



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Choe Su Hon,
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Chairman of the Delegation of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**In the General Debate of the 62nd session of
the United Nations General Assembly**

October 2, Juche 96(2007)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like, first of all, to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am sure that your able leadership will lead the current session to a success.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin my statement by reiterating the principled and just position of the DPRK as well as its sincere effort to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, which still draws the attention of the international society.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, as made clear time and again on this very podium, is no more than a product of the deep-rooted hostile US policy on the DPRK persisting over half a century.

Peace and stability on the Korean peninsula is directly linked to the peace and security of the Northeast Asian region and the world as a whole.

It is regretful, however, that there has never been an ever lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, repeating a cycle of tension and détente. Its main cause is nothing but the present DPRK-US hostile relations.

No issue shall be resolved by resorting to sanctions and pressure as proved by the history

There has been no other option for the DPRK, small in its territory and population, but to strengthen its self defensive military power on the basis of Songun politics if it is to safeguard the national sovereignty and dignity in the face of the US threats of preemptive nuclear strikes and harsh economic sanctions.

It is the Songun politics of the respected General **KIM JONG IL** and our active endeavors that ensure the peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and the strategic balance in the Northeast Asian region. We take great pride of and self confidence in our Songun politics for its deterring military conflict and war, and ensuring peace in the Korean peninsula and the Northeast Asian region.

Our national military power is self defensive in its nature solely for safeguarding the sovereignty, and serves the interests of the countries in region for peace, security and stability.

Denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is the lifetime teachings of our fatherly leader President **KIM IL SUNG**, and it is our consistent position to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and negotiations.

Thanks to our sincere efforts, several rounds of six-party talks have been held so far enabling the adoption of the Joint Statement of September 19, 2005, followed by the February 13 agreement on the initial phase steps to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The Joint Statement specifies the obligations of all respective parties for denuclearizing the Korean peninsula on the basis of the principles of “words for words” and “actions for actions”.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is not the one that leads to our unilateral disarming, but the one that is realized through the removal of the DPRK-US hostile relations and the elimination of all nuclear threats on the Korean peninsula and in its surroundings.

The DPRK suspended the operation of the Nyongbyon nuclear facilities and allowed the IAEA monitoring as well, thus fulfilling its obligations under the February 13 agreement in a sincere manner.

The Nyongbyon nuclear facilities are a parent body of our independent nuclear power industry built with tremendous human and material resources. Therefore, it is a courageous political decision to halt their operation and now enter the stage of disabling them for eventual dismantlement.

As we clarified again at the Six Party Talks recently held in Beijing, the prospect of the implementation of the September 19 Joint Statement rests with every single party fulfilling its own obligations in accordance with the principle of “actions for actions”. It depends particularly on how practical measures the US and Japan will take to remove their hostile policies on the DPRK.

The United States should move towards the removal of its hostile policy on the DPRK and normalization of the bilateral relations, while Japan make a clean slate of its past of aggression and crime and discard its hostility towards the DPRK as they have pledged to do so.

We will watch closely every move on the part of the United States and Japan at the stage that requires actions.

Mr. President,

Nothing is more urgent and important than the reunification for our nation, who has been living for more than half a century with the sufferings of territorial division imposed by the outside forces.

Ever since the early days of the division, the DPRK, regarding the reunification as its supreme national task, has maintained the consistent stand of reunifying the country independently through dialogue and negotiations between the north and south of Korea.

The historic North-South Joint Declaration of June 15, 2000 is a declaration of national independence and peaceful reunification to achieve the reunification through concerted efforts in accordance with the ideal of “by our nation itself” rejecting interference of outside forces.

The north-south summit now under way in Pyongyang will be of a great significance in opening up a new phase for peace, co-prosperity and reunification by taking the inter-Korean relations to a higher stage on the basis of the historic Joint Declaration and the spirit of “our nation itself”.

If the north and the south sit face to face with the spirit of national independence and the attitudes of love for the country and nation, all problems can be surely resolved in the interests of our nation regardless of differences in ideas and systems.

For fulfillment of the North-South Joint Declaration and peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the US hostile policy on the DPRK and interference in our nation's internal affairs should be brought to an end.

In whatever circumstances, the Government of our Republic will make every effort to bring earlier the national reunification by attaching importance to the nation, defending peace and realizing unity under the ideal of "by our nation itself" upholding the banner of the North-South Joint Declaration.

Mr. President,

I would also like to draw your attention to the recent Japan's attempt for militarization casting dark shadow on the future development of the Korean peninsula and its surroundings as well as its discriminatory and repressive acts denying the national rights of Koreans in Japan in violation of the international law.

The Japan's recent maneuvers against DPRK and the General Association of Korean Residents(Chongryon) in Japan has driven the DPRK-Japan relations into the worst state.

In an open challenge to the denunciation and condemnation of the international community, the Japanese authorities do not hesitate to distort the history far beyond concealing the blood stained past crimes, while turning the "self defense force" into a regular army with a mandate of preemptive strikes on other countries by changing the "Peace Constitution" into a war constitution.

In particular, the Japan's attempt to eliminate by force the Chongryon, a legitimate overseas compatriot organization of the DPRK, constitutes an infringement of the sovereignty as grave as financial sanctions and an extra-large scale human rights violation against the existing international human rights instruments.

We hope that Japan will truly follow the path of friendship and peace rather than tracing its unsavory past.

Japan will be futureless unless it makes thorough liquidation of its past crimes.

Mr. President,

The first decade of the new millennium is already approaching to an end. However, our planet has never been peaceful even for a day and the world peace and security are confronted with ever increasing serious challenges.

The principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, the foundation of international relations, are threatened by the attempts to continue and expand the "war against terrorism" for selfish purposes, and the highhandedness and arbitrariness of some forces

advocating the preemptive nuclear strikes while accelerating the modernization of nuclear weapons.

The present international situation requires the United Nations to strengthen its central functions and role in resolving such issues as global peace and security, sustainable economic and social development and etc, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Unilateralism and highhandedness should never be allowed for as they are contravening the principles of international law including the UN Charter and joint efforts made for the building of a new just world based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and mutual benefits.

Disputes should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiations, and collective sanctions and the use of force like armed aggression on sovereign states never tolerated on all accounts.

The UN Security Council should be a responsible organ that really ensures the international peace and security, rather than being abused by specific countries for their strategic interests.

A peaceful, prosperous and new world desired by the humankind can be built only within the context of fair international relations where sovereignty of all member states are respected without discrimination, and the principles of equality and mutual benefit are observed.

The DPRK will continue to strive for the building of a just and equal world under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship.

Thank you.