



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

November 1-3, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comment
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">Press Release- Permanent Mission to the UN</p> <p>November 3, 2017¹</p> <p>“Today the U.S.-led racket of brutal sanctions and pressure against the DPRK constitutes contemporary human rights violation and genocide.” The sanctions regime “threatens and impedes the enjoyment by the people of DPRK of their human rights in all sectors.”</p> <p>“Some unprincipled countries have blocked the delivery of medical equipment and medicines.”</p> <p>“All types of anti-human rights and inhumane sanctions against the DPRK should be terminated immediately and thoroughly.”</p>

¹ "Press Release of DPRK Mission on Sanctions", KCNA, November 5, 2017, <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1509867050-422272053/press-release-of-dprk-mission-on-sanctions/>

	<p style="text-align: center;">KCNA</p> <p>November 3, 2017²</p> <p>“The gangster-like U.S. imperialists are ceaselessly resorting to their frantic nuclear threat and blackmail to stifle the DPRK with nukes at any cost. On Thursday they let a formation of B-1B nuclear strategic bombers stationed at the Anderson Air Force Base on Guam stealthily fly into south Korea again to stage a surprise nuclear strike drill targeting the DPRK..... The reality clearly shows that the gangster-like U.S. imperialists are the very one who is aggravating the situation of the Korean peninsula and seeking to ignite a nuclear war. The U.S. imperialists are making last-ditch efforts to check the dynamic advance of the DPRK by deploying their nuclear strategic assets in succession, but its army and people are never frightened at such moves.”</p>
<p>USA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Statement- White House</p> <p>November 3, 2017³</p> <p>“The President’s trip will focus on three goals: strengthening international resolve to denuclearize North Korea, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and advancing American prosperity through fair and reciprocal trade. President Trump will stress the United States’ commitment to the complete, verifiable, and permanent denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and will call on all responsible nations to act now to ensure that the North Korean regime cannot threaten the world with nuclear devastation.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gen. Vincent Brooks- Commander, US Forces Korea</p> <p>November 3, 2017⁴</p> <p>"The military is in support of these diplomatic and economic actions that are intended to create sufficient pressure to cause (North Korean</p>

² “U.S. Surprise Nuclear Strike Drill in S. Korea”, KCNA, November 3, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

³ "President Trump's Trip to Asia", The White House, November 3, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/11/03/president-trump-trip-to-asia>

⁴ "Credible military capabilities should back up diplomatic actions to rein in N. Korea: USFK commander", The Yonhap News, November 3, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/03/2/0401000000AEN20171103005400315F.html>

leader) Kim Jong-un to stop and reverse what it is he is doing so far.”

"As you can see more pressure is needed, but so is more diplomacy and more economic actions."

"And it has to be done on the foundation of credible and ready military capabilities, and that's what we are focused on every day in the Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance."

H.R. McMaster- National Security Adviser

November 2, 2017⁵

"That (relisting North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism) is an option that's under consideration. And so the president's Cabinet is looking at this as part of the overall strategy on North Korea," he said during a White House press briefing that previewed Trump's upcoming trip to Asia.

"A regime who murders someone in a public airport using nerve agent, and a despotic leader who murders his brother in that manner, I mean, that's clearly an act of terrorism that fits in with a range of other actions," he added. "So this is something that's under consideration. And you'll hear more about that soon, I think."

November 2, 2017⁶

"It would be irresponsible not to talk about the potential for military efforts within the alliance."

"The reason why that topic must be on the agenda (upcoming US Korea Summit) is because of the behavior of this rogue regime and the threat that (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-un poses."

"The discussion will also be about what more can we do, what more can all countries do to resolve this short of war."

"What we think is essential is to continue the diplomatic and

⁵ "U.S. considering relisting N.K. as state sponsor of terrorism: McMaster", The Yonhap News, November 3, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/03/56/0401000000AEN20171103001251315F.html>

⁶ "S. Korea, U.S. leaders to discuss military options against N. Korea: McMaster", The Yonhap News, November 3, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/03/0401000000AEN20171103000253315.html>

	<p>economic isolation of the North Korean regime so that leaders within that regime recognize that this weapon, this pursuit of this destructive capability, is not making them more secure, it's making them less secure, and to conclude that it is in their interest to begin denuclearization."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Official- State Department</p> <p>November 1, 2017⁷</p> <p>Reuters reported that according to a 'senior State Department Official' United State is quietly pursuing direct diplomacy with North Korea using the so-called "New York channel".</p> <p>The official said,</p> <p>"It (the dialogue) has not been limited at all, both (in) frequency and substance."</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Moon Jae- in – President</p> <p>November 3, 2017⁸</p> <p>"For South Korea, in response to North Korea's nuclear and missiles provocations, in addition to the cooperation with the US, such cooperation with Japan has also become very important."</p> <p>"However, the reason for the enhanced trilateral cooperation between South Korea, US and Japan is to respond to the North's provocations and I don't believe that it is desirable to develop the trilateral cooperation into a military alliance."</p> <p>"Under the current situation, President Trump's visit to South Korea and his messages will assure the Korean people, while having an effect of easing the tensions on the Korean Peninsula. And I hope that this will be a vital moment in dealing with the North Korean nuclear problem."</p>

⁷ "Exclusive: U.S. pursues direct diplomacy with North Korea despite Trump rejection", The Reuters, November 1, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-usa-exclusive/exclusive-u-s-pursues-direct-diplomacy-with-north-korea-despite-trump-rejection-idUSKBN1D136I>

⁸ "Cooperation with the US, Japan important to deal with tension with Pyongyang: South Korea's Moon", Channel News Asia, November 3, 2017 <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/cooperation-with-the-us-japan-important-to-deal-with-tension-9373348>

"The relationship with China has become more important not only in terms of economic cooperation, but also for strategic cooperation for the peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. That is why I am pursuing a balanced diplomacy with the US as well as China."

