



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

November 15-17, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comment
North Korea	<p>Rodong Sinmun</p> <p>November 17, 2017¹</p> <p>"The conclusion that our army and people have reached via the history of North Korea-U.S. confrontations is there is no way other than standing against the repressive U.S. imperialists only with a nuclear deterrent of justice."</p> <p>"We've already made clear that we would never take even one step back from a road to beefing up national nuclear power unless the U.S. hostile policy against us comes to an end."</p>

¹ "N.K. declares nuclear negos impossible ahead of Chinese envoy's visit", The Yonhap News, November 17, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/17/80/0401000000AEN20171117006000315F.html>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Rodong Sinmun</p> <p>November 15, 2017²</p> <p>"Trump astounded the international community by ridiculously distorting and manipulating the reality of our Republic and ripping out all kinds of curse against us for whopping 22 minutes in his 35-minute speech at the puppet National Assembly (in Seoul)."</p> <p>"We deem Trump's slanders as a declaration of war to overthrow our regime."</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;">Joseph Yun- Special Representative for North Korea Policy</p> <p>November 17, 2017³</p> <p>"There is no doubt that both of the presidents want to find a peaceful way in regard to North Korea's nuclear issue. So we discussed them and we agreed the pressure campaign has to be a central element."</p> <p>"We have been engaged with countries like China, Russia, as well as Japan and the EU, aimed at getting pressure on North Korea to have a meaningful and credible dialogue with us so that they can take steps towards the denuclearization."</p> <p>"We very much agree on that, and again today we reaffirmed that goal."</p> <p>"China, of course, has a big role to play on Northeast Asia security issues. I hope, as China has done within the (United Nations Security Council) and elsewhere, it regards the denuclearization as a critical goal. We do hope that special envoy will forward that goal."</p>

² "N. Korea berates Trump's anti-North criticism as 'declaration of war'", The Yonhap News, November 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/15/0401000000AEN20171115007700315.html>

³ "S. Korea, U.S vow peaceful resolution to N.K. issue, seek sanctions, pressure", the Yonhap News, November 17, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/16/38/0401000000AEN20171116012652315F.html>

Donald Trump- President

November 16, 2017⁴

"China is sending an Envoy and Delegation to North Korea- A big move, we'll see what happens!"

Sarah Huckabee Sanders- Spokesperson, White House

November 16, 2017⁵

Regarding President Trump's statement on November 15, 2017 that he and President Xi agreed that there would be no 'freeze-for-freeze' proposal regarding North Korea, White House spokesperson said,

"Both sides made their position clear. They're different, but we agreed that they're going to be different positions and therefore it's not going to move forward."

Randall Schriver- Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs

November 16, 2017⁶

"I do believe we need to get out of that binary trap of, we either go to war and have military conflict or treat North Korea as a recognized nuclear state,"

"The only way you fall anywhere else on that spectrum is through diplomacy."

"We need a willing partner on the other side."

⁴ Donald Trump, Twitter, November 16, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/931140567089721344>

⁵ "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders", The White House, November 16, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/11/16/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-11162017-32>

⁶ "Pentagon nominee advocates talks with N. Korea", The Yonhap News, November 16, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/17/0401000000AEN20171117000200315.html>

"The first step is getting to a place where you can talk and then the second step, and equally if not more important, is the substance of and the content of those talks."

Admiral Harry Harris – Commander, Pacific Command

November 16, 2017⁷

"Clearly, while diplomacy must be the main effort with North Korea, it has to be diplomacy backed by credible military power."

Donald Trump- President

November 15, 2017⁸

"Our trip was defined by three core goals. First: to unite the world against the nuclear menace posed by the North Korean regime, a threat that has increased steadily through many administrations and now requires urgent action."

"Prime Minister Abe and I agreed on our absolute determination to remain united to achieve the goal of denuclearized North Korea."

Speaking before the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, I spoke the truth about the evil crimes of the North Korean regime, and I made clear that we will not allow this twisted dictatorship to hold the world hostage to nuclear blackmail."

