



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

7 - 31 August, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comment
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">Spokesman-Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>September 1, 2017¹</p> <p>“The DPRK categorically rejects the "presidential statement" of UNSC that flagrantly violated the right to self-defense of a sovereign state.”</p> <p>“We had already warned the U.S. that we would be closely monitoring its conduct. The intermediate-and-long range strategic ballistic rocket launching drill carried out by the Strategic Force of the KPA this time is only a curtain raiser to the resolute countermeasures to be taken against the U.S. as it responded to our warning by waging belligerent Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises.”</p>

¹ "FM Spokesman Rejects "Presidential Statement" of UNSC", Rodong Sinmun, September 1, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-09-01-0003

“The revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK shall conduct many more of ballistic rocket launching drill targeting the Pacific to further modernize and increase the actual combat efficiency of its strategic force.”

KCNA

August 31, 2017²

Condemning United States for sending its strategic bombers and stealth jets to Korea, KCNA said, "The wild military acts of the enemies are nothing but the rash act of those taken aback by the intermediate-to-long range strategic ballistic rocket launching drill conducted by the army of the DPRK as the first military operation in the Pacific.”

KCNA

August 31, 2017³

“The U.S. should realize that if it disregards this warning of history and behaves recklessly, threatening peace in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia, the U.S. mainland will be wrecked tomorrow just like the Aegis destroyer wrecked today. The American empire dyed in blood red is destined to ruin.”

Kim Jong-un via KCNA

August 30, 2017⁴

“The intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket launching drill of the KPA Strategic Force was conducted as a part of the muscle-flexing to counter the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military drills the U.S. and the south Korean puppet forces finally kicked off in disregard of the DPRK's meaningful and crucial warning.”

² “U.S. Imperialists Introduce Nuclear Strategic Bombers and Stealth Fighters into S. Korea”, KCNA, August 31, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1504191754-63867938/u-s-imperialists-introduce-nuclear-strategic-bombers-and-stealth-fighters-into-s-korea/>

³ “Frequent Accidents of U.S. War Weapons Foretell U.S. Imperialists' Ruin: Newspapers”, KCNA, August 31, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1504191771-183066514/frequent-accidents-of-u-s-war-weapons-foretell-u-s-imperialists-ruin-newspapers/>

⁴ “Kim Jong Un Guides Strategic Ballistic Rocket Launching Drill of KPA Strategic Force”, KCNA, August 30, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/> Alternative source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1504044160-212341135/kim-jong-un-guides-strategic-ballistic-rocket-launching-drill-of-kpa-strategic-force/>

“Noting that the current ballistic rocket launching drill like a real war is the first step of the military operation of the KPA in the Pacific and a meaningful prelude to containing Guam, advanced base of invasion, he (Kim Jong-un) said that it is necessary to positively push forward the work for putting the strategic force on a modern basis by conducting more ballistic rocket launching drills with the Pacific as a target in the future.”

“Sternly saying that the U.S. answered the DPRK's warning which it will closely watch the U.S. behavior with the bellicose war exercises for aggression, he added that the drill conducted by the Strategic Force is a curtain-raiser of its resolute countermeasures against the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises being conducted by the U.S. and its stooges.”

Article-Rodong Sinmun

August 29, 2017⁵

“The nuclear issue is the one between the DPRK and the U.S. from every aspect and it can never see a solution as long as the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear blackmail and threat against the DPRK continue. This is well known by the world.

As had been clearly clarified, the DPRK's nuclear deterrence is not a bargaining chip to be put on a negotiating table. Particularly, such a thing as the discussion of the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the south Korean puppet forces will never happen.

The north-south dialogue will just turn out to be an outward show as long as the south Korean authorities do not adopt a proper stand toward the north-south relations. Whether the north-south dialogue is resumed or not entirely depends on the south Korean authorities' attitude.”

Rodong Sinmun

August 28, 2017⁶

“The U.S. should bear in mind that its military pressure and sanctions are becoming the driving power bolstering the DPRK's nuclear force instead.

⁵ Ri Hyok Chol , “Preposterous "Conditions for Dialogue" Set by Those Unaware of Their Plight”, Rodong Sinmun, August 29, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-08-29-0011

⁶ “DPRK Delegation Clarifies Its Stand at Geneva Disarmament Conference “, Rodong Sinmun, August 28, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-08-28-0010

Unless a definite end is put to the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat, the DPRK will never flinch even an inch from the road of bolstering up the nuclear forces already chosen by itself.”

DPRK Permanent Representative at the UN- KCNA

August 27, 2017⁷

KCNA reported that the DPRK permanent representative at the UN sent a letter to the UN Security Council regarding the US-South Korea Ulji Freedom Guardian 17 joint military exercises from the date of 21 August, 2017.

"The DPR Korea strongly requests the UNSC to discuss the issue of the joint military exercises as an emergency agenda item," .

"Should the UNSC ignore the request from the DPR Korea once again, it will become self-evident that the UNSC has ceased to remain as a body that assumes the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,"

Spokesperson- National Peace Committee of Korea via Rodong Sinmun

August 26, 2017⁸

“Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we solemnly warn not only the U.S. and puppet group but also satellites, including UK and Australia, which are taking advantage of the present war maneuvers against the north that they would face a miserable end if they join in play with fire by tiger moths of war”.

“The aggressors, provokers should not act rashly so that their wretched plight spending the hardest time with their fate at stake will not be more pitiful.”

⁷ "DPRK Permanent Representative at UN Sends Letter to UNSC President", KCNA, August 27, 2017, <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1503853313-203708487/dprk-permanent-representative-at-un-sends-letter-to-unsc-president/>

⁸ "Intolerable Is Fools' Play with Fire: NPCK Spokesman", Rodong Sinmun, August 26, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-08-26-0012

Article- KCNA

August 25, 2017⁹

"The U.S. and its vassal forces stress that (North) Korea is liable for the situation on the Korean Peninsula inching close to a war phase,"

"Some big powers around Korea are asserting that both the DPRK and the U.S. are to blame for the current aggravated situation on the peninsula,".

"But the DPRK is strong and firm in its stand that the responsibility for the current tense situation entirely rests with the U.S. and its vassal forces."

"Even some big neighboring countries which used to maintain principle at the UN arena with their own view in the past now lie down flat before the U.S., frightened by its high-handed practices and bluffing."

"The DPRK extended full support and encouragement to the country when it was covering the arduous path beyond all descriptions under such a pressure of the West including the U.S.

"Those big neighboring countries are now doggedly standing in the way of the DPRK in bolstering its nuclear force for self-defence to cope with the U.S. nuclear blackmail and threat. This reminds one of a saying which goes "Vows made in storms are forgotten in calms". They are even unhesitatingly joining in the U.S. sanctions and pressure. Wherever can their face, conscience and good faith be found?"

Kim Jong-un via KCNA

August 23, 2017¹⁰

During Kim Jong-un's visit to Chemical Material Institute of the Academy of Defense Science, KCNA reported that, "he instructed the institute to produce more solid-fuel rocket engines and rocket warhead

⁹ "The US Vassal Forces are Responsible for Escalating Tension on Korean Peninsula: Institute of International Studies of Korea, KCNA, August 25, 2017, <http://www.kcna.kp/>

¹⁰ "Kim Jong Un Inspects Chemical Material Institute of Academy of Defense Science", KCNA, August 23, 2017, [https://kcna.kp/alternative source: https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1503439432-307101514/kim-jong-un-inspects-chemical-material-institute-of-academy-of-defense-science/](https://kcna.kp/alternative-source-https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1503439432-307101514/kim-jong-un-inspects-chemical-material-institute-of-academy-of-defense-science/)

tips by further expanding engine production process and the production capacity of rocket warhead tips and engine jets by carbon/carbon compound material”.

Jun Young-chol- North Korean Diplomat at the UN Conference on Disarmament

August 22, 2017¹¹

"The measures taken by the DPRK (North Korea) to strengthen its nuclear deterrence and develop inter-continental rockets is justifiable and a legitimate option for self-defense in the face of such apparent and real threats,"

"...As long as the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat remains unchallenged, the DPRK will never place its self-defensive nuclear deterrence on the negotiating table."

KCNA

August 22, 2017¹²

“Despite the repeated warnings of the DPRK, it kicked off Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military drills. The U.S. should cogitate reasonably and judge correctly if it is not to lose its face, hit hard again by the DPRK. This is another warning served by the latter. The U.S. should not misjudge the toughest retaliatory will of Juche Korea.”