Lee Eugene- Vice-spokesperson, Unification Ministry

November 3, 2017⁹

"Though North Korea is under a set of U.N. sanctions, Washington's possible redesignation is expected to have a symbolic impact as the move would mean tougher pressure."

National Intelligence Service

November 2, 2017¹⁰

"The North will carry out additional nuclear tests and continue to push for the development of miniaturized, diversified nuclear warheads."

Noh Kyu-duk- Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

November 2, 2017¹¹

"South Korea and the U.S. are closely consulting on all issues related to North Korea and its nuclear program in order to achieve their common purpose of completely discarding North Korean nuclear weapons through peaceful means under a firm principle of not tolerating North Korean nuclear weapons."

"There could be various manners of dialogue (with North Korea) if they help achieve the common purpose."

"The South Korean government will continue to closely coordinate with the U.S. side so as to have South-North Korean talks and U.S.-

⁹ " U.S. considering relisting N.K. as state sponsor of terrorism: McMaster", The Yonhap News, November 3, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/03/56/0401000000AEN20171103001251315F.html>

¹⁰ "Spy agency raises possibility of additional N. Korean nuke, missile tests", The Yonhap News, November 2, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/02/0401000000AEN20171102013300315.html>

¹¹ "S. Korea coordinating with U.S. over direct U.S.-N. Korea diplomacy: ministry", The Yonhap News, November 2, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/11/02/0401000000AEN20171102008100315.html>

	North Korea talks supplement mutually."
China	<p style="text-align: center;">Hua Chunying- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>November 3, 2017¹²</p> <p>“Over some time, we have seen some deescalating remarks as well as words and deeds that may aggravate the contradiction and tension from the relevant parties of the Korean Peninsula issue. .. Considering that the present situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly complicated, delicate and fragile, all parties shall exercise restraint and do more for the alleviation, rather than aggravation, of tensions. Since relevant parties to the Korean Peninsula issue all have agreed that to peacefully resolve the Peninsula nuclear issue best serves the common interests of all sides, then let us focus on and proceed from endeavoring to bring all sides back to the track of dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible, enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust through dialogue, and seek a balanced solution to address the legitimate security concerns of each other so that the Peninsula nuclear issue will be peacefully resolved at an early date.”</p> <p>November 2, 2017¹³</p> <p>“China and the ROK share important consensus and common interests in realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, upholding the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula issue. Peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through diplomatic means serves the largest common interests of all relevant parties and is the shared aspiration of the international community. We support more efforts of the relevant parties for dialogue and contact and stand ready to enhance communication and coordination with the ROK to bring the Korean Peninsula issue back to the track of settlement through dialogue and negotiation at an early date.”</p>

¹² "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, November 3, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1507334.shtml

¹³ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, November 2, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1506972.shtml

	<p style="text-align: center;">Xi Jinping- President</p> <p>November 2, 2017¹⁴</p> <p>“I wish that under the new situation the Chinese side would make efforts with the DPRK side to promote the relations between the two parities and the two countries to sustainable soundness and stable development and thus make a positive contribution to providing the peoples of the two countries with more wonderful happiness and defending regional peace and stability and common prosperity.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hua Chunying- Spokesperson , Foreign Ministry</p> <p>November 1, 2017¹⁵</p> <p>“China's stance on the Korean Peninsula issue is unequivocal. We have made unremitting effort to promote the peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through diplomatic means. We welcome any contact and dialogue between the DPRK and the US. We encourage the two sides into contact and dialogue and hope that this will help enhance the mutual understanding and trust between the two sides and bring the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue back to the track of peaceful settlement through such diplomatic means as dialogue and negotiation.”</p>
Russia	<p style="text-align: center;">Maria Zakharova- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>November 2, 2017¹⁶</p> <p>“I can tell you that relations between Russia and North Korea are developing. However, we strictly comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on sanctions which, of course, were adopted with Russia’s participation. These two elements underlie our approach to cooperation with North Korea.”</p> <p>“Unlike the United States or other states for that matter, we do not make recourse to unilateral sanctions, additional sanctions, or broad</p>

¹⁴ "Reply Message to Kim Jong Un from Xi Jinping", KCNA, November 2, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

¹⁵ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, November 1, 2017

¹⁶ "Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, November 2, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/-/asset_publisher/D2wHaWMCU6Od/content/id/2932032

	interpretation of the UNSC sanctions in our practical actions or politics, but strictly adhere to our commitments assumed under UN Security Council resolutions on sanctions with regard to the DPRK.”
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;">Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister</p> <p>November 2, 2017¹⁷</p> <p>"I hope to set aside ample time to analyze with him (Donald Trump) North Korea's latest developments and discuss ways to respond, and make sure we cooperate even more closely toward an early resolution of the North Korean nuclear and missile problem."</p> <p>November 1, 2017¹⁸</p> <p>“With regard to the tense North Korea situation as well, against a background of public trust, we will develop robust diplomacy while acting in cooperation with the international community. Through our resolute diplomatic capacity, we will resolve the North Korean nuclear and missile issues as well as the abduction issue. And, we will safeguard to the end the lives and the peaceful daily lives of the Japanese people under any circumstances.”</p>

**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.

¹⁷ "Ahead of Trump visit, Abe urges upping pressure on North Korea", The Asahi Shimbun, November 2, 2017

¹⁸ "Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe", Kantei, November 1, 2017, http://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/201711/_00003.html