



Situation in Korean Peninsula: Responses of Six Party Members (North Korea, United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Japan) - Who Said What

September 26-October 11, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comment
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">Ri Yong- ho- Foreign Minister</p> <p>October 11, 2017¹</p> <p>My country today is attaining a victory and acting as a worthy counterbalance to the United States, which refers to itself as the “only superpower.” I believe that having such a strong neighbor by its side quite agrees with Russia’s interests.</p> <p>“The United States these days is conducting a policy of sanctions against both countries – the DPRK and Russia, trying at the same time to make Russia join the campaign of sanctions against the DPRK with the aim of breeding discord between our countries.”</p> <p>“By his belligerent and insane statement at the United Nations Trump, so to say, lighted the fuse of war against us.”</p>

¹ "DPRK people demand US be punished by 'hail of fire' for aggressive policy — top diplomat", TASS, October 11, 2017, <http://tass.com/world/970085>,

We have nearly achieved the final point on the way to our ultimate goal, to achieving a real balance of force with the United States. Our nuclear weapons will never be a subject matter of negotiations as long as the United States' policy of pressure on the DPRK has not been uprooted once and for all."

"Our principled position is that we will never agree to any negotiations, at which our nuclear weapons will become the subject of talks."

Commentary- KCNA

October 10, 2017²

"The final goal of their anti-DPRK "human rights" racket is to "bring down the system in the north" and "achieve unification under liberal democracy". The "master plan for promoting human rights in the north" is another "human rights"-veiled plan for confrontation of social systems."

"The behaviors of the present south Korean authorities and those of the puppet Ministry of Unification are little short of the traitorous crimes of Lee Myung Bak and Park Geun Hye groups which ran amuck with confrontation with the compatriots."

"They would be well advised to mind their own business before faulting the compatriots in the north."

"Although the puppet regime changed in south Korea, its ill fame as the tundra of human rights remains."

Spokesman - Pan-Korean Emergency Measure Committee for Opposing Nuclear War Drills against the DPRK

October 9, 2017³

"The U.S. and the puppet forces seek to deploy more nuclear strategic assets in south Korea, not content with turning it into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East and the most dangerous nuclear advanced base. Their reckless acts clearly prove who is a chieftain bringing the nuclear crisis to this land and who is to blame for harassing peace on the peninsula."

² "KCNA Commentary Denounces S. Korean Authorities' Confrontation Racket", KCNA, October 10, 2017, <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1507629697-200250546/kcna-commentary-denounces-s-korean-authorities-confrontation-racket/>

³ "U.S., S. Korea Will Face Total Destruction", The Rodong Sinmun, October 9, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-10-09-0002

“It is ridiculous for the U.S. and the puppet forces to try to threaten others with such things as nuclear strategic assets.”

“The U.S. strategic assets that were deployed on the Korean peninsula will be the first target of destruction by the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK which has the U.S. mainland across the Pacific within their striking range and the puppet forces will face total destruction even by by-blow.”

Kim Jong-un

October 7, 2017⁴

“Clarifying the Party's principled stand and revolutionary strategy to put an end to the U.S. imperialists' nuclear blackmail and threat and pave a broad avenue to the building of a socialist economic power by further enhancing the might of the self-supporting national economy, he stressed the need to further strengthen the power of the country under the unfurled banner of independence and self-reliance and thus decisively frustrate the reckless nuclear war provocation and sinister sanctions and pressure of the enemies.”

Spokesman - National Peace Committee of Korea

October 6, 2017⁵

“The south Korea-U.S. "mutual defense treaty" is an aggressive and traitorous war document the kernel of which is to keep the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in south Korea and its vicinity for an indefinite period, put the south Korean puppet army under their tight control and cope with the contingency on the Korean peninsula by joint military operation. It is the symbol of the U.S. military occupation of south Korea and the yoke for colonial domination.”

Ja Song-nam- Permanent Representative to UN

October 6, 2017⁶

“The DPRK will neither put the nukes and ballistic rockets on negotiating table in any case nor flinch even an inch from the road to

⁴ "Second Plenum of Seventh WPK Central Committee", Rodong Sinmun, October 9, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-10-09-0021

⁵ "NPCK Spokesman Calls for Nationwide Struggle against Aggressors and Traitors", Rodong Sinmun, October 9, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-10-09-0014

⁶ "DPRK Will Not Flinch from Bolstering Nuclear Force: DPRK Representative to UN", KCNA, October 7, 2017, <http://www.kcna.kp/>

bolstering up the nuclear forces chosen by itself, unless the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat to the DPRK are fundamentally eliminated.”

KCNA

October 1, 2017⁷

"All the DPRK women are full of determination to turn out as one in safeguarding the country.”

"Over 1.22 million women petitioned to be allowed to join or rejoin the Korean People's Army with a will to wipe out on the earth the U.S. imperialists keen on 'totally destroying' the DPRK, and the number of volunteers is on the daily increase.”

Spokesman- Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee

September 30, 2017⁸

"The more reckless behavior of Trump ignorant of himself and the rival will only harden the retaliatory will of the army and people of the DPRK against the U.S. It will precipitate the doomsday of the U.S. Trump should bear this in mind.”