Spokesperson- Panmunjom Mission, KPA via KCNA

August 22, 2017¹³

“The U.S. will be wholly held accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by such reckless aggressive war maneuvers, as it chose a military confrontation with the DPRK”

¹¹ "North Korea will never surrender nuclear arms, says envoy", The Reuters, August 22, 2017, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-envoy-idUSKCN1B21C5?il=0>

¹² "U.S. Should Not Misjudge Retaliatory Will of DPRK: Rodong Sinmun", KCNA, August 22, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1503387097-352209845/u-s-should-not-misjudge-retaliatory-will-of-dprk-rodong-sinmun/>

¹³ "U.S. Will be to Blame for Consequences from Joint Military Drill: KPA Panmunjom Mission", KCNA, August 22, 2017, <http://kcna.kp>

Commentary- Rodong Sinmun

August 22, 2017¹⁴

“The Trump group's declaration of the reckless nuclear war exercises against the DPRK along with the vociferous call for the "beheading operation", "special operation", "preemptive attack on the north" and "preventive war" is a reckless behavior driving the situation into the uncontrollable phase of a nuclear war.”

“The U.S. is still daring provoke the DPRK by relying on its strength, a reckless act bereft of even the elementary judgment of how the situation changes and who its rival is, and a foolish act of those unable to estimate gains and losses.”

“The U.S. is seriously mistaken if it thinks that a war is something to be grappled by a country across the Pacific when it is escalating the military tensions in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity.”

“It is not only the American empire that has the right. There is no law that prohibits others from doing what one is doing.”

“The U.S. should think and act with reason.”

KCNA

August 20, 2017¹⁵

"The joint exercise is the most explicit expression of hostility against us, and no one can guarantee that the exercise won't evolve into actual fighting,"

"If the United States is lost in a fantasy that war on the peninsula is at somebody else's door far away from them across the Pacific, it is far more mistaken than ever,"

¹⁴ Ri Hyo Jin "Foolish Acts of Precipitating Self-Ruin:", Rodong Sinmun, August 22, 2017, http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-08-22-0009

¹⁵"N. Korea raps Seoul-Washington joint drill", The Yonhap News, August 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/20/0401000000AEN20170820002500315.html>

Spokesperson- Foreign Ministry

August 19, 2017¹⁶

In a response to U.S. request for Latin American to terminate relations with North Korea, a spokesperson of North Korean foreign ministry told KCNA that,

“Such a coercive behavior has exhibited extreme selfishness and arrogance of the United States seeking to gain benefits from sacrificing all other parts of the world”.

"All countries will become victims of U.S. interventions in domestic affairs, if they comply with or tacitly approve the U.S.-sponsored UNSC sanctions."

"Recently, the U.N. secretary general made an absurd remark that the aggravation of tension on the peninsula was caused by the nuclear and missile development of the DPRK (North Korea). His remark is no more than a revelation of his ignorance on the essence of the nuclear issue. To make it clear, the root cause of the nuclear issue and the vicious cycle of aggravation of situation is the U.S. hostile policy and its nuclear threats against the DPRK,"

The Rodong Sinmun (News Paper)

August 19, 2017¹⁷

"The U.S. has exaggerated that we're posing a grave threat to the entire world ... But we won't initiate or threaten a nuclear attack against any countries in the world, unless they participate in anti-North military actions by the U.S.,"

"(North Korea) has not pursued nuclear and rocket development secretly. Instead, all processes of weapon development have been transparently disclosed, as part of (the North's) efforts to deter a war,"

¹⁶ "DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hits U.S. Vice-President's Reckless Action", Rodong Sinmun, August 21, 2017 http://rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-08-21-0004

¹⁷ "N.K. claims its nuke weapons pose no threat to countries other than U.S.", The Yonhap News, August 19, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/19/0401000000AEN20170819001400315.html>

KCNA

August 15, 2017¹⁸

“He (Kim Jogn-un) said that the U.S. imperialists caught the noose around their necks due to their reckless military confrontation racket, adding that *he would watch a little more* the foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees spending a hard time of every minute of their miserable lot”.

“He (Kim Jogn-un) said that he wants to advise the U.S., which is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula into the touch-and-go situation, running helter-skelter, to take into full account gains and losses with clear head whether the prevailing situation is more unfavorable for any party”.

“In order to defuse the tensions and prevent the dangerous military conflict on the Korean peninsula, it is necessary for the U.S. to make a proper option first and show it through action, as it committed provocations after introducing huge nuclear strategic equipment into the vicinity of the peninsula, he (Kim Jong-un) said, adding that the U.S. should stop at once arrogant provocations against the DPRK and unilateral demands and not provoke it any longer”.

KCNA

August 10, 2017¹⁹

North Korea's military unveiled its detailed plan on intermediate-range ballistic missile strikes around Guam. North outlined its strike plan, it unveiled details in a tit-for-tat bellicose rhetoric against Washington which says all options are on the table. The North said that the missiles will cross the sky above the Shimane, Hiroshima and Koichi prefectures of Japan and fly 3,356.7 kilometers for about 18 minutes before landing 30 to 40 km away from Guam.

¹⁸ "Kim Jong Un Inspects KPA Strategic Force Command", KCNA, August 15, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>;
Alternative source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1502749950-753062439/kim-jong-un-inspects-kpa-strategic-force-command/>

¹⁹ "N. Korea unveils detailed plan for missile strikes near Guam", Yonhap News Agency, August 10, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/10/0401000000AEN20170810000653315.html>

KCNA

August 9, 2017²⁰

"The KPA Strategic Force is now carefully examining the operational plan for making an enveloping fire at the areas around Guam with medium-to-long-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 in order to contain the U.S. major military bases on Guam including the Anderson Air Force Base in which the U.S. strategic bombers, which get on the nerves of the DPRK and threaten and blackmail it through their frequent visits to the sky above south Korea, are stationed and to send a serious warning signal to the U.S."

KCNA

August 8, 2017²¹

"(Enemies) should not forget that we are ready to ruthlessly take strategic measures involving physical actions by fully mobilizing our national power,"

"(South Korea) should not run amok, bearing in mind that we can turn western front-line islands and even Seoul into a sea of flame,"

KCNA

August 7, 2017²²

"We are ready to retaliate with far bigger actions to make the U.S. pay a price for its crime against our country and people,"

"If enemies believe that North Korea can be rattled by sanctions, it is nothing more than a delusion,".

"As long as the U.S. sticks to its hostile policy and nuclear blackmailing... we will not budge an inch from our path toward strengthening our nuclear force."

²⁰ "U.S. Should Be Prudent under Present Acute Situation: Spokesman for KPA Strategic Force", KCNA, August 9, 2017, <http://kcna.co.jp/item/2017/201708/news09/20170809-01ee.html>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/278480/u-s-should-be-prudent-under-present-acute-situation-spokesman-for-kpa-strategic-force/>

²¹ "N.K. threatens 'physical' actions over new U.N. sanctions", Yonhap News, August 8, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/08/0401000000AEN20170808000652315.html>

²² "N.K. condemns new U.N. sanctions, vows retaliation against U.S.", The Yonhap News, August 7, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/07/0401000000AEN20170807008952315.html>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Ri Yong-ho, Foreign Minister</p> <p>August 7, 2017²³</p> <p>"We will, under no circumstances, put the nukes and ballistic rockets on the negotiating table,".</p> <p>"Neither shall we flinch an inch from the road to bolstering up the nuclear forces chosen by ourselves unless the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the U.S. against the DPRK are fundamentally eliminated."</p>
<p>USA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jim Mattis- Defense Secretary</p> <p>August 31, 2017²⁴</p> <p>"I was asked if there are any diplomatic efforts left, and I said, 'Of course,'".</p> <p>"And diplomatic can include economic sanctions, not just talking. It didn't contradict anything the president said."</p> <p>"The president made very clear, we're not talking to North Korea right now. And my job is to provide military options, but we're never out of diplomatic -- diplomatic is a lot more than just the narrow slice of talking to North Korea".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy- Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Forces</p> <p>August 31, 2017²⁵</p> <p>"North Korea's actions are a threat to our allies, partners and homeland, and their destabilizing actions will be met accordingly,"</p> <p>"This complex mission clearly demonstrates our solidarity with our allies and underscores the broadening cooperation to defend against</p>

²³ "No negotiation on nuclear issue unless U.S. gives up hostile policy: N.K. top diplomat", The Yonhap News, August 7, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2017/08/07/0301000000AEN20170807013454315.html>

²⁴ "Media Availability with Secretary Mattis", US Department of Defense, August 31, 2017,

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1297238/media-availability-with-secretary-mattis/>

²⁵ "U.S. sends B-1Bs, F-35s to Korea as warning against Pyongyang", the Yonhap News, August 31, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831009753315.html>

this common regional threat. Our forward-deployed force will be the first to the fight, ready to deliver a lethal response at a moment's notice if our nation calls," he added.

