



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

March 26 – April 12, 2018

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On March 28, 2018, KCNA announced that Kim Jong-un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the People's Republic of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission.¹

Country	Comments
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">KCNA</p> <p>April 11, 2018²</p> <p>"At the talks the two sides reached a consensus of their views that it conforms to the aspiration and desire of the peoples of the two countries to further develop the DPRK-Russia friendly and cooperative relations with a long history and tradition."</p>

¹ "Kim Jong Un Pays Unofficial Visit to China", KCNA, March 28, 2018, www.kcna.kp

² "Talks between Foreign Ministers of DPRK and Russia Held", KCNA, April 11, 2018, kcna.kp/kcna.user.article.retrieveNewsViewInfoList.kcmsf#this

“The Russian side expressed the stand fully supporting the detente and peaceful atmosphere created recently on the Korean peninsula thanks to the peace-loving stand and bold decision by the respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.”

KCNA

April 10, 2018³

According to KCNA, on April 10, 2018 Kim Jong-un chaired a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

“In his (Kim Jong-un) report he referred to the north-south summit and talks to be held at the "House of Peace" in the south side portion of Panmunjom on April 27. He made a profound analysis and appraisal of the orientation of the development of the north-south relations at present and the prospect of the DPRK-U.S. dialogue and set forth the strategic and tactical issues to be maintained by the WPK including the future policy of international relations and the orientation corresponding to them.”

Official- Foreign Ministry

April 10, 2018⁴

"With regard to negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, (the issue) can be resolved with phased, synchronized measures.”

Ri Yong-ho - Foreign Minister

April 5, 2018⁵

"An atmosphere is emerging on the Korean Peninsula between North and South Korea.”

³ "Meeting of Political Bureau of C.C., WPK Held under Guidance of Kim Jong Un", KCNA, April 10, 2018, kcna.kp/kcna.user.special.getArticlePage.kcmsf

⁴ "N. Korean diplomat reaffirms commitment to 'phased, synchronized' denuclearization ", The Yonhap News, April 10, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/10/0401000000AEN20180410003300315.html

⁵ "N. Korean diplomat says atmosphere of reconciliation emerging, hopes for breakthrough", The Yonhap News, April 6, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/06/0401000000AEN20180406001500315.html; "2 Koreas can achieve "breakthrough": N. Korea's foreign minister", Kyodo News, April 5, 2018, <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2018/04/09f584602b26-2-koreas-can-achieve-breakthrough-n-koreas-foreign-minister.html>

"Up until last year, the global community's anxiety and concerns directed over the Korean Peninsula ... has given way to applause of support and welcome."

"Thanks to the leaders of North Korea and South Korea, a reunification atmosphere has emerged on the Korean Peninsula."

KCNA

April 2, 2018⁶

"The South Korean authorities' persistent behavior of supporting the U.S. scenario to stifle the DPRK is greatly disappointing all Koreans who ardently wish to bring earlier lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and its independent reunification."

"Cooperation with foreign forces leads to confrontation and war."

"Shameful cooperation with foreign forces and join in the trend of the times aspiring for the improvement of the North-South relations and independent reunification through national cooperation."

Kim Il-guk- Sports Minister

April 2, 2018⁷

On April 2, 2018, during their meeting in Pyongyang, sports ministers of North Korea and South Korea agreed to push for a joint march by their athletes at this year's Asian Games. North Korean sports minister Kim Il-guk said;

"If North and South Korea meet often for talks and come together in sports, we'll have no problem becoming the No. 1 in Asia, and we'll also be a force to be reckoned with internationally."

Kim Jong-un

March 28, 2018⁸

"Our (Kim Jong-un and Xi Jinping) first meeting at an important time when the socialist cause of the peoples of the two countries has entered the phase of new development marked a wonderful occasion that provided an epoch-making landmark for carrying forward and

⁶ "N. Korea slams S. Korea's recent defense talks with U.S., Japan", The Yonhap News, April 2, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/02/0401000000AEN20180402013900315.html

⁷ "Sports ministers of Korea agree to push for joint march at Asian Games", The Yonhap News, April 2, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/02/0401000000AEN20180402012300315.html

⁸ "Kim Jong Un Sends Message of Thanks to Xi Jinping", KCNA, March, 28, 2018, www.kcna.kp

developing the traditional DPRK-China friendship as required by the new era.”

