



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

December 1-11, 2017

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Country	Comments
North Korea	<p>Rodong Sinmun</p> <p>December 10, 2017¹</p> <p>"The DPRK will regard the U.S. and its vassal forces' project for sea blockade against it as wanton infringement on its sacred sovereignty and dignity and another open declaration of war, and will never remain passive,"</p> <p>"The situation clearly proves that the U.S. is just the thrice-cursed criminal wholly to blame for worsening the situation on the Korean peninsula and wrecking global peace and security and that the Trump cult deserves worldwide criticism for its sanctions racket to stifle the</p>

¹ "Sea Blockade Will Be Regarded as Declaration of War: Rodong Sinmun", KCNA, December 10, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

DPRK, a heinous crime,"

KCNA

December 9, 2017²

"The UN Under-Secretary-General Mr. Jeffrey Feltman and his delegation visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from December 5 to 9."

"The DPRK side, stressing that the current tense situation on the Korean peninsula is completely due to the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threats against the DPRK and that even at the very moment of their talks the U.S. is revealing its intention of launching a surprise nuclear preemptive strike on the DPRK by conducting the largest scale ever joint aerial drill mobilizing different kinds of nuclear strategic bombers, clarified its principled stand concerning the issues of preserving peace on the Korean peninsula and impartiality of the UN."

"The UN secretariat side expressed concerns on the escalation of tension on the Korean peninsula and its willingness to contribute to the efforts for preventing escalation of tension on the Korean peninsula in accordance with the UN Charter which defined the main mission of the UN as preserving international peace and security."

"Recognizing that the present visit of the UN under-secretary-general contributed to deepening the understanding between the DPRK and the UN Secretariat, both sides agreed on putting the communication through visits at different level on a regular basis in the future,"

"The U.N. undersecretary general expressed his intention to strive for cooperation in keeping with the humanitarian mission."

Spokesperson- Foreign Ministry

December 6, 2017³

² "Press Release Regarding Visit of UN Under-Secretary-General Mr. Jeffrey Feltman to DPRK", KCNA, December 9, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

"We do not wish for a war but shall not hide from it, and should the U.S. miscalculate our patience and light the fuse for a nuclear war, we will surely make the U.S. dearly pay the consequences with our mighty nuclear force which we have consistently strengthened," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported in English.

"If the U.S. does not want to be burnt to death by the fire it ignites, it would better behave with prudence and caution."

KCNA

December 6, 2017

"Talks were held between Pak Myong Guk, vice minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK, and Jeffrey Feltman, under-secretary-general of the United Nations, here on Wednesday."

"Views on cooperation between the DPRK and the UN Secretariat, assistance to the DPRK from the UN organizations and other matters of mutual concern were exchanged at the talks."

Spokesperson- Foreign Ministry

December 2, 2017⁴

"The U.S. is planning to carry out the largest-ever joint aerial drill with its south Korean stooges targeting the DPRK from December 4 to 8 and push the current touch-and-go situation of the Korean peninsula to a flare-up."

"The drill would be unprecedented in its size and nature of simulating actual combat situation.." The U.S. is publicly touting the objective of the drill as enhancing the actual combat capability to disable the DPRK's major strategic bases in the early stages of war."

"The Trump team is begging for nuclear war by staging an extremely

³ "DPRK FM Spokesman Blasts American High-level Politicians for Making Reckless Remarks about DPRK", KCNA, December 6, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

⁴ "FM Spokesman on Planned Joint Aerial Drill by U.S. and S. Korea", Rodong Sinmun, December 5, 2017, <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1512453652-14301433/fm-spokesman-on-planned-joint-aerial-drill-by-u-s-and-s-korea/>

	<p>dangerous nuclear gamble on the Korean peninsula.”</p> <p>“As stipulated in the Decree of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK on further consolidating the status of a self-defensive nuclear weapons state, the mission of the state nuclear force of the DPRK is to deter and repel the U.S. invasion and attack against the country, and carry out crushing retaliatory strikes on the bases of aggression.”</p> <p>“The latest developments clearly prove once again that peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the world can be maintained only when an effective balance of force is established between the DPRK and the U.S.</p> <p>The international community should identify who is begging and heading for nuclear war and hold the U.S. totally accountable as the destroyer and disruptor of global peace.”</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;">Nikki Haley- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations</p> <p>December 7, 2017⁵</p> <p>Addressing the situation in Korean Peninsula and its impact on the on the winter Olympics, Ms. Haley said,.</p> <p>“I think those are conversations that we are going to have to have, but what have we always said? We don’t ever fear anything, we live our lives.”</p> <p>“What we will do is make sure that we’re taking every precaution possible to make sure that they’re safe and to know everything that’s going on around them.”</p> <p>“There’s an open question. I have not heard anything about that, but I do know that in the talks that we have — whether it’s Jerusalem, whether it’s North Korea — it’s about, how do we protect the U.S. citizens in the area?”</p>

⁵ "US ambassador casts doubt on whether American athletes will attend Winter Olympics", CNBC, December 7, 2017, <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/07/south-korea-winter-olympics-nikki-haley-casts-doubt-on-us-attendance.html>

Joseph Yu - U.S. Special Representative for North Korea

December 7, 2017⁶

"I think, regarding 60 days or any number of days, we made it clear. Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson has made it clear that a good first step for North Korea would be to stop testing nuclear devices and missiles. And then we are open to holding a dialogue."

