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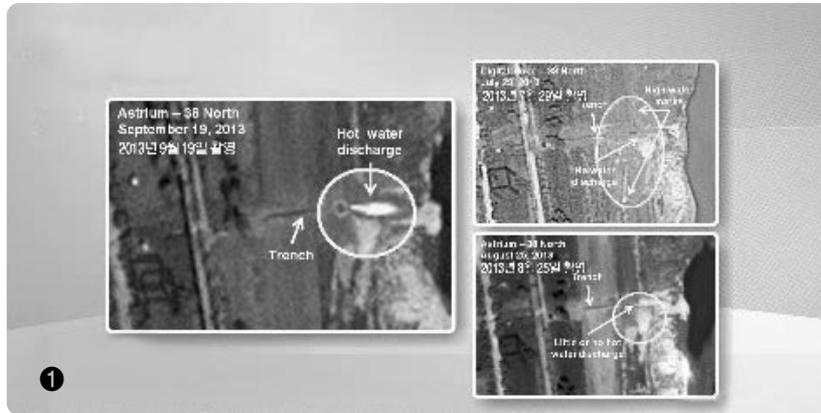
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Figure 1. Steam seen coming from the electrical power generating building. Return to the article: North Korea Restarting Its 5 MW Reactor

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- 1 Website "38 North" reveals signs that N. Korea has restarted its Yongbyon reactor.
- 2 A file satellite image, taken in April 2012, shows the area around the Yongbyon nuclear facility.
- 3 "38 North" releases more evidence that shows the 5-megawatt graphite moderated reactor has been restarted in September.

North Korea's Camouflaged Show of Military Force



NK News, a U.S.-based news site, reported that North Korea mobilized its state-run Air Koryo freighters (top) disguised as combat warplanes during the military parade on July 27 marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War ceasefire. A close-up of the Air Koryo flight (middle) shows that it is a multi-purpose freighter of Russian Ilyushin-76 type. In another purported display of its nuclear capabilities, North Korean soldiers (bottom) dressed in uniforms bearing the hazard symbol for radiation, or trefoil, partake in the military parade on July 27.

NORTH KOREA'S REACTIVATION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

More signs of reactivation of N. Korean reactor surfaced recently, in a move that could renew international alarm over the North's nuclear program.

■ By Lee Kwang-ho

As North Korea's nuclear program is cloaked in secrecy, it is difficult to verify any details of its nuclear development activities. But a recent satellite image shows that North Korea is restarting a plutonium reactor, in a move that could raise renewed international alarm over its nuclear weapons program. Evidently Pyongyang has gone back to its old behavior of last-minute brinkmanship. The socialist state will presumably use the reactivation of the plant as a bargaining chip in disarmament-for-aid negotiations with the United States.

Backing up the speculation, South Korea's top intelligence agency confirmed on Oct. 8 that the North has restarted its Yongbyon reactor, which had been mothballed since 2007. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) told lawmakers from the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee that the 5-megawatt graphite moderated reactor has been in operation since around August of this year.

Alarm over N. Korea's Nuclear Program

The confirmation is the first to come out of the NIS, although independent foreign sources that analyzed commercial satellite images have speculated that the reactor could have been operating for some weeks. Commercial U.S. satellite imagery shows steam being vented from North Korea's 5-megawatt Yongbyon nuclear complex. The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) said the satellite picture, taken Aug. 31, suggests that the North's

The cooling tower of North Korea's Yongbyon reactor is being demolished in June 2008, one year after an aid-for-disarmament deal was agreed to at the six-party talks. (APTN-Yonhap Photo)



first nuclear reactor, capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, was, or almost, in operation.

More signs of reactivation of the North Korean reactor surfaced in early October. Satellite photos from Sept. 19 showed hot waste water being discharged into the nearby Kuryong River from a recently installed drainpipe that is part of a new cooling system at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

This indicates that “the reactor is in operation and the turbine-powered electrical generators are producing power,” said Nick Hansen of the U.S.-Korea Institute on its website, 38 North. Earlier in August, the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) said that the North had doubled the size of the Yongbyon plant, citing other aerial photos.

Pyongyang announced in April of this year that it would reactivate the reactor that was shuttered and disabled under a 2007 six-party agreement involving the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia.

Since the announcement, Pyongyang has been moving and building cooling pumps at the complex to replace the destroyed cooling facility. North Korea's restarting of the nuclear weapons manufacturing facility would be a violation of multiple resolutions of the U.N. Security Council. The reactivation decision coincided with the North's adoption of the so-called parallel pursuit of nuclear and economic development. Pyongyang's announcement came amid a litany of threats toward the U.S. and South Korea after it faced tougher international censure over its latest nuclear and rocket tests.

The Yongbyon reactor complex was shut down in compliance with the U.S.-North Korea Agreed Framework in Geneva in 1994. The reactor was reactivated in 2003 and closed again in 2007 after an aid-for-disarmament deal was agreed to at the six-party talks. North Korea demolished the reactor's cooling tower the following year to manifest its commitment to the pact.

North Korea's move is seen by many in

Seoul as an attempt to pressure the United States to come to the negotiating table and resolve the decades-old standoff by pointing out that the North holds the upper hand and will make more weapons. The North has insisted that there be no preconditions to talks, while Washington has made clear that Pyongyang must first show its willingness to abide by its denuclearization pledges.

Most of North Korea's 15 confirmed nuclear facilities and laboratories are located in Yongbyon, according to a Seoul government report. Located some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, Yongbyon has 13 nuclear facilities that include two nuclear reactors as well as two nuclear power stations. Besides, the town has a radiochemical laboratory, uranium enrichment facility, a production line to make fuel rods, a nuclear fuel storage bunkers and isotope utilization institute.

Pyongyang's See-saw Strategy

Established in 1986, the reactor had been used to reprocess spent fuel rods to extract plutonium as the fissile material for Pyongyang's atomic weapons before its 2008 destruction. If fully restored, it could yield about 6 kilograms of plutonium by reprocessing its annual load of some 8,000 spent fuel rods, sufficient to make at least one fission bomb a year. Analysts predict that it already has enough plutonium for four to eight weapons, albeit crude ones.

The U.S. government said any reactivation of its nuclear reactors would amount to the North violating the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and its com-

mitments made under the joint statement made at the six-party talks. On Sept. 19, 2005, the six-nation forum released a joint statement in which North Korea agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons program and return to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Observers predict the North will continue to demand to be recognized as a nuclear power as the related nations aiming to stop this remain poles apart on how to confront this issue. The North has expressed to its own people as well as to the rest of the world that it is determined to pursue its nuclear weapons program and to show that it is now strong enough to defend itself from foreign aggression, specifically from the U.S. Following the February nuclear test, Seoul held its position in line with Washington that the North must demonstrate its seriousness about denuclearization before it would engage in any talks.

Pyongyang's move would also deal a blow to China, which has been trying to revive the six-nation talks to denuclearize North Korea. Beijing, which is considered the only country with any meaningful influence over Pyongyang, however, is siding with its communist ally urging for an immediate resumption of the talks without preconditions.

The disarmament talks began in 2003, but have been stalled since 2008 after the North walked out of the dialogue to protest the U.N.'s condemnation of its rocket launch, widely seen as a ballistic missile test. North Korea has conducted three underground nuclear test explosions since 2006.

Pyongyang's see-saw strategy shifted again in February 2012 when it offered a moratorium on further nuclear and missile tests and on its uranium enrichment program, following talks with the United States. The deal was short-lived and the North carried out a successful long-range rocket launch in November, followed by its third – and most powerful – nuclear test in February this year. The latest test prompted international condemnation and a tightening of sanctions by the U.N. Security Council.

After a series of threats and military provocations earlier this year, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent Vice Marshal Choe Ryong-hae to Beijing in May as a special envoy to deliver the message that Pyongyang was ready to return to the six-party disarmament talks. China supports the resumption of the six-nation talks, but is opposed to the North's nuclear weapons program and nuclear test. It has repeatedly called for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

China's Firm Opposition

During his recent meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, Xi Jinping expressed hope for the resumption of the six-party talks. Notwithstanding Xi Jinping's firm opposition to North Korea going nuclear or conducting additional tests, he was straightforward that Beijing still backs "an early resumption of the six-party talks" during his meeting with President Park on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, on Oct. 7.

Pyongyang might be tempted to reactivate its nuclear facilities to pressure Seoul and Washington into agreeing to resume the six-party talks on its terms, as it has previously done to gain concessions. But North Korea watchers said the move will bring nothing to Pyongyang, only prompting Washington and Seoul to tighten sanctions on the intractable regime, leaving Beijing with no option but to authorize them.

In a related development, analysis of recent commercial satellite photos also shows Pyongyang may be doubling the size of its uranium enrichment plant and expanding its main rocket launch site, located on its west coast near China.

The imagery comes from two sources, satellite companies Digital Globe and Astrium Geo-Information Services, and was seen by The Associated Press ahead of publication by the ISIS on Aug. 7. In an accompanying note, ISIS said the photos of the Yongbyon nuclear complex show construction is under way to "effectively double" the size of the enrichment hall.

That, said ISIS, would allow North Korea to also double the number of centrifuges now enriching uranium. Revealing the existence of a uranium enrichment program three years ago, Pyongyang said the plant contained 2,000 centrifuges – machines that are linked up in series and spin uranium gas into material that can be used either to power reactors or arm nuclear weapons, depending on the degree of enrichment.

That means the 4,000 centrifuges that the space is apparently being expanded for could potentially make twice that amount,

giving them the capacity to build up to four bombs a year should the country decide to use them for that purpose.

According to evidence gathered by American experts, Pyongyang is mastering domestic production of essential components for the gas centrifuges needed to make atomic bombs on its own. If Pyongyang can make crucial centrifuge parts at home, outsiders can't track sensitive imports. That could spell the end of policies based on export controls, sanctions and interdiction that have been the centerpiece of international efforts to stop North Korea's nuclear program over the last decade, said Joshua Pollack, a Washington-based expert on nuclear proliferation, in remarks prepared for delivery on Sept. 25 at a Seoul symposium.

International Society's Concerns

The state of North Korea's nuclear program is of vital concern to Washington because Pyongyang wants to build an arsenal of nuclear-armed missiles that can reach American shores. Many experts estimate, however, that Pyongyang has not yet mastered the miniaturization technology needed to mount a warhead on a long-range missile.

Pollack, a nuclear expert at Science Applications International Corp., said the North is presumed to be internally producing crucial components for gas centrifuges, used for uranium enrichment, given the progress the North has made in its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon despite little indication that the country imported the crucial parts since 2003.

News reports and unclassified government documents showed North Korea imported large amounts of centrifuge parts in the early 2000s, Pollack said, but an apparent dearth of observed imports since then suggests that Pyongyang is making the necessary components at home.

After a deluge of warlike threats this past spring, the North has in recent months been seeking reconciliation with its long-time foes, calling alongside China for high-level dialogue with the U.S. and a resumption of the six-party talks that have been on hold for five years. But Seoul and Washington remain steadfast in their demand that Pyongyang should first prove its sincerity with action.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, however, tried to assure North Korea that his administration still hopes for dialogue. The secretary stressed the U.S. and its regional partners are not seeking a regime change in the socialist nation. "I think the parties involved in the six-party talks have made it crystal clear we are prepared to reengage in those talks," Kerry said at a joint press conference in Tokyo on Oct. 3. "We are prepared to have a peaceful relationship with North Korea. We are not engaged in regime change. We are prepared to sign a non-aggression agreement – providing North Korea decides to denuclearize and to engage in legitimate negotiations to achieve that end."

China, North Korea's foremost ally and its biggest trading partner, is trying "very hard" to exert its influence in persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Apparently, China's patience with North Korea has been wearing increasingly

thin, particularly after the North's third nuclear test in February. Beijing voted in favor of sanctions by the U.N. Security Council to punish Pyongyang for conducting the nuclear test.

In May, the Bank of China closed accounts with North Korea's Foreign Trade Bank, which was accused by the U.S. of helping to finance the North's nuclear weapons program. A notice posted on the Commerce Ministry's website on Sept. 24 listed 236 pages of items and technologies banned from export to North Korea because of their potential use in manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.

The list of forbidden items includes those with both civilian and military applications in the nuclear, ballistic, chemical and biological fields. The notice said the list was aimed at boosting enforcement of U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea passed as early as 2006.

Pyongyang's Call for Talks

China, wary of undermining its isolated neighbor and generating instability on its northeastern border, has often argued against stricter sanctions on North Korea and has, at times, been accused of not enforcing them enthusiastically enough. However, Beijing was angered by North Korea's long-range rocket launch last December and its third nuclear test in February, leading it to agree to tightened sanctions in March that also promise further measures in the event of another launch or nuclear test.

The latest move will likely be seen in Pyongyang as another reprimand from its

only substantial ally following a frosty patch in relations. Since coming to power in December 2011, Kim Jong-un has repeatedly angered Beijing by refusing to heed Beijing's prodding to engage in economic reform and return to negotiations over its nuclear program.

U.S. officials have long pushed for tightened sanctions enforcement. Those efforts have born some success, with Chinese customs agents tightening inspections on a range of items, including luxury goods that the North Korean leader uses to shore up support from the North Korean elite.

In late 2011, Beijing forced the China Construction Bank to close accounts opened by the Korea Kwangson Banking Corp. and the Golden Triangle Bank to comply with previous U.N. sanctions. China provides North Korea with a crucial economic lifeline, supplying almost all its fuel and more than 83 percent of its imports, from heavy machinery to grain and consumer goods.

Apparently rebuffing North Korea's call for "unconditional" nuclear talks, the U.S. government urged the socialist nation on Sept. 18 to first demonstrate its seriousness for dialogue through action. The comments came in response to a public suggestion by North Korea's senior nuclear envoys at a forum held in Beijing: "We are ready to enter the six-party talks without preconditions," First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan said during the one-day event organized by China's foreign ministry as part of its efforts to revive the six-party talks. Kim accused Washington and Seoul of setting preconditions for the resumption of the six-way talks. (Yonhap News)

STRONG DETERRENCE AGAINST THREATS FROM N. KOREA

“We have to build a strong deterrence against N. Korea until the North abandons its nuclear program and makes the right choice for N. Koreans,” Park said.

■ By Kim Tae-shik

President Park Geun-hye has stressed the importance of building a strong deterrence against North Korean threats and maintaining a powerful combined defense system with the United States, which was supported by U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel when he visited Seoul from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.

In a speech at the Armed Forces Day ceremony on Oct. 1, Park said South Korea will build strong defense capabilities to deter threats from North Korea and render its nuclear weapons useless, noting that the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia is “very grave,” as North Korea is persistently pursuing nuclear weapons in an effort to build more sophisticated bombs.

Tailored Deterrence Strategy

“We have to build a strong deterrence against North Korea until the North abandons its nuclear program and makes the right choice for the people of North Korea and peace on the Korean Peninsula,” Park said during the ceremony at an airbase in Seongnam, just south of Seoul.

Park also stressed that the reason for the military’s existence lies in preventing war. “While maintaining a strong (South) Korea-U.S. joint defense system, the government will secure capabilities for anti-weapons of mass destruction, such as the ‘kill chain’ and the Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system, at an early date to make North Korea realize on its own that its nuclear weapons and missiles ... are useless.”

South Korea and the U.S. further consolidated their bilateral alliance

South Korean President Park Geun-hye delivers a speech during a ceremony celebrating the 60th anniversary of the South Korea-U.S. Alliance in Seoul on Sept. 30. (AP-Yonhap Photo)



on Oct. 2 by signing a joint military strategy plan called the “Tailored Deterrence Strategy against North Korea’s Nuclear and Other WMD Threats.” It outlines how to handle the North Korean nuclear threat and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to strengthen the American nuclear umbrella on the Korean Peninsula in light of the communist state’s third nuclear test.