“Satisfied with the consensus of views that was reached on issues of mutual concern with you during our meeting and talks, I am convinced that the DPRK-China friendship, a valuable heritage bequeathed down by the revolutionary forerunners and common treasure, would as ever steadily strengthen in the interests of the two peoples.”

March 28, 2018⁹

“It is our consistent stand to be committed to denuclearization on the peninsula, in accordance with the will of late President Kim Il Sung and late General Secretary Kim Jong Il.”

“The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved, if south Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace.”

“I have had successful talks with General Secretary Xi Jinping on developing relations between the two parties and the two countries, our respective domestic situation, maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and other issues.”

“In this spring full of happiness and hopes, I believe my first meeting with General Secretary Xi Jinping will yield abundant fruits of DPRK-China friendship, and facilitate peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.”

KCNA

March 28, 2018

“Kim Jong Un said that he made a visit to the People's Republic of China like lightning with the sole desire to invariably maintain the long-standing historical tradition of great DPRK-China friendship, to live up to the revolutionary obligation and to creditably carry forward and develop the relations between the DPRK and the PRC generation after generation under the new situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula.”

“It is quite natural that the capital of China was chosen for his maiden

⁹ “Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un hold talks in Beijing”, Xinhua. March 28, 2018, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/28/c_137070598.htm

	<p>foreign trip, he noted, adding it is also a noble obligation of him who has to value the DPRK-China friendship as his own life and carry it forward generation after generation.”</p> <p>“He (Kim Jong Un) noted that it is the unshakable stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to develop on a new stage the DPRK-China friendly relationship which was forged in the sacred common struggle for the socialist cause and which has maintained its nature despite all tempests of history, true to the noble intention of the preceding leaders.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rodong Sinmun</p> <p>March 26, 2018¹⁰</p> <p>"In order for North-South relations to develop in a way that meets the vision and the demand of the Korean people, national cooperation (between the two Koreas) should be accomplished more than anything. But the scheme for cooperation with foreign forces is continuing in South Korea, creating huge concerns for (Korean) peoples' hope for improving the North-South relationship."</p> <p>"(They) are foul meetings to plot confrontation which run counter to the current reconciliatory mood for inter-Korean relations and improving the security situation of the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>"It is a pressing demand of history and the reality that (the South) take the hand of the same (Korean) people to resolve their problems."</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;">Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, State Department</p> <p>April 11, 2018¹¹</p> <p>"I imagine that (human rights issues) would come up as well. However, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula -- which is something that Kim Jong-un said that he is willing to abide by and willing to work toward -- I think that is obviously the top conversation, and other things may come up as well."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donald Trump- President</p>

¹⁰ "N. Korea savages South's security consultations with U.S., Japan", The Yonhap news, March 26, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/26/0401000000AEN20180326007300315.html

¹¹ "Department Press Briefing", State Department, April 10, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/04/280339.htm>

April 9, 2018¹²

“And as I said, the North Korea and South Korea situation, which complicates it— the deal that we have with South Korea, I think, is going to be — I think it’s going to be a very fair deal. We want a fair deal. And we don’t have fair deals.”

“North Korea, by the way, as you’ve probably seen — and we’ve been in touch with North Korea — we’ll be meeting with them sometime in May or early June. And I think there’ll be great respect paid by both parties and hopefully we’ll be able to make a deal on the de-nuking of North Korea. They’ve said so; we’ve said so. Hopefully, it will be a relationship that’s much different than it’s been for many, many years.”

“This should have been done by other Presidents and they’ve decided they didn’t do it. They couldn’t have done it. But it would have been a lot easier if it were done 5 years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago. A lot easier than now. But we have a meeting that is being set up with North Korea. So that will be very exciting, I think, for the world. I think it’s going to be a very exciting thing for the world.”

