

North Korea leadership structure

North Korea's ruling Communist party is to hold its first conference since 1980. It is thought likely it will choose a new leadership and anoint an heir to the dynasty as the health of "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il deteriorates

KIM JONG-IL

WORKERS PARTY OF KOREA

Founded Oct 10, 1945. Source of national ideology of **Juche**, or self-reliance, promulgated by state founder **Kim Il-sung**, father of **Kim Jong-il**



Kim is expected to replace five-member panel of **Political Bureau Presidium** – highest body of party leadership structure. Kim is only surviving member – since 1980 all others, including "Eternal President" Kim Il-sung, have died

CABINET

Headed by Premier **Choe Yong-rim**. Theoretically controls executive ministries and oversees economy



Rules as party general secretary and Chairman of **National Defence Commission**

PARLIAMENT

Supreme People's Assembly endorses party decisions. Presided over by nominal head of state **Kim Yong-nam**



Tower of Juche Idea

NATIONAL DEFENCE COMMISSION

Oversees military and implements **Songun** policy, which prioritizes army in affairs of state



Kim's brother-in-law **Jang Song-thaek** is NDC vice chairman, country's number two post. **Seen as key player in ensuring transfer of power to leader's third son, Kim Jong-un, 27**

ARMY

Troops: 1,106,000 active soldiers

Nuclear: Thought to have enough fissile material for up to 9 nuclear weapons

Missile stocks: 1,000, including **Taepodong-2** – capable of hitting U.S.