The kill chain system is designed to detect signs of impending missile or nuclear attacks and launch preemptive strikes. The KAMD calls for arming Seoul with the ability to track and shoot down the North’s low-flying, short- and medium-range missiles.

“Only when we are backed by strong national defense that does not allow provocations can we bring North Korea onto a genuine path of change,” Park said. “I hope you will do your duties with a mindset that the country’s fate and unification of the Korean Peninsula hinge on the shoulders of every member of the Armed Forces.”

Her remarks came as South Korea has been speeding up its indigenous missile program to bolster the country’s capabilities before regaining wartime operational control of its troops in December 2015 amid growing security threats on the peninsula.

When Pyongyang raised tensions with bellicose rhetoric in April, Seoul’s defense ministry unveiled a new contingency plan that allows its military to launch a preemptive strike against North Korea if it shows signs of an imminent nuclear or missile attack on the South.

South Korea currently operates 48 PAC-2 missiles imported from Germany, which have an interception rate of less than 40 percent. As part of a mid-term defense plan, the military plans to upgrade the current system to the “hit-to-kill” PAC-3 missiles developed by Lockheed Martin that have improved guidance accuracy. It also plans to adopt military satellites and spy drones.

In addition to the low-tier missile system, Seoul has been eyeing a high-altitude, long-range missile system, like the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), also developed by Lockheed Martin, according to industry sources and military officials.

Although there are calls to adopt the long-range missile defense to establish a multi-layered missile shield against the North, Seoul's defense ministry has remained cautious over the American Army's program, concerned it could spur a regional arms race with China and further contribute to mounting costs in the national missile program.

"Under the geographical environment on the Korean Peninsula, establishing the low-altitude missile defense is more efficient than the high-altitude missile defense," a senior ministry official said on the condition of anonymity. "The South Korean military will cooperate with the U.S. in intelligence sharing to detect North Korean missiles in order to bolster the KAMD."

North Korea's nuclear program has been a top security concern for the region. In February, the communist nation conducted its third nuclear test, two months after it successfully fired off a long-range rocket. The two tests increased concern that Pyongyang is closer to building a nuclear-capable missile.

Unveiled Major Equipments Including Cruise Missiles

North Korea is believed to have over 1,000 missiles with varying capabilities as well as multiple launchers that can shoot rockets, putting South Korea well within its missile range.

For nearly a decade, South Korea and four other regional powers have sought to convince Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programs in exchange for economic aid and other concessions. But the on-again-off-again six-party talks, which also involve China, Japan, Russia and the United States, produced no lasting results. The talks have been suspended since the last session in late 2008.

South Korea also staged a massive military parade on the 65th Armed Forces Day unveiling its latest indigenous missiles and weapons. The parade, the largest in scale since 2003, was also attended by visiting U.S. defense chief and top commander.

The defense ministry mobilized 11,000 soldiers at the Seoul Air Base in Seongnam as well as 190 types of ground equipment and 120 aircraft to commemorate the establishment of the nation's armed forces in 1948. "This year's Armed Forces Day celebration involves the largest number of forces and equipment since 2003," the defense ministry said.

Among the equipment shown were indigenously developed cruise missiles capable of striking key locations in North Korea. It was the first time the 500 kilometer-range Hyunmoo 2 and the 1,000 kilometer-range Hyunmoo 3 missiles, both loaded on mobile launchers, were unveiled to the public. The South Korean Navy presented a series of homemade torpedoes, which can be launched from warships and submarines, as well as anti-ship missiles and ship-to-air missiles.

It also unveiled Israeli-made Spike missiles deployed on the western border islands, which are capable of striking North Korea's underground facilities with a satellite-guidance system. The Air Force staged F-15K, KF-16 and other combat jets, and the Black Eagle aerobatic team put on an air show with T-50 trainer jets built by the Korea Aerospace Industries.

Following the official ceremony attended by President Park and top military commanders, soldiers moved ground forces equipment to Seoul and staged a parade in the downtown area with a variety of events for citizens.

Secretary Hagel and Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, who were in Seoul for military talks, attended the event for the first time to show their commitment to the bilateral alliance with South Korea.

On Sept. 30, the U.S. defense chief made a symbolic visit to Panmunjom, the heavily armed truce village bordering North Korea, stressing the strategic importance of defending the Korean Peninsula.

“This is a very important location for our relations, and probably there is a clear identification of the ROK-US partnership here more than anywhere else,” Hagel told reporters, referring to South Korea’s official name, the Republic of Korea. “This is obviously a critical area that assures our joint vigilance for the security and safety of South Korea.”

ROK-U.S. Partnership

Hagel also looked around the Joint Security Area at the center of the DMZ, which is guarded by stone-faced soldiers on each side of the military demarcation line.

The spokesman for Seoul’s defense ministry said Hagel’s visit to the heavily guarded border shows commitment from the U.S. at a critical time of the two nations’ alliance. “The U.S. defense chief’s visit to Panmunjom is important as the Korean Peninsula is still bound by the Armistice Agreement,” ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said. “It looks like he visited the frontier to review the bilateral alliance as South Korea and the U.S. celebrate the 60th anniversary this year.”

American forces fought in the 1950-53 Korean War alongside South Korean and United Nations Allied forces, and Washington forged a military alliance with Seoul at the end of the conflict, which is outlined in the Mutual Defense Treaty.

About 28,500 American troops are stationed in South Korea to support the country’s 650,000 armed forces to counter the threat posed by North Korea’s 1.2 million standing forces. The two Koreas are still technically at war as the three-year conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

At a banquet commemorating the Armed Forces Day, Park said the strong ties between South Korea and the United States will serve as the key to ensuring peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

“The United States shed blood with us during the Korean War, and has made a great contribution to achieving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula after the war,” Park said. “Based on our strong deterrence against North Korea, the South Korea-U.S. alliance will develop into a comprehensive strategic alliance that protects the security on the peninsula and plays an even larger role for regional stability and world peace.” (Yonhap News)

U.S. POLICY ON NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

The United States considers North Korea's nuclear program, together with Iran's, as a serious breach of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

■ By Sang Hyun Lee, *Director of Security Strategy Studies Program at the Sejong Institute, South Korea*

There is no sign that North Korea (DPRK) will give up its nuclear weapons program in the near future. The regime has claimed that it had started the program to fight the United States' hostile policy toward the communist state. Taking one step further, the North Korean regime seeks a nonaggression security pledge from the U.S., which deploys 28,500 troops in South Korea and maintains a heavy naval presence in the Pacific. Pyongyang also wants normalized relations with Washington and economic aid from other countries in the six-party platform.

U.S. View on Current Status of N.K.'s Nuke Program

Recently, a U.S. think tank revealed fresh evidence for North Korea's nuclear activities. New evidence has shored up speculation that North Korea has restarted a nuclear reactor to produce plutonium at its Yongbyon facilities. Satellite images since Sept. 19 showed hot waste water being discharged into the nearby Kuryong River from a recently reinstalled drainpipe that is part of a new cooling system at the Yongbyon nuclear complex. The findings are the latest in a string of signs that the communist state has put its decaying 5-megawatt graphite-moderated reactor back on track possibly to use as a bargaining chip in disarmament negotiations with Washington.

The U.S. considers North Korea's nuclear development, together with

Iran's nuclear program, as a serious breach to the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. Glyn Davies, the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy, testified before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on March 7, 2013. He argued that Pyongyang's Feb. 12, 2013 announcement of a third nuclear test – conducted in brazen defiance of the demands of the United Nations Security Council – and its subsequent threats to conduct even more follow-up measures, are only the latest in a long line of reminders that the DPRK's nuclear weapons, ballistic missile program and proliferation activities pose serious threats to U.S. national security, to regional security in the Asia-Pacific and to the global non-proliferation regime.

He pointed out that Pyongyang continues to violate its international obligations and commitments, including denuclearization. Its human rights record remains deplorable. Its economy is stagnant. Its people are impoverished. It pours significant sums of capital into nuclear and ballistic missile programs that are forbidden by the U.N. The leadership's choices are isolating North Korea from the international community. International outrage against North Korea and its provocative and threatening actions, meanwhile, are growing.

Given such an evaluation, Washington committed to authentic and credible negotiations to implement the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and to bring North Korea into compliance with its international obligations through irreversible steps leading to denuclearization.

U.S. President Barack Obama made this clear last November when he said, "Let go of your nuclear weapons and choose the path of peace and progress. If you do, you will find an extended hand from the United States of America."

The United States will not engage in talks for the sake of talks. Rather, what Washington wants is negotiations that address the real issue of North Korea's nuclear program. Authentic and credible negotiations, therefore, require a serious, meaningful change in North Korea's priorities that demonstrate that Pyongyang is prepared to meet its commitments and obligations to achieve the core goal of the September 2005 Joint Statement: a verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

Some Other Important Principles

This leads to some other important principles. First and foremost, the U.S. will not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state. Washington will not reward the DPRK for the absence of bad behavior. Obama administration will not compensate the DPRK merely for returning to dialogue. Washington has also made clear that the U.S.-DPRK relations cannot fundamentally improve without sustained improvement in inter-Korean relations and human rights, nor will Washington tolerate North Korea's provoking its neighbors. These positions will not change in the near future.

However, there have been several confusing signals recently from top policy circles in Washington. U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes surprised

North Korea watchers by saying that it already possesses nuclear weapons. Rhodes pointed out that unlike Iran, Pyongyang has already developed nuclear arms and conducted tests. Because of this, he said it may be easier to handle Iran than North Korea. The senior U.S. official said there are similarities between Pyongyang and Tehran in that both nations have not abided by the international non-proliferation norms.

Meanwhile, two U.S. experts on nuclear weapons, Joshua Pollack and Scott Kemp, say North Korea has obtained the technology necessary to produce crucial components of gas centrifuges to process uranium for making nuclear bombs. They said it could become more difficult to verify the regime's nuclear facilities because uranium enrichment facilities are easier to conceal than large reactors used in making plutonium-based bombs. Meanwhile, the U.S. deputy spokesperson for the National Security Council told Seoul-based Yonhap News Agency that Washington stands firm on its stance that it will never recognize North Korea as a nuclear weapons state.

Another complicating clue was provided by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. He said the United States is poised to sign a nonaggression treaty with North Korea should the reclusive nation make progress in its efforts toward denuclearization. He also said that his administration still hopes for a dialogue. The secretary stressed the U.S. and its regional partners are not seeking a regime change in the communist nation. "I think the six parties involved in the six-party talks have made it crystal clear we are prepared to re-engage in

those talks," he said at a joint press conference in Tokyo on Oct. 4, according to a transcript released by the department. He was speaking after the so-called two-plus-two talks that brought together top U.S. and Japanese diplomats and defense officials.

In the past months, however, he placed more emphasis on dealing with Middle East issues. Starting with his trip to Tokyo, the secretary was on a two-week tour of Asia that took him to Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. Ostensibly, U.S. officials have taken a lukewarm attitude toward Pyongyang's recent offer of talks, questioning its intentions.

Lukewarm Attitude

They urged North Korea to show its seriousness on denuclearization talks with actions, not rhetoric. Kerry's remarks in Tokyo, however, apparently struck a subtly different tone, concentrating more on easing Pyongyang's concerns over regime security. He did not forget to reiterate Washington's resolve to break the cycle of Pyongyang's provocation, followed by conciliation and then another provocation.

North Korea's February 2013 nuclear test triggered calls in South Korea for the United States to redeploy tactical nuclear weapons in the South and for it to develop its own nuclear weapons deterrent. Following North Korea's nuclear test, U.S. President Barack Obama personally reaffirmed the U.S.' security guarantee of South Korea (and Japan), including extended deterrence under the United States' so-called nuclear umbrella. In early March

2013, South Korean President Park Geun-hye stated that “provocations by the North will be met by stronger counter-responses,” and the chief operations officer at South Korea’s Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was widely quoted as saying that if South Korea is attacked, it will “forcefully and decisively strike not only the origin of provocation and its supporting forces but also its command leadership.”

The six-party talks have been idled for more than five years. How soon will they be able to resume? For Washington, the six-party talks serve as a platform for multilateral mediation of North Korea’s nuclear program. The chief U.S. concern remains Pyongyang’s nuclear program and the possible sale of nuclear materials and technology to hostile states and terrorist groups. As part of any agreement, Washington wants the reclusive state to consent to visits from the International Atomic Energy Agency’s monitoring teams.

By contrast, Beijing serves as Pyongyang’s long-standing ally and main trade partner, and has used its influence to bring North Korea to the negotiating table. Although this leverage has boosted its relations with Washington, Beijing also fears a rush of refugees across its border and has thus provided the North with energy and food assistance. In March 2013, China finally agreed to sponsor U.N. Security Council sanctions alongside the United States, and it has since increased its rhetoric for the resumption of talks.

Moscow’s position at the table allows it to reassert its influence in Northeast Asia. Although it has traditionally joined China in warning against harsh sanctions, North

Korea’s recent provocations have driven it to issue condemnations against the regime’s nuclear testing. Russia ultimately backed renewed U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang over its third nuclear test, and it has consistently expressed concerns about the North’s activities.

Tokyo worries that North Korea’s missile tests could potentially reach Japan. But it also views the six-party talks as a forum for negotiating a resolution to the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean spies in the 1970s and 1980s. The issue remains a divisive point in U.S.-Japan relations, as Tokyo had not wanted Washington to remove North Korea from its State Sponsors of Terrorism list until the issue was resolved.

For South Korea, frozen in an unresolved conflict with North Korea, the ultimate goal is the denuclearization and reunification of the Korean peninsula. The South also wishes to liberalize North Korea’s decrepit economy through greater financial engagement aimed at mitigating the potential cost of future reunification. President Park has called for creating a new era on the Korean Peninsula by building trust between North and South Korea. South Korea’s current policy toward North Korea is called “Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula.”

The remaining challenge for Seoul and Washington is how to invite other countries – notably China – into a common front to pressure Pyongyang to show up at the negotiation table. Now, the ball is in North Korea’s court. It’s Pyongyang’s turn to answer such a call. (Yonhap News)

N. KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS AS SEEN BY A POLISH WOMAN

News about the North's prison camps reminded her of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland that was operated by Nazi Germany.

■ By Cho A-ra

A Polish woman has become a familiar face at North Korean human rights events held in Seoul over the past decade. She is the civic activist Joanna Hosaniak, the senior programs officer at the Citizens Alliance' for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR), a Seoul-based NGO. In the last 10 years, Hosaniak has campaigned for the improvement of the North's human rights in South Korea. Although issues of human rights are a universal concern, one rarely sees someone so dedicated to promoting the rights of people in another country. Hosaniak's story naturally kindles one's curiosity.

The Polish woman came to South Korea in 2004. Before settling here, she worked at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw for one year. When she decided to study Korean Literature at the University of Warsaw in 1993, she didn't think she would be working as a human rights activist on North Korean issues 20 years later.

It all began with a simple curiosity, she says. "Very little was known about Korea in Poland at the time. I felt more attracted to it than to Japan or China that were relatively well known."

Born and raised in Poland, Hosaniak found herself increasingly drawn to human rights issues in the North. Dark childhood memories of communist Poland made her grow attached to the people of North Korea. News about the North's prison camps reminded her of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland that was operated by Nazi Germany during the 1940s.

Upon graduation, she started working at the South Korean embassy in Warsaw. But she wasn't happy there. During her four years at the embassy, she witnessed the diplomatic community's lack of concern

toward human rights abuses in the North, which frustrated her. “That’s when I realized I needed to become a civic activist,” she told *Vantage Point*.

The Polish civic activist played a major role in pushing the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to set up the Commission of Inquiry (COI) in March to investigate human rights breaches in North Korea. She flew to Geneva in December last year to meet the UNHRC Commissioner Navi Pillay.