Statement- State Department

April 4, 2018¹³

"Acting Secretary Sullivan and (Chinese Ambassador to US) Cui agreed on the importance of pursuing a constructive U.S.-China relationship that produces meaningful results and reaffirmed the commitment of the United States and China to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Marc Knapper- Acting Ambassador to South Korea

April 2, 2018¹⁴

“The goal of pressure campaign is and always has been to persuade North Korea to engage in meaningful dialogue about a different future for itself and its people.”

¹² "Remarks by President Trump at Cabinet Meeting", The White House, April 9, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-cabinet-meeting-7/>

¹³ “Acting Secretary Sullivan’s Meeting With Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai”, US State Department, April 4, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/04/280224.htm>

¹⁴ "Complete, irreversible denuclearization of North is 'nonnegotiable' goal: U.S. envoy", The Yonhap News, April 2, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/02/0401000000AEN20180402008352315.html

"To that end, we sincerely welcome recent developments that are potentially leading to a resolution of the nuclear issue."

"But let me be clear. There has been no shift in our policy. We are willing to engage with North Korea but our purpose of any meeting first and foremost will be to emphasize the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It is necessary and nonnegotiable,"

"The U.S. and the ROK (South Korea) are fully aligned when it comes to our approach to North Korea. We believe very strongly and agree strongly with President Moon's approach, which is that there will be no progress in North-South relations without progress on denuclearization."

"We sincerely hope that these summits ... will lead to the kind of progress that we failed to achieve for the past 20-25 years. So yes, we are hopeful but we are also realistic."

"Many of us for the past 20-25 years who have dealt with the issues have seen the promise of progress and its failure because of North Korea's failure to abide by the terms of the agreements. So we are hopeful but we have to be realistic and we have to be open-eyed as we go forward."

"This is the first time that we have heard this reference to commitment ... Apparently he said the same ... Kim Jong-un said the same thing to (Chinese President) Xi."

"We wanna know more. We need to know more ... The bottom line has been, is and will remain until we sit down ... is CVID. We can't accept anything less."

Alex N. Wong - Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, State Department

April 2, 2018¹⁵

"There's a lot of movement (in the Korean Peninsula), and it's understandable a lot of questions arise about how we're going to manage all this movement and move towards that objective (complete, irreversible, and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula). But I will say that it's a good thing that there is movement. It's a good thing that we have opportunities that we can seize and that we can manage towards that objective, because if you look at the prior years – a

¹⁵ "Briefing on The Indo-Pacific Strategy", State Department, April 2, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/04/280134.htm>

number of years before President Trump came to office – there really wasn't any movement. There was no diplomatic movement on the ground, and the only movement you saw was the slow, creeping expansion of North Korea's nuclear program. And in that light, I think we're in a pretty good place right now."

Donald Trump- President

March 30, 2018¹⁶

"And I may hold it (new trade deal with South Korea) up until after a deal is made with North Korea. Does everybody understand that? Do you know why? Right? Do you know why? Because it's a very strong card, and I want to make sure everyone is treated fairly and we're moving along very nicely with North Korea. We'll see what happens. Certainly the rhetoric has calmed down just a little bit, would you say? Would you say?"

"And we'll see how it all turns out. Maybe it will be good, and maybe it won't. And if it's no good, we're walking. And if it's good, we will embrace it. But it's going to be very interesting over the next period of time. And South Korea has been wonderful, but we'll probably hold that deal up for a little while. See how it all plays out."

March 28, 2018¹⁷

"Received message last night from Xi JINPING of China that his meeting with KIM JONG UN went very well and that KIM looks forward to his meeting with me. In the meantime, and unfortunately, maximum sanctions and pressure must be maintained at all cost!"

"For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility."

"Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!"

¹⁶ "Remarks by President Trump on the Infrastructure Initiative", The White House, March 30, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-infrastructure-initiative/>

¹⁷ Donald Trump, Twitter, March 28, 2018, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/978938860582440960>

Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, State Department

March 29, 2018¹⁸

“I think that meeting (Inter-Korean Summit), overall, that was announced between – between the Republic of Korea and North Korea – just moves us closer to the point where the United States can sit down with North Korea and have a meeting. We’re realistic about that overall.”