"We once again warn the old psychopath of America against his hysteria. His brandishing of 'sanctions' club and muscle-flexing with tiger moth-like bombers before the fire-ready revolutionary forces of the DPRK is just a suicidal act of inviting a nuclear disaster that will reduce America into a sea of flames.”

White Paper- National Peace Committee of Korea

September 29, 2017⁹

“Trump, who dared challenge the DPRK, letting out rhetoric little short of a declaration of war against the DPRK and its people, and the empire of evil U.S. will be made to pay a dear price for the crime that shocked the world.”

⁷ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/01/0401000000AEN20171001004000315.html>

⁸ “Trump Will Face Bitterer Disgrace and Destruction for His Stupidity: KAPPC Spokesman”, Rodong Sinmun, October 3, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-10-03-0015

⁹ “NPCK White Paper on Worldwide Censure of Trump”, Rodong Sinmun, October 2, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-10-02-0005

KCNA

September 29, 2017¹⁰

“More than 4.7 million youths and students and working citizens across the country volunteered to join or rejoin in the Korean People's Army in a matter of six days after the announcement of the statement of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission.

Uriminzokkiri

September 29, 2017¹¹

“The independent sortie of a U.S. B-1B Lancer strategic bomber squadron over international waters in the East Sea is an extremely dangerous act, designed to drive the situation of the Korean Peninsula to extremes and an anti-Pyongyang provocation that cannot be overlooked in the least.”

Statement- Foreign Ministry

September 28, 2017¹²

“Trump has let out a stream of invective that Warmbier "suffered unbelievable torture" and that "north Korea abducted and tortured him and intentionally caused his death", while the U.S. State Department announced that they were ready to re-list the DPRK as a "state sponsor of terrorism" over the issue of Warmbier.”

"The fact that the U.S. is employing even a dead person for the conspiracy campaign to fuel the international atmosphere of putting pressure on the DPRK shows how vile and inveterate the hostility of the U.S. policymakers towards the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is.”

"Trump should ponder over the devastating consequences to be entailed by the anti-DPRK conspiracy and be fully aware that he and his clique shall be held totally responsible for all the undesirable turn of events to be caused by the careless and imprudent remarks that he

¹⁰ "Many People of DPRK Volunteer to Join in Army", Rodong Sinmun, September 29, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-09-29-0003

¹¹ "N. Korea blasts U.S. bombers' flight near its coast", The Yonhap News, September 29, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/29/15/0401000000AEN20170929005500315F.html>

¹² "DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Case of Otto Warmbier", KCNA, September 28, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternate Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506601910-642021127/dprk-foreign-ministry-spokesman-on-case-of-otto-warmbier/>

	<p>gabbles on wagging his tongue in and out of his big mouth.”</p> <p>Spokesman- Institute for American Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>September 28, 2017¹³</p> <p>“The primary mission of our invincible self-defensive military power with the nuclear force that we have developed at a huge cost at its core is to frustrate the military invasion and sanctions and pressure of the U.S. and protect the sovereignty and rights to existence and development of the country.”</p> <p>“We will continue to march forward along the road we have chosen without the slightest deviation and we will respond to anyone who tries to stop us with tougher counteractions.”</p>
<p>USA</p>	<p>Donald Trump- President</p> <p>October 11, 2017¹⁴</p> <p>“I think I have a little bit different attitude on North Korea than other people might have.”</p> <p>“And I listen to everybody, but ultimately my attitude is the one that matters, isn't it? That's the way it works. That's the way the system is.”</p> <p>“But I think I might have a somewhat different attitude and a different way than other people. I think perhaps I feel stronger and tougher on that subject than other people, but I listen to everybody. And ultimately, I will do what's right for the United States and, really, what's right for the world. Because that's really a world problem; that's beyond just the United States. That's a world problem, and it's a problem that has to be solved.”</p>

¹³ "Spokesman of DPRK FM Institute for American Studies on Anti-DPRK Sanctions and Pressure", KCNA, September 28, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternate Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506621782-770335565/spokesman-of-dprk-fm-institute-for-american-studies-on-anti-dprk-sanctions-and-pressure/>

¹⁴ "Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada Before Bilateral Meeting", The White House, October 11, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/11/remarks-president-trump-and-prime-minister-trudeau-canada-bilateral>

October 9, 2017¹⁵

“Our country has been unsuccessfully dealing with North Korea for 25 years, giving billions of dollars & getting nothing. Policy didn't work!”

October 7, 2017

“Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid.....”¹⁶

“..hasn't worked, agreements violated before the ink was dry, makings fools of U.S. negotiators. Sorry, but only one thing will work!”¹⁷

October 6, 2017¹⁸

“In North Korea, our goal is denuclearization. We cannot allow this dictatorship to threaten our nation or our allies with unimaginable loss of life. We will do what we must do to prevent that from happening. And it will be done, if necessary -- believe me.”