Hosaniak, along with other civic activists and North Korean defectors at the meeting, warned Pillay that unless the international community stepped in, massive human rights violations similar to the Holocaust could break out in the North. Three weeks later, the commissioner issued a formal statement calling for an international probe into the socialist country.

When the COI launched its formal investigation into North Korea this August, Hosaniak felt that years of hard work had finally paid off. “Just 10 years ago, most human rights organizations on North Korea were just beginning. But each and every one did their best and achieved this result. I’ve witnessed the power of civic movement,” she said. “Now I’m wondering what else we could accomplish in 10 years’ time.”

Hosaniak met the COI officials when they were visiting South Korea in relation to the probe in mid-August. After holding five days of public hearings with North Korean defectors, the panel had a closed-door meeting with NGOs and activists in Seoul.

“I’m unable to disclose much detail about the meeting, but we talked about various matters related to humanitarian issues in North Korea, including what the U.N. investigation will have to cover in the future,” she said. “I’m expecting some good results with the COI. They’ve had many in-depth interviews with various parties and seem to have developed systematic information about North Korea.”

Hosaniak is planning another trip to Geneva. The COI’s final report to the UNHRC is due next March, and she wants to make sure that it calls for the toughest measures against the North’s rights violations. The report will make recommendations to the U.N. and the international community for further actions. Although Pyongyang has consistently denounced and refused to cooperate with the investigation, it will come under great pressure if the U.N. asks the International Criminal Court to indict the ruling Kim family of crimes against humanity.

“I’m going to see U.N. officials and diplomats in Geneva and ask them to put pressure on North Korea. This lobbying process is the most important step for NGOs and activists like us,” she said.

Hosaniak and her research team at the NKHR recently published a report on the gender



Polish human rights activist Joanna Hosaniak

equality in North Korea. The country enacted the Women's Rights Act in 2010, yielding to international calls for improvement in the area. Yet the team found that Pyongyang failed to implement most of the relevant laws over the last several years. Patriarchal norms still persist, and women are commonly exposed to prostitution and sexual harassment across the country, according to the report.

"North Korea is a country where the rule of law is not respected," the report said. "In North Korea, newly adopted laws have little impact on reality."

The report also sheds light on how people with disabilities are treated in the totalitarian country. There is strong social discrimination against the disabled and almost a total lack of special facilities or medical treatment for them, according to the report. It quoted a North Korean police officer saying that, "There is an island to which disabled persons are being sent for medical tests, such as dissection of body parts, as well as tests of biological and chemical weapons."

In addition, most of the babies born with disabilities are abandoned or even killed by their parents shortly after birth because of the social discrimination and financial difficulties, according to North Korean defectors interviewed by the research team.

Moreover, contrary to what the socialist country claims about its social parity, North Korea has a very rigid social hierarchy, Hosaniak says. "There is an unbridgeable gap between the elite and the average people in the North - so much so that you can observe it within the defector community here (in the South)."

Climbing up the social ladder is extremely difficult in North Korea, according to Hosaniak, because one's background matters more than his or her abilities. This is why she believes the international community must act to change North Korea. "Although North Korea may appear indifferent to the outside world, it's actually very sensitive to the international community's views and opinions," she said.

But obstacles lie ahead - one of the main difficulties being public indifference to rights issues. Hosaniak said that when the COI hearings were held in Seoul, it generated very little media attention. "The venue was almost empty throughout the event except on the first day," she said.

Asked what has been the major motivation behind her career as a rights activist in the last 10 years, Hosaniak shared a story of inspiration.

"When I was working at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the president told me that '10 years mean nothing to an activist.' He used to be an underground activist campaigning for Poland's democratization. He said the change came when he wasn't expecting it. So I try to keep in mind that working consistently will bring good results," the tireless activist said.

Hosaniak says her ultimate goal is going to North Korea. "I must go to Pyongyang. I dream of freely visiting my North Korean friends there, who are like my family. I think I'll have a lot to do there, whether it is about human rights protection or economic development." (Yonhap)

N. KOREA'S MOVE TO SQUELCH SCANDAL INVOLVING ENTERTAINERS

Pyongyang has recently blasted conservative South Korean newspapers for spreading lies that insulted the socialist country's 'highest dignity.'

North Korea has taken aggressive countermeasures against news reports that its top entertainers were publicly executed for producing pornography and that its first lady may have been involved in the scandal.

Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* reported on Sept. 20 that some members of the North's Unhasu Orchestra and an art troupe called Wangjaesan Band were executed for producing pornography and that the execution was designed to cover up the involvement of the first lady.

North Korea through its state media had forwarded a barrage of condemnation on South Korean authorities and media companies that quoted the Japanese newspaper report, claiming that they insulted its supreme leadership by spreading lies.

Japanese News Reports

On Sept. 21, the North abruptly called off scheduled reunions for families separated during the 1950-53 Korean War, denouncing South Korean news reports that quoted the Japanese newspaper regarding first lady Ri Sol-ju and other provocations.

The North took a step forward that the news report was not true by airing the reappearance of Ri, and a song performed by the orchestra involved in the scandal.

Ri made her first public appearance in nearly a month, the country's state-run television reported on Oct. 9, in what could be an attempt to quell speculation on her possible involvement in the scandal.

Ri attended a ceremony marking the completion of houses for pro-

fessors in Pyongyang, along with her husband and leader Kim Jong-un. The footage of the North's central television showed Ri, wearing a light sky-blue lady's suit and occasionally smiling as Kim talked with his aides.

North Korea's state media last reported Ri's public appearance on Sept. 15 when she visited a stadium to watch an Asian Judo competition, along with Kim.

On Oct. 8, Nam Jae-joon, chief of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS), told lawmakers that he was aware about 10 members of the Unhasu Orchestra were executed for involvement in the scandal. He said, however, that he could not verify if Ri had been involved.

Pyongyang has recently blasted conservative South Korean news organizations for spreading false rumors that insulted the country's "highest dignity" and made clear that if such practices persisted, it will hinder ongoing efforts to improve ties and prevent eventual reunification. In the North, highest dignity refers to its leader, Kim Jong-un.

Only four days before the two Koreas were to hold a new round of family reunions at the North's mountain resort of Kumgang from Sept. 25-30, North Korea unilaterally postponed the planned reunions of separated family members on Sept. 21, citing what it called Seoul's confrontational policy.

Some South Korean newspapers and broadcasters had quoted the report by *Asabi Shimbun* that Ri had been involved in a scandal before her marriage, and that nine people who she knew from her days as a singer were executed in a cover-up attempt.

JoongAng Daily quoted the Japanese newspaper's report that the nine entertainers were arrested on Sept. 17 and executed three days later without undergoing a court trial. Family members of the slain entertainers were sent to prison camps, and the orchestra and the band were dissolved. *Asabi Shimbun* also said South Korean and Japanese governments seemed to have confirmed these rumors.

Reappearance of First Lady

North Korean media has made all-out attacks on the South Korean authorities and media companies beginning with the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The KCNA harshly denounced the South Korean media report in a commentary on Sept. 22.

"The South Korean conservative media including YTN, quoting a report of *Asabi Shimbun* of Japan on Sept. 21, spread rumors about 'punishment' and 'covering' in a bid to hurt the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK (North Korea)," the KCNA commentary said.

"This is an unpardonable hideous provocation hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK and thrice-cursed crime that can be committed only by the confrontation maniacs." It added, "Those who commit such a hideous crime ... will have to pay a very high price."

Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (KPA), joined the condemnation on Sept. 25. The newspaper denounced South Korean conservative media that

they are inciting confrontation with compatriots and harming the inter-Korean relations, not knowing what media should do.

In addition to the reappearance of the first lady, North Korea's broadcasting companies aired a song performed by the Unhasu Orchestra and its singers. The North's Central TV and Pyongyang Radio aired the song titled "Hymn of Fatherland." The TV aired the song along with visual images which showed names of the song's performers, including orchestra director Li Myong-il and lead singer Hwang Un-mi.

It is not clear whether the airing of the song was a live broadcasting or pre-recorded. Even if the song was recorded, the recording was made less than a month ago as it was first aired after Sept. 9, the founding anniversary of North Korea.

The Unhasu Orchestra is a representative entertainment orchestra in North Korea under the Kim Jong-un regime. The orchestra, composed of about 100 musicians, singers and dancers, performed famous propaganda songs such as "Footsteps of Soldiers," "I love Pyongyang" and "We are Troops of the Party."

Asahi reported that the orchestra was disbanded, but sources said it doesn't look to be true. Quoting a former North Korean ranking government official, *Asahi Shimbun* said nine members of the Unhasu Orchestra and Wangjaesan Band produced pornography and North Korea's police had wiretapped conversations between the entertainers of the orchestra that included: "Ri (Sol-ju) used to play around in the same manner as we did." The North Korean source for the *Asahi Shimbun* had recently defected.

JoongAng Daily also quoted a former North Korean commissioned officer who defected in 2008 as saying that there have been rumors among North Korean residents that some North Korean entertainers made money as their porno tapes were sold in China. Chang Se-yul, head of the NK People's Liberation Front, said he recently heard the rumor that some of the Unhasu Orchestra members were involved and executed.

Meanwhile, pornographic videos are known to be widely distributed in North Korea's high-class society and among some youths, according to defectors from North Korea. A book written by a North Korean defector in 2012 says that the flow of porno videos in North Korean society was in a serious state. The book said the author, who was born a son of a high-ranking official of North Korea's Security Ministry, had his first exposure to pornography when he was attending the Military Intelligence University, and he had unique experiences while sharing the porno videos with high-level officials and their children.

Authors of another book titled "Korean Wave Rocks North Korean Society" say there was a case that about 20 families in the same apartment shared videos produced in South Korea but were not checked by the authorities because they were people in the higher echelons of society, like senior government officials. It also cited a wife of a security ministry official who hired a middleman to smuggle in South Korean videos from China and distribute them in North Korea. There are other cases of male seniors forcing their subordinates to watch porno videos with them in workplaces or schools. A female testified that she was forced to watch a porno video by security officials when she attended junior college. (Yonhap News)

FINANCIAL DAMAGE FROM N. KOREA'S CYBER ATTACKS

The total damage from N. Korea's cyber attacks on S. Korea's computer systems was estimated at more than US\$805 million between 2009 and 2013.

As North Korea's cyber attacks against South Korea are intensifying, financial damages incurred from the attack are rapidly increasing, in addition to the security threat.

A recent report to the National Assembly revealed that the total damage from North Korea's cyber attacks on South Korea's computer systems was estimated at more than 860 billion won (US\$805 million) between 2009 and 2013.

According to the data submitted by the defense ministry's cyber warfare headquarters, the North's latest attacks on March 20 and June 25 caused the most damage at 800 billion won, followed by the distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack on July 7, 2009, at 50 billion won, and the March 4 DDoS attack in 2011 at 10 billion won, Rep. Chung Hee-soo of the ruling Saenuri Party said on Oct. 15.

North Korea's cyber attacks have often targeted the websites of South Korean government offices, including the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae and the Prime Minister's Office, as well as local banks and media outlets. Some of the attacks have crippled the nation's banking networks and news services for days.

The North has also conducted 6,392 cyber attacks against South Korea's military since 2010 by attacking its websites, spreading malware and sending e-mails with hacking capabilities.

North Korea is known to operate a cyber-warfare unit of 3,000 elite hackers who are trained to break into computer networks to steal information and distribute malware.

"North Korea has 3,000 troops handling cyber warfare, while we have around 400," said Rep. Chung, a member of the parliamentary

defense committee. “We are seriously lacking in budget and professional staff. The establishment of a cyber command center with defense capabilities against North Korea’s cyber attacks and electromagnetic bombs is also being delayed.”

North Korea has one of the best trained hackers in the world, and it has used these assets to conduct attacks that have become more high-tech with the passage of time.

Also, Pyongyang has engaged in cyber psychological warfare to fuel internal discord in the South and tried to steal military secrets or disrupt the country’s military data systems. A hacking group with suspected links to North Korea has conducted cyber espionage on a number of South Korean agencies over the past three years, a local computer security firm said on Sept. 12. According to the security firm, the methods employed by the hacking group in its attacks were similar to those used in recent attacks by North Korean hackers.

They have implanted malicious codes in the networks of the attacked agencies and have stolen confidential military and diplomatic information, the company claimed.

In this connection, the Seoul government on July 16 named North Korea as a suspect in the latest cyber attack against the presidential office website and dozens of other government offices and news outlets in Seoul. The latest attack took place from June 25, the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War, to July 1, when the websites of 69 government and private organizations were attacked.

According to the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, the hackers used at least one IP address that had been used in previous attacks by North Korean hackers. The hackers in the latest attack had used the identity of a hacktivist group, Anonymous, which in the past had launched a series of attacks against the websites of pro-North Korea organizations.

“The cyber attack seriously undermined the country’s image by alternating the websites of symbolic government organizations, such as the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae, and caused confusion in identifying the attackers by assuming the identity of the hacktivist group Anonymous,” the ministry said in a press release.

In June, South Korea’s defense chief said there is an urgent need to counter North Korea’s cyber espionage capabilities that pose national security threats to the country.

In a conference held in Seoul to touch on ways to protect sensitive military information, Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin pointed out that Pyongyang operates a dedicated cyber team under the General Reconnaissance Bureau (GRB) of the Korean People’s Army. He said that this organization is made up of roughly 3,000 highly trained personnel.

“Cyber warfare is often referred to as the fifth battlefield, and preparations to counter terrorism in this area are vital,” the policymaker said. He claimed that the DDoS attack in 2009, hacking of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation the following year and on financial firms earlier this year highlight the seriousness of the online threat.

North Korea’s cyber warfare capabilities are known to be strong enough to rival those of the United States. The GRB reportedly operates a unit of 3,000 elite hackers called the “Office 121,” while maintaining bases in China to launch cyber attacks against the South at any time. (Yonhap News)

THE REALITY OF POLITICAL CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Without exception, as soon as they graduate from the school in the political concentration camps, all students become coal mine workers.

To learn about the actual situation at the political detention camps, we have to rely on the testimonies of defectors who previously worked on the prison staff or who were personally detained as prisoners. The reality of life in the camps, as related in their testimonies, is summarized as follows:

No. 14 Kaechon Political Concentration Camp

There is no kindergarten in the No. 14 Kaechon Political Concentration Camp, but there is one people's school (a 4-year elementary school) and one middle school. The elementary school teaches up to 5th grade. Each grade has 3-4 classes with each class consisting of 30-40 students. The middle school (junior high and high school) has a 6-year course. The students of both the elementary and the middle/high schools combined total over 1,000 students. One teacher is assigned to each elementary school classroom, but there is only one teacher for each grade (class) at the middle/high school. In the middle/high school, the students usually do not study but go to workplaces instead. That is why there is only one teacher assigned for each grade. The teacher's role is not to teach any particular subject, but to lead and supervise students on their way to and from fieldwork.

The reality of the Kaechon Concentration Camp was revealed in detail by Shin Dong-hyuk, who was born inside the center and later defected to South Korea. Shin testified that "10 rules and regulations" were strictly enforced inside the Kaechon Concentration Camp. The "10 rules and regulations" are as follows: (1) You must not escape. (2) Three or more inmates must not meet together. (3) You must not steal.

(4) You must absolutely obey orders of Protection Agency guidance officers. (5) You must immediately report if you have seen any outsiders or suspicious persons. (6) All inmates must carefully watch over each other and immediately report in the event of unusual behavior. (7) You must “over-fulfill” all tasks assigned to you. (8) Unless job-related, no contact between males and females is allowed. (9) You must be truly remorseful of your own mistakes. (10) You will be immediately shot by a firing squad if you ever violate these “laws and regulations” of the camp. There is no doubt that anyone violating any of these rules would certainly be put to death by a firing squad.