**Gen. Vincent K. Brooks- the Commander of U.S. Forces Korea
(USFK)**

August 31, 2017²⁶

"The U.S. did not dispatch bombers during the recently concluded exercise in hopes that the reduced scale would send a positive signal to North Korea and the region,"

"Instead, North Korea responded to the gesture."

**Lt. Gen. David H. Berger- Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces
Pacific**

August 31, 2017²⁷

"By forward-basing the F-35, the most advanced aircraft in the world, here in the Pacific, we are enabling the Marine Corps to respond quickly during a crisis in support of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and all our regional partners," he said.

Doland Trump- President

August 30, 2017²⁸

"The U.S. has been talking to North Korea, and paying them extortion money, for 25 years. Talking is not the answer!"

²⁶ "U.S. sends B-1Bs, F-35s to Korea as warning against Pyongyang", the Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831009753315.html>

²⁷ "U.S. sends B-1Bs, F-35s to Korea as warning against Pyongyang", the Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831009753315.html>

²⁸ Donald Trump, Twitter, August 30, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/902875515534626817>

Jim Mattis- Secretary of Defense

August 30, 2017²⁹

“We’re never out of diplomatic solutions.”

“We continue to work together, and the minister (Defense- South Korea) and I share responsibility to provide for the protection of our nation our populations and our interests, which is what we are here to discuss today,”

“Here in Washington we are keenly aware that South Korea is on the frontline and we cannot be complacent. In the interest of keeping our alliance fit for these times, we must continue to deepen our military relationship, building on the high level of trust that exists between our two nations.”³⁰

Donald Trump- President

August 29, 2017³¹

“The world has received North Korea’s latest message loud and clear: this regime has signaled its contempt for its neighbors, for all members of the United Nations, and for minimum standards of acceptable international behavior.

Threatening and destabilizing actions only increase the North Korean regime’s isolation in the region and among all nations of the world. All options are on the table.”

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States

August 27, 2017³²

"The firing of any ballistic missile is a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions," .

"We do view it as a provocative act against the United States and our allies."

²⁹ "Mattis says U.S. not out of diplomatic solutions with North Korea, The Reuters, August 30, 2017, <https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-usa-pentagon-idINKCN1BA1XK>

³⁰ "Allies: Military option can back diplomacy with N. Korea", The Yonhap News Agency, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/39/0401000000AEN20170831000352315F.html>

³¹ "Statement by President Donald J. Trump on North Korea", The White House, August 29, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/08/29/statement-president-donald-j-trump-north-korea>

³² "Tillerson: U.S. open to talks with N. Korea despite missile launch", The Yonhap News, August 27, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/28/0401000000AEN20170828000251315.html>

"Having said that, we're going to continue our peaceful pressure campaign, as I have described it, working with allies and working with China as well to see if we can bring the regime in Pyongyang to the negotiating table with a view to begin a dialogue on a different future for Korean Peninsula and for North Korea,".

Heather Wilson- Secretary of the Air Force

August 25, 2017³³

"The United States stands firmly with its allies and our commitment to the collective self-defense of the Korean Peninsula".

Donald Trump

August 23, 2017³⁴

"I respect the fact that he (Kim Jong-un) is starting to respect us," "And maybe - probably not, but maybe - something positive can come about,"

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

August 22, 2017³⁵

"I am pleased to see that the regime in Pyongyang has certainly demonstrated some level of restraint that we've not seen in the past. We hope that this is the beginning of this signal that we've been looking for that they are ready to restrain their level of tensions, they're ready to restrain their provocative acts, and that perhaps we are seeing our pathway to sometime in the near future having some dialogue. We need to see more on their part, but I want to acknowledge the steps they've taken thus far. I think it's important to take note of that."

³³ "U.S. Air Force secretary reaffirms commitment to defense of S. Korea", The Yonhap News Agency, August 25, 2017<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/26/0401000000AEN20170826000400315.html>

³⁴ "Trump voices mild optimism about ties with North Korea", CNBC, August 23, 2017, <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/08/23/trump-voices-mild-optimism-about-ties-with-north-korea.html>

³⁵ Remarks- Rex W. Tillerson, Department of State, August 22, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/08/273577.htm>

Paul Ryan- U.S. House Speaker

August 22, 2017³⁶

"Having North Korea with nuclear-tipped warheads that can strike the United States is not a good thing to have for this country".

"But it's not just that they would launch a missile to the United States. What I worry most about is that they'll sell one. I worry that they're going to proliferate, that they're going to sell it to the highest bidder, to a terrorist."

"This young man is an unstable person,".

"I do think he should be called to account for his reckless rhetoric and I think that's what the president's trying to do".

Steven T. Mnuchin- Treasury Secretary

August 22, 2017³⁷

"Treasury will continue to increase pressure on North Korea by targeting those who support the advancement of nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and isolating them from the American financial system,".

"It is unacceptable for individuals and companies in China, Russia, and elsewhere to enable North Korea to generate income used to develop weapons of mass destruction and destabilize the region. We are taking actions consistent with UN sanctions to show that there are consequences for defying sanctions and providing support to North Korea, and to deter this activity in the future."

³⁶ "U.S. House speaker worries N.K. might sell nuclear-tipped missile to terrorists", The Yonhap News, August 22, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/22/0401000000AEN20170822006800315.html>

³⁷ "Treasury Targets Chinese and Russian Entities and Individuals Supporting the North Korean Regime", The US Department of Treasury, August 22, 2017, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/smo148.aspx>

**Edward Markey- Senator and member of the Senate
Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs**

August 22, 2017³⁸

"We must acknowledge that a preventive war would not solve this problem, and it would make matters much, much worse,"

"Talking with North Korea is not a concession. It is the only way to reach agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula."

"We must begin direct discussions with North Korea on two closely coordinated tracks. On track one, the United States will lead direct negotiations toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,"

"On track two, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) will lead direct negotiations toward social, cultural and inter-governmental relations necessary for the long-term wellbeing of the people on both sides of the border,"

"North Korea's trading partners must intensify economic pressure to bring North Korea to the negotiating table. That starts with getting China cut off the flow of oil to North Korea. That is the one sure way to have a decisive impact on North Korea's decision-making,"

Ted Lieu- Member, House of Representative

August 21, 2017³⁹

"President Trump's lack of a comprehensive strategy and reckless war of words with North Korea has sent the world into a panic,"

"But all the provocative talk in the world won't change the fact that the Hermit Kingdom is a nuclear power and will soon have the nascent capability to strike the U.S. mainland. We need to dramatically shift our thinking as to how to tackle this new reality."

³⁸ "Senior U.S. senator says preventive war will make N.K. issue worse, calls for peaceful approach", The Yonhap News, August 22, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2017/08/22/0200000000AEN20170822006552315.html>

³⁹ Ted Lieu, "N. Korea threat makes work on game-changing missile defense technology a priority", The Hill, August 21, 2017, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/347303-n-korea-threat-makes-work-on-game-changing-missile>

James Mattis- Secretary of Defense

August 17, 2017⁴⁰

“In the event of a missile launch towards the territory of Japan, Guam, United States, Korea, we would take immediate, specific actions to take it down.”

Dana Rohrabacher-

Member House of Representative and chairs the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

August 17, 2017⁴¹

“The Trump administration is right to respond with all the urgency the president’s words signify.”

“The cycle of madness must be broken. As I told a group of my constituents yesterday, the Pentagon should include in its options: 1. Shooting down any missile launched by North Korea. 2. A coordinated, massive cyber-attack on North Korea’s infrastructure, disabling the dictatorship’s communications and its missile-launch capabilities. The ultimate goal, of course, must be regime change, and we may hope that North Korea’s sponsors in China also recognize that necessity.”

Donald Trump, President

August 16, 2017⁴²

“Kim Jong Un of North Korea made a very wise and well reasoned decision. The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!”

⁴⁰ "Remarks With Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, and Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera at a Press Availability", The Department of States, August 17, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/08/273513.htm>

⁴¹ Press Release, <https://rohrbacher.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rohrbacher-calls-for-massive-cyber-attack-on-north-korea>

⁴² Donald Trump, Twitter, August 16, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/897784898865553409>

Mike Pence, Vice President

August 16, 2017⁴³

"The U.S. places great importance on the ongoing diplomatic isolation of the Kim regime and we strongly urge Chile today, and we urge Brazil, Mexico, and Peru to break all diplomatic and commercial ties to North Korea,"

"I've requested of Bachelet today to terminate that relationship,"

"Our administration has been marshalling the support of nations around the world, and as the President acknowledged this morning, we are beginning to see progress in dealing with North Korea's provocations,"

Steve Bannon- White House Chief Strategist

August 16, 2017⁴⁴

"There's no military solution [to North Korea's nuclear threats], forget it. Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that ten million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us."