“I understand their (Japan on US-North Korea Summit) skepticism. We are being realistic too about this meeting. But that doesn’t mean that we won’t go ahead and plan a meeting to have these conversations about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

Sarah Sanders- Press Secretary, White House

March 28, 2018¹⁹

“Certainly we’re going to be cautiously optimistic (Kim Jong-un’s visit to China), but we feel things are moving in the right direction and that the meeting yesterday was a good indication that the maximum pressure campaign has been working. You saw him leave for the first time to — since becoming the leader of North Korea — leaving his country for the first time for that meeting. And we consider that to be a positive sign that the maximum pressure campaign is continuing to work. And we’re going to continue moving forward in this process in hopes for a meeting down the road.”

Heather Nauert - Spokesperson, State Department

March 27, 2018²⁰

“When we look at countries, whether it’s China, whether it’s Russia, there’s certainly more that they can do to help with our maximum pressure campaign. Russia, like China, voted in – unanimously for UN Security Council resolutions, three or four of those UN Security Council resolutions that really put the pressure on North Korea. We say that certainly countries can do more. Russia would be in that bucket and

¹⁸ "Department Press Briefing", State Department, March 29, 2018, Share<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/03/279656.htm#SOUTHKOREA>

¹⁹ "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders", The White House, March 28, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-032818/>

²⁰ "Department Press Briefing", State Department, March 27, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/03/279585.htm>

China would be in that bucket as well.”

“We continue to proceed with our planning to go ahead for a summit between the United States and the DPRK. This is something that, of course, that President Trump and the Republic of Korea had talked about not too long ago. We are going ahead and we are planning that.”

Joaquin Castro- Member, House of Representative

March 27, 2018²¹

"I think it (appointment of John Bolton as NSA) affirms to me the idea ... that if diplomacy fails with North Korea, this administration and this president have a desire to go to war with North Korea, and I don't say that lightly."

"I mean based on everything that I've seen in classified and, of course, unclassified settings, I believe that this president basically wants to go to war with North Korea and the appointment of Ambassador Bolton, to me, is an affirmation of that."

"You know, I just think that this president, based on everything that I've seen and heard, is determined at some point to go to war with North Korea. You're talking about a minimum of hundreds of thousands of people dead if not millions of people. That's what's at stake here."

Raj Shah- Principal Deputy Press Secretary, White House

March 26, 2018²²

“Where we are with North Korea is in a better place than we used to be because the President’s maximum pressure campaign, in conjunction with dozens of countries around the world, has paid dividends and has brought the North Koreans to the table. So we’re looking forward to a potential summit some months in advance.”

²¹ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/28/0401000000AEN20180328000200315.html>

²² "Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Raj Shah", The White House, March 26, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-principal-deputy-press-secretary-raj-shah-03262018/>

South Korea

Moon Jae-in- President

April 11, 2018²³

During his meeting with preparatory committee meeting for the inter-Korean summit President Moon said,

"Right now, we are standing at the starting line of a long journey toward peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. We are about to embark on a great transition of complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, lasting peace and sustainable development of South-North Korean relations in the history of the world."

"It is a goal dreamt by everyone but realized by no one. We need extraordinary determination and confidence to go beyond division and confrontation and write a new history."

"However, I ask you to work with the goal of laying a strong stepping stone for restoring the South-North relationship and ensuring peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula through the upcoming summit rather than working with too great a desire to resolve all problems at once."

"The North-U.S. summit will have great significance in the history of the world by its very opening itself."

"I expect there to be a great outcome of taking a big step toward the establishment of lasting peace and peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula as the two countries are preparing for their summit with determination. We must work to play the role of a great guide so the South-North Korea summit will lead to success in the North-U.S. summit."

April 11, 2018²⁴

During his meeting with visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, President Moon said,

"I believe now is when close communication and cooperation between South Korea and Japan are more important than ever as we have the South-North Korea summit and the North-U.S. summit ahead, as well as

²³ "Moon calls for restrained efforts for successful summit with N. Korean leader", The Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411008000315.html

²⁴ "Moon urges efforts to improve S. Korea-Japan ties", Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411011400315.html

the South Korea-Japan and China summit."

Official- Office of the President

April 11, 2018²⁵

"The most urgent issue is the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The first goal of the inter-Korean summit is to establish peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula."