No. 18 Pukchang Political Concentration Camp

The memoir of North Korean defector Kim Hye-suk depicts some parts of the reality inside the Pukchang Political Concentration Camp. Kim Hye-suk was detained in Pukchang at the age of 13 in 1975 and spent 27 years inside the camp before her release on August 13, 2002. She made it to South Korea in March 2009.

Within the Political Concentration Camp is a school for “immigrants” (a euphemism for those confined in the center). This school is in a one-story building, and each class consists of 28 to 32 students. Staff members at the school are the children of “administrative workers,” or officials of the Ministry of People’s Security (MPS) or the State Security Agency (SSA), and they treat students harshly. From the third grade of middle school, students are assigned to night shifts guarding the school building from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. This duty is assigned according to work groups, with each group consisting of 4 to 5 students. At the end of each night duty shift, work groups have to fill out a night duty log. Without exception, as soon as they graduate from the school, all students become coal mine workers. If a classmate is absent from school, all the classmates go to that student’s house and drag him/her to school. The student is then whipped by the school staff and beaten by classmates. Students in the elementary schools study in the morning, and in the afternoon they are mobilized to dig mud and move it all the way to the camp’s coal mine.

There are some coal mines in the Pukchang Political Concentration Camp. Kim Hye-suk used to work in a coal mine called the “Shimsan Coal Mine,” where she conveyed raw, unprocessed coal. Each working group consists of 15 persons. Work regulations dictates three shifts a day (midnight shift: midnight to 8 a.m.; morning shift: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; afternoon shift: 4 p.m. to midnight). However, workers rarely finish work on time. The workloads within the Shimsan Mine is more than a woman can handle. Disciplinary regulations within the coal mine are very strict. If workers fail to report to work three times, a day’s worth of grain rations are withheld. There is a hospital within the Political Concentration Camp, Yongdung Hospital, located in the Yongdung Coal Mine.

No. 22 Hoeryong Political Concentration Camp

North Korean defector XXX testified that he had been to the area near the Hoeryong Political Concentration Camp. The camp's total area was smaller than a county, but yet he heard that about 10 percent of the entire agricultural output of North Hamgyong Province was produced there. The Political Concentration Camp in Hoeryong was built in such a way that mountains block the view in the direction of Kungshim and Sechon.

Children in the camp were housed with their mothers, but wives were told to divorce their husbands. Defector XXX testified that there was an elementary school inside the Hoeryong Political Concentration Camp, but children as young as fourth grade were forced to work in the fields. They would study in the morning, and in the afternoon each student would take a container and fill it with weeds cut from the fields or rice paddies.

According to North Korean defector XXX, the children confined in the Political Concentration Camp are put to heavy labor at 10 a.m. If a mother helps out with her child's work, the child receives punishment. Each inmate has to complete his or her duty without help from anyone, and this even applies to parents and their children. Husbands and wives are assigned to opposite work shifts so that they can not have physical contact with each other. A waterway is located in the Political Concentration Camp. Some reports say it was built to drown inmates who were condemned to execution and to save bullets.

For meals, rice mixed with corn is provided three times a day. If poor behavior is noticed or reported to People's Safety agents, or if detainees are caught helping their children work, two days worth of meals are withheld. Furthermore, there is a dungeon. Those who failed to complete their tasks or talk back to guards are confined to a 1-square-meter solitary cell and given half rations.

Escape is out of the question, as the camp is surrounded by a 3,300V electrified fence. Children are forced to work as soon as they finish fourth grade courses in the elementary school.

No. 25 Chongjin Political Concentration Camp

In Chongjin City, they call this facility the Susong Correctional Center, but it is in fact a Political Concentration Camp where political criminals are detained. The MPS rather than the SSA is in charge of management and supervision of this center. The Susong Correctional Center is constructed not in a "village style" but in a fenced "penitentiary" style fit for "collective living." Ordinary economic criminals are not sent to Susong Correctional Center; only political criminals are detained there. The inmates at the Susong center are engaged in the manufacturing of bicycles using hand tools. (Yonhap News)

S. Korea, U.S. Hold Various Events, Marking 60 Years of Mutual Treaty

“S. Korea and the U.S. will not forgive N. Korea’s possession of nuclear weapons and will sternly deal with any wrong choices made by the North,” Park said.

■ By Lee Kwang-ho

Over the last six decades, the South Korea-U.S. military alliance has been a pillar of peace on the Korean Peninsula, serving as a pivotal mechanism for preventing North Korea’s armed provocations. The alliance has evolved into a multifaceted partnership that deals not only with peninsular defense, but also with broader challenges facing the Northeast Asian region.

Marking the 60th anniversary of the South Korea-U.S. mutual defense pact, the two allies have agreed to strengthen their defense capabilities to deter threats from North Korea. They also agreed to endorse a new military strategy to better coordinate the response to potential nuclear, chemical or other attacks from Pyongyang.

The two countries held a variety of ceremonies marking the Republic of Korea (ROK/South Korea)-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty signed on Oct. 1, 1953, shortly after the signing of the July 27 Armistice Agreement ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

On the eve of the alliance anniversary, South Korean President Park Geun-hye

and key South Korean and U.S. officials and dignitaries attended a reception of the Alliance Night for the U.S. veterans who fought for South Korea during the Korean War.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, who were in South Korea for military talks, attended the event. American commanders and veterans were also in attendance.

New Era to Promote Peace

During the reception, President Park thanked the late U.S. Army Gen. Walton Walker and other veterans who fought to defend South Korea in the Korean War. In her address, Park thanked Gen. Walker for his dedication to South Korea. “I pay respect to and thank not only Gen. Walker, but also all soldiers,” Park said. “As a representative of the Republic of Korea, I will not forget U.S. war veterans who made sacrifices to protect this country.”

Park also said the 60 years of bilateral

alliance started from the veterans' contributions, urging the two nations to open a new era to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the Northeast Asia region. Park said the peace on the Korean Peninsula is being threatened once again due to North Korea's nuclear weapons development.

"South Korea and the U.S. will not forgive North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons and will sternly deal with any wrong choices made by North Korea." She stressed that Pyongyang's simultaneous pursuit of nuclear and economic development is an unwise idea, saying its survival lies on the road toward international community through reform and opening, not its isolation.

During the event for the Alliance Night, Hagel brought up his experience at the DMZ to stress that U.S. forces are ready to fight against the North Korean threat alongside South Koreans. "With the chilling environment, North Korea poses a threat not only to this country but to the region, and the United States homeland as well," Hagel said. Earlier in the day, Hagel made a symbolic visit to the heavily armed truce village bordering North Korea, stressing its strategic importance in defending the Korean Peninsula.

On the next day, South Korea marked the Armed Forces Day by holding a large-scale military parade in downtown Seoul, with the display of weaponry that was the largest in a decade, involving 11,000 troops, 120 aircraft, tanks, heavy artillery and a range of missiles. The parade was condemned by North Korea as "an unprecedented display of lunatic hostility"

that was made in collusion with the United States and aimed at "spurring preparations to attack the North."

North Korean media reacted angrily, calling the parade "another confrontation farce." "It's obvious ... that it's a reckless behavior that would aggravate tension and trigger a war on the Korean Peninsula," the country's main *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said in a commentary on Oct. 2.

During the Armed Forces Day ceremony, President Park said South Korea will build strong defense capabilities to deter threats from North Korea. Park also said the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia is "very grave," as North Korea is persistently pursuing nuclear weapons development in an effort to build more sophisticated bombs.

Contingency Counter-actions

"We have to build a strong deterrence against North Korea until the North abandons its nuclear program and makes the right choice for the people of North Korea and peace on the Korean Peninsula," Park said during the ceremony at an airbase in Seongnam, just south of Seoul.

Park also stressed that the reason for the military's existence lies in preventing war. "While maintaining a strong (South) Korea-U.S. joint defense system, the government will secure anti-weapons of mass destruction capabilities, such as the kill chain and the Korea Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system, at an early date to make North Korea realize on its own that its nuclear weapons and missiles ... are useless."

On Oct. 2, the two allies signed a joint

President Park Geun-hye (center) toasts with U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel (left) and S. Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin (right) during a reception for the Alliance Night held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul on Sept. 30, 2013. (Yonhap Photo)



military strategy that outlines how to handle the North Korean nuclear threat and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to strengthen the American nuclear umbrella on the Korean Peninsula in light of the socialist state's third nuclear test. South Korea is protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella and there are currently nearly 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the country.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim and his U.S. counterpart, Chuck Hagel, officially signed the bilateral "Tailored Deterrence Strategy against North Korea Nuclear and other WMD Threats" during their annual Security Consultative Meeting. The Pentagon chief reaffirmed the U.S.' commitment to support deterrence capabilities with its full range of military capabilities, including the nuclear umbrella, conventional strikes and missile defense.

The plan details contingency counteractions against various nuclear provocations, calling for pre-emptive strikes against the origin of attack if the North were to use its nuclear weapons, a senior ministry

official said, without elaborating on the details of the classified military information.

When Pyongyang raised tension with bellicose rhetoric in April, Seoul's defense ministry unveiled a new contingency plan that would allow its military to launch a preemptive strike against North Korea if it shows signs of an imminent nuclear or missile attack on the South. At a joint press briefing with Kim, Hagel also stressed that the new deterrent strategy covered all of the North's weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

According to South Korean defense officials, North Korea has up to 5,000 tons of chemical arms – an alleged stockpile that has been highlighted by the use of such weapons in Syria. "There should be no doubt that North Korean use of chemical weapons would be completely unacceptable," Hagel said.

The North's nuclear test in February – its third and most powerful to date – triggered months of heightened military ten-

The two sides agreed to cooperate to bolster interoperability of the alliances command and control system for missile defense against North Korea.

sions on the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang threatened preemptive nuclear strikes against South Korea and the United States, while the Pentagon responded by deploying nuclear-capable B2 stealth bombers during joint military exercises with Seoul.

“North Korea has increased its threat clearly against South Korea, and against the United States. It has increased its capability,” Hagel said. But he also noted that South Korea’s military has grown “stronger, more professional and more capable” over the past decade.

Kim pledged to continue to build the KAMD system to arm his nation with the ability to track and shoot down the North’s low-flying, short- and medium-range missiles. The kill chain system is designed to detect signs of impending missile or nuclear attacks and launch pre-emptive strikes.

In regard to the joint missile shield, Hagel put great emphasis on the interoperability of the two nations’ systems to effectively counter threats posed by North Korea. “We’re working with the Republic of Korea on their missile defense system. These don’t have to be identical as long as they are interoperable,” he said.

The North’s *Rodong Sinmun* called the South Korea-U.S. “mutual defense treaty” aggressive, shackling and unequal. The newspaper also said it imposed upon the South Korean people only “submission,

disgrace, misfortune and disaster.”

Seoul believes Pyongyang has made considerable progress in developing a fairly robust nuclear program in the past three years and is capable of making atomic weapons at any time. Still, it is widely thought that the North does not have the capacity to build a nuclear-tipped ballistic missile to strike the U.S. mainland, although Pyongyang threatened a nuclear strike against South Korea and the U.S. in anger of their joint drills in March.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate to bolster interoperability of the alliances command and control system for missile defense against North Korea, which is believed to have over 1,000 missiles with varying capabilities.

During the annual security meeting, the defense chiefs of the two nations evaluated the growing North Korean threat and capabilities of South Korean forces to determine whether Seoul will be ready to regain its wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington as scheduled in 2015.

South Korea handed over its OPCON to the U.S.-led U.N. troops during the Korean War and regained peacetime OPCON in 1994. The transfer has already been delayed from a 2012 deadline. The defense minister pledged to bolster his nation’s defense and missile strike capabilities, closely cooperating with the U.S. forces for enhanced operability. (Yonhap News)

President Park Discusses with China's Xi on N. Korea Issues in Bali

Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed staunch opposition to North Korea going nuclear or conducting additional atomic tests.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye asked Chinese President Xi Jinping on Oct. 7 to help prod North Korea to focus on rebuilding its broken economy, days after Pyongyang renewed its pledge never to stop nuclear weapons development.

North Korea was a key topic when Park and Xi met on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Indonesia's resort island of Bali. It was their third meeting in less than four months, including Park's visit to China in June and a meeting in Russia in September on the margins of a G20 summit.

"(North Korea) can't pour everything into nuclear weapons at a time when many of North Korean people are said to be suffering from chronic malnutrition," Park said at the start of the talks. "I hope China will work hard to persuade North Korea to concentrate on economic development." Xi did not immediately respond to the offer.

As the main aide provider to the impoverished North, China has long been considered the only country with any meaningful influence over Pyongyang. But Beijing is

also concerned that pushing the North too hard could hurt its national interests.

On Oct. 4, Pyongyang's powerful National Defense Commission said the North will move steadfastly forward with its line of simultaneously seeking economic construction and nuclear armament, making clear it has no intention of desisting from its nuclear weapons push.

Pyongyang also strongly criticized Park by name after she vowed in an Armed Forces Day address to significantly beef up the South's missile and other defenses to get North Korea to realize that its nuclear weapons are useless.

In Oct. 7 talks with Xi, Park also expressed her gratitude that China has relayed to Pyongyang her proposal to build an international peace park inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the heavily armed border with the socialist nation.

The DMZ peace park project is one of President Park's outreach projects to North Korea. She first unveiled the vision during her visit to the United States in May and formally proposed the project in August. But questions persist about its possibility

due to tensions with Pyongyang.

The DMZ is a four-kilometer-wide buffer zone separating the two Koreas. The two sides still technically remain in a state of conflict after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, and their border is one of the world's most heavily fortified.

Park also thanked Xi for China's role in helping restart an inter-Korean industrial complex in the North's border city of Kaesong. She expressed regret, however, that Pyongyang unilaterally called off an agreed-upon plan to hold reunions for separated families at the last minute in September.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed staunch opposition to North Korea going nuclear or conducting additional atomic tests, and pledged to vigorously carry out U.N. sanctions resolutions on Pyongyang, a South Korean official said.

Xi also pledged to "strictly abide" by U.N. Security Council resolutions on Pyongyang, he said.

The remarks came in response to Park citing a need to stop North Korea from honing its nuclear capabilities, and asked China to help prod Pyongyang to focus on rebuilding its broken economy, the official said.

"(North Korea) can't pour everything into nuclear weapons at a time when many North Korean people are said to be suffering from chronic malnutrition," Park said at the start of the talks. "I hope China will work hard to persuade North Korea to concentrate on economic development."

During the Oct. 7 talks, Xi called for an

early resumption of the six-party talks, while Park stressed that the North's nuclear programs should be scrapped in a complete and verifiable manner, the South Korean official said.

Meanwhile, ASEAN has expressed full support for Seoul's policy on the North. In a chairman's statement issued after its summit with South Korea on Oct. 9, ASEAN urged North Korea to "comply fully" with its obligations under all United Nations Security Council resolutions as well as its own denuclearization commitments.

"We reiterated our support for all efforts to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner," the statement said.

Park also met with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who stood in for President Barack Obama at an East Asia Summit meeting, on Oct. 10. The top American diplomat praised Park for taking a "measured and careful approach" toward North Korea in the face of harsh threats from Pyongyang.

"Obviously nobody faces the challenge of North Korea more than you do," Kerry said. "We applaud your very measured and careful approach by which you've both been firm, but at the same time you've tried to reach out."

Park also met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and agreed to work together to facilitate the ongoing free trade negotiations between the two countries. They also agreed to cooperate closely to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff, the presidential office said. (Yonhap News)

<Internal Affairs>

N. Korea Holds First Posts & Telecommunications Meeting in 10 Years

A national meeting of personnel in the field of posts and telecommunications was held in Pyongyang on Sept. 16, the first such gathering in 10 years.