October 1, 2017

Being nice to Rocket Man hasn't worked in 25 years, why would it work now? Clinton failed, Bush failed, and Obama failed. I won't fail.¹⁹

“I told Rex Tillerson, our wonderful Secretary of State, that he is wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man...”²⁰

“...Save your energy Rex, we'll do what has to be done!”²¹

¹⁵ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 9, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/917341511754436609>

¹⁶ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 7, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/916750042014404608>

¹⁷ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 7, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/916751271960436737>

¹⁸ "Remarks by President Trump Before Meeting with Senior Military Leaders", The White House, October 6, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/06/remarks-president-trump-meeting-senior-military-leaders>

¹⁹ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 1, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/914565910798782465>

²⁰ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 1, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/914497877543735296>

²¹ Donald Trump, Twitter, October 1, 2017,
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/914497947517227008>

Jim Mattis- Secretary of Defense

October 9, 2017²²

“It is right now a diplomatically-led, economically sanction-butressed effort to try to turn North Korea off this path.”

“Now, what does the future hold? Neither you nor I can say. So there's one thing the U.S. Army can do, and that is, you have got to be ready to ensure that we have military options that our president can employ, if needed.”

“We currently -- we currently are in a diplomatically-led effort, and how many times did you see in the U.N. Security Council vote unanimously, now twice in a row, to impose stronger sanctions on North Korea? And remember, the Security Council has countries like France and Russia, China, the United States -- you know who's on there -- and all voted unanimously on this.”

October 3, 2017²³

“The Defense Department supports fully Secretary Tillerson's efforts to find a diplomatic solution, but remains focused on defense of the United States and our allies.”

He added that Trump's guidance to both Tillerson and himself has been “very clearly” to pursue the diplomatic effort. He added “I do not see the divergence as strongly as some have interpreted it.”

Sarah Sanders- Press Secretary, The White House

October 6, 2017²⁴

“We're continuing to put maximum economic and diplomatic pressure on countries like North Korea. We're going to continue to do that. But at the same time, the President is going to keep all of his

²² “Remarks by Secretary Mattis at the Association of the U.S. Army Exposition on Building Readiness in Washington, D.C.”, The US Department of Defense, October 9, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1337675/remarks-by-secretary-mattis-at-the-association-of-the-us-army-exposition-on-bui/>

²³ “Mattis: Pentagon 'supports fully' diplomatic solution to N. Korea”, The Yonhap News, October 4, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/03/0401000000AEN20171003004953315.html>

²⁴ “Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders”, The White House, October 6, 2017,

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/06/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders>

options on the table. Our position has not changed. It's been very consistent.”

October 2, 2017²⁵

“We've been clear that now is not the time to talk. The only conversations that have taken place, or that would, would be on bringing back Americans who have been detained. Like with Otto, those were the type of conversations that this administration was willing to have. Beyond that, there will be no conversations with North Korea at this time.”

“ There's a difference between talking and putting diplomatic pressure. We still strongly support putting diplomatic pressure on North Korea, which we're continuing to do. But now is not the time simply to have conversations with North Korea.”

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

October 4, 2017²⁶

“We've created international unity around our peaceful pressure campaign against North Korea, including influencing China to exert unprecedented economic influence on North Korea.’

September 30, 2017²⁷

“The peaceful pressure campaign is going to cause the leadership in North Korea to want to engage, and engage in the right conversation. And we've made it clear that we hope to resolve this through talks as well. That's our principal objective, is a peaceful resolution.”

“I think the most immediate action that we need is to calm things down. They're a little overheated right now, and I think we need to calm them down first. And then first conversation is around: What are we going to talk about? Because we've not even had that conversation. And so the first time I would have the opportunity to sit with the North Koreans, it would be to say: What do you want to talk about? We haven't even gotten that far yet.”

²⁵ “Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders”, The White House, October 2, 2017

²⁶ “Remarks at a Press Availability”, The US Department of State, October 4, 2017,

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/10/274620.htm>

²⁷ “Remarks at a Press Roundtable”, The US Department of State, September 30, 2017,

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274563.htm>

"We're gaining the support of the Chinese. They are actively engaged in putting pressure on the regime in Pyongyang."

September 30, 2017²⁸

"We are probing. We have lines of communication with Pyongyang."

"We are not in a dark situation, a blackout. We have a couple, three channels open to Pyongyang."

Heather Nauert- Spokeswoman, State Department

September 30, 2017²⁹

"U.S. diplomats have several open channels in which we can communicate with officials within the North Korean regime."

"Despite assurances that the United States is not interested in promoting the collapse of the current regime, pursuing regime change, accelerating reunification of the peninsula or mobilizing forces north of the DMZ, North Korean officials have shown no indication that they are interested in or are ready for talks regarding denuclearization."

Jack Reed – Senator

September 30, 2017³⁰

"Unfortunately, the diplomatic effort is being hollowed because of a lack of capacity," Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) said during a talk at the Council on Foreign Relations. "We do not have an ambassador in South Korea and we do not have a confirmed assistant secretary for the region."

