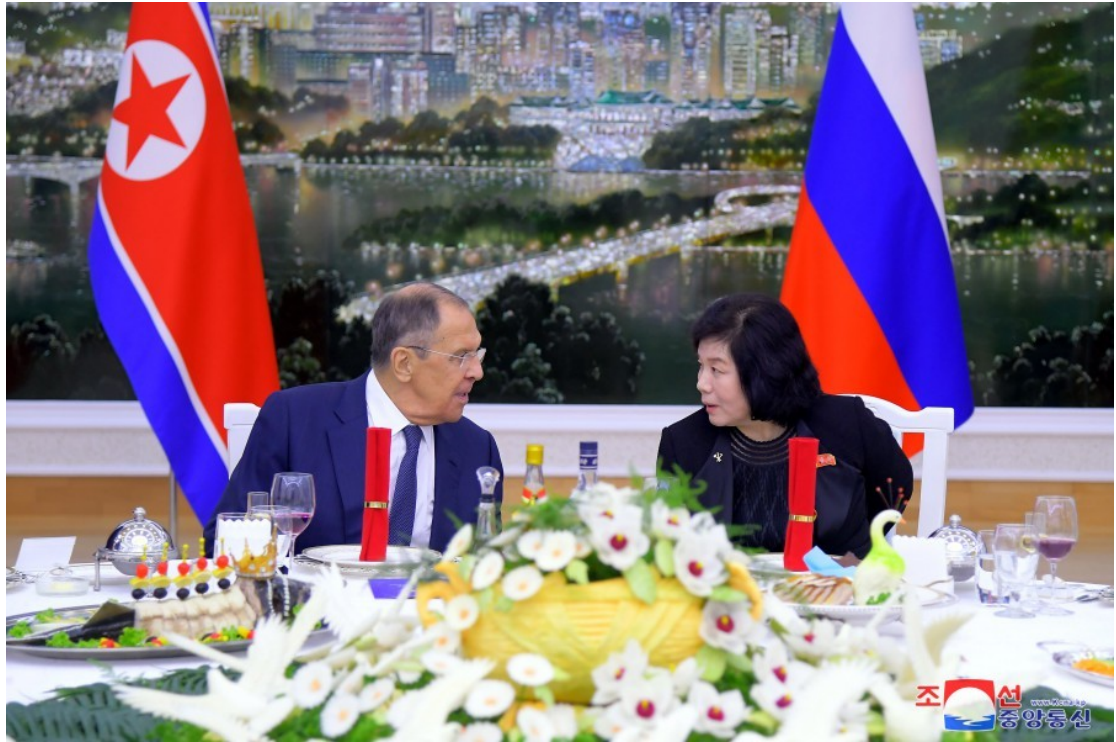






















Pyongyang, October 19 (KCNA) -- The DPRK government hosted a reception on Wednesday evening in welcome of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on an official visit to the DPRK. Present there on invitation were his entourage including Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Andrei Ludenko and Alexandr Matsegora, Russian ambassador to the DPRK, and staff members of his embassy. Minister Choe Son Hui and Vice-Minister Im Chon Il and other officials of the DPRK Foreign Ministry were on hand. Choe Son Hui made a speech at the reception. She, on behalf of the DPRK government, warmly welcomed Sergei Lavrov and his party visiting Pyongyang for friendship and solidarity, exchange and cooperation between the two countries. She said that the DPRK-Russia friendly relations, firmly consolidated through generations and centuries, are now further developing into an unbreakable comradely relationship and into a future-oriented eternal relationship under the strategic decision and correct leadership of President of the State Affairs **Kim Jong Un** and

President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

She expressed expectation that the comprehensive and constructive relations between the DPRK and Russia would be expanded on a higher level according to the historic agreement reached by their top leaders and satisfactory results would be made in promoting the well-being of the two peoples through the current visit.

Then Sergei Lavrov made a speech.

Congratulating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Russia-DPRK diplomatic relations, he said that he is looking back with reverence upon the exploits of the great Comrades **Kim Il Sung** and **Kim Jong Il**, who gave birth to the bilateral relations and made great contributions to their development, on the occasion of the significant day.

The DPRK is a genuine independent and sovereign state firmly defending its sovereignty and security, remaining unfazed by any pressure of the U.S. and the West, he said, adding that Russia fully supports all the policies the DPRK government and people headed by President of the State Affairs **Kim Jong Un** have adopted to defend the national sovereignty and development and interests. He affirmed that his current visit would serve as a significant occasion of bringing substantial results for the implementation of the agreement made at the Russia-DPRK summit meeting and talks which demonstrated the will to develop the bilateral relations into comprehensive and strategic ones in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

A joint performance was given at the reception by the Ensemble of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and the State Merited Chorus. -0-

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