The North held the last nation-wide telecommunications meeting in October 2003 to encourage people serving in the communications field to lead the vanguard in modernizing the telecommunication industry in order to meet international standards.

The North's Korean Central Television Station reported the latest national meeting was held at the April 25 House of Culture. In attendance were Premier Pak Pong-ju, People's Armed Forces Minister Jang Jong-nam, and other key officials from the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), armed forces and the Cabinet.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's letter "On Bringing About a Fresh Turn in Posts and Telecommunications" was delivered by Premier Pak to the participants at the meeting.

In the letter, Kim said that "Generalissimos Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il advanced Juche-oriented ideas and theories concerning the posts and telecommunications services, which indicated ways of modernizing it as required by the developing revolution, and devoted themselves to its modernization."

The letter also clarified ways for personnel in the field of posts and telecommunications to elevate their service to an international, advanced level as early as possible.

The letter called on all participants to bring about a fresh turn in the service by successfully discharging their honorable duties and missions in the spirit of devotedly serving the country and people.

Twenty years ago, the late North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, the father of the current leader Kim Jong-un, sent a letter to the national meeting of communications in Pyongyang on Aug. 25, 1993.

During the latest meeting, Vice Premier Jon Sung-hun made a report, which referred to the remarkable development made by the service thanks to the "patriotic devotion and energetic leadership provided by the Generalissimos." (Yonhap News)

North Korea Sets up Modern Brewery in Haeju

North Korea completed construction of a brand new brewery in Haeju city that has up-to-date production facilities, the socialist country's leading newspaper said on Sept. 19.

Rodong Sinmun, an organ of the ruling Workers' Party, said the brewery has fermentation, filtering, cold storage and bottling facilities that will allow it to produce alcoholic beverages to benefit people.

It said trial runs have been successfully carried out and efforts are currently underway to secure production materials to make beer.

The latest report comes after microbreweries in the socialist country such as Taedonggang Craft Brewery and Yanggakdo Hotel Microbrewery have received acclaim by some for making the best beverages on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. The secret behind the taste, experts have said, lies with North Korea using less rice and corn to make its beverages compared to South Korean manufacturers.

Such quality products have even spurred visits by foreigners who want to taste the beer.

The paper, meanwhile, did not give exact details on the size of the new brewery other than to say it covered several thousand square meters. (Yonhap News)

N. Korean Leader Puts Top Priority on Economic Development

North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator told a forum in China in mid-September that the North's young leader Kim Jong-un has been prioritizing the economy, indicating Kim might put more effort in developing the country's moribund economy, a diplomatic source who attended the forum said on Sept. 22.

Ri Yong-ho, the North's chief delegate to the long-stalled six-party talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons program, made the remarks during the forum in Beijing that marked the 10th anniversary of the talks, the source said on the condition of anonymity.

"First Secretary Kim Jong-un is currently putting his top priority on the economy," Ri was quoted by the source as saying at the one-day, closed-door forum, held on Sept. 18. Ri used Kim's official title as the first secretary of the North's Workers' Party.

"Recently, about 90 percent of field-guidance activities by First Secretary Kim were related to the economy," Ri told the forum, according to the source.

The source said the remarks by Ri during the forum were noticeable because Ri emphasized Kim's focus on the economy several times.

Following its third nuclear test earlier this year, North Korea declared in March that economic development and an expansion of its nuclear arsenal could "simultaneously" take place.

The Beijing forum was called for by China to mark the 10th anniversary of the launching of the six-party talks. The on-and-off forum that involves the two Koreas, China, the U.S., Russia and Japan has been stalled since late 2008.

The meeting came amid renewed efforts by China to revive the six-party channel, but South Korea, the U.S. and Japan have shown a cool response to it in the absence of a clear North Korean willingness to abandon its nuclear ambition.

South Korea sent two diplomats to attend the forum as observers but ordered them not to meet with any North Korean representatives. (Yonhap News)

North Korea Trade Show Courts Foreign Investors, Deals

The largest semi-annual trade show in North Korea has opened in Pyongyang for a four-day run, the state-run media reported on Sept. 23, as the cash-strapped nation aimed to attract foreign investment and expand trade.

The 9th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House will run until Sept. 26, with 220 trading companies representing 13 countries participating, the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Among the countries represented were China, Russia, Germany, Malaysia and Mongolia.

“The event would serve as a great opportunity to promote friendship among countries, showcase new products and exchange technology,” said North Korean Premier Pak Pong-ju on the second day of the event.

More than 57,000 products will be on display, including electronics, chemicals, foods, medical appliances and pharmaceuticals, the KCNA said.

North Korea has held semi-annual trade shows in spring and fall since 2005, with the aim of wooing investors and securing export deals. (Yonhap News)

More Than 8,000 Medical Facilities in North Korea: Report

The number of medical facilities in North Korea is thought to have doubled in the past four years, according to one estimate by a pro-North Korea website on Sept. 23.

The North Korean propaganda website Uriminzokkiri said there were currently more than 2,000 hospitals and over 6,000 primary care centers in the socialist country.

This is nearly double the estimate by the South’s Korean Institute for National Unification in 2009, in which it said there were 4,240 medical facilities in North Korea.

Uriminzokkiri, furthermore, said the North’s telemedicine program has enabled primary care centers to provide quality health care equivalent to that given at large hospitals.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, meanwhile, recently visited the construction site of a dental hospital, according to the North’s official KCNA.

The young leader reportedly said the hospital would be able to treat more than 300 patients a day with 30 new dental equipment provided by the ruling Workers’ Party of (North) Korea. (Yonhap News)

Foreign Diplomats in Pyongyang Bond at Sports Event

North Korea organized its first sports event for foreign diplomats in the country, the state-run media reported on Sept. 29.

The event was held at the Rungna People’s Sports Park in Pyongyang from Sept. 25-29,

with teams divided into six countries and regions, including China, Russia and the rest of Asia, the KCNA reported.

Middle Eastern, African and Latin American countries were lumped into one team, as were the missions of the United Nations, and the embassies and cooperative offices of European countries.

They competed in three sports, football, volleyball and basketball, which teams representing Russia, the U.N. and China won, respectively.

Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun, along with other North Korean officials and families of the diplomats, attended the games, the KCNA said.

“This has been a great opportunity to promote friendship among the countries represented, whose diplomats I hope will go on to excel in their endeavors,” Jong Ho-bom, a foreign ministry official, said.

Denis Samsonov, a Russian embassy official, said he wished there would be more events like this in the future. “The tournament was extremely helpful in deepening understanding among us,” he said.

Following the event, participants and spectators tried different foods prepared by the families of diplomats. (Yonhap News)

N. Korea Provides New Housing to Athletes to Foster Athletics

In a further sign of ambitions to foster strong athletics, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has bestowed new apartments on some of the most successful competitors in the country, the state-run media reported on Oct. 3.

Athletes began moving into their new homes on Oct. 3, which have been completed recently, the KCNA said.

The apartment complex on the bank of Pyongyang’s Potong River features amenities such as a medical clinic, restaurants and laundromats.

Kim Jong, the winner of this year’s International Table Tennis Federation World Championships, and Sol Kyong, a gold medalist at the 2013 World Judo Championships, were among the athletes who moved into the new complex.

On the opening day, Choe Ryong-hae, director of the General Political Bureau of the (North) Korean People’s Army, and Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, awarded certificates of residence to the athletes, indicating the importance of the ceremony.

North Korea also opened a remodeled stadium in Pyongyang on Oct. 3, with Premier Pak Pong-ju; People’s Armed Forces Minister Jang Jong-nam; and the WPK’s Kim Ki-nam in attendance, the KCNA said.

The Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, built in 1973, can hold over 12,000 people and host basketball, volleyball and table tennis matches.

In his opening speech, Premier Pak called on North Koreans to pay greater attention to sports and engage in more team sports to raise the nation's competitiveness in the global sports arena. (Yonhap News)

North Korea Praises Kim Jong-un on 68th Anniversary of Ruling Party

North Korea celebrated the 68th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party on Oct. 10, with ceremonies aimed at consolidating young leader Kim Jong-un's grip on power.

The North's mouthpiece newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* featured a photo of the country's founder Kim Il-sung and former leader Kim Jong-il on the front page, along with an editorial that praised the current leader Kim Jong-un.

The editorial referred to the WPK as the "mother party that dedicates itself so selflessly for the people," and called on the nation to focus more on science, agriculture and light industry to prop up the stagnant economy.

On Oct. 10, Kim Jong-un, along with ranking military officials, paid their respects at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang, where the embalmed bodies of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il lie in state.

The young Kim had visited the palace last year, with both visits being broadcast on the state-run (North) Korean Central Television.

The events proceeded at a subdued pace this year, said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korea Studies in Seoul.

"It's because this year is not a 'jeongjunyeon,' or a year where the first digit falls on either 5 or 0, which in North Korea warrants more extravagant ceremonies," he said.

"Kim may have wanted to keep a relatively low-profile after a lavish ceremony commemorating the end of the 1950-53 Korean War on July 27." (Yonhap News)

N. Korea Says 'Federal' System Most Feasible Road to Unification

North Korea on Oct. 11 reiterated its stance that creating a mutually acceptable "federal" system is the only feasible road to unification between the two Koreas.

In an article carried by *Rodong Sinmun*, an organ of the ruling WPK, Pyongyang emphasized the legitimacy of its proposal and criticized Seoul's plan that seeks a merging of the two political systems.

The daily, monitored in Seoul, pointed out that differences clearly exist in the areas of political ideology and government systems.

"Under such circumstances, the only realistic way to achieve unification is the federation system that respects such differences," it said.

North Korea's founder Kim Il-sung first proposed the creation of the Democratic

Confederal Republic of Koryo in October 1980, which calls for the establishment of a federal structure that supports two separate leadership and systems.

It then claimed that the incumbent Park Geun-hye administration is following in the path of the previous conservative government in regards to its unification policy.

It said the so-called trust-building process being pursued by President Park at present aims to push for change in the North. Such a move effectively strives to undermine socialism with the help of foreign powers, it added.

Rodong Sinmun, meanwhile, blasted efforts by the ruling Saenuri Party to pass a bill calling for improved human rights in the North, adding that such a move will do nothing to alleviate the mistrust and bad feelings between the two countries. (Yonhap News)

<External Affairs>

N. Korea Blames S. Korea for Postponement of Family Reunions

North Korea on Sept. 22 blamed South Korea's confrontational policy for its abrupt decision to postpone the scheduled family reunions, further clouding the prospects for the highly anticipated event.

The latest response comes one day after Pyongyang unilaterally put off the reunions of family members separated by the Korean War six decades ago, just four days before the planned event. Both sides had exchanged the final lists of about 200 candidates to be reunited at the North's mountain resort of Kungang from Sept. 25-30.

Seoul's unification ministry, in charge of inter-Korean affairs, immediately denounced the North's decision as "inhumane," saying it has "broken the hearts" of relatives desperate to be momentarily reunited.

On Sept. 22, Pyongyang's agency in charge of relations with the South accused the conservative government in Seoul of abusing inter-Korean dialogues and negotiations as a means to seek a showdown with the socialist country.

"It is very clear that our efforts for improved ties and dialogue have been abused in the North-South confrontations, which makes it useless to make further efforts," the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement.

The committee condemned Seoul of trying to "avoid responsibility and create animosity and malicious sentiment against North Korea," saying the future of the family reunions depends on the South's attitude.

The cross-border reunions, the first of their kind in more than three years, have been considered one of a series of signs of a thaw in relations between the two sides, along with the reopening of a joint industrial complex in the North that had been suspended amid height-

ened tensions since April.

The North also postponed the planned negotiations with the South, slated for Oct. 2, on how to reopen the mountain resort, another joint project that has been suspended since the 2008 shooting of a South Korean tourist by a North Korean guard at the resort.

The Sept. 21 announcement underscored the unpredictability of the regime in Pyongyang and the difficulty in dealing with it.

The North has a track record of backtracking from or canceling agreements at the last minute. (Yonhap News)

Railway Section Linking N. Korea's Rajin and Russia's Khasan Reopens

A railway section between Rajin, North Korea's northeastern port, and Russia's Far Eastern border town of Khasan was opened for service in a ceremony at the North Korea city on Sept. 22 after five years of reconstruction, the KCNA reported the same day.

The opening of the section will greatly contribute to developing friendly and cooperative relations between Russia and North Korea, the KCNA said.

The 54-kilometer-long Rajin-Khasan section has been rebuilt since 2008 in line with the Moscow Declaration, signed between the two countries in August 2001.

Many North Korean officials attended the opening ceremony: Jon Kil-su, minister of Railways; O Ryong-chol, vice minister of Foreign Trade; Ri Chol-sok, vice chairman of the State Commission for Economic Development; Jo Jong-ho, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee; Im Chon-il, consul general to Nakhodka; as well as officials in the field of railways and people in Rason City, according to the KCNA.

Attending Russian participants included V. I. Yakunin, president of the "Russian Railways" Company; Alexei Tsijenov, vice minister of Transport; Sergey Sidorov, first vice-governor of the Maritime Territory Administration; Alexandr Timonin, Russian ambassador to North Korea; and Vyacheslav Tsupikov, consul general of Russia to Chongjin.

Yakunin said the section has opened for service under Russia-DPRK Moscow Declaration signed by the top leaders of the two countries in 2001.

To press for the renovation of the railways running through the land of (North) Korea will be a great contribution to the development of economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region in the future, he stressed.

Jon, the North Korean minister of railways, said that the plan of linking DPRK-Russia railways serves as a model of wide-ranging bilateral cooperation, which meets the common progress and interests of the two peoples.

He expressed the conviction that the operation of the opened railways section will be successful as it was made on the principle of mutual respect and cooperation between the railway transportation fields of the two countries. (Yonhap News)

Pyongyang Wants to Help Foreign Investors: N.K. Official

North Korea is interested in partnering with foreign investors to boost trade and cooperation, an official at a North Korean investment company was quoted as saying on Sept. 27.

North Korea welcomes foreign investment and wants to strengthen the protection of legal rights for foreign investors, Japan's pro-North Korean newspaper *Choson Sinbo* quoted the official at the North's Joint Venture Investment Company.

The official, whose name was not revealed, was speaking at an information session for prospective investors at the 9th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair, a semi-annual trade show that aims to lure investors and secure export deals.

The fair was held from Sept. 23-26 and drew 118 trade companies from 12 countries, with the majority being Chinese, according to *Choson Sinbo*. Other countries represented there included Russia, Germany, Malaysia and Mongolia.

The number of Chinese firms in attendance recovered following a sharp decline in the spring, following a series of international sanctions imposed on the North for its February nuclear test, the newspaper said.

"The North Korea-China relations have warmed in recent months," said Kim Il-hyok, an official at the Choson International Exhibition Co. to explain the phenomenon.

More than 57,000 products were on display at the exhibition, including electronics, chemicals, foods, medical appliances and pharmaceuticals, the media outlet said.

North Korea has held semi-annual trade shows in spring and fall since 2005 with the aim of wooing investors and introducing new products made in the country. (Yonhap News)

Pyongyang, Moscow Agree to Continue Farming in Russian Far East

North Korea and Russia have agreed to continue running a joint farm in the Russian Far East region of Amur next year, a Washington-based media outlet said on Oct. 5. It is viewed as a move that could secure additional food sources for the North.

The Amur government announced on its website that delegates from the North's agriculture ministry have recently visited the region to discuss ways to boost cooperation in farming, Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported.

Ranking officials from the North's agriculture ministry met with Amur's agriculture minister and the head of the Russian state-run company running the farm, the RFA said.

North Korea and Russia established the joint farm in May this year, with 1,000 hectares of land in Amur being used to grow soybeans, potatoes and other vegetables for transport back to North Korea.