The newspaper also reported "Bannon said he might consider a deal in which China got North Korea to freeze its nuclear buildup with verifiable inspections and the United States removed its troops from the peninsula, but such a deal seemed remote. Given that China is not likely to do much more on North Korea, and that the logic of mutually assured destruction was its own source of restraint, Bannon saw no reason not to proceed with tough trade sanctions against China."

⁴³ "Remarks by the Vice President and President Bachelet of Chile in a Joint Press Conference", Office of the Vice President, The White House, August 16, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/08/16/remarks-vice-president-and-president-bachelet-chile-joint-press>

⁴⁴ Robert Kurtner, "Steve Bannon, Unrepentant", The American Prospect, August 16, 2017, <http://prospect.org/article/steve-bannon-unrepentant>

Rex Tillerson, Secretary of States

August 15, 2017⁴⁵

"We continue to be interested in finding a way to get to a dialogue but that's up to him."

Jim Mattis- U. S Defense Secretary

August 14, 2017⁴⁶

"We'll know if (missile) it's going towards Guam within moments,"

"I think if they fire at the United States, it could escalate into war very quickly. Yes, that's called war, if they shoot at us.

Donald Trump- US President

August 11, 2017⁴⁷

"Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!"

August 10, 2017⁴⁸

"Let's see what he does with Guam,"

"He (Kim Jong-un) does something in Guam, it will be an event the likes of which nobody has seen before."

"You'll see, you'll see. And he'll see,"

⁴⁵ "Tillerson: U.S. still interested in talks with N. Korea", Yonhap News, August 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/15/32/0401000000AEN20170815006451315F.html>

⁴⁶ "U.S. will go to war with N. Korea if it strikes Guam: Mattis", The Yonhap News, August 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/15/0401000000AEN20170815000751315.html>

⁴⁷ Trump, Twitter, August 11, 2017, https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/895970429734711298?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet

⁴⁸ "Trump on North Korea: Maybe 'fire and fury' comment 'wasn't tough enough'", CNN, August 11, 2017, <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/08/10/politics/trump-north-korea/index.html>

August 10, 2017⁴⁹

"They've been doing this to our country for a long time, for many years, and it's about time that somebody stuck up for the people of this country and for the people of other countries,"

"So if anything, maybe that statement wasn't tough enough."

"If North Korea does anything in terms of even thinking about attack of anybody that we love or we represent or our allies or us, they can be very, very nervous," he said. "Because things will happen to them like they never thought possible, OK?"

"The people of our country are safe. Our allies are safe. And I will tell you this: North Korea better get their act together or they're going to be in trouble like few nations ever have been in trouble in this world,"

August 8, 2017⁵⁰

"North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen,"

August 8, 2017⁵¹

"After many years of failure, countries are coming together to finally address the dangers posed by North Korea. We must be tough and decisive!"

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States

August 9, 2017⁵²

"North Korea's rhetoric has just ratcheted up louder and louder and more threatening. So I think the President – what the President is doing is sending a strong message to North Korea in language that Kim

⁴⁹ "Trump doubles down on warnings to N. Korea", Yonhap News, August 10, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/11/0401000000AEN20170811000300315.html>

⁵⁰ "Trump says North Korea will be met with 'fire and fury' if it threatens U.S.", The Reuters, August 9, 2017,

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-usa-trump-idUSKBN1AO28O>

⁵¹ Trump, Twitter, August 8, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/894880193839497216>

⁵² "Secretary's Remarks En Route to Guam", U.S Department of States, August 7, 2017,

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/08/273270.htm>

Jong-un can understand, because he doesn't seem to understand diplomatic language. I think the President just wanted to be clear to the North Korean regime on the U.S. unquestionable ability to defend itself, will defend itself and its allies, and I think it was important that he deliver that message to avoid any miscalculation on their part. “

August 7, 2017⁵³

"The best signal that North Korea could give us that they're prepared to talk would be to stop these missile launches,"

"We've not had an extended period of time where they have not taken some type of provocative action by launching ballistic missiles. So I think that would be the first and strongest signal they could send us is just stop, stop these missile launches.”

Jim Mattis- U. S Defense Secretary

August 9, 2017⁵⁴

“The DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people.”

H.R. McMaster- National Security Adviser

August 13, 2017⁵⁵

“I think we're not closer to war than a week ago, but we are closer to war than we were a decade ago,”

“The United States military is locked and loaded every day, and especially those who are on the front lines of freedom,”

“This has been a problem that we've procrastinated on for a long period of time, but now it's coming to a head, where the threat from North Korea not only to the United States but to the world, is very, very clear, and it demands a concerted effort from the United States, but with our allies, and with all responsible nations,”

⁵³ "Tillerson: N. Korea must stop missile launches if it wants talks", The Yonhap News, August 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/07/0401000000AEN20170807006752315.html>

⁵⁴ "Statement by Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis", U.S Department of Defense, August 9, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1273247/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-jim-mattis/>

⁵⁵ John Wagner, "Trump's national security adviser says U.S. no closer to war with North Korea than a week ago", The Washington Post, August 13, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/08/13/trumps-national-security-adviser-says-u-s-no-closer-to-war-with-north-korea-than-a-week-ago/?utm_term=.e692afb4c904

	<p style="text-align: center;">Mike Pompeo- Director, CIA</p> <p>August 13, 2017⁵⁶</p> <p>“There’s no intelligence indicating we’re on the cusp of a nuclear war,”</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Statement- Ministry of Defense</p> <p>September 1, 2017⁵⁷</p> <p>"The officials agreed to work together with the international community in pressuring the North to end its nuclear and missile programs,"</p> <p>"The U.S. also reaffirmed its ironclad commitment to defending the Asian allies of South Korea and Japan."Lt. Gen. Won In-chul, commander of the South Korean Air Force Operations Command⁵⁸</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister</p> <p>August 31, 2017⁵⁹</p> <p>"The current situation on the Korean Peninsula is overshadowed by instability and needless confrontation rather than peace and harmony... North Korea has continued its reckless provocations and the advancement of its nuclear capabilities."</p> <p>"North Korea should not be under any illusion that nuclear weapons will guarantee its security. Quite the opposite, if North Korea continues to pursue its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, it will only lead to deeper isolation and economic hardship."</p> <p>"The Republic of Korea will continue to work closely with both regions and institutions such as FEALAC to achieve the complete,</p>

⁵⁶ "McMaster and Pompeo assure war with North Korea isn't imminent, but threat of conflict is highest in a decade", Daily News, August 13, 2017, <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/mcmaster-pompeo-assure-war-north-korea-isn-imminent-article-1.3408372>

⁵⁷ "S. Korea, U.S., Japan vow to step up cooperation against N.K. missile threats", The Yonhap News, September 1, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/01/93/0401000000AEN20170901006100315F.html>

⁵⁸ "U.S. sends B-1Bs, F-35s to Korea as warning against Pyongyang", the Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831009753315.html>

⁵⁹ "East Asia, Latin America 'ideal' partners in solving N. Korea's nuke problem: FM", The Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831006000315.html>

verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.”

"My government firmly supports the peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. We are committed to using all tools necessary, including sanctions, dialogue and negotiations to find a fundamental and peaceful solution to the current situation,".

Lt. Gen. Won In-chul - Commander of the South Korean Air Force Operations Command

August 31, 2017⁶⁰

"Our Air Force has the capability of conducting perfect combined operations,"

"No matter when, how and where the enemy provokes, we will perfectly retaliate to make it feel an insurmountable sense of fear and deep regret."

Suh Choo-suk- Vice Defense Minister

August 31, 2017⁶¹

"There's a possibility of strategic provocations, including additional ballistic missile launches and a sixth nuclear test."

"It appears to be intended to show off an improvement in the capability of nuclear warheads and delivery means."

"Also, North Korea appears to have sought to gain the upper hand in its relations with the U.S."

Song Young-moo- Defense Minister

August 31, 2017⁶²

"Attention is being focused on the South Korea-U.S. alliance due to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs,".

"I believe such problems will be resolved wisely on the basis of the alliance."

⁶⁰ "U.S. sends B-1Bs, F-35s to Korea as warning against Pyongyang", the Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/0401000000AEN20170831009753315.html>

⁶¹ "N. Korea's missile fired at half range: S. Korean military", The Yonhap News, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/42/0401000000AEN20170831003452315F.html>

⁶² "Allies: Military option can back diplomacy with N. Korea", The Yonhap News Agency, August 31, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/31/39/0401000000AEN20170831000352315F.html>

Choo Mi-ae- Leader of Democratic Party (Ruling Party)

August 30, 2017⁶³

"North Korea fired a ballistic missile again early yesterday morning,"

"Whether it's a ballistic missile or a multiple rocket launcher, such an act that threatens neighboring nations is unpardonable."