"It does not mean human rights issues are not important but that the objective of the upcoming summit is addressing the most urgent issue of denuclearization."

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

April 11, 2018²⁶

"With preparations underway for South Korea and the United States' summits with North Korea, which could serve as a major turning point in attaining denuclearization, (we) hope for cooperation to achieve the two countries' shared goal of peacefully resolving the North's nuclear issue and establishing peace,"

Cho Myoung-gyon- Minister of Unification

April 11, 2018²⁷

"The government believes that cooperation with the international community is very important in resolving the North's nuclear issue and developing inter-Korean relations."

Official- Office of the President

April 8, 2018²⁸

²⁵ "Human rights not on agenda for upcoming Moon-Kim summit: Cheong Wa Dae", The Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411003500315.html

²⁶ "S. Korean, Japanese FMs voice hope for cooperation on N.K. and other issues", The Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411005651315.html

²⁷ "Minister stresses int'l cooperation for N.K. denuclearization", The Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411005000315.html

²⁸ "S. Korean presidential office keeping close tabs U.S.-N.K. pre-summit talks", Yonhap News, Agency, April 8, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/08/0401000000AEN20180408004500315.html

"We can't really make a comment on the report (North Korean and U.S. officials, including Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo, have been holding "secret, direct talks" to prepare for a summit), even if we know something."

"But if such things are happening, it looks positive and it's a good sign that they are talking."

Noh Kyu-duk- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry

March 5, 2018²⁹

"Basically, we are closely watching such overseas activities by the North."

"We expect (the North) to use those occasions as a chance to clarify its stance more on the need for denuclearization and establish lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Kwun Hyuk-ki- Spokesperson, Office of the President

April 5, 2018³⁰

On April 5, 2018, officials from South Korea and North Korea held a meeting inside the heavily-fortified demilitarized zone (DMZ) to arrange a summit between their leaders to be held later in the month. The meeting sought to discuss security measures, protocol and media coverage of what would be a third inter-Korean summit. Both sides have agreed to hold at least one more round of working-level dialogue to discuss the same topics.

"The sides held serious and thorough discussions on ways to successfully hold the summit."

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

April 4, 2018³¹

"A complete dismantlement of the North's nuclear program is a shared

²⁹ "S. Korea closely monitoring N.K.'s recent diplomatic activities", The Yonhap News, April 5, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/05/0401000000AEN20180405009400315.html

³⁰ "South, North Korea hold 'thorough' discussions on upcoming summit: official", The Yonhap News, April 5, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/03/0401000000AEN20180403009752315.html

³¹ "FM says S. Korea, U.S. share goal of complete denuclearization of N.K.", The Yonhap News, April 4, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/04/0401000000AEN20180404006800315.html

goal not just of South and the U.S. but also of the international community. With regard to when to achieve it and detailed timetables, South Korea and the U.S. are in close consultation."

"I think that what the North's (stated) commitment to denuclearization means exactly can be figured out through talks with North Korea, in the process of preparation (for the summits)."

"We are preparing so as to make the North's denuclearization the priority agenda for the inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea summits. I expect we will be able to grasp more details in the process of discussions going forward."

"Broadly, major issues will be denuclearization, inter-Korean relations and establishment of peace, but when it comes to what detailed items will be included, we have agreed that it should be frank, open-minded talks that are not bound by fixed themes."

Joint Press Release- Ministry of Unification

March 29, 2018³²

"The South and the North agreed to hold the 「2018 Inter-Korean Summit」 on April 27 at the Peace House of Panmunjeom, in accordance with the will of the leaders."

"The two sides decided to hold working-level talks regarding protocol, security, and press coverage for the 「2018 Inter-Korean Summit」 on April 4 at the South side of Panmunjeom. Specific date and venue of the working-level talks related to communications matters will be decided subsequently."

Official -Office of the President

March 29, 2018³³

"The situation that has transpired to date has exceeded our expectations. We're going to have to consider every possibility as we observe things going ahead."