"We have seen that from the beginning, when the president tweeted about South Korea paying for the THAAD system when in fact they did a lot of political effort to get it into the country. We have seen it in terms of the free trade agreement. All of that has presented incoherent

²⁸ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/30/0401000000AEN20170930004552315.html>

²⁹ "US has 'direct channels' to Pyongyang, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says", CNN, October 1, 2017, <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/30/politics/tillerson-channels-to-pyongyang/index.html>

³⁰ "U.S. diplomacy on N. Korea 'hollowed' by lack of capacity: senator", The Yonhap News, September 29, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/30/0401000000AEN20170930000400315.html>

messages in many respects.”

"I think the diplomatic effort is vitally important, because even though military is a must, they are preparing for some kind of operation, but this would be a much preferable way to proceed," Reed said. "And also, if it does not succeed, there is much more legitimacy for the use of force."

Statement- White House

September 28, 2017³¹

“They (President Donald J. Trump and Chancellor Angela Merkel) also affirmed the importance of achieving the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, Department of State

September 28, 2017³²

Regarding the upcoming meeting between Oleg Burmistrov, Russia’s ambassador-at-large, and Choe Son-hui, director-general of the North American department of North Korea’s foreign ministry, the spokesperson said’

“Diplomacy is our preferred approach. If Russia can be successful in getting North Korea to move in a better direction, we would certainly welcome that.”

Susan Thornton- Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Asian and Pacific Affairs

September 28, 2017³³

"We recognize that the success of this pressure strategy will depend on heavy cooperation from our international partners, especially Beijing."

³¹ "Readout of President Donald J. Trump’s Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany", The White House, September 28, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/28/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-call-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

³² "Department Press Briefing", The US Department of State, September 28, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/09/274493.htm>

³³ "U.S. notes China’s growing cooperation over N. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 28, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/29/0401000000AEN20170929000251315.html>

"We are working closely with China to execute this strategy and are clear-eyed in viewing the progress growing, if uneven, that China has made on this front."

"Our task now is to hold China and others to these internationally binding obligations and to convince China's leaders to more fully exert their decisive leverage over North Korea," Thornton said, emphasizing that sanctions implementation will be the key to "really upping the pressure on the Kim regime."

"We're trying to turn China's position from looking at North Korea as some kind of asset, to looking at them as a liability."

"I think that Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson has made a lot of progress on that front."

Rand Paul- US Senator

September 27, 2017³⁴

"Have them (China) be part of a peacekeeping force in exchange for North Korea giving up their weapons."

"But I'm not talking about initially doing this. I'm talking about doing this in exchange for North Korea dismantling their program. They would be simultaneous sort of things."

"It's a way to go to China with respect and ask them for their help as opposed to telling to China, 'If you don't do what we say, we're going to put more sanctions on you and your banks.'"

"It will be China's part of an international force. But I think the North Koreans might be reassured that we're not going to invade North Korea if there's Chinese forces there."

"We have to overcome North Korea's distrust of our motives."

Donald Trump- President

September 26, 2017³⁵

"I applaud China for breaking off all banking relationships with North

³⁴ "U.S. senator suggests having China as part of peacekeeping force in Korea", The Yonhap News, September 28, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/28/0401000000AEN20170928000200315.html>

³⁵ "Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of the Government of Spain in Joint Press Conference", The White House, September 26, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/26/remarks-president-trump-and-president-rajoy-government-spain-joint-press>

Korea -- something that people would have thought unthinkable even two months ago. I want to thank President Xi.”

“We’re totally prepared for the second option (military); not a preferred option. But if we take that option, it will be devastating --I can tell you that -- devastating for North Korea. That's called the military option. If we have to take it, we will.”

“He's (Kim Jong-un) acting very badly. He's saying things that should never, ever be said. And we're replying to those things, but it's a reply. It's not an original statement; it's a reply. But the things that he said over the last year -- and if you look back, the things that he said to past administrations -- North Korea is a situation that should have been handled 25 years ago, 20 years ago, 15 years ago, 10 years ago, and five years ago, and it could have been handled much more easily.”

“You had various administrations -- many administrations which left me a mess. But I'll fix the mess. So we'll see what happens with North Korea.”

Jim Mattis – Secretary of Defense

September 26, 2017³⁶

“The effort to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is one that has been diplomatically led and with an increased emphasis here as the DPRK -- as North Korea's provocations have become more pronounced.

We continue to maintain the diplomatically led effort in the United Nations. You have seen unanimous United Nations Security Council resolutions passed that have increased the pressure -- economic pressure and diplomatic pressure on the North.

At the same time we maintain the capability to deter North Korea's most dangerous threats, but also to back up our diplomats in a manner that keeps this as long as possible in the diplomatic realm -- this effort in the diplomatic realm. And that is our goal, to solve this diplomatically. And I believe that President Trump has been very clear on this issue.”.

³⁶ "Secretary Mattis Joint Press Conference with Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman", The US Department of Defense, September 26, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1325283/secretary-mattis-joint-press-conference-with-minister-of-defence-nirmala-sithar/>

Steven Mnuchin- Treasury Secretary

September 26, 2017³⁷

"We are targeting North Korean banks and financial facilitators acting as representatives for North Korean banks across the globe."

"This action is also consistent with U.N. Security Council Resolutions."

Gen. Joe Dunford – Chairman, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

September 26, 2017³⁸

"We should assume today that North Korea has that capability and has the will to use that capability."