"But of course, diplomacy is not about operating blind. When you stop testing, for example, you really ought to tell us you are stopping testing because you want a dialogue. Otherwise, we're not into reading tea leaves and saying: Why are they stopping testing?."

"What is it we have to do to stop these, we commonly term, provocations? And really, we are left in the dark. So far, I can report no real progress on diplomatic engagement. So really, when there is no progress in diplomatic engagement despite us having reached out, there is no choice but continued pressure policies."

"It's very important to state your intentions. And then, I do believe if they stop testing for a period of time and told that to us, then I think it would open some space for dialogue."

Donald Trump- President

December 6, 2017⁷

In his remark at Cabinet Meeting President Trump said,

"We're going to be discussing today the situation in North Korea. It will be handled, and it will be handled properly."

Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, State Department

December 5, 2017⁸

⁶ "U.S. still open to dialogue with N.K. after pause in weapons testing: envoy", The Yonhap News, December 7, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/08/0401000000AEN20171208007500315.html>

⁷ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/12/06/remarks-president-trump-cabinet-meeting>

⁸ "Department Press Briefing", US Department of State, December 5, 2017,

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/12/276263.htm>

“Our policy is very clear. It’s a policy that Russia and China happen to agree with as well. We believe in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. That is something that the Republic of Korea believes in firmly and also Japan. So we’re not changing our view. We’re not going to backtrack on this. We believe – and that is our top priority – the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

“We remain open to talks if – if – they are serious about denuclearization. The activities that they’ve been engaged in recently have shown that they are not interested, that they are not serious about sitting down and having conversations.”

Regarding the UN Under Secretary General Jeffrey Feltman’s visit to North Korea, the spokesperson said,

“He is not traveling on behalf of the U.S. Government and he’s not traveling – I want to make this clear – with any kind of message from the U.S. Government.”

Lt. Col. Chris Logan- Spokesman, Pentagon

December 5, 2017⁹

"The Department of Defense currently has no intent to initiate departures for military dependents, whether on a voluntary or mandatory basis, and no intent to modify the policy authorizing military dependents to accompany military members being stationed in South Korea."

"The United States has many contingency plans in place all over the world to keep our military families safe."

H.R. McMaster- National Security Adviser

December 3, 2017¹⁰

"The president is going to take care of it by, if we have to, doing more

⁹ “U.S. has no plan to move military dependents out of S. Korea: Pentagon”, The Yonhap News, December 6, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/06/0401000000AEN20171206000700315.html>

¹⁰ "McMaster speaks to Trump's tweets, North Korea and Middle East peace", Fox News, December 3, 2017, <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/12/03/mcmaster-speaks-to-trumps-tweets-north-korea-and-middle-east-peace.html>

ourselves. But what we want to do is convince others it is in their interest to do more."

"China, as you know, has taken some unprecedented actions. And what we're asking China to do is, not do us or anybody else a favor, but to act in China's interest.

"There's a real grave danger to China, to Russia, to all nations, by -- you know, from a North Korea that's armed with nuclear weapons. And of course, you have that direct threat, but you also have the threat of -- the potential of Japan, South Korea, others, arming themselves, possibly even with nuclear weapons. That is not in China's interest; it's not in Russia's interest."

"And so, what the president's saying is, we all need to take care of it. If necessary, the president and the United States will have to take care of it, because he has said he's not going to allow this murderous, rogue regime to threaten the United States with the most destructive weapons on the planet."

Statement- Defense Department

December 1, 2017¹¹

"Both (Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Defense Minister of Japan Itsunori Onodera) condemned the launch and were strongly aligned on security issues with a keen, shared recognition of the danger associated with North Korea's reckless, outlaw behavior, which is contrary to United Nations Security Council Resolutions. Both countries are united in their approach to defending their populations and maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific. Secretary Mattis also reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to the Alliance, and that the United States remains vigilant in providing Japan extended deterrence with the full range of U.S. capabilities."