"If North Korea trusts South Korea's government and holds its hands, the door will open for its survival. Otherwise, it will face more serious isolation."

"National security is a matter that should be addressed in a bipartisan manner from the perspective of national interests,".

"We should realize that partisan bickering over national security would have bad effects on the safety of the country."

"The problem with the Moon Jae-in government's North Korea policy is that everything boils down to dialogue". "It should immediately scrap such a policy."

"We have to work closely together with the U.S. and Japan in preparing military options".

Ahn Cheol-soo- Leader of Peoples Party

August 30, 2017⁶⁴

"Unconditional pursuit of dialogue does not necessarily lead to dialogue".

"Talking about dialogue when North Korea fires missiles could send the wrong signal."

⁶³ "Ruling party chief says N.K. missile launch 'unpardonable'", The Yonhap News, August 30, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/30/0401000000AEN20170830010900315.html>

⁶⁴ "Ruling party chief says N.K. missile launch 'unpardonable'", The Yonhap News, August 30, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/30/0401000000AEN20170830010900315.html>

Park Soo-hyun – Spokesman, Presidential Office

August 30, 2017⁶⁵

"In their telephone conversation, the two leaders (Moon and Abe) highly evaluated their countries' close cooperation in dealing with the crisis. They agreed on the need to increase the pressure on North Korea to an extreme level to make North Korea voluntarily come out to the dialogue table,"

"The two leaders agreed to jointly push for a UNSC sanctions resolution with more specific and effective measures against the North and for South Korea, the United States and Japan to spearhead such discussions while working to win the support of China and Russia in the process,"

Cho Myoung-gyo- Minister of Unification

August 29, 2017⁶⁶

"North Korea is focusing on developing nuclear and missile programs, shunning away from international calls not to do so. The government strongly condemns North Korea's provocation,"

"Based on firm military posture, the government will make diplomatic efforts to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue peacefully,"

Touching on humanitarian aid to North Korea, the minister expressed regret that Seoul suspended its support during the previous nine years of conservative governments.

"Even at the height of North Korea's nuclear standoff, the international community kept providing humanitarian assistance to the North," he said. "South Korea was swayed by politics as to this issue. It is regrettable and lamenting."

⁶⁵ "Moon, Abe agree to increase pressure on N. Korea to 'extreme' level", The Yonhap News, August 30, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/30/08/0401000000AEN20170830004652315F.html>

⁶⁶ "S. Korea to seek inter-Korean dialogue while countering N.K. provocation", The yonhap News, August 29, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/29/0401000000AEN20170829009400315.html>

Government Statement

August 29, 2017⁶⁷

"We strongly condemn the North's yet another provocation despite a grave message sent through Resolution 2371 adopted by the international community in the wake of its repeated strategic provocations,"

"The North should come out to the road toward talks as soon as possible in recognition of the fact that denuclearization is the only way to security and economic development instead of seeking reckless provocations,"

"We are fully ready for any threat from the North and will make unwavering efforts to protect the lives of our people and the security of our nation,"

Ban Ki-moon- Former UN General Secretary

August 25, 2017⁶⁸

"The current situation (on the Korean Peninsula) is alarming, and tensions are escalating with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continuing nuclear weapons program and missile test launches,"

"Moreover, the DPRK's nuclear program is at a tipping point. The international community must maintain the sanctions pressure to stop the DPRK's provocative behavior and find a way to return to the path of the denuclearization of North Korea."

⁶⁷ "S. Korea strongly condemns N.K.'s missile provocation", The Yonhap News, August 29, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/29/55/0401000000AEN20170829003554315F.html>

⁶⁸ "N. Korea's nuke development hits tipping point: Ban", The Yonhap News Agency, August 25, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/25/0401000000AEN20170825004500315.html>

Moon Jae-in- President

August 23, 2017⁶⁹

"Efforts for denuclearizing North Korea and efforts for improving the South-North Korea relationship are not a matter of choosing one over the other. They should rather be pursued in a way that they make up for each other,"

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

August 23, 2017⁷⁰

"While maintaining watertight coordination with the U.S. on every matter related to the North's nuclear problem, we will make efforts for a peaceful resolution by preventing the North's nuclear and missile provocations and trying to bring it back to denuclearization talks,"

"Based on strong coordination with the U.S., we will double our efforts to create an environment for a possible resumption of denuclearization talks ... and strengthen strategic communication with China and Russia to induce their continued constructive role,"

Lim Sung-nam- Vice Foreign Minister

August 23, 2017⁷¹

"There were some notable remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump and (Secretary of State) Rex Tillerson about North Korea's restraint in making provocations. And South Korea will make proactive and leading efforts to have these positive moves lead to a window of opportunity in the near future,"

⁶⁹ "S. Korea to pursue engaging, denuclearizing N. Korea simultaneously: Moon", The Yonhap News, August 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/23/67/0401000000AEN20170823005951315F.html>

⁷⁰ "S. Korea to pursue engaging, denuclearizing N. Korea simultaneously: Moon", The Yonhap News, August 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/23/67/0401000000AEN20170823005951315F.html>

⁷¹ "S. Korea to pursue engaging, denuclearizing N. Korea simultaneously: Moon", The Yonhap News, August 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/23/67/0401000000AEN20170823005951315F.html>

Cho Myoung-gyon- Minister, Ministry of Unification

August 23, 2017⁷²

"To resolve pending issues between the two Koreas, the government will make efforts to push for inter-Korean dialogue including military and family reunions talks,"

"Along with efforts to resolve urgent humanitarian issues including detainees in the North, South Korea will also seek to provide humanitarian assistance to improve situations facing North Korean citizens,"

"As to separated family reunions, the government will continue to send a message to North Korea and also seek cooperation from the nongovernmental sector and international cooperation over the issue,"

"It could even be possible if North Korea actually develops nuclear weapons and is on the path to the completion in the near future for 'Korea Passing' to actually happen,"

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

August 21, 2017⁷³

"I understand that (the president) made the 'red line' comment to express the seriousness of the current situation metaphorically," she said during a session of a parliamentary committee.

"I understand he did so in order to emphasize that the North's nuclear weapons and missiles are our top priority."

"Should there be talks between the U.S. and the North, I am sure that they would be sought under close coordination with us at every step."

⁷² "S. Korea to continue efforts to reconcile with N. Korea", The Yonhap News, August 23, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/23/0401000000AEN20170823006252315.html>

⁷³ "Foreign minister defends Moon's 'red line' remark", The Yonhap News, August 21, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/21/0401000000AEN20170821010800315.html>

Moon Jae-in, President

August 20, 2017⁷⁴

"The goal of military reform lies in making an army that wins (battles), is full of patriotism and morale among all ranks of soldiers, and is trusted by the people,"

"As the commander in chief, I will actively support military reform,"

"I will do whatever in my disposal to enhance the military's defense posture against North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and strengthen our defense capabilities."

current security conditions on the peninsula are "more serious than at any other time"

Gen. Jeong Kyeong-doo, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)

August 20, 2017⁷⁵

The current security conditions on the peninsula are "more serious than at any other time"

"If the enemy provokes, (our military) will retaliate resolutely and strongly to make it regret bitterly," .

⁷⁴ "Moon reaffirms commitment to military reform, reinforcement", The Yonhap News, August 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/20/0401000000AEN20170820001651315.html>

⁷⁵ "Moon reaffirms commitment to military reform, reinforcement", The Yonhap News, August 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/20/0401000000AEN20170820001651315.html>

Moon Jae-in, President

August 16, 2017⁷⁶

"I say this with confidence that there will be no war on the Korean Peninsula ever again,"

"The United States and President Donald Trump too have agreed to discuss any options it may take (against North Korea) with South Korea regardless of what kind of options it takes."

"The U.S. sought to put maximum pressure and sanctions through the latest U.N. Security Council resolution,".

"At the same time, it is seeking unilateral measures, and I believe President Trump sought to pressure North Korea by showing a firm determination. I do not necessarily believe that showed his determination to take military options."

"Basically, the Republic of Korea is the one directly and mostly affected by North Korea's nuclear and missile issues. But it is also an issue between the North and the United States. Therefore, should North Korea continue to take provocative actions, or even take an aggressive action against the United States, the U.S. may take appropriate steps,".

"However, I am saying any military action to be taken on the Korean Peninsula requires South Korea's consent unless it is taken outside the peninsula. Also, even if the United States takes military action outside the peninsula, I am confident it will sufficiently consult with South Korea in advance if such action may increase tension between the South and the North,"

"I believe North Korea completing its development of ICBMs and mounting nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles will mark its crossing the red line. North Korea is nearing the critical point. And that is why we must prevent North Korea's additional provocations,"

"Should North Korea again make a provocation, the North will face further enhanced sanctions, and it will not endure them,"

⁷⁶ "Moon: U.S. won't take military option against N. Korea without Seoul's consent", The Yonhap News, August 17, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/17/93/0401000000AEN20170817006153315F.html>

Lee Nak-yeon, Prime Minister

August 16, 2017⁷⁷

Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon reacted negatively to calls for South Korea to develop its own nuclear weapons.