"I view those as engineering solutions that will be developed over time."

"Whether it's three months or six months or 18 months, it is soon, and we ought to conduct ourselves as though it is just a matter of time, and a matter of very short time, before North Korea has that capability."

"While the political space is clearly very charged right now, we haven't seen a change in the posture of North Korean forces. We watch that very carefully."

³⁷ "U.S. imposes sanctions on 8 N.K. banks, 26 individuals", The Yonhap News, September 27, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/27/52/0401000000AEN20170927000453315F.html>

³⁸ "Dunford says 'matter of time' before N. Korea can deliver nuclear weapon to U.S.", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/27/26/0401000000AEN20170927000252315F.html>

South Korea

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

October 12, 2017³⁹

"We will beef up our leading role to generate an environment in which denuclearization talks can resume."

"In this process, we will actively push to induce the influence that China and Russia have over the North."

Noh Kyu-duk- Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

October 10, 2017

"At a time when the North is publicly threatening additional provocations, our government is paying close attention to the possibility ... and remains fully ready for them."

"It is our government's consistent stance that a war should not break out again on the Korean Peninsula."

Statement- Office of the President

October 7, 2017⁴⁰

"The government is closely monitoring the situation, given the possibility of North Korea's provocations around the party anniversary."

"But there has been no specific sign of provocative acts. If the North makes another provocation, Seoul will sternly respond to it under close coordination with the U.S. and the international community."

Cho Myoung-gyon - Unification Minister

October 4, 2017⁴¹

³⁹ "S. Korea to create environment for denuclearization talks", The Yonhap News, October 12, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/12/0401000000AEN20171012005800315.html>

⁴⁰ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/07/0401000000AEN20171007000451315.html>

"Two years has passed since the reunions of separated families were suspended."

"Since proposing family reunions on July 6, the government has used every opportunity to call for the North to respond," he said. "I once again urge North Korea to come forward to a path toward peace and reconciliation by resolving the issue of separated families."

Statement- Ministry of Unification

October 4, 2017⁴²

"North Korea should respect all existing agreements between the South and the North, and come forward to a path advancing peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Cho Myoung-gyon - Unification Minister

October 2, 2017⁴³

"I once again urge North Korea not to disregard the pain of separated families and join the path to solve the issue."

"The current inter-Korean relations are in a grave and difficult situation, but the government will maintain its stance that the separate family issue should be pursued apart from the political and military conditions."

It "will pour all the efforts into solving the separated family issue."

"Letting families know of the fate and well-being of their relatives and keep in contact with them is a basic human need and the duty of the top priority for a government."

"For the government, it is also a natural duty to remember and commemorate the pain and hope of separated families who were most affected by the (Korean) war and the following national division."

⁴¹ "Unification minister urges N. Korea to allow family reunions", The Yonhap News, October 4, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/04/0401000000AEN20171004001300315.html>

⁴² "S. Korea urges N.K. to take steps toward peace on anniversary of summit agreement", The Yonhap News, October 4, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/04/0401000000AEN20171004001200315.html>

⁴³ "Unification minister urges N. Korea to allow reunion of separated families", The Yonhap News, October 2, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/10/02/0401000000AEN20171002004400315.html>

Park Soo-hyun- Spokesman, Office of the President

October 1, 2017⁴⁴

"Our government has stated that dialogue can be pursued in multiple formats, including North Korea-U.S. and South Korea-North Korea bilateral talks and multilateral ones."

Woo Yoon-keun – Ambassador Designated to Russia

September 29, 2017⁴⁵

"Russia is the most important country in resolving emergency situations such as the North's nuclear problem that are in the way to the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and mediating between the interests of the U.S. and China," he said.

"Russia's role was also decisive in the reunification of West and East Germany,"

Moon Jae-in – President

September 28, 2017⁴⁶

"We are pursuing the early takeover of OPCON."

"The handover on the basis of our independent defense capabilities will ultimately lead to a remarkable advancement in the fundamental capabilities of our military."

"When the South has OPCON, the North will fear us more, and our armed forces will be trusted more. With elevated self-esteem, our military will become stronger, and the Republic of Korea will emerge as a security hub in Northeast Asia."

⁴⁴ "S. Korea, U.S. in close consultations on N. Korea contact: Cheong Wa Dae", The Yonhap News, October 1, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2017/10/01/0301000000AEN20171001003200315.html>

⁴⁵ Seoul's next envoy stresses Russia's role in resolving N. Korea problem", The Yonhap News, September 29, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/29/41/0401000000AEN20170929005700315F.html>

⁴⁶ "Moon reaffirms early OPCON transfer", The Korea Times, September 28, 2017, http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2017/09/205_237136.html

Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister

September 28, 2017⁴⁷

"The possibility of North Korea's additional provocations is very high. For that reason, South Korea and the U.S. are bracing for various types of possible provocations through close collaboration."

"The countries are currently cooperating to have full preparedness and strong deterrence against whatever types of provocations".

"The basic purpose of strengthened pressure and sanctions is to change North Korea's attitude and make it come out for talks. It does not mean we are not going to talk (with North Korea)."