"Secretary Mattis and Minister Onodera concluded by agreeing that North Korea's ongoing aggressive actions make all the more clear the need for multilateral security cooperation in order to address this growing threat and to maintain stability throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

¹¹ "Readout of Secretary Mattis' Call with Japan Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera ", The US Department of Defense, December 1, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1385667/readout-of-secretary-mattis-call-with-japan-minister-of-defense-itsunori-onodera/>

South Korea

Col. Roh Jae-cheon – Spokesman, Joint Chief of Staff

December 11, 2017¹²

Regarding the postponing of annual war games with the United States to avoid the overlap with the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games JCS spokesperson said,

"Nothing has been decided so far as you know," the JCS spokesman Army Col. Roh Jae-cheon said at a press briefing. "(I) am not aware of such a consultation (reported by media) itself."

Song Young-moo - Defense Minister

December 8, 2017¹³

"As North Korea's asymmetric threats, such as nuclear, missile and cyber attacks, have grown, war conditions have become completely different from (those of) the past."

"Accordingly, we have to build a 'new strong military' as early as possible on the basis of a new operational concept to meet the new war paradigm."

Moon Jae-in –President

December 6, 2017¹⁴

"The South-North Korean relations are still not so good. The tension between the South and the North is at its peak, and so it is a very cautious situation as if we are walking on thin ice."

"But I am not all pessimistic. I believe a crisis may well turn into an

¹² "Military: No decision on next year's alliance exercise", The Yonhap News, December 11, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/11/7/0401000000AEN20171211003900315F.html>

¹³ "S. Korea on alert for N. Korea's provocations", The Yonhap News, December 8, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/08/0401000000AEN20171208003551315.html>

¹⁴ "Moon says N. Korea walking on thin ice, but peaceful end still possible", The Yonhap News, December 6, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/06/79/0401000000AEN20171206008300315F.html>

opportunity, and the night is the darkest just before the dawn. When we overcome this ongoing crisis, I am sure it will turn into an opportunity to dramatically improve the South-North relations.”

Lee Nak-yon- Prime Minister

December 7, 2017¹⁵

"Based on the firm Korea-U.S. alliance, the government will work with the international community to impose sanctions and put pressure on North Korea in the strongest manner.”

"The international community, including the U.S., has begun to put strongest-ever sanctions and pressure against the North and this will continue until North Korea changes its attitude.”

"North Korea must face this reality squarely and take a reasonable course now, even belatedly.”

"As long as the North sticks with its current attitude, it will end up giving itself irrecoverable destruction.”

Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister

December 5, 2017¹⁶

"There is no concrete evidence that they have mastered the technology that is required to be able to put a nuclear device on a long-range nuclear missile.”

"They have not yet reached the final, final completion stage yet. I think that would be the shared view of all the technical expertise around this program.”

Baik Tae-hyun- Spokesman, Ministry of Unification

December 4, 2017¹⁷

¹⁵ “PM: S. Korea to seek strongest sanctions, pressure on N. Korea”, The Yonhap News, December 6, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/07/1/0401000000AEN20171207007700315F.html>

¹⁶ “N. Korea has yet to master nuclear missile technology: FM”, The Yonhap News, December 5, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/05/0401000000AEN20171205010900315.html>

	<p>"The air force drill is an annual joint military exercise among the allies of a defensive nature. The government will not comment on every reaction by North Korea."</p> <p>"The government does not accept the North's 'unilateral' claim to completing its nuclear program. We are making efforts to resolve the North's nuclear issue peacefully with the international community."</p>
China	<p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>December 8, 2017¹⁸</p> <p>"We encourage all parties including Russia to endeavor to bring the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue back to the track of peaceful settlement through dialogue and consultation. We keep stressing that the essence of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is a security issue with the DPRK-US disputes at the core. As parties directly concerned in the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the DPRK and the US should engage with each other and work to resolve this issue through dialogue and negotiation. China has been working on both sides towards this goal."</p> <p>December 6, 2017¹⁹</p> <p>"China welcomes any effort and proposal that will help to ease the tension on the Korean Peninsula, promote the denuclearization of the Peninsula and uphold peace and stability of the Peninsula. China and Russia share similar position on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and have maintained close communication and coordination all along."</p>

¹⁷ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/04/0401000000AEN20171204004400315.html>

¹⁸ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 8, 2017

¹⁹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 6, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1517163.shtml

	<p>December 5, 2017²⁰</p> <p>“China is pleased to see the UN playing a constructive role in helping properly resolve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. During UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman's stay in China, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong met with him where the two sides exchanged views on the UN affairs and other issues of common interest.”</p> <p>December 1, 2017²¹</p> <p>“On the Peninsula nuclear issue, China and Russia have the same stance and have been in close communication and coordination. The joint initiative, a legitimate and reasonable one based on the "dual-track" approach and "suspension-for-suspension" proposal of China and the step-by-step vision of Russia, takes into full account and accommodates in a balanced way the concerns of all relevant parties and contributes to properly resolving the Peninsula nuclear issue.”</p> <p>“We hope that all relevant parties could show their goodwill and flexibility, and endeavor to cool down the situation on the Korean Peninsula and bring the issue to the right track of settlement through dialogue and consultation at an early date. As for the proposals separately raised by China and Russia as well as our joint initiative, the DPRK knows them very well.”</p>
Russia	<p style="text-align: center;">Sergey Lavrov - Foreign Minister</p> <p>December 7, 2017²²</p> <p>Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after his talks with US</p>