"If we are going to possess nuclear weapons, it will result in undermining the justification for (North Korea's) denuclearization and accelerate nuclear armament (in the region) and we also have to be prepared for international sanctions,"

"We shouldn't make a hasty decision on this,"

"Nuclear submarines are another issue,".

"It's time for us to think about introducing nuclear submarines."

It's true that the situation is very grave. This is a situation that was unimaginable in the past,".

"It won't be easy for Chairman Kim Jong-un to go ahead and play with fire if he's eager to keep the existence of the system he leads. The U.S. can prepare military options, but it won't be an easy decision to put them into action."

Moon Jae-in, President

August 15, 2017⁷⁸

"The government will prevent a war at all cost. We must peacefully resolve the North Korean nuclear issue no matter how many ups and downs there are,"

"The government will further step up its diplomatic efforts to make sure the international community's principle of peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue will not waiver,"

"Military action on the Korean Peninsula can only be decided by the

⁷⁷ "PM negative about calls for S. Korea's nuclear armament", The Yonhap News, August 16, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/16/0401000000AEN20170816007900315.html>

⁷⁸ "Moon vows more diplomatic efforts to denuclearize N. Korea", Yonhap News, August 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/15/0401000000AEN20170815002651315.html>

Republic of Korea and no one may decide to take military action without the consent of the Republic of Korea,"

"At the same time, we will keep our doors open for military dialogue to make sure the military tension between the South and the North will not worsen,"

"North Korea must remember that when it suspended its missile tests or declared a suspension to nuclear tests was when the North-South Korean relations were at their best. That was when North Korea-U.S., North Korea-Japan talks were promoted and multilateral diplomacy in the Northeast Asian region flourished,"

"The resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue must start from a nuclear freeze. North Korea must at least halt its nuclear and missile provocations before conditions for dialogue can be created,"

"I once again clarify. We do not want North Korea's collapse. We will not pursue reunification by absorption nor seek any type of artificial unification."

"Should North Korea continue down this path, there will only be isolation and a dark future for the North. We, too, cannot but increase our sanctions and pressure against the North even if we do not wish to,"

August 14, 2017⁷⁹

"I urge North Korea to immediately stop all provocations and threats, and stop making the situation worse,"

"I say this again with a strong emphasis. The national interest of the Republic of Korea comes before anything else. The national interest of the Republic of Korea is peace," he added, according to Cheong Wa Dae pool reports.

"We cannot have a war on the Korean Peninsula ever again."

"I am confident the United States too will react calmly and responsibly to the ongoing situation under the same basic stance as ours,".

"Peace on the Korean Peninsula will not come by force. Even if peace

⁷⁹ "S. Korean leader urges N. Korea, U.S. to resolve ongoing stalemate peacefully", The yonhap Agency, August 14, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/14/0401000000AEN20170814007352315.html>

and negotiations require pain and patience, we must do so."

Chun Hae-sung, Vice Minister, Ministry of Unification

August 13, 2017⁸⁰

"The government is considering all necessary steps to reduce tensions on the peninsula and keep peace based on the strong alliance between Seoul and Washington, and cooperation with partners

"At the same time, South Korea, a key stakeholder to issues on the Korean Peninsula, will leave the door open for dialogue with the North and make various efforts to fundamentally resolve tensions."

Song Young-moo - Defense Minister

August 12, 2017⁸¹

"The defense of northwestern islands and the Northern Limit Line is the core of national security,"

"In case there's a provocation from the enemy, (the military) has to fight back resolutely based on an offensive operational strategy and completely destroy the enemy for a victory,"

August 11, 2017⁸²

"North Korea has recently continued its strategic provocations, but it can also stage deceptive tactical provocations at any time,"

"Therefore, the military should keep its full readiness to immediately and sternly carry out retaliation with strong force,"

"North Korea is posing a grave threat to the Seoul-Washington alliance and the international community as it is leveling up war rhetoric, such as turning Seoul into a sea of fire and missile strikes around Guam."

⁸⁰ "Seoul mulling all steps to ease tensions with North Korea: official", The Yonhap Agency, August 13, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/12/0401000000AEN20170812004000315.html>

⁸¹ "Defense minister orders resolute and confident response to N.K. provocations", The Yonhap News, August 12, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2017/08/12/0200000000AEN20170812003500315.html>

⁸² Defense minister warns against N. Korea's tactical provocation, The Yonhap news, August 11, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/11/0401000000AEN20170811006000315.html>

Park Soo-hyun, Spokemen Presidential Office

August 10, 2017-⁸³

"The standing committee of the NSC noted the security condition surrounding the Korean Peninsula was becoming serious due to North Korea's repeated provocations and threats,".

"The NSC called on the North to immediately stop all activities that will further escalate tension on the Korean Peninsula."

"Noting that military tension or an armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula will not benefit any country, the NSC standing committee decided to take all necessary steps to ease tension and maintain peace under close cooperation with the United States and other key nations based on the strong joint defense readiness of South Korean and U.S. joint forces,"

"In addition, the NSC standing committee decided to take active diplomatic measures to help ease tension while keeping the country's door for dialogue with North Korea."

Cho June-hyuck, Spokesman Foreign Ministry

August 10, 2017⁸⁴

"The North's recent threatening words have gone too much and run squarely against with the consensus contained in the statement issued after the ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum). It should stop them immediately,"

"The North should make the right choice and come out to the road toward denuclearization," he added. "In particular, (we) urge it again to swiftly respond to our initiative for better inter-Korean relations so as to establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula."

⁸³ "Seoul urges N. Korea to halt all provocations, says door for dialogue still open", Yonhap News, August 10, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/10/0401000000AEN20170810010252315.html>

⁸⁴ "S. Korea calls for Pyongyang to stop harsh words, respond to talks offer", The Yonhap News, August 10, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/10/0401000000AEN20170810007600315.html>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Col. Roh Jae-cheon, Spokesman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)</p> <p>August 10, 2017⁸⁵</p> <p>"If the North ignores the warning and provokes, it will face the allies' strong and resolute retaliation,"</p> <p>"It's a serious challenge to our people and the South Korea-U.S. alliance,"</p>
<p>China</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hua Chunying - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>August 31, 2017⁸⁶</p> <p>"We maintain that all sanction measures should be implemented within the framework of the UN Security Council and in accordance with its relevant resolutions. We are firmly opposed to the so-called "long-arm jurisdiction" by any country over other countries' enterprises and individuals in accordance with its domestic law and outside the framework of the UN Security Council."</p> <p>"Practice has proven that pressure and sanction alone can in no way solve the problem fundamentally. Both the previous Security Council resolutions and the Security Council's presidential statement yesterday have shown that the commitment to peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue through political and diplomatic means best serves the interests of various parties and it is the shared aspiration of the international community."</p>

⁸⁵ "S. Korea's military vows retaliation against N. Korea for attack", August 10, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/08/10/0401000000AEN20170810004051315.html>

⁸⁶ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 31, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1488873.shtml

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 30, 2017⁸⁷

Response to British Foreigner Minister's demand to China to put more pressure on North Korea,

“China approaches the Korean Peninsula issue while bearing in mind the goal of realizing denuclearization of the Peninsula, safeguarding the international non-proliferation regime, and maintaining peace and stability on the Peninsula. We have been comprehensively implementing relevant Security Council resolutions in their entirety, upholding an objective and unbiased position, and making positive and unremitting efforts as we should.”

“I would like to ask other relevant parties as they ask China to exert more pressure, are they comprehensively, completely and faithfully implementing relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council without holding back anything? Or are they consciously being selective in implementing the resolutions, such as overemphasis on pressure and sanctions and total overlook of calls for dialogue and peace talks? We have seen some with their own axe to grind, some pointing fingers while stabbing in your back, and some muddying the water to seek profits, or even risking getting burnt to gain what they want. They are the loudest when it comes to sanctions, but nowhere to be found when it comes to making efforts to promote peace talks. They want nothing to do with responsibility. They just want to sit by and wait for the outcomes delivered to their faces. No responsible country will have that kind of attitude or do things in that way.”

“We believe that all sanction measures against the DPRK shall fall within the framework of the UN Security Council and follow the resolutions of the Security Council resolutions. Whether there will be more measures shall be decided by the Security Council upon consensus. Meanwhile, we oppose any country using unilateral sanctions, or evoking its domestic laws to impose "long-arm jurisdiction".”