The harvest has recently begun, but the figures have yet to be announced. The Amur government painted a gloomy picture, however, saying that floods of unprecedented propor-

tions this year were likely to damage soybean crops, the main harvest of the region.

It said the soybean crops were likely to diminish by up to 25 percent this year, while nearly a third of the land had been planted with soybeans. (Yonhap News)

North Korea Condemns U.S. for Planned Joint Naval Drills

North Korea on Oct. 9 accused the United States of focusing on “military provocations” rather than its dialogue offers, referring to the planned South Korea-U.S.-Japan joint naval drills involving an American aircraft carrier.

The routine naval drills off the Korean Peninsula between South Korea, the U.S. and Japan had been scheduled earlier that week, but they were postponed for a few days due to an approaching typhoon.

The spokesman for the North’s foreign ministry said that Washington is escalating tensions on the peninsula with the military drills and a joint strategy against its nuclear weapons with Seoul signed last week.

“The U.S. has refused our legitimate demand to hold talks and negotiations without pre-conditions to secure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, only focusing on military provocations,” the Korean-language statement carried by the KCNA said. “It is the U.S. that destroys peace and stability and raises tensions on the Korean Peninsula.”

It is the latest condemnation from Pyongyang, which warned the U.S. of a “horrible disaster” after the nuclear-powered 97,000-ton supercarrier, the USS George Washington, arrived at the southern port of Busan on Oct. 4.

The spokesman said Pyongyang’s efforts have been challenged by the massive drills mobilizing the high-profile American warship.

“Although we want peace, we will never beg and get ready for both dialogue and confrontation,” the KCNA said. “Our patience has a limit.”

On Oct. 8, the North’s military spokesman said the North Korean troops received an “emergency order” to stay on alert and fully ready to take military actions against hostile forces. (Yonhap News)

N. Korea Vows Not Give up Nuclear Weapons under U.S. Pressure

North Korea reiterated its nuclear ambition on Oct. 5, saying it will never give up its nuclear arsenal unless the United States first ends its hostility toward the socialist country.

The North’s acerbic rhetoric, which is not new, comes as the United States is set to launch joint naval exercises with South Korea and Japan off the Korean Peninsula’s east coast on Oct. 8. The U.S. naval fleet taking part in the routine drills includes nuclear-powered super-

carrier USS George Washington.

“Under the condition where the United States’ nuclear threat (against the North) continues, it is so reasonable for us to possess and further develop nuclear capabilities to defend its dignity and the safety of the nation,” North Korea said in a statement issued through its Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of (North) Korea, a party organization handling inter-Korean affairs.

“To fairly resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, the United States’ nuclear threat, which is the very source of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula in the first place, must be removed, along with the United States’ hostile policy toward the DPRK (North Korea), and the U.S. forces in South Korea must withdraw with its nuclear weapons,” it added.

The statement, carried by the North’s official KCNA, came one day after the country’s top military organization, the National Defense Commission, vehemently criticized South Korean President Park Geun-hye for urging the North to give up its nuclear ambition.

In its Oct. 5 statement, North Korea again blasted the South Korean president, saying that Park “should keep silent if she has nothing right to say.”

“For the rogues, who do not even have the basic knowledge about North-South relations and know nothing about manners or morality, to speak of manners and to call (North Korea) unreasonable are, in fact, an intolerable provocation and ridicule toward us,” the statement said.

“The Park Geun-hye group must listen carefully to our rightful criticism and just warnings and stop making useless remarks, and behave itself in order to avoid a miserable fate,” it added. (Yonhap News)

<Inter-Korean Relations>

Remains of S. Korean POW Who Died in N. Korea Repatriated

The remains of a South Korean prisoner of war (POW) who died in the North were returned home, the defense ministry in Seoul said on Oct. 5.

The ministry said the remains of Sohn Dong-shik arrived earlier in the day and were sent to the Agency for Killed in Action Recovery & Identification for DNA analysis to confirm his identity.

The transfer of Sohn’s remains, who held the rank of sergeant in South Korea’s 9th Infantry Division during the Korea War (1950-53), was facilitated by local civic groups such as Dream Makers for North Korea.

Having been contacted by Sohn’s daughter who escaped the North and arrived in the

South in 2005, local civic groups had arranged for the remains to be brought out of the socialist country.

The daughter said she had been trying to retrieve her father's remains because his dying wish was to be buried in his hometown in North Gyeongsang Province.

The ministry, meanwhile, said that it will take about a month to test the DNA to positively identify the remains as belonging to the POW who had been held in the North since the end of the three-year conflict.

It said that once testing is completed and identity is confirmed, the remains will be interred at one of the country's national cemeteries, with the deceased given military tribute.

This repatriation of remains is the second of its kind with another soldier being brought back home in 2004. Besides the aforementioned two, there have been a number of cases involving the cremated remains of South Korean POWs being brought back from the North. (Yonhap News)

N. Korea's Electronic Jamming Signals against S. Korea on Rise

North Korea has increased jamming satellite navigation signals in South Korea in recent years, a ruling party lawmaker said on Oct. 9, a move that has raised safety concerns for civilian flights and ships.

North Korea disrupted global positioning system (GPS) signals for several days in each year in 2010-12, said Kim Gi-hyeon, a lawmaker of the ruling Saenuri Party, citing government data.

GPS is a satellite-based navigation system widely used by planes, ships and the military as well as ordinary drivers.

In 2010, the North jammed satellite signals for four days in August, which affected only 15 commercial flights and a navy ship, said Kim, adding that the country's jamming attacks went up in 2011 and 2012.

Kim said electronic jamming signals affected 106 flights, three navy ships and seven commercial vessels in 2011.

The North also disrupted GPS signals occasionally between April 28 and May 13 last year, affecting 1,016 flights by South Korean and foreign airlines, including Korean Air, FedEx and United Airlines, he said. Also affected were 218 commercial vessels and 36 fishing boats.

However, the North's jamming attacks did not result in any accidents, the lawmaker said.

Last year, the North denied responsibility for the attacks, calling Seoul's accusation a "new smear campaign" against it.

South and North Korea are members of the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations agency in charge of information and communication technologies, which bans harmful interference. (Yonhap News)

CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WPK AND KPA IN NORTH KOREA UNDER KIM JONG-UN'S LEADERSHIP: FOCUSING ON WEAKENING ARMY'S INFLUENCE

I. Introduction

The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the North Korean ruling party, held the third conference of its representatives from throughout the North on Sept. 28, 2011 and named Kim Jong-un, the 20 or 30-something third son of then North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, the vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Party (PCMC) – only to proclaim the young Kim's status as sure successor to his father. And on Dec. 30, 2011, in less than two weeks after senior Kim's death on Dec. 17, the Party Central Committee (PCC) held a session of its Political Bureau, also known as the Politburo, and identified the young Kim as “supreme” commander of the Korean People's Army (KPA). The Party held the fourth conference of its representatives on April 11 the following year to name the young Kim the party leader in his capacity as “first secretary” of the PCC while honoring the late Kim as the “eternal” general secretary. Two days later, on April 13, the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), the North's rubber-stamp parliament, held a session to elect the young Kim the “first” chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC) while honoring the late Kim as its “eternal” chairman.

In this way, Kim Jong-un institutionally took over leadership in the party, the government and the army, which had been held by the senior Kim since the death of his father Kim Il-sung in 1994. Kim Jong-un's succession to the state leadership made

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in a short period of time was in sharp contrast with the process of his father's hereditary leadership succession, which took as long as 20 years. The WPK designated Kim Jong-il as successor to Kim Il-sung in a secret PCC session held in February 1974. And the sixth congress of the ruling party held six and a half years later, in October 1980, formalized his status as heir apparent. Yet, he had to wait nearly 14 more years until Kim Il-sung's death in July 1994 to actually take over the state leadership of the North. For this reason, many North Korea watchers in Seoul and elsewhere have foretold an uneasy political situation facing the North under the leadership of the young, inexperienced Kim Jong-un. But developments in the North in recent years have indicated the North has succeeded in making another hereditary leadership succession in a stable way, at least in appearance.

Against the backdrop of these developments and under the assumption that the new North Korean leadership is attempting to make a change in its relationship between the WPK and the KPA established in the Kim Jong-il era, this essay will examine this change while reviewing a reshuffle of the party's key offices made in a plenary session of the newly formed PCC during the fourth WPK conference, focusing on senior army officers.

The North Korean power hierarchy is a combination of the ruling party, the government for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/ North Korea) and the army, and the power relationship between them serves as a determinant of the characteristics of the North Korean regime. This tripartite relationship

remained intact for a period while also changing under the leader's intent as a means to maintain the North's regime under its own style. Under the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, the WPK has guided all activities of the DPRK since 1948.¹⁾ The North has established the party's control over the government and the army until it held the fourth party congress in 1961. Under a constitutional revision in 1972, the North established the "suryong system" as a way to provide the leader with absolute control over the party, the government and the army.

The North has placed the WPK's leadership above its constitution while providing the party with an extraordinary status and role, calling it "the command tower of the revolution" furnished with the "guiding capability." The North argues, "The party is an organization in the supreme shape guiding uniformly all other organizations of the working class and the working public." It also maintains that the successful implementation of the great revolutionary task of the working class requires the existence of "the command tower of the revolution," which organizes and operates all projects aimed at realizing the suryong's ideas and plans. It added, "The party has maintained its lofty authorities and status because of its role as the command tower of the revolution."²⁾

But the North was trapped in a crisis in the 1990s following the collapse of the socialist bloc at the turn of that decade when it was faced with the worst-ever economic situation. Then North Korean leader Kim Jong-il began his attempt to overcome the crisis by depending on the might of the North Korean army. A famine during the

“painful march under trials” threatened even the survival of the socialist North Korean regime. Under these circumstances, the physical power of the army was badly needed for Kim whose mission was to maintain his political regime³⁾ and build a firm base for another hereditary power succession. For this reason, the North made a constitutional amendment while officially inaugurating the Kim Jong-il regime in 1998, in a way to reinforce the authorities of the NDC and the Cabinet, a requirement for Kim’s launch of “military-first politics,” an extraordinary political formula aimed at boosting Kim’s authority and overcoming the crisis. In a move to justify his military-first politics, Kim said, “We can safeguard the party and the socialist regime, and guarantee people’s happy life, only with a strong army. The army equals the party and the state, and the destiny of the army equals that of the party, the state and the people. If the revolutionary army is strong, so are the party, the state and the people, and if the army is weak, so are the party, the political regime and the people.”⁴⁾ He also said, “The party can carry out its leading function only when it is protected by the army. For this reason, the destiny of the party is inseparable from that of the army. The socialist regime can fully play its role only if it is safeguarded by the army.”⁵⁾

Moreover, the late North Korean leader has said that the KPA is furnished with the political capability that is most powerful in realizing the military-first politics and that its reinforcement first requires its construction as an army only for the suryong and the party. Kim’s message implies a call for fostering all servicemen of the army as

fighters immensely loyal to the party and the suryong, and their requirement for making their activities only under the sole guidance of the suryong.⁶⁾ In other words, it means that the party is superior to the army even under the military-first politics. Despite these principles clarified by Kim Jong-il, the military-first politics aimed at overcoming the crisis had to ironically bring about a contraction of the party’s activities because of the heightened status and increased influence of the army.

This relationship between the WPK and the KPA has been changing in a way to place priority on the party, rather than the army, since the inauguration of the Kim Jong-un regime as indicated by developments in recent months. A study of the relationship between the party and the army is useful for foreign governments to establish their North Korean policies because it usually helps them understand the nature of the policies pursued by the incumbent North Korean leader. For this reason, this essay will review the process of change in the army’s role and its political share in its relations with the leader and the party, and will herald political developments in the North Korean regime in years to come.

There are various ways for scholars to analyze the party-army relationship in the North. This essay will focus on key senior army officers, because Kim Jong-il employed a political formula that depended on his confidants, most of them senior army officials, namely “confidant politics,” which naturally has resulted in power concentration among his close confidants. The new young leader, Kim Jong-un, however, was awakened to the need for getting out

of this old political formula. He has reached the conclusion that it is impossible for him to reconstruct North Korea unless the army returns to its own job. Most likely for this reason, the new North Korean leadership has been attempting to restore the orthodox socialist ruling formula in which the party plays a pivotal role.

II. The Restoration of Party's Role to Grasp Political Power

1. The Realignment of Party-Army Relationship by Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un

North Korean founding leader Kim Il-sung pushed ahead with a policy to place priority on the party over the army right after the end of the Korean War in July 1953, in a move to hold in check the army whose influence increased remarkably during the war and bring it under his complete control. While visiting the Army Unit No. 324 on Feb. 8, 1958, he said, "The KPA is the revolutionary armed forces of the party because it was organized by the party," adding that the KPA is led only by the party.⁷⁾ The PCC held a plenary session on March 8 that year and decided to institutionalize a party committee in the army. Based on this decision, the WPK established the KPA Party Committee for its activities under the guidance of a standing commission in the PCC. And it also organized a party committee in each army corps, division and regiment, plus an elementary party committee in each battalion and a primary party organization in each company. In its plenary session held in

December 1962 the PCC decided to establish a military commission under its control. Sometime later, a military commission was also established at each of the party's chapters in provinces, cities and counties. They were chaired by secretaries of the party's chapters, with army officers in active service as their vice chairmen. Under the North Korean "socialist" constitution revised in 1972, the NDC was just one of the sectoral commissions in the Central People's Committee chaired by the state president.⁸⁾ But under a constitutional revision in 1992, it became "the highest leading organ of state power" in charge of all military functions and authority. And under another constitutional revision made in 1998 when the Kim Jong-il regime was officially inaugurated, it was given an additional status as "an organ for general control over national defense" with the authority to "guide the armed forces and guide the state in defense building as a whole." This implies that the NDC has authority not only in national defense affairs but also in administration. While proposing the reelection of Kim Jong-il as NDC chairman in the first session of the 10th-term SPA held on Sept. 5, 1998 to officially inaugurate the Kim Jong-il regime, Kim Yong-nam, who was elected earlier president of the SPA Presidium to carry out the ceremonial job of representing North Korea in relations with foreign countries, said, "The NDC chairmanship is the highest post of the state with which to organize and lead the work of defending the state system of the socialist country and the destinies of the people, and strengthening and increasing the defence capabilities of the country and the state power as a whole through com-

mand over all the political, military and economic forces of the country.” His remarks may imply the army will control the party in name and reality.

2. Kim Jong-un’s Reinforcement of Party’s Role through a Party Conference

Kim Jong-un’s status as successor to his father Kim Jong-il was formalized in the third conference of party representatives held on Sept. 28, 2010. Article 21 of the Party Charter revised in the sixth party congress held in October 1980 calls for the convening of the party congress once every five years by the PCC. But the North has yet to hold the seventh party congress. It only held a conference of party representatives to begin a campaign to restore the party’s role and influence as a mainstay of the North Korean socialist regime.

The third conference of the party representatives revised the party charter in a way to simply honor, and not re-elect, Kim Jong-il as general secretary of the PCC, the head of the party, who will chair the PCMC concurrently, while reshuffling the PCC and the PCMC, as well as key offices in the PCC, including the Inspection Committee, the Politburo and the Secretariat. The conference also organized the five-man Presidium of the Politburo like in the sixth party congress, just to back up young Kim’s successorship. The Politburo Presidium organized in September 2010 comprised of Kim Jong-il, the general secretary of the PCC; Kim Yong-nam, the president of the SPA Presidium; Choe Yong-rim, the premier of the Cabinet; Jo Myong-rok, the first vice chairman of the NDC; and Ri

Yong-ho, the chief of the General Staff. The conference virtually proclaimed Kim Jong-un, who was still in his 20s, as successor to his father Kim Jong-il, electing him vice chairman of the PCMC, a post created for the young Kim. On the eve of the conference, the young Kim with a poor military background was decorated with the military rank of full general, along with his aunt and mentor, Kim Kyong-hui, who is Kim Jong-il’s only younger sister. She became one of the 17 members of the Politburo while her husband Jang Song-thaek was elected one of the 15 candidate members of the Politburo.