²⁰ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 5, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1516717.shtml

²¹ http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1515872.shtml

²² "Russia ready to promote N. Korea-US dialogue on Pyongyang's security guarantees - Lavrov", TASS, December 7, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/979782>

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on the sidelines of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting,

"We spoke about the situation on the Korean Peninsula."

"Our position on this matter is unchanged. We are confident that it the vicious spiral of confrontation and provocations must be stopped."

"We know that North Korea wants first of all to speak with the United States about its security guarantees. We are ready to support it. We are ready to help promote such talks."

Statement- Foreign Ministry

December 7, 2017²³

Press release of Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,

"The Russian and US foreign policy leaders agreed that North Korea must strictly adhere to UN Security Council resolutions. In this context, Mr Lavrov once again stressed the inadmissibility of actions that could cause an escalation of tensions, such as US military preparations near the Korean Peninsula, as well as aggressive rhetoric, and called for a resumption of focused efforts to resolve the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula solely by diplomatic means."

Konstantin Kosachev - Chairman the Federation Council Committee for Foreign Affairs

December 7, 2017²⁴

Following a meeting with North Korea's Ambassador to Russia Kim Hyong-jun, Konstantin Kosachev said,

"North Korea has confirmed that Pyongyang is not interested in

²³ "Press release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, December 7, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/2981060

²⁴ "Pyongyang does not want escalation of tensions on Korean peninsula, senator says", TASS, December 7, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/979700>

escalation of the conflict or military action, but it is not afraid of war, as it was formulated in yesterday's statement of [North Korea's] Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

"We don't see any alternative to advancement through partial, but parallel and interconnected, concessions in order to deescalate the situation."

"The Russian Federation respects North Korea's sovereignty and the right of the North Korean people to sovereign development... The Federation Council is ready to apply efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula by using parliamentary methods. We call for restraint in the North Korean situation to be preserved."

Igor Morgulov - Deputy Foreign Minister

December 5, 2017²⁵

"During consultations, US representatives said that in case North Korea keeps silence regime in place for two months the United States would reduce its military activity in the region. But, regrettably, instead of a silence regime on both sides we saw Washington increasing its military activity on the Korean Peninsula."

"And what would you expect from Pyongyang."

December 5, 2017²⁶

"We discussed this initiative (suspension of North Korea's nuclear missile program in exchange of curtailing South Korea's and the United States' military drills, with a subsequent dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington and further full-scale talks involving all parties concerned) with them (North Korea) and they showed interest in it."

"We think that North Korea needs no guarantees either Russia or China."

²⁵ "North Korea's latest missile test was response to US actions - Russian senior diplomat", TASS, December 6, 2017, <http://tass.com/world/979247>

²⁶ N.Korea shows interest in Russia's diplomatic initiative — Russian senior diplomat", TASS, December 6, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/979250>

	<p>"What Pyongyang needs is direct talks with Washington."</p> <p>"Russia has supported the United Nations Security Council's sanctions (on North Korea) more than once but we think that sanctions are not working any longer."</p> <p>"Washington's and Seoul's unprecedented big joint military drills, involving more than 230 units of hardware, kicked off on Monday. It only complicates the situation in the region and in no way can be seen as an invitation to North Korea to begin dialogue."</p> <p>"It is necessary to elaborate a common position to ensure our (the participants in the six-lateral talks) successful conversation with Pyongyang."</p> <p>"It would much more efficient as we must speak in unison."</p>
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;">Itsunori Onodera- Defence Minister</p> <p>December 8, 2017²⁷</p> <p>"We are planning to introduce the JSM (Joint Strike Missile) that will be mounted on the F-35A (stealth fighter) as 'stand-off' missiles that can be fired beyond the range of enemy threats."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Taro Kano- Foreign Minister</p> <p>December 1, 2017²⁸</p> <p>"I believe the emergency meeting of the Security Council demonstrated the unity of the international community. China has influences on North Korea, including in terms of trade, and we have been asking</p>

²⁷ "Japan to acquire air-launched missiles able to strike North Korea", The Reuters, December 9, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-japan/japan-to-acquire-air-launched-missiles-able-to-strike-north-korea-idUSKBN1E2oYR>

²⁸ "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, December 1, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000444.html

	China about the various measures it could take in light of this. I believe the United States is engaging in similar discussions too. Japan will be paying close attention to China's response."
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Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.