

Ri Yong Mu

Current Positions: Vice Chair, National Defense Commission
Vice Marshal, KPA

Born: 1923, South Phyongan Province

Positions Held

1964: (June) First Vice Director, General Political Bureau, Ministry of People's (Public) Security

1970: (November) Elected Member, CCKWP

1972: (December) Delegate and Member on the Qualification Screening (Credentials) Committee, 5th SPA

1973: (August) Promoted to Colonel General, Director-General KPA General Political Bureau

1974: (June) Member, Political Bureau (Politburo), CCKWP

1977: (October) Removed from office as Director-General, KPA General Political Bureau

General Ri was removed from the KPA General Political Bureau and the CCKWP, though not the KPA, in 1977 and received several years of political education at an unknown facility. He is rumored to have been involved in a scandal. More likely, General Ri was dismissed from office due to possible relationships (familial or political) with CCKWP and MPAF executives that opposed the succession of Kim Jong il. General Ri was also related to DPRK President Kim il Sung's first wife, and General Ri's political education may have been due to the machinations of Kim Song Ae (KIS second wife) who instigated background investigations and the removal of people connected to Kim Jong Suk. It is notable that General Ri resurfaces in the early to mid 1980s when other "side branches" such as Jang Sung Taek were deemed sufficiently rehabilitated or given professional promotions.

1985: (January) Vice Chair, Ryanggang Province People's Committee

1988 (November) Elected, Alternate Member, CCKWP

1989: (June) Elected, Member CCKWP
Appointed Chair, Central Inspection Committee

1990: (April) Delegate, 9th SPA

1991: (December) Director-General, Political Bureau, KPA
Chair, Transportation Committee

1992: (April) Awarded, Order of Kim il Sung

1994: (July) Member, Kim il Sung Funeral Committee (#55)

1995: (February) Member, O Jin U Funeral Committee (#52)

1998: (February) Awarded, Labor Hero
(September) Appointed, Vice-Chair, National Defense Commission
Promoted to Vice-Marshal, KPA

General Ri was one of the essential figures in the KPA's political hierarchy who assisted in the changes to the DPRK Government in 1997-98. He was influential in ensuring Kim Jong il's hold on the NDC and command of the KPA. He is General Kim's cousin and nephew of the Revolutionary Mother, Kim Jong Suk.