⁸⁷ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 30, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1488585.shtml

Hua Chunying - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 29, 2017⁸⁸

“The nature of the Peninsula nuclear issue is the security issue, the crux being the contradiction between the DPRK and the US as well as between the DPRK and the ROK. The knots shall be untied by those who got them tied. Only when the legitimate security concerns of directly concerned parties are taken good care of can the Peninsula issue be resolved once for all. China has been making unremitting efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Peninsula nuclear issue. Before questioning whether these efforts are effective or not, I suggest you think about the scenario when China calls for restraint, calmness and dialogue, while directly concerned parties keep conducting military exercises and ratcheting up military pressure, against the background of flying missiles launched by another party.”

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 28, 2017

“The situation on the Korean Peninsula at the moment is very complex and sensitive. All relevant parties shall exercise restraint, refrain from provoking each other and heightening tensions, and make joint efforts to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The suspension-for-suspension proposal and the dual-track approach raised by China gives a balanced consideration to the legitimate security concerns of all sides and represents a practical and feasible way to properly settle the Korean Peninsula issue. We hope that relevant parties could respond positively and work with China to seek an effective way out of the Korean Peninsula issue.”

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 21, 2017⁸⁹

“Currently, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly complex, sensitive and delicate. It calls for greater concerted efforts of such parties directly concerned as the DPRK, the US and the ROK in a bid to

⁸⁸ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 29, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1488261.shtml

⁸⁹ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 21, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1486314.shtml

ease the tensions. The joint military drills conducted by the US and the ROK are not helpful to the de-escalation of the current tensions and the efforts made by all relevant parties to promote peace talks. We once again urge the US, the ROK and other relevant parties to take seriously and give positive consideration to the "suspension for suspension" proposal and take constructive actions that are conducive to the abatement of tensions and the early resumption of peace talks for the proper settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue."

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 17, 2017⁹⁰

"As we said multiple times, the core and essence of the Korean Peninsula issue are security issue. Only by addressing the reasonable security concerns of various parties can we truly open the door to a peaceful solution to the Korean Peninsula issue. At present, the most pressing thing is to stop the DPRK's nuclear and missile programs and the vicious circle of escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula. To achieve this, it is worthwhile to put aside the contention over who should take the first step. Rather, we should focus our attention and energy on efforts for an early resumption of talks.

We think that the "suspension for suspension" proposal is the most feasible and reasonable proposal under the current circumstances. It will not only ease the current tension but also address the most pressing security concerns of various parties, so as to create opportunities and conditions for the resumption of talks and find a breakthrough for the way out of stalemate. Indeed, if the US or other parties have better and more effective proposals, we will remain positive and open to them as long as they are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and the early resumption of talks."

Hua Chunying- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry

August 16, 2017⁹¹

"We have always advocated properly resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through peaceful means and upholding peace and

⁹⁰ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 17, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t148511.shtml

⁹¹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, August 16, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1485231.shtml

stability on the Korean Peninsula, which conforms to the common interests of various parties, and is also worth the concerted efforts of various parties. At present, the situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly complex and sensitive. We hope all relevant parties can exercise restraint, bear the interests of their people and regional peace and stability in mind, make right judgments and choices in a responsible way, do more things that are conducive to easing tensions and enhancing mutual trust and jointly bring the Korean Peninsula issue back to the right track of proper settlement through dialogue and negotiation at an early date.”

Wang Yi- Foreign Minister

August 15, 2017⁹²

Peoples Daily reported a telephone conversation between Wang Yi and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. According to the news paper the Chinese Foreign Minister stressed that “it is urgent that the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) "put the brakes" on mutually irritating rhetoric and actions to cool tensions and head off a "August crisis.””

President Xi Jinping

Phone Conversation with President Trump reported by Xinhua

August 12, 2017⁹³

“Xi Jinping urged restraint regarding the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula in a phone conversation with his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump on Saturday. The concerned parties should avoid remarks and actions that could escalate tensions on the peninsula, Xi said, adding China is ready to work with the United States to appropriately resolve the issue.

Xi stressed that China and the United States have common interests in achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace and stability there.”

⁹² "Chinese FM urges peaceful settlement of Korean nuclear issue in phone talk with Lavrov", Peoples Daily, August 16, 2017, <http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0816/c90883-9255810.html>

⁹³ Xi urges restraint on Korean nuclear issue in phone talk with Trump", Xinhua, August 12, 2017, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-08/12/c_136520798.htm

	<p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>August 11, 2017⁹⁴</p> <p>“At present, the situation on the Korean Peninsula remains highly complex and sensitive. The Chinese side hopes all relevant parties to speak and act with caution and do more things that are conducive to deescalating the tense situation and enhancing mutual trust among parties, rather than relapse into the old path of showing assertiveness and escalating tensions.”</p>
<p>Russia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vladimir Putin- President</p> <p>September 1, 2017⁹⁵</p> <p>"Russia believes that the policy of putting pressure on Pyongyang to stop its nuclear missile program is misguided and futile. "</p> <p>"The region's problems should only be settled through a direct dialogue of all the parties concerned without any preconditions. Provocations, pressure and militarist and insulting rhetoric are a dead-end road."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sergei Lavrov- Foreign Minister</p> <p>August 29, 2017⁹⁶</p> <p>“Regarding the launching of the missiles from North Korea, we stick to the resolutions of the United Nations and we insist on the fact that the North Koreans must respect those resolutions from the United Nations,”</p>

⁹⁴ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Remarks on the Escalating Rhetoric Between the DPRK and the United States", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples Republic of China,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2535_665405/t1484168.shtml

⁹⁵ "North Korean problem should be solved through dialogue, not pressure — Putin", TASS, September 1, 2017, <http://tass.com/world/963095>

⁹⁶ "Russia's Lavrov: North Korea must respect U.N. resolutions", Reuters, August 29, 2017,

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-russia-lavrov/russias-lavrov-north-korea-must-respect-u-n-resolutions-idUSKCN1B9159>

Maria Zakharova- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

August 24, 2017⁹⁷

“We noted a certain decrease in intensity of bellicose rhetoric surrounding the Korean Peninsula. The lack of an alternative to a peaceful settlement of the issues faced by the sub-region is becoming increasingly clear for all, albeit with some difficulties.

However, we believe that conducting large-scale naval exercises by the United States and the Republic of Korea (Ulchi-Freedom Guardian 2017, August 21 – September 1) is not helpful for de-escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula. We call upon all parties to be very careful. Since the region is flooded with weapons, any rash move or even an unintended incident may trigger off a military conflict.

We expect the DPRK to continue to exercise restraint and not react to these maneuvers in a military manner.

We are convinced that the need for nuclear missile tests or military exercises will disappear after the stakeholders reach basic agreements on mutual relations and the principles of peaceful coexistence. To do so, the dialogue must be resumed, but first, of course, it is important to reduce military activity in the region.”

Maria Zakharova- Spokeswoman, Russian Foreign Ministry

August 17, 2017⁹⁸

"Any attempt to resolve the problem over the Korean Peninsula by force will lead to a massive tragedy and enormous loss of life.”

Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister

August 15, 2017⁹⁹

Peoples Daily reported that, according Lavrov, “the situation on the Korean Peninsula could be intensified again as the joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises draw near. Solving the DPRK nuclear issue through military means is absolutely unacceptable; instead it should be resolved peacefully through political and diplomatic means.”

⁹⁷ Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Foreign Ministry, Russian Federation, August 24, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/-/asset_publisher/D2wHaWMCU6Od/content/id/2844695#7

⁹⁸ "Russia warns of risk of 'point of no return' on North Korea, urges restraint", The Reuters, August 17, 2017, <http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKCN1AX1KA>

⁹⁹ "Chinese FM urges peaceful settlement of Korean nuclear issue in phone talk with Lavrov", Peoples Daily, August 16, 2017, <http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0816/c90883-9255810.html>

Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister

August 11, 2017¹⁰⁰

"Unfortunately, the rhetoric in Washington and Pyongyang is now starting to go over the top,"

"We still hope and believe that common sense will prevail."

"The risks are very high, especially taking into account the rhetoric."

"Direct threats of using force are heard... The talk (in Washington) is that there must be a preventive strike made on North Korea, while Pyongyang is threatening to carry out a missile strike on the U.S. base in Guam. These (threats) continue non-stop, and they worry us a lot."

"I won't get into guessing what happens 'if'. We will do whatever we can to prevent this 'if'."

"My personal opinion is that when you get close to the point of a fight breaking out, the side that is stronger and cleverer should take the first step away from the threshold of danger,"

August 8, 2017¹⁰¹

"I heard that the Foreign Ministry of North Korea has made a harsh statement rejecting this resolution and condemning it as unfair. Strictly speaking, this is how representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have reacted to all previous UN Security Council resolutions. We will judge by their actions."

