

KWP Administration Department

The KWP Central Committee Administration Department existed until 1990, when it was excised from the Party. It was reconstituted around December 2007, when Kim Jong-il's brother-in-law and closest confidante Jang Song-thaek was fully restored to the power center, after a two (plus) year absence. The exact role of the KWP Administration Department remains opaque, although it administratively resembles the 1st Bureau (and Senior Deputy Directorate) of the the Organization and Guidance Department. The KWP Administration Department may have been the means for restoring Mr. Jang's previous powers without subjecting him to the scrutiny of other OGD deputy directors with whom Mr. Jang quibbled. The director of the KWP Administration Department is directly subordinate to General-Secretary Kim and may be the means for retaining his complete power over the KWP under exigent circumstances. It may also provide the institutional means to prevent any one faction within OGD from causing a void in General-Secretary Kim's power.

The KWP Administration Department is responsible for the daily supervision and management of the DPRK's domestic security and population control agencies. The Director of the KWP Administration through his immediate subordinate is de-facto director of the State Security Department. It is also responsible for the daily management and senior personnel decisions of the Ministry of Public Security, the DPRK Central Court and the Central Public Prosecutor. The Director of the KWP Administration Department has full membership on the National Defense Commission (which gives him jurisdiction over the KPA) and has informal connections to the Guard Command. Because Jang Song-thaek is the current director he also has an indirect channel into Kim Jong-il's Personal Secretariat and he seems to have regular physical access to General-Secretary Kim.