The significance of the third conference of the party representatives is that it provided an occasion of normalizing the WPK’s functions, filling all of its vacant offices with elite officials. The party has been dysfunctional since it held a plenary PCC session in December 1993 to weigh the results of the North’s third seven-year economic development plan, which turned out to be unsuccessful. For the North, the normalization of the party’s functions was a requirement for forming a system necessary for another succession to state leadership involving Kim Jong-un.

The actual process for another hereditary state leadership succession in the North began less than two weeks after the death of Kim Jong-il and just a day after the North held a national funeral service for the late Kim. The Politburo held a meeting on Dec. 30, 2011 only to name the young Kim “supreme” commander of the army.

This development was followed by the fourth conference of party representatives held on April 11 the next year, which elected the young Kim to lead the party in his

capacity as the “first” secretary of the PCC while honoring the late Kim as the “eternal” general secretary. There Kim Kyong-hui gained another powerful office by becoming a secretary of the PCC, while her husband Jang Song-thaek was promoted to a full member of the Politburo. Both members of the couple were concurrently heads of departments under the umbrella of the PCC. Mrs. Kim ranked second on the list of party secretaries only next to Kim Jong-un as first secretary, and Jang third on the list of the Politburo, excluding the five members of the Politburo, indicating their pivotal role in the Kim Jong-un regime.

And then there was the purge of Vice Marshal Ri Yong-ho, who had served undoubtedly as young Kim’s mentor, in a Politburo meeting held on July 15, 2012, indicating the party’s complete control over the army. “Vice Marshal Ri Yong-ho, the chief of the KPA General Staff, was relieved from all his posts in the DPRK (North Korea)” during a meeting of the Politburo held on July 15 (Sunday),” the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the mouthpiece of the North Korean regime, reported the following day.

3. Measures Taken by Kim Jong-un to Reinforce Party’s Guidance of the Military Sector

Kim Jong-un’s intention to restore the party’s influence and power is most likely ascribable to his perception that the party is an organization that is most suitable for establishing a unique ideological regime in the North. The party is the highest organization among political institutions in the

North, which cannot be constrained by any elements, except the leadership of the suryong. The theory of suryong, or that of socio-political life, excessively accents the suryong’s role. Accordingly, the suryong is playing a central role in leading the public mass. Under these circumstances, the party plays just an auxiliary role for the one-man rule by the suryong although, for the people, it is a high institution for guiding them.⁹⁾

Developments in the North in recent years indicate that many of the functions and a lot of the authority of the NDC were transferred to the PCMC. On Feb. 11, 2009, North Korea appointed Kim Yong-chun and Ri Yong-ho as the minister of the people’s armed forces and chief of the General Staff of the army, respectively, under a joint order of the NDC chairman and the PCMC chairman. Earlier, Kim Jong-il named the people’s armed forces minister in his capacity as the NDC chairman. Moreover, since the third conference of WPK representatives, the North Korean media mentioned PCMC members before NDC members. And under a revision to the party charter made in the party conference, the PCMC, which had been a non-permanent council, turned into a “standing supreme military organ.” In other words, Kim Jong-un became a vice chairman of the PCMC, whose power was reinforced in a way that gave the post the responsibility for making military-related policies and guaranteeing the party’s control of the army.¹⁰⁾

Noteworthy is the rapid promotion of Choe Ryong-hae, who has maintained close ties with Jang Song-thaek. In the fourth WPK conference, Choe, who was

listed 18th in the 19-man PCMC in September 2010, became the vice chairman of the commission, along with Ri Yong-ho. Choe was given the military rank of full general on the eve of the third party conference, along with Kim Jong-un and Kim Kyong-hui. He was promoted to vice marshal on the occasion of the fourth party conference. Moreover, Choe, who was just a candidate member of the Politburo, was promoted to a member of the five-man Politburo Presidium led by Kim Jong-un. He then also assumed the office of the chief of the General Political Bureau in the army, an office under the direct control of the party, which is responsible for monitoring ideological behavior of servicemen, in particular, senior officers.

Choe's emergence on the political scene probably indicates the intention of the new North Korean leadership to single him out as a member of the Politburo Presidium and chief of the General Political Bureau of the army despite his poor military background as he serves as a link between the party and the army in the course of bringing the army under the party's complete control. Under this context, a pledge written by all army officers under the instruction of the General Political Bureau, an oath not to plunder or hamper North Korean civilians, is understandable.¹¹⁾

III. The Weakening Influence of the Army

1. Kim Jong-un Given Authority to Command the Army

In North Korea, which is a garrison state

where the suryong, the army and the people are put in the same category, it is not easy to draw the border between the party and the army. Unlike his father, Kim Jong-un is exerting his best efforts to restore the state system giving priority to the party, rather than the army, but the army is still influential in the North Korean regime. For this reason, it is also an issue of extreme importance regarding political stability for Kim Jong-un whether or not he can completely control the army.

North Korea's characteristics as a garrison state are seen in its traditional behavior of seeking the legitimacy of its system and the source of its leadership in its founding leader Kim Il-sung's guerrilla activities against Japan and in the titles used for its leaders.¹²⁾ In other words, founding leader Kim Il-sung is called the "generalissimo," his son Kim Jong-il with no military background as "general," and his grandson Kim Jong-un likely in his late 20s as "youth general," in a move to cement the tradition for the hereditary power succession.

Kim Jong-un has attempted to remove senior army officers who were influential in the Kim Jong-il era in a move to reduce the army's influence. The first of those attempts came when he took unfavorable actions against all of the four military leaders who escorted the hearse ferrying the casket carrying Kim Jong-il's dead body during the funeral service. They are Ri Yong-ho; Kim Yong-chun, the minister of the people's armed forces; Kim Jong-gak, the first deputy chief of the General Political Bureau; and U Tong-chuk, the first vice minister of state security. Ri was purged as aforementioned and others were

transferred to less influential offices. These actions against them were also aimed at replacing them with senior officers close to Kim Jong-un in order to help him get complete command of the army. In sharp contrast, the three WPK officials, who also escorted the hearse, have remained in their influential offices. They are Jang Song-thaek as well as Kim Ki-nam and Choe Tae-bok, both secretaries of the PCC.

But signals for a substantial, unfavorable change in the army's status came earlier. On the eve of the third conference of the party representatives, civilian party officials, including Kim Kyong-hui, Choe Ryong-hae and Kim Kyong-ok, were decorated with the military rank of general. And some of them even won membership in the PCMC. Civilian party officials' assumption of military jobs can be the result of the new North Korean leadership's attempt to impose restrictions on the army, which has continued to expand their influence under the military-first politics and normalize the party's functions.

The new North Korean leadership reshuffled such key offices in the army as the chief of the General Political Bureau, the minister of the people's armed forces and the chief of the Operations Section in the bureau until April 2012, followed by the purge of Ri Yong-ho, who was serving as chief of the General Staff. In October 2012, Vice Marshal Hyon Yong-chol was demoted to general after the defection of a soldier to South Korea but was appointed commander of the Fifth Corps. These developments may indicate that the process for stabilizing the Kim Jong-un regime is still under way.

2. Kim Jong-un's Unsatisfactory Feelings Toward the Top Brass of the Army

While attending the performance of the Moranbong Band held on Oct. 10, 2012 to celebrate the 67th founding anniversary of the WPK, Kim Jong-un was not accompanied by the top brass of the army, including the chief of the General Staff, the chief of the General Political Bureau and the minister of the people's armed forces, because they were urged to attend other concerts, according to the North Korean media. Some North Korea watchers in Seoul viewed that this development probably exposed Kim's unsatisfactory feelings toward the top brass of the army. On hand at the musical performance were Hyon Chol-hae, the first vice minister of the people's armed forces; Kim Won-hong, the minister of state security; and commanders of various army branches.

Kim Jong-un has experienced the most serious trouble with the army when he deprived the army of various economic privileges. For instance, he placed businesses concerned with earning foreign currency under the control of the army, plus he moved the state security ministry, people's security ministry and local governments into the Cabinet and replaced their managers. And some of those companies under the army's control were brought under the control of the 54th section of the People's Armed Forces Ministry. In appearance, this section is under the control of Kangsong Trading Co., which is in close relation with the General Staff. But it is actually controlled by the General Political Bureau, giving rise to the speculation that Choe Ryong-hae, the chief of the bureau,

deprived the army of the economic rights and that Kim Jong-un is imposing restrictions even on economic activities of the army.

3. Inducement of Army Leaders' Loyalty to the Leader through Their Demotion and Reinstatement

Kim Jong-un utilized his authority for personnel actions regarding senior officers to induce their loyalty to him, while promoting or demoting them. For instance, Hyon Yong-chol was appointed as chief of the General Staff of the army on July 17, 2012 while serving as commander of the Fifth Army Corps, replacing Ri Yong-ho, and was then promoted from general to vice marshal. But he appeared at a ceremony held on Oct. 10, 2012 to mark the 67th founding anniversary of the party, carrying the military rank of general. And it was known on June 3, 2013 that he was reassigned as commander of the Fifth Army Corps.

The situation is similar with Kim Yong-chol, the chief of the General Reconnaissance Bureau. He was promoted to full general on Feb. 15, 2012, but then demoted two ranks lower to lieutenant (two-star) general in November that year. But the North Korean media showed that he carried the military rank of full general when he attended the performance of the State Merited Chorus on Feb. 26, 2013, accompanying Kim Jong-un. Noteworthy is an Australian daily report on Kim Jong-un's instructions calling for removing all senior civilian and army officials who hamper his rule.

4. A Shift in Generation Involving Senior Army Officers

Kim Jong-un gave preferential treatment to veterans of his father's generation or older in the army for a certain period since the inauguration of his leadership. But thereafter, he has replaced them with younger generals at a rapid pace because most of them are in their 70s or 80s, and they are not in a position to best serve the young Kim, who is still in his late 20s or early 30s.

While reporting on a meeting of construction workers in the army for the formation of a grassland in an area called "Sepo Dungpan" held on June 13, 2013, the North Korean media called Ju Tong-chol as deputy chief of the General Staff. He was promoted to major (one-star) general on the eve of the third WPK conference when Kim Jong-un was decorated with the military rank of full general. He ranked 111th on the funeral committee for the late North Korean leader. His assumption of that army post indicates that a shift in generation is briskly under way in North Korea.

In another example of the generation shift, the North Korean media indicated in February 2013 that Gen. Pak Jae-gyong was replaced by 46-year-old Lt. Gen. Yom Chol-song as a deputy department chief in charge of propaganda at the General Political Bureau. The North Korean media also identified Jon Chang-bok as the first vice minister of the people's armed forces when they covered Kim Jong-un's visit to a food company on Feb. 20, 2013. He probably replaced Vice Marshal Hyon Chol-hae, in his late 70s, who had played in the Kim

Jong-il era. Among the senior army officers given a new job is Col. (three-star) Gen. Byon In-son, a former commander of the Fifth Army Corps, who became a vice minister of the people's armed forces.¹³⁾

Ri Yong-mu and O Kuk-ryol, both vice marshals in their 80s, remain as vice chairmen of the NDC. But most likely they hold their office as an honorary post. Moreover, most of the commanders of the 10 army corps were reportedly replaced with younger generals.

IV. Conclusion

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il attempted to overcome a crisis facing his country in the mid-1990s, depending on the military might in the country. The crisis caused the collapse of the socialist bloc at the turn of the 1990s, economic difficulties and social unrest. A famine, which forced North Koreans to make a "painful march under trials," even threatened the survival of the North's socialist regime. Badly needed for Kim then was to maintain his socialist regime and solidify the ground for a leadership succession by one of his sons. The achievement of his mission requires formidable physical force of the KPA. But his military-first politics to get through the crisis raised the political status of the army and increased its influence only to result in a reduction in the role and influence of the WPK in the socialist regime.

Against the backdrop of this situation and in a move to transfer his power to his third son Kim Jong-un smoothly, Kim Jong-il manipulated the power structure and the role of powerful offices in a complicated

manner, assigning elite officials to the NDC, the party, the army and the Cabinet in a way not to concentrate power in few offices and people. Jang Song-thaek was allowed to play a pivotal role in the NDC, Choe Ryong-hae in the party, Ri Yong-ho in the army and Choe Yong-rim in the Cabinet, to allow them to mutually check each other and balance power, under Kim Jong-il's leadership, with Kim Kyong-hui given the job to assist the successor-designate, Kim Jong-un. This process for another hereditary leadership succession in the North was completed in the third conference of party representatives.¹⁴⁾

Because the process for Kim Jong-un's succession to power proceeded in a short period of time, starting with the transfer of limited authority to the young Kim,¹⁵⁾ he still continues to exert his strenuous efforts to complete the succession process and cement his power. In a move to build the foundation for a system necessary for the young Kim's power succession, the third party conference reshuffled the WPK organizations, electing anew the PCC, the Inspection Committee and PCMC, plus key offices under the PCC, including the Politburo, the Secretariat and specialized departments. In the fourth conference of party representatives on April 11, 2012, the party elected Kim Jong-un "first" secretary of the PCC, the top office of the party, while honoring late leader Kim Jong-il as the "eternal" general secretary of the PCC, and provided key offices and roles to confidants of the late Kim, including Kim Kyong-hui, the late Kim's younger sister, and Jang Song-thaek, her husband, in a way to help the party restore its influence over the North Korean regime.

Developments in the North in recent years indicate that most functions and power held by the NDC, which has played a pivotal role in the Kim Jong-il regime, are being transferred to the PCMC. In other words, the North is restoring the orthodox principle that it is a state ruled by the party and not by the army, and the PCMC is making its influence and authority superior to the army.

Kim Jong-un has probably already succeeded in bringing the army under his complete control and maintaining his regime in a stable way, utilizing his authority for personnel actions regarding promotion, demotion and reinstatement. The intensive disciplinary actions taken against some senior officers are his ruling strategies aimed at tightening discipline in the army and controlling the army in a stable way. In other words, he continues to exert his best efforts to reduce the military influence under the guidance of the party.

(This is an excerpt from a Korean essay carried in Vol. 38, No. 1 (2013) of *North Korea Studies*, a biannual journal published by The Institute of North Korean Studies in Seoul, Korea.)

Notes:

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- 2) *Ibid.*
- 3) Cheong Seong-chang, "Prospects for a Change in the North Korean Power Hierarchy," *Thinking about the Korean Peninsula in a Transition Period* (a paper presented at an academic forum held on Dec. 4, 2008 under the co-sponsorship of the Korean Association of North Korea Studies, the Korean Institute for National Unification and the Institute of North Korea Studies under the umbrella of Korea University), pp. 249-250.
- 4) Ri Chol, Sim Sung-gon, *The Creative Idea on Revolutionary Leadership Based on the Military-first Politics Clarified by Great Ryongdoja (Leader) Kim Jong-il* (Pyongyang, The Publishing House of Social Sciences, 2002), p. 10.
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- 11) The Yonhap News Agency, Nov. 21, 2012.
- 12) Koh Yoo-hwan, *The Formation of the Regime for Kim Jong-un's Power Succession and a Leadership Change in North Korea: A Power Transfer from the Army to the Party* (a paper presented in a seminar held in Seoul on Oct. 5, 2011 under the sponsorship of the Korean Political Science Association).
- 13) The KCNA, June 3, 2013.
- 14) Kim Chang-hee, *op. cit.*, p. 145.
- 15) Suh Yoo-suk, "How Was The Power Succession in North Korea Made?," *The May 2013 edition of Monthly North Korea* (Seoul, The Institute of North Korean Studies, 2013), p. 100.