³² "Joint Press Release of High-Level Talks for "2018 Inter-Korean Summit", Ministry of Unification, March 30, 2018, www.unikorea.go.kr/eng_unikorea/news/releases/?boardId=bbs_00000000000034&mode=view&cntId=54176&category=&pageIdx=

³³ "Blue House views Xi-Kim summit as a positive development", The Hankyoreh, March 29, 2018, english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_northkorea/838261.html

"We were observing closely from the time [Kim Jong-un's] train departed [North Korea], and there were close discussions among senior South Korean and Chinese officials."

Kim Eui-kyeom- Spokesman, Office of the President

March 29, 2018³⁴

"It is very meaningful that Chairman Kim Jong-un clearly expressed his willingness to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and hold a South-North Korea summit and North Korea-U.S. summit at the North-China summit."

"We believe China's participation in dialogue for peace on the Korean Peninsula, realized by the recent summit, will help stabilize conditions on the Korean Peninsula."

"We hope a clear foundation for permanent denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of a peace regime will emerge in the upcoming South-North Korea summit and the North-U.S. summit."

Noh Kyu-duk – Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

March 28, 2018³⁵

"The government welcomes Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un's trip to China from Sunday to Wednesday and his talks with Chinese leaders."

"The government hopes that the latest China visit by Chairman Kim, which came ahead of inter-Korean and North-United States summits, will contribute to denuclearizing and building peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Official – Foreign Ministry

March 26, 2018³⁶

³⁴ "Cheong Wa Dae hails N. Korea-China summit as 'meaningful' development ", The Yonhap News, March 29, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/29/0401000000AEN20180329005600315.html

³⁵ "S. Korea 'welcomes' Kim Jong-un's talks with Chinese leader", The Yonhap News, March 28, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/28/0401000000AEN20180328007500315.html

³⁶ "China pushing to strengthen communication amid growing peace mood: official", The Yonhap News, March 26, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/26/0401000000AEN20180326006600315.html

	<p>"For the inter-Korean and North Korea-U.S. summits, China holds onto the stance of providing active support and staying in close consultation with us. Against this backdrop, my view is that China appears to have an intent to maintain close communication with the North."</p> <p>"We are watching how things will turn out in terms of exchanges, in particular personnel exchanges, between China and North Korea."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Statement- The National Intelligence Service (NIS)</p> <p>March 26, 2018³⁷</p> <p>"We are not to hold talks on the premise of the security guarantee for the North's regime. There will be simultaneous pursuit of giving the North what it wants and making it abandon nuclear weapons."</p>
China	<p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>April 11, 2018³⁸</p> <p>"At the invitation of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), Song Tao, Director of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, will lead a Chinese art troupe to the DPRK to attend the April Spring Friendship Art Festival on April 13."</p> <p>"The April Spring Friendship Art Festival is an international event hosted by the DPRK to promote cultural exchanges. China sent art troupes to the previous festivals upon invitation. This time, our attendance at the festival, which comes on the heels of a historic summit between General Secretary Xi Jinping and Chairman Kim Jong-un, is meant to implement the important consensus reached between the two leaders of the parties and the countries on deepening cultural exchanges. We believe that this visit will contribute to strengthening China-DPRK friendship and promoting cultural exchanges between the two sides."</p>

³⁷ "Seoul to seek both security guarantee for N.K., denuclearization: spy agency", The Yonhap News, march 26, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/26/0401000000AEN20180326011800315.html

³⁸ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", MOFA, PRC, April 11, 2018, www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1549999.shtml

April 3, 2018³⁹

“We all noted that recently there have been some positive signs with regard to the situation on the Korean Peninsula, thanks to the positive interactions between relevant parties. Some outcomes have been achieved as a result of the efforts made by relevant parties, including the US. The Japanese side may have felt left out during this process.”

“Recently, the Japanese side made some claims, saying that the DPRK is probably preparing for new nuclear tests and more ballistic missile launches. They succeeded in drawing some attention to themselves by sounding these alarms.”

“But when it comes to the clear and firm determination and resolve of the international community on promoting denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and comprehensively and fully implementing the DPRK-related resolutions of the UN Security Council, Japan has nothing to worry about.”

Yang Jiechi- State Councilor

March 30, 2018⁴⁰

"We are supporting (the planned) inter-Korean and North Korea-U.S. summits. And we hope that there will be an important achievement to be made through these meetings."