We are confident that there is no alternative to the resumption of the political process, in particular the six-party talks. Russia and China have made relevant proposals. We will promote them in New York and other venues. We will certainly continue our dialogue with our North Korean neighbours. We expect that with the prudent approach of all players, naturally including the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan, we will be able to find a solution that suits all parties."

¹⁰⁰ "Russia says bellicose rhetoric on North Korea is 'over the top'", The Reuters, August 11, 2017, www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-russia-usa-idUSKBN1AR1BY

¹⁰¹ "Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, August 8, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya_s_uchastiem_ministra/-/asset_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/2833873

	<p style="text-align: center;">Maria Zakharova- Spokeswoman, Russian Foreign Ministry</p> <p>August 13, 2017¹⁰²</p> <p>"How far the situation has gone... Well, it has come very close to a potential possibility of a force conflict," "If the force scenario is really used and if the situation really develops in a way the Washington establishment is threatening with, it will be a real catastrophe,"</p> <p>According to Zakharova, the United States seems not to understand consequences of a potential force conflict which will "affect all countries of the region, and not only them."</p> <p>"Representatives of the establishment, Congressmen are reassuring people saying they should not worry about that as it will not kill people in the US, it will kill people in other countries, implying not only North Korea. I think they mean South Korea as well."</p>
<p>Japan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Press Release- Ministry of Defense</p> <p>August 31, 2017¹⁰³</p> <p>"In the wake of the missile launch this time which poses unprecedentedly grave and serious threat, Japan and the United States participants reaffirmed that both countries will take resolute Alliance responses toward military challenges against Japan-U.S. alliance, and agreed to continue to put further pressure on North Korea under the ironclad alliance."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister</p> <p>August 31, 2017¹⁰⁴</p> <p>"With cooperation among Japan, the United States, and the ROK, as well as the United Kingdom and the rest of the international community, we should cause North Korea to change its policies by increasing the pressure on North Korea. I would like to have even closer cooperation for this purpose."</p>

¹⁰² "Situation around North Korea coming close to potential use of force - Russian diplomat", TASS, August 13, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/960182>

¹⁰³ "Press Release: Alliance Coordination Mechanism (ACM) Video-conference at the Director-General Level", Ministry of Defense, Japan, August 31, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/release/2017/08/31f.html>

¹⁰⁴ "Press Occasion on the Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talk", The Office of Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet, August 31, 2017, http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/actions/201708/31article1.html

Statement- Ministry of Defense

August 31, 2017¹⁰⁵

“Minister Onodera stated that Aug 29th ballistic missile launch by North Korea is different level of unprecedented serious threat to Japan's security, and close coordination between both Japan and the U.S. is required. Secretary Mattis expressed similar view.

The Ministers confirmed that they will continue to exert pressure on North Korea in a tangible way and coordinate closely on future correspondence, while working together in information sharing by utilizing a wide variety of channels including ACM. Also, Secretary Mattis renewed the U.S. unwavering commitment to defend Japan including extended deterrence.

In addition, the Ministers reaffirmed to advance trilateral cooperation among Japan, the United States, and Republic of Korea.”

Taro Kano- Foreign Minister

August 30, 2017¹⁰⁶

“It is totally unacceptable that North Korea has launched a ballistic missile that flew over Japan. The launch poses an unprecedented, grave and serious threat to the security of the region, including Japan, and the international community as a whole.”

“The countries concerned including Japan and the international community have repeatedly urged North Korea to fully comply with the relevant UNSC resolutions and among others, condemned its repeated provocative actions including nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, and urged it to abandon its nuclear and missile development programs.”

“Japan will seriously consider further actions in close collaboration with the United States and the Republic of Korea, from the perspective of further increasing pressure, including pursuit of a new UNSC resolution, on North Korea in the most effective manner towards the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern.”

¹⁰⁵ “Press Release: Teleconference between Defense Minister Onodera and U.S. Defense Secretary Mattis”, Ministry of Defense, Japan, August 31, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/release/2017/08/31a.html>

¹⁰⁶ “Statement by Foreign Minister Taro Kono”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, August 30, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001707.html

Itsunori Onodera- Defense Minister

August 30, 2017¹⁰⁷

According to Kyodo News, “Japan's Self-Defense Forces did not take actions to intercept the missile, with Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera saying the decision not to bring it down was taken because radar data ruled out the possibility of the projectile falling on Japan”.

Taro Kano- Foreign Minister

August 29, 2017¹⁰⁸

“The flight of a missile over Japan represents a highly grave situation...in any case, Japan, the United States, and the ROK must work in firm solidarity to address the situation, and that the international community needs to continue to firmly apply pressure on North Korea until it seeks dialogue. Minister Kang expressed her agreement to this.”

“ It seems that North Korea’s miniaturization of nuclear weapons has made progress. Furthermore, the use of larger engines in North Korean missiles is becoming a reality. In this sense, I must say that they pose a considerably larger threat compared to previous years.”

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

August 29, 2017¹⁰⁹

“A missile launch across Japan is an outrageous act that poses an unprecedented, grave and serious threat, and significantly undermines the peace and security of the region. The Government has lodged a firm protest against North Korea. We ask the United Nations (UN) Security Council to convene an emergency meeting. The Government will collaborate with the international community at the UN in urging the further strengthening of pressure on North Korea. We will make every effort to ensure the safety and security of the Japanese people with a sense of urgency to be able to deal with any situation under the robust Japan-U.S. Alliance.”

¹⁰⁷ “N. Korea missile launch leaves question in Japan's defense ability”, Kyodo News, August 30, 2017, <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/08/265cb45caee3-focus-n-korea-missile-launch-leaves-question-in-japans-defense-ability.html>

¹⁰⁸ “Press Conference by Foreign Minister”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, August 29, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/fm_press_index.html

¹⁰⁹ Shinzo Abe, “North Korean Missile Flies Over Japan, Poses a Grave and Serious Threat”, Office of the Prime Minister, August 29, 2017, http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201708/1224178_11583.html

Yoshihide Suga- Chief Cabinet Secretary

August 29, 2017¹¹⁰

“At around 5:58 am today, North Korea launched a ballistic missile that flew over Cape Erimo (Erimo-misaki), Hokkaido in Japan. The Government of Japan is taking every possible means including necessary measures such as safety checks of vessels at sea and aircraft in the air, as well as safety confirmation for the regions where the missile was deemed to have flown over. No damage has been reported as of now.”

“Despite the fact that the international community had just lodged once again a unified protest and warning to North Korea to ensure that these acts never happen again, it belligerently launched another ballistic missile; It is totally unacceptable.”

“These actions by North Korea violate the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, and is also against the spirit of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Japan lodges its serious protest and condemns North Korea in the strongest terms.”

Taro Kano- Foreign Minister

August 17, 2017¹¹¹

“The July Japan-U.S.-ROK summit meeting confirmed that North Korea, if it changes its course and if it refrains from intimidating and provocative action and toward denuclearization, if it is ready to come back to serious dialogue, these measures to be taken are important, first and foremost. There’s no sense to dialogue for the sake of dialogue; we agreed on this point between Japan and the United States, or Japan, U.S., and ROK at the center.”

¹¹⁰ "Statement by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on North Korea's Missile Launch", Office of Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet, August 29, 2017, http://japan.kantei.go.jp/07_abe/decisions/2017/1224195_11594.html

¹¹¹ "Remarks With Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, and Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera at a Press Availability", The Department of States, August 17, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/08/273513.htm>

Itsunori Onodera- Defense Minister

August 10, 2017¹¹²

Onodera said according to Kyodo News, that Japan's Self-Defense Forces could intercept North Korean missiles targeting Guam.

Yoshihide Suga , Chief Cabinet Secretary

August 10, 2017¹¹³

"We cannot tolerate such a clear provocative act to the security of the region and international society, including our country, urging Pyongyang to exercise restraint. "

"We will maintain our monitoring and surveillance at a high level and take all possible means to cope with any situation."

** 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.*

¹¹² "Japan could shoot down N. Korea missile targeting Guam: defense chief", Kyodo News, August 10, 2017, <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/08/580da0a62bda-update1-japan-could-shoot-down-n-korea-missile-targeting-guam-defense-chief.html?phrase=north%20korea&words=North,Korea,Korea%27s>

¹¹³ "Japan could shoot down N. Korea missile targeting Guam: defense chief" Kyodo News, August 10, 2017, <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/08/580da0a62bda-update1-japan-could-shoot-down-n-korea-missile-targeting-guam-defense-chief.html?phrase=north%20korea&words=North,Korea,Korea%27s>