Obama Renews Sanctions on N. Korea for Human Trafficking

<Yonhap from WASHINGTON/ September 17, 2013>

— The Barack Obama administration announced on Sept. 17 that it is extending sanctions on North Korea and several other nations notorious for trafficking in persons.

— Obama issued a “presidential determination” to that effect in line with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

— It calls for the U.S. government “not to provide certain funding for those countries’ governments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, until such governments comply with the minimum standards or make significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance,” according to the public notice released by the White House.

— Other countries affected include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

U.N. to Give N. Korea US\$2.1 Mln in Flood Aid: Report

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ September 18, 2013>

— The United Nations has decided to provide more than US\$2 million in emergency relief to flood-stricken North Korea this year, a news report said on Sept. 18.

— According to the Voice of America (VOA), the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund allocated a total of about US\$2.1 million in “Rapid Response Grants” following reports of heavy flood damage in the socialist country.

— The U.N. had said earlier that \$5.8 million will be needed to help the flood victims in the North.

— The relief aid will be conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, it said.

N. Korean Officials Receiving Capitalism Training: Report

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ September 19, 2013>

— North Korean government officials and managers at state-run cooperations are receiving training on the latest trends in capitalism and practices, a media outlet report showed on Sept. 19.

— According to Radio Free Asia (RFA), the Singapore-based Chosun Exchange has expanded courses it offers to North Koreans to encompass corporate social responsibility and business ethics, quantitative easing and the role of women entrepreneurs in the market.

— The non-governmental organization (NGO) told the radio station that young participants at the learning sessions were quite enthusiastic about the materials being taught and interested in business practices in Western countries.

— The NGO has been set up to support long-term economic development in North Korea by offering training programs aimed at imparting economics and legal know-how to young North Korean professionals.

N. Korea Possess 6,986 Tln Won Worth of Mineral Resources

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ September 19, 2013>

— North Korea possesses roughly 6,986 trillion won (US\$6.4 trillion) worth of untapped mineral resources, a report by a ruling party lawmaker claimed on Sept. 19.

— The findings released by Rep. Kim Eul-dong's office and based on data provided by the National Assembly Research Service showed the socialist country having some 20 types of economically viable resources.

— The total is roughly 22 times greater than the estimated 319 trillion won worth of minerals buried in South Korea, the Saenuri lawmaker said.

— Of the noteworthy minerals buried in the North, Kim said the country has the second-largest reserves of magnesite in the world and the third-largest deposits of graphite.

Kerry: U.S. Not Seeking Regime Change in North Korea

<Yonhap from WASHINGTON/ October 3, 2013>

— Having shifted his focus to the Asia-Pacific region in October, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry tried to assure North Korea that his administration still hopes for dialogue.

— The secretary stressed the U.S. and its regional partners are not seeking a regime change in the socialist nation.

— "I think the six parties involved in the six-party talks have made it crystal clear we are prepared to reengage in those talks," he said at a joint press conference in Tokyo on Oct. 3 (local time), according to a transcript released by the department.

— "We are prepared to have a peaceful relationship with North Korea. We are not engaged in regime change. We are prepared to sign a non-aggression agreement – providing North Korea decides to denuclearize and to engage in legitimate negotiations to achieve that end," Kerry said.

U.N. to Send Investigators to Cuba over Seized N. Korean Ship

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ October 12, 2013>

— A U.N. Security Council sanctions committee will send a team of investigators to Cuba later October to examine the case of a North Korean ship that was caught carrying weapons from the Caribbean nation, a news report said on Oct. 12.

— The 14,000-ton Chong Chon Gang ship was intercepted by Panamanian authorities in July while trying to pass through the Panama Canal with a shipment of weapons suspected to be in violation of U.N. sanctions.

— North Korea and Cuba have both said that the ship was transporting obsolete weaponry, including missile parts, MiG-21 aircraft parts and 15 plane motors, to be repaired and returned to Cuba.

— North Korea is under a U.N. arms embargo and a wide array of other sanctions for its repeated nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

N.K.'s Luxury Goods Imports Surge under Kim Jong-un Leadership

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ October 14, 2013>

— North Korea's imports of luxury goods have surged after leader Kim Jong-un took power, despite chronic food shortages plaguing the country, a South Korean lawmaker said on Oct. 14.

— According to Rep. Yoon Sang-hyun of the ruling Saenuri Party, imports of luxury goods reached US\$645.8 million last year, up sharply from an annual import average of around \$300 million tallied under the current leader's father Kim Jong-il.

— Citing data provided by the government ahead of the parliamentary audit on the Ministry of Unification, the lawmaker said the isolationist country imported such non-essential goods as pets, feed for such animals, and various European and U.S.-made bath, sauna and maternity products.

North Korea Holding 516 S. Korean Detainees: Report

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ October 14, 2013>

— North Korea is estimated to be detaining 516 South Koreans who have been taken by the socialist country after the Armistice Agreement halting the Korean War was signed in July 1953, a government report showed on Oct. 14.

— The findings submitted by the Ministry of Unification to Rep. Choung Byoung-gug ahead of the parliamentary audit, showed Pyongyang having held a total of 3,835 people in the past six decades, with 3,319 having been returned home or escaped.

— Of the total, 457 were fishermen, making the bulk of South Korean detainees, with 11 being from the ill-fated Korean Air Lines propeller passenger plane that was hijacked in December 1969.

Digital Map Details Foreign Activities in North Korea

<Yonhap from WASHINGTON/ October 15, 2013>

— As North Korea steps up efforts to reach out to foreign donors and investors amid long-strained ties with South Korea, a Washington-based group on Oct. 15 unveiled a rare online map about foreign activities in the secretive nation over the past years.

— The map, <http://www.engagedprk.org>, offers a visual record of where and how foreign investors and organizations have been building working relationships in the North from 1995 to 2012, according to the "Engage DPRK (North Korea)" Mapping Initiative.

— "When we think of the DPRK, it's easy to only focus on reports of a closed-off country at the center of persistent political tension on security concerns," Jiehae Blackman, founder and director of the group, said in a news release. "However, building relationships takes time and commitment, and this online map illustrates how, since 1995, foreign organizations have persevered in engaging thoughtfully and creatively with the country."

— For instance, the map shows humanitarian aid gradually increased after 1995 until a significant dip in 2006, and another dip in 2009.

PEOPLE

Kim Jong-un (김정은) : Supreme Commander of the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA), First Secretary of the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), First Chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC)

- Sept. 22 inspects the construction sites of the Mirim Riding Club and the Munsu Swimming Complex in Pyongyang.
- 24 inspects the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang and orders to remodel it.
- 24 gives on-the-spot guidance to the construction site of a dental hospital in Pyongyang near completion.
- 30 sends a congratulatory message to China's President Xi Jinping on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of China.
- Oct. 4 meets with Associated Press President and CEO Gary Pruitt at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.
- 4 sends thanks to the participants in the grand gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang."
- 5 goes round the construction site of the Children's Hospital in Pyongyang near completion.
- 7 provides field guidance to the newly built Central Mushroom Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.
- 8 visits the Breeding Station No. 621 of the KPA where its first-phase construction was completed and provides field guidance to the Daily Necessities Factory.
- 10 visits the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang to pay tribute to deceased former leaders Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the WPK.
- 15 watches a performance by the visiting Orchestra of 21st Century of Russia at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater.

Kim Yong-nam (김영남) : President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA)

- Sept. 21 sends a message of greeting to Serge Sarkissian, the president of Armenia, on the occasion of its national day.
- 22 sends a condolence message to the president of Mexico on the recent hurricane that caused great casualties and property losses.
- 24 meets with the delegation of the World Council of Churches (WCC) led by General Secretary Olav Fykse Tveit at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.
- 25 meets with the Mongolian economic trade delegation headed by Khaltmaa Battulga, minister of Industry and Agriculture, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.
- 30 meets with the delegation of the China-Korea Friendship Association led by Chairman Wu Donghe at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.
- Oct. 12 sends a message to Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the president of Equatorial Guinea, on the occasion his country's 45th anniversary of independence.

Oct. 15 sends a message of greeting to Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, the president of Mongolia, on the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the DPRK (North Korea) and Mongolia.

Pak Pong-ju (박봉주) : Premier

- Sept. 20 sends a congratulatory message to Edi Rama for his appointment as prime minister of Albania.
- 26 sends a message to Hun Sen to congratulate his reappointment as prime minister of Cambodia.
- 27 sends a message of sympathy to his Pakistani counterpart Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in connection with the earthquake that hit Pakistan.

CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

(Local Events)

- Sept. 16 A national meeting of personnel in the field of posts and telecommunications is held at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang.
- 17 The 51st plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League is held in Pyongyang.
- 17 The 65th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Women's Union of (North) Korea (DWUK) takes place in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province.
- 18 The 74th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of (North) Korea takes place in Pyongyang.
- 18 A national sci-tech presentation for creating and tending lawn is held at the turf research center of the State Academy of Sciences.
- 24 The 32nd Yun I-sang concert opens at the Yun I-sang Concert Hall in Pyongyang.
- 27 The North Korean Cabinet holds a reception at Okryu Restaurant in honor of Yun Won-chol, who won the 2013 World Wrestling Championship.
- 30 The grand gymnastic and arts festival, dubbed the Arirang Mass Games, closes after drawing over 1.3 million viewers since its opening on July 22.
- 30 Pyongyang University of Architecture marks its 60th anniversary.
- Oct. 1 A meeting takes place to award commendations and gifts to players who proved successful at the 18th World Taekwondo Championships, in which North Korea placed first with 21 gold, four silver and three bronze medals.
- 1 A statue of late North Korean leader Kim Jong-il is unveiled at Kim Il-sung University on the anniversary of the educational institute.
- 2 The 14th national software exhibition in the educational field opens at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House in Pyongyang.
- 3 An event for celebrating the Foundation Day of Korea takes place in front of the Mausoleum of King Tangun in Pyongyang.

- Oct. 5 The Agro-technological Inventions Exhibition opens in Pyongyang as one of the nation's projects to put the agricultural production on a new scientific basis.
- 6 North Korean papers dedicate articles to the 64th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and China.
- 7 A national meeting is held at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang in commemoration of the 16th anniversary of former leader Kim Jong-il's election as general secretary of the WPK.
- 10 The Mansudae Art Troupe performs "Mother," a music and dance performance, at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater to mark the 16th anniversary of the late former leader Kim Jong-il's election as general secretary of the WPK and the party's 68th anniversary.
- 10 North Korean senior party and state officials visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay tribute to Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the WPK.
- 15 The Munsu Water Park, the largest of its kind in Pyongyang, is completed in an inaugural ceremony attended by Premier Pak Pong-ju and other senior party, state and military officials.

(Foreign Events)

- Sept. 16 A delegation of the Red Cross Society of China headed by its Executive Vice President Zhao Baige arrives in Pyongyang.
- 17 Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun meets with the delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Thailand, led by Damrong Kraikruan, director general of the Department of East Asian Affairs.
- 17 Edward Pietrzyk, Polish ambassador to the DPRK (North Korea), hosts a reception at his embassy on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the DPRK and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Poland.
- 21 North Korea abruptly postpones the planned reunions of families separated across the border since the 1950-53 Korean War.
- 21 Yun Won-chol bags a gold medal in the men's 55kg Greco-Roman category of the 2013 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest.
- 22 A railway section between North Korea's Rajin and Russia's Khasan opens for service.
- 23 The 2013 Nordic Ways Vasa China-DPRK international cycling tourists festival takes place in Rason, North Korea.
- 23 The 9th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair opens at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House.
- 23 The 27th Pyongyang International Invitational Table Tennis Tournament opens at the Taekwondo Hall.
- 25 The KCNA says Hong Son-phyo was appointed as DPRK ambassador to Senegal and Kim Thae-jong was appointed as ambassador to Brazil.
- 27 A Chinese fine art exhibition opens at the Pyongyang Center for Cultural Exchange with Foreign Countries on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the friendship asso-

- ciations in North Korea and China.
- Sept. 27 Chinese Ambassador to North Korea Liu Hongcai hosts a reception at Yanggakdo International Hotel in Pyongyang on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.
- 28 A delegation of Kim Chaek University of Technology led by President Hong So-hon leaves Pyongyang to take part in the forum of presidents and rectors of world universities to be held in Qingdao, China.
- 28 A spokesman for the DPRK Red Cross Society condemns South Korea for fatally shooting a defection-seeker early September when he tried to cross the Imjin River into North Korea.
- 29 The KCNA says the head of the DPRK delegation to the 68th U.N. General Assembly said it is the invariable stance of the DPRK to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.
- 29 The KCNA reports the DPRK delegate to the meeting of foreign ministers from Group of 77 states said on Sept. 26 his country will actively join the G-77 in collective efforts to establish new international economic relations on the basis of justice, equality and impartiality in the future.
- Oct. 1 Nigerian Ambassador to the DPRK Nwofe Alexander gives a reception on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the country's independence.
- 1 Vice Foreign Minister Pak Kil-yon tells a U.N. General Assembly plenary session that the DPRK will as ever steadily boost the friendly and cooperative relations with all member states of the U.N. and fulfill its responsibility and role to ensure stable situation on the Korean Peninsula and achieve world peace and prosperity of humankind as a member of the international community.
- 2 Yang Hyong-sop, vice president of the SPA Presidium, meets and with Tammam Sulaiman, the head of mission at the Syrian Embassy in Pyongyang, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.
- 2 Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun meets with members of the delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Switzerland headed by Deputy Secretary of State Beat Nobs and Garcia Bires, new Angolan ambassador to the DPRK, who paid courtesy calls on him.
- 2 *Rodong Sinmun* claims that the South Korea-U.S. mutual defense treaty is a treaty for aggression and war and an "aggressive, shackling and unequal one as it has disturbed inter-Korean reconciliation, unity and reunification."
- 3 The KCNA denounces South Korea's celebration of the Armed Forces Day on Oct. 1 as "a farce that fully revealed the ulterior motive of the South Korean puppet group to escalate confrontation with the DPRK."
- 4 A delegation of the DPRK Olympic Committee headed by Chairman Ri Jong-mu, minister of Physical Culture and Sports, leaves Pyongyang to attend the sixth East Asian Games to be held in Tianjin, China.
- 4 The spokesman for the Policy Department of the NDC denounces South Korean President Park Geun-hye's remarks at the Armed Forces Day ceremony as coarse invectives against DPRK.
- 5 *Rodong Sinmun* claims the U.N. Command should be immediately dismantled "as it is

- a war mechanism cooked up by the U.S. in the past Korean war to introduce armed forces of its allies and establish a command over them.”
- Oct. 7 A spokesman for the General Staff of the KPA denounces the planned naval drill involving South Korea, the United States and Japan in waters off the Korean Peninsula's southern coast and warns that the U.S. forces' actions will cause unpredictable disasters.
- 7 Jong Chun-mi wins gold medal in the 63kg category of women's weightlifting at the 6th East Asian Games in Tianjin, China.
- 10 The 2nd DPRK-China Economic, Trade, Cultural and Tourism EXPO opens in Dandong, China.
- 12 Kim Yong-il, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, meets with the French senators delegation group for the study of the DPRK led by Chairman Jean-Claude Frecon, the senate member from the French Socialist Party.
- 12 The North-South joint Buddhists mass prayer for the country's reunification takes place at Singye Temple on Mt. Kungang on the 6th anniversary of the temple's restoration.
- 14 *Rodong Sinmun* claims the situation on the Korean Peninsula is now inching closer to an unpredictable phase due to war moves by the U.S., referring to the South Korea-U.S. joint naval drills that started on Oct. 10.
- 15 The Foreign Ministry hosts a reception on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the DPRK and Mongolia.

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