Moon Jae-in -President

September 27, 2017⁴⁸

"Over the past 10 years, there have been many difficulties for the activities of the National Unification Advisory Council, as South-North Korea relations have come to a halt. But the new government will not hesitate in supporting various unification projects by the advisory council no matter how bad the North-South relationship is."

"Though the conditions are currently not so easy, peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula will come for certain. I ask you to be our pioneers,"

"We must firmly deal with the North Korean nuclear issue through our strong Korea-U.S. alliance and close international cooperation, but we must also continue our efforts and preparations for a peaceful unification at the same time. The advisory council must play that role."

"Peace is not given but is made."

"Unification will come as early as we are prepared for it."

⁴⁷ "N. Korea 'highly likely' to launch further provocations: top diplomat", The Yonhap News, September 28, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/28/0401000000AEN20170928012300315.html>

⁴⁸ "President Moon vows assistance for N. Koreans despite nuclear tension", The Yonhap News, September 27, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/27/0401000000AEN20170927008700315.html>

Moon Chung-in - Special Adviser to the President

September 27, 2017⁴⁹

"It is considerably worrisome if U.S. strategic bombers cross the Northern Limit Line (NLL) and return without plenty of consultation with our government."

"It is not realistic to say we will not have dialogue with North Korea until it denuclearizes when it already possesses a great amount of nuclear capability."

Joongang daily quoted Moon saying, A war against North Korea "cannot happen" even if "the Korea-U.S. alliance breaks down."

Moon Jae-in- President

September 26, 2017⁵⁰

"As I have stressed numerous times, the door to dialogue and negotiations is always open if North Korea stops making reckless choices."

"The security conditions currently surrounding the Korean Peninsula are more serious than ever. But the international community is expressing unprecedentedly united anger and dealing with one voice with North Korea's repeated nuclear and ballistic missile provocations."

"We will never allow North Korean nukes. We will make North Korea realize that it has no future should it try to face the rest of the world with nukes."

"Had the Oct. 4 Summit Declaration been implemented, the landscape of peace on the Korean Peninsula today would have been quite different."

"I urge Chairman Kim Jong-un and the North Korean government: I hope you will halt your nuclear and missile provocations and return to the spirit of the Oct. 4 Summit Declaration. I hope the South and the

⁴⁹ "Even if Korea-U.S. ties break, war cannot happen: adviser", The Joongang Daily, September 29, 2017, <http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3039037&cloc=etc%7Cjad%7Cgooglenews>

⁵⁰ "S. Korean leader says N. Korea still has chance for peaceful resolution", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926012100315.html>

North can together declare the Oct. 4 Summit Declaration still valid.”

"Many of the agreements under the Oct. 4 declaration are ones that can still be implemented. The resumption of military dialogue, especially, must quickly be realized to ease tension between the South and the North."

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

September 26, 2017⁵¹

"The NSC officials I met said South Korea-U.S. coordination is only becoming stronger with the escalating threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons program."

"I was able to clearly identify the common goal between South Korea and the U.S. of peacefully achieving denuclearization."

"I was able to see that (the U.S. believes) it is essential to secure a strong deterrence posture against North Korea, but that most agree a military solution is a completely different issue."

Cho Hyun - Vice Foreign Minister

September 26, 2017⁵²

"South Korea and China have beefed up cooperation in resolving the North's nuclear problem."

"At a time when security situations remain grave on the Korean Peninsula and in the region caused by the North's nuclear and missile provocations, I hope that the two continue their close communication and cooperation to peacefully and fundamentally resolve the North's nuclear and missile issues and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula."

"What is important is that the two countries work together to resolve

⁵¹ "S. Korea, U.S. share goal of N. Korea's peaceful denuclearization: minister", The Yonhap News, September 27, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/27/38/0401000000AEN20170927002600315F.html>

⁵² "Senior FM official hopes for close communication with China to resolve N.K. issue", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926012900315.html>

this through close communication.”

Statement- Foreign Ministry

September 26, 2017⁵³

"The government thinks it is very regretful in that a responsible government official of Japan recently made such a prejudiced remark with regard to North Korean refugees in a hypothetical situation that is based on a nationalistic perspective and it also runs counter to international norms related to refugee protection.”

Noh Kyu-duk - Foreign Ministry Spokesman

September 26, 2017⁵⁴

"The North should realize that it is no other than its nuclear and missile provocations and threatening words that cause tensions to rise on the Korean Peninsula.”

"It should come out for denuclearization talks as soon as possible.”

"South Korea and the U.S. clearly stick to their joint objective of a complete nuclear dismantlement of the North in a peaceful manner and the U.S. has affirmed several times that diplomacy should be the No. 1 approach to resolving the nuclear issue.”

Press Statement- Unification Ministry

September 26, 2017⁵⁵

"(We) have information that oil prices (there) are on the rise," the Unification Ministry official told reporters. "Gasoline prices have trebled compared with those early this year.”