Lu Kang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry

March 28, 2018⁴¹

“Chairman Kim Jong-un's first visit to China and the talks between the top leaders of China and the DPRK have testified to the great importance that the two sides attach to the relations between the two parties and two countries. The China-DPRK traditional friendship is the precious wealth of both sides. During the talks, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that it is an unswerving policy of the CPC and the Chinese government to maintain, consolidate and develop good relations with

³⁹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", MOFA, PRC, April 3, 2018, www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1547720.shtml

⁴⁰ "China voices support for summits with N.K., expects important achievement", The Yonhap News, March 30, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/30/0401000000AEN20180330006751315.html

⁴¹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", MOFA, PRC, March 28, 2018 www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1546242.shtml

the DPRK. We are willing to work with DPRK comrades to continue giving play to the guiding role of high-level exchanges, deepen strategic communication, expand exchanges and cooperation, promote peaceful development and cement the public opinion foundation for China-DPRK friendship. By doing so, we will advance the long-term, sound and steady development of China-DPRK relations, deliver benefits to the two countries and two peoples and make new contributions to the peace, stability and development of the region.”

“As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China's will to fulfill its international obligations is beyond doubt.”

Xi Jinping- President

March 28, 2018⁴²

“We speak highly of this visit.”

“Both Comrade Chairman and I have personally experienced and witnessed the development of China-DPRK relationship.”

“This (meeting) is a strategic choice and the only right choice both sides have made based on history and reality, the international and regional structure and the general situation of China-DPRK ties. This should not and will not change because of any single event at a particular time.”

“We are willing to work together with DPRK comrades, remain true to our original aspiration and jointly move forward, to promote long-term healthy and stable development of China-DPRK relations, benefit the two countries and two peoples, and make new contribution to regional peace, stability and development.”

News Report- Xinhua

March 28, 2018⁴³

Xi said Kim's current visit to China, which came at a special time and was of great significance, fully embodied the great importance that

⁴² "Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un hold talks in Beijing", Xinhua. March 28, 2018, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/28/c_137070598.htm

⁴³ "Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un hold talks in Beijing", Xinhua. March 28, 2018, www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/28/c_137070598.htm

Comrade Chairman and the WPK Central Committee have attached to the relations between the two countries and the two parties.

At present, the Korean Peninsula situation is developing rapidly and many important changes have taken place, Kim said, adding that he felt he should come in time to inform Comrade General Secretary Xi Jinping in person the situation out of comradeship and moral responsibility.

Xi made four proposals concerning the development of China-DPRK relations.

Firstly, continue giving play to the guiding role of high-level exchanges. High-level exchanges have always played the most important guiding and promoting role in the history of China-DPRK relations. Under the new circumstances, I am willing to keep frequent contacts with Comrade Chairman through various forms such as exchange of visits, and sending special envoys and letters to each other.

Secondly, make full play of the time-tested valuable practices of strategic communication. It is the splendid tradition of the two parties to have frequent in-depth exchange of views on major issues. Both sides should maximize the important role of party-to-party exchanges, promote exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various areas, and strengthen communication and mutual trust.

Thirdly, actively advance peaceful development. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the DPRK's socialist construction has also ushered in a new historical period. We are ready to make joint efforts with the DPRK side, conform to the trend of the times, hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, continuously improve the wellbeing of the two peoples, and make positive contribution to regional peace, stability and development.

Fourthly, cement the popular will foundation for China-DPRK friendship. The two sides should, through various forms, enhance people-to-people exchanges, consolidate the foundation of popular will for bilateral friendly relations, especially enhance youth exchanges, inherit and carry forward the fine tradition of China-DPRK friendship.

Russia

Sergey Lavrov- Foreign Minister

April 10, 2018⁴⁴

“We held talks with Foreign Minister of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Ri Yong-ho.”

“We discussed in considerable detail the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula. On behalf of Russia we reaffirmed that we welcome the gradual normalisation of the situation, the cessation of reciprocal threats and a willingness to maintain contact both between North Korea and South Korea and between North Korea and the United States.”