"I called on every nation, including China and Russia, to unite in isolating the North Korean regime -- cutting off all ties of trade and commerce -- until it stops its dangerous provocation on -- and this is the whole key to what we're doing -- on denuclearization. We have to denuclearize North Korea."

"I discussed with the U.S. and South Korean military leaders both military options and readiness to respond to North Korean provocation

⁷ "U.S. commander: Military-backed diplomacy needed to deal with N. Korea", The Asahi Shimbun, November 17, 2017, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201711170010.html>

⁸ "Remarks by President Trump on His Trip to Asia", White House, November 15, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/11/15/remarks-president-trump-his-trip-asia>

	<p>or offensive actions.”</p> <p>“During our visit, President Xi pledged to faithfully implement United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea and to use his great economic influence over the regime to achieve our common goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>“President Xi recognizes that a nuclear North Korea is a grave threat to China, and we agreed that we would not accept a so-called “freeze for freeze” agreement like those that have consistently failed in the past. We made that time is running out and we made it clear, and all options remain on the table.”</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p>Lee Do-hoon, Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs</p> <p>November 17, 2017⁹</p> <p>On the planned visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy to North Korea special representative said,</p> <p>"It could have a very significant meaning considering the current situation."</p> <p>"We will keep an eye on the outcome and meet again (with Yun) as soon as possible to analyze it together."</p> <p>Choo Mi-ae- Chairwoman, Democratic Party</p> <p>November 15, 2017¹⁰</p> <p>“President Trump often emphasizes that he put all options on the table.”</p> <p>“We want to make sure that this option of another war is not placed on the table. Under no circumstances should the U.S. go ahead and use a</p>

⁹ "S. Korea, U.S vow peaceful resolution to N.K. issue, seek sanctions, pressure", The Yonhap News, November 17, 2017, S. Korea, U.S vow peaceful resolution to N.K. issue, seek sanctions, pressure

¹⁰ "South Korean says U.S. must not strike North Korea without Seoul's consent", The Reuters, November 15, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-southkorea-usa/south-korean-says-u-s-must-not-strike-north-korea-without-seouls-consent-idUSKBN1DF2EW>

	<p>military option without the consent of South Korea.”</p> <p>“We must seek a peaceful resolution of the matter in any manner that is available to us.”</p>
<p>China</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>November 16, 2017¹¹</p> <p>“China's position on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is consistent and clear. We are committed to realizing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, to maintaining peace and stability of the Peninsula, and to resolving the issue through dialogue and consultation. This "three commitments" position is well known. Meanwhile, China has been comprehensively, accurately, faithfully, and strictly implementing all DPRK-related resolutions adopted by the Security Council, and fulfilling its due international obligations.”</p> <p>“We have said many times that the essence of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is about security. Only by addressing the reasonable security concerns of all sides in a balanced way through dialogue can we find a fundamental solution to peacefully resolve the Peninsula nuclear issue. That is why China has raised the suspension-for-suspension initiative and the dual-track approach, which we believe would be the most pragmatic, feasible, sensible and reasonable proposal under the current circumstance. It will not only help ease the current tense situation, but also address the most pressing security concerns of all parties, create opportunities and conditions for resuming peace talks, and find a breakthrough out of the current stalemate. Here I would like to stress that suspension-for-suspension is just the first step, not the final destination. We hope that all parties give serious thoughts and favorable considerations to China's proposals. At the same time, we welcome any other proposals that are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the Korean nuclear issue.</p>

¹¹ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, November 16, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1511357.shtml

	<p>Another point I want to emphasize is that military force is not an option for resolving the issue, on which the international community has reached general consensus.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang – Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>November 15, 2017¹²</p> <p>“China has been comprehensively, accurately, faithfully, and strictly implementing all DPRK-related resolutions adopted by the Security Council, and fulfilling our due international obligations. At the same time, we oppose unilateral sanctions imposed on the basis of one’s domestic laws and outside the Security Council framework. Our position is also quite clear.”</p>
Russia	
Japan	

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

¹² "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, November 15, 2017,
http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1511125.shtml