⁵³ "S. Korea voices regret over senior Japanese official's controversial remarks on N.K. refugees", The Yonhap News, September 27, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926012800315.html>

⁵⁴ "S. Korea urges N.K. to stop provocations, threats, come for talks immediately", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926008300315.html>

⁵⁵ "Gas prices in N. Korea treble amid tougher sanctions: ministry", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926006152315.html>

China

Hua Chunying - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

October 11, 2017⁵⁶

“The two sides (China and Russia) express high concern to the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. Both of them believe that all the relevant parties should remain restrained, refrain from actions that may escalate tensions and faithfully uphold peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and the region. The two sides reaffirm their adherence to the goal of the denuclearization of the Peninsula, call on various parties to positively respond to the Chinese-Russian joint initiative based on the "suspension for suspension" and "dual track" proposal and the "step by step" roadmap, and urge all parties to return to the track of dialogue and negotiation at an early date.”

October 9, 2017⁵⁷

“Only by addressing the legitimate security concern of various parties in a balanced manner can we truly open the door to peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. To this end, various parties need to show more sincerity, sit down at the negotiating table, enhance mutual trust through dialogue and seek a viable way out for peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through negotiation. Only by doing that can we find a fundamental solution to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, uphold the general peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and this region and best serve the common interests of the relevant parties.”

Lu Kang- Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

September 29, 2017⁵⁸

“Recently, relevant parties have consecutively sent the positive signals that the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, in the final analysis, should be resolved politically through dialogue and consultation. We hold an encouraging

⁵⁶ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference”, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, October 11, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1500871.shtml

⁵⁷ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, October 9, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1500122.shtml

⁵⁸ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference”, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 29, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1498369.shtml

attitude to this. The Chinese side agrees with the Four Nos promise which has been reiterated by the US side many times. We hope that the US side can translate these commitments into concrete actions and that the DPRK can work for the shared goal. We hope that relevant parties can demonstrate utmost sincerity to accumulate conditions for dialogue and create opportunities for peace talks.”

September 27, 2017⁵⁹

“Sanctions and promoting peace talks are both the requirements of the DPRK-related resolutions of the UN Security Council. Overemphasizing one and overlooking the other is not consistent with the spirit of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Breaking the deadlock on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue needs all relevant parties to demonstrate sincerity and work for the shared goal.”

September 27, 2017⁶⁰

“We also dedicate ourselves to safeguarding the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue and consultation. We always believe that military means should not be an option to resolve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue because force will in no way settle disputes, but will only bring greater suffering, unbearable to all relevant parties. Yesterday, I have also said on this occasion that it will even bring misfortune to regional countries.”

September 26, 2017⁶¹

“Recently, we have heard so much vociferous call for taking military measures to resolve the Korean peninsula issue. We hope that the statesmen from both the US and the DPRK can have sufficient political judgment to realize that resorting to military force will never be a viable option to resolve the Korean Peninsula issue and address their own concerns. We hope that the statesmen from both the US and the DPRK can also come to recognize that being bent on assertiveness and provoking each other will only increase the risk of confrontation and conflict and reduce the room for their own policy maneuvers. War on

⁵⁹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 28, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1498012.shtml

⁶⁰ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 27, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1497601.shtml

⁶¹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 26, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1497087.shtml

	<p>the Korean Peninsula will produce no winners and it will even bring misfortune to regional countries. Bearing in mind our consistent position that the Chinese side opposes war and chaos on the Korean Peninsula, we strongly disapprove of escalating the war of rhetoric between the US and the DPRK.”</p>
<p>Russia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Press Release- Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>October 10, 2017⁶²</p> <p>The sides (Russia and China) discussed in detail the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. They reaffirmed their commitment to the process of peaceful political and diplomatic settlement and the unacceptability of military threats no matter where they come from. Russia and China denounce the ongoing accelerated militarisation of Northeast Asia, which is destroying regional stability and security and may potentially result in a full-scale armed conflict.</p> <p>In this context, the participants emphasised that all involved countries must work together in order to launch as soon as possible the negotiating process aimed at looking for a mutually acceptable and comprehensive solution to all problems of the region on the basis of the Russian-Chinese roadmap of Korean settlement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dmitry Peskov - Kremlin Spokesman</p> <p>October 9, 2017⁶³</p> <p>"As for the Korean Peninsula, certainly Moscow calls and continues calling on all parties to the conflict and those sides related to these affairs to show restraint and avoid any steps that may only worsen the situation."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maria Zakharova - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>October 4, 2017⁶⁴</p>

⁶² "Press release on the eighth round of Russian-Chinese Dialogue on Security in Northeast Asia", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian federation, October 10, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/2895093

⁶³ "Russia urges restraint on North Korean issue and refraining from any rash moves", TASS, October 9, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/969662>

⁶⁴ "Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, October 4, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/2886903#21

“Russia is doing everything it deems appropriate, effective and everything that, from our point of view, can help. To reiterate, contacts are being established at different levels and in various areas, and all possible formats are being used to reduce tensions in the region. We have repeatedly spoken about our principled assessments of this situation and possible consequences of moving ahead with a military scenario.”

Vladimir Putin- President

October 4, 2017⁶⁵

"Whatever it is, this is not my business to determine and assess the policy of the president of the United States but publicly I can repeat, and I already spoke about this, all the sides should tone down their belligerent rhetoric and ways must be found for a direct dialogue between the United States and North Korea, between North Korea and the countries of the region.”

"We have a common border with North Korea. A nuclear test site is in Korea 200 kilometers from our border. Where is the US situated, where is Russia and North Korea? We are no less anxious about it than you are. Even more.”

"We are supplying about 40,000 tonnes of oil there, and none of the vertically integrated companies is supplying anything, only small companies, dealers. This is zero, almost nothing. No cooperation, nothing to speak about and nothing to discuss here.”

October 3, 2017⁶⁶

“We are witnesses to another confrontational spiral over North Korea’s missile and nuclear program.”

"We condemn Pyongyang’s decisions made in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions, but fanning military rhetoric is a harmful way and it leads nowhere.”

"All parties should display restraint and seek a peace solution.”

“In the modern world conflicts must be resolved in accordance with many extremely sensitive factors through the search for a compromise.

⁶⁵ "Putin says Kim Jong-il told him about North Korea’s nukes back in early 2000s", TASS, October 4, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/968939>

⁶⁶ "Putin lambasts war hysteria over North Korea", TASS, October 3, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/968636>

Statement- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

September 29, 2017⁶⁷

“The Russian side reaffirmed its readiness for joint efforts to find ways to solve the problems in the subregion by peaceful, political and diplomatic means, including in the context of promoting the Korean settlement roadmap jointly proposed by Russia and China.”

Dmitry Peskov - Kremlin Press Secretary

September 26, 2017⁶⁸

"We believe that actions that may lead to further escalation of tensions are highly undesirable and won't not help us approach settlement of the North Korea problem, but, on the contrary, each time leave us fewer chances to settle this problem."

“May surely have very dangerous effect.”

"Appeal on all parties to avoid actions that may provoke further escalation of tensions has been voiced."

Mikhail Ulyanov- Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control

September 26, 2017⁶⁹

"We believe that this conflict has no military solution because it is connected with catastrophic consequences... for the entire region."

"Such work is carried out by us, it is not public for obvious reasons, but we at least try to bring the situation to an acceptable direction."

⁶⁷ "Press release on Russian-North Korean consultations", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, September 29, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/2881337

⁶⁸ "Kremlin warns against escalation of tensions over North Korea", TASS, September 26, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/967534>

⁶⁹ "North Korea Won't Be Recognized as Nuclear Power - Moscow", Sputnik News, September 26, 2017, <https://sputniknews.com/asia/201709261057701226-north-korea-nuclear-power/>

Japan

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

October 9, 2017⁷⁰

“North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. It is a nuclear state.”

“This is the first time a nuclear state has threatened Japan, which is a non-nuclear state. It made a statement that can be interpreted as meaning that it intends to destroy the Japanese archipelago. That could still happen in the future. I believe that sufficiently warrants calling it a national crisis.”

Taro Kono- Foreign Minister

October 3, 2017⁷¹

“We have repeatedly sent a message to North Korea through the route of the embassies in Beijing and in international fora in which North Korea participates, that North Korea cannot have a bright future unless it halts nuclear and missile developments and comes to the negotiating table by accepting inspections.”

“Dialogue cannot be dialogue for the sake of dialogue. Not only Japan and the US, but also Japan, the US, the Republic of Korea (ROK), China, and Russia are solidly seeking to get North Korea to abandon nuclear and missile developments, accept inspections, and come to the negotiating table with the goal of realizing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The Government is in close contact with the US Government in this area.”

Statement- Government of Japan

September 28, 2017⁷²

“The government will at all times do its utmost towards crisis management and protect the lives and the property of the Japanese people against the threat from North Korea. This is a matter of course.”

⁷⁰ "VOTE 2017: Abe jumps the gun and calls North Korea a 'nuclear state'", The Asahi Shimbun, October 9, 2017, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201710090033.html>

⁷¹ "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, October 3, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000424.html#topic3

⁷² "Government Statement", Office of Prime Minister and His Cabinet, September 28, 2017, http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/decisions/2017/_00013.html

Without resolution of the abduction, nuclear, and missile issues, no bright future is possible for North Korea. The international community must maximize pressure on North Korea using every possible means in order to cause it to change its policies. No one the world over hopes for conflict. But there is no meaning in having dialogue only for the sake of dialogue. Upon receiving the public's vote of confidence through this election, the administration intends to advance robust diplomacy and take a resolute approach to North Korea, together with the international community.”

“The Prime Minister himself will spearhead efforts to take on situations that should also truly be called national crises, namely ... the tense North Korea situation, and is determined to defend Japan until the end through receiving a vote of confidence from the public. For that reason, the Prime Minister has decided to dissolve the House of Representatives at this time and seek a public mandate.”

Taro Kano – Foreign Minister

September 26, 2017⁷³

“Given this (North Korea) crisis, we will be seeking a mandate from the people regarding the security arrangements based on the Japan-U.S. Alliance as noted earlier.”

**Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.*

Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.

⁷³ "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, September 26, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken1e_000012.html