“We noted that the real course of events “on the ground” is following the roadmap that Russia and China suggested last year to de-escalate tensions and create conditions for talks. Understandably, this process is designed to produce a multilateral agreement between the countries of Northeast Asia on ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, including the denuclearisation of this important area of the world, as the leaders of North Korea and South Korea have said.”

“We also reviewed other aspects of cooperation, primarily in international organisations – the UN and other venues.”

“We are very pleased with the talks. Foreign Minister of the DPRK Ri Yong-ho invited me to pay a reciprocal visit to Pyongyang. We accepted his invitation.”

“Events are following the Russian-Chinese roadmap. This includes step-by-step, albeit a steady, advance to a concluding phase, that is, a multilateral agreement on ensuring peace and security in Northeast Asia, including the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The North Korean leaders, including Kim Jong-un personally reaffirmed this principle, in particular, at the talks in Beijing. Naturally, we welcome steps in this vein. It is a different matter that this is a complicated issue. Ensuring the lawful interests and security of the DPRK in the context of denuclearisation is bound to require very strong coordination and guarantees.”

“This (media report claiming that China made an offer to the United

⁴⁴ "Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s remarks and responses to questions following talks with Foreign Minister of the DPRK Ri Yong-ho, Moscow", MOFA, Russian Federation, April 10, 2018 www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3162263

States to continue the talks on DPRK in a four-lateral format, that is, without Russia and Japan) appeared as a rumour two weeks ago. When Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Moscow on April 5, we asked him about this as a comrade and partner. We asked our Chinese friends whether this was true. He categorically rejected the rumour and called it a yet another attempt "to fish in troubled waters." So nothing like this took place. Our Chinese colleagues reassured us that they do not have any such plans."

April 10, 2018⁴⁵

"The guarantees, which will be discussed at the talks on the Korean Peninsula, must be unshakable. However, speculating on the issue now would be futile."

"The inter-governmental commission for trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation is working actively. In March, it held its eighth session and the accords reached there should contribute to raising the efficiency of our practical interaction and implementing joint projects."

"We also confirm our readiness to promote projects in a trilateral format with the participation of South Korean partners as far as they are ready for such cooperation."

Maria Zakharova- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry

March 4, 2018

"On April 9-11, Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Ri Yong-ho will pay an official visit to the Russian Federation. The foreign ministers will hold talks on April 10 to discuss bilateral relations and to exchange views on key international and regional matters with an emphasis on resolving the situation on the Korean Peninsula."

Sergei Shoigu- Defense Minister

April 4, 2018⁴⁶

⁴⁵ "Moscow ready to promote trilateral projects involving North and South Korea", TASS, April 10, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/998736>"; "Lavrov believes US security guarantees to North Korea should be unshakable", TASS, April 10, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/998796>

⁴⁶ "Escalation on Korean peninsula may lead to war, says Russian defense minister", April 4, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/997691>

	<p>"We believe that there is no military solution to the Korean problem. Pressure and threats are not an effective means of settling the crisis. Moreover, the constant instigation of the situation and the demonstration of the military force may lead to incidents and even an armed conflict whose consequences may affect the entire region."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maria Zakharova- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>March 29, 2018⁴⁷</p> <p>"Russia has been working to strengthen positive developments as regards the situation on the Korean Peninsula and around it. In particular, we are trying to arrange a number of forthcoming meetings in Moscow with representatives of the countries involved. We will provide more information upon agreeing it with our partners."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Statement- Foreign Ministry</p> <p>March 28, 2018⁴⁸</p> <p>We welcome the meeting between the leaders of China and North Korea held in Beijing. We view the talks as an important step in consolidating positive tendencies seen of late in the development of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and around it."</p>
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;">Taro Kono- Foreign Minister</p> <p>April 11, 2018⁴⁹</p> <p>During his meeting with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea, Minister said,</p> <p>"I pay my respect to the South Korean government's efforts toward the South-North summit and the U.S.-North Korea summit. I hope to work to increase cooperation between Japan and South Korea, as well as Japan, South Korea and the U.S., and realize the denuclearization of North Korea."</p>

⁴⁷ "Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova", MOFA, Russian Federation, March 29, 2018, www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/-/asset_publisher/D2wHaWMCU6Od/content/id/3145417

⁴⁸ "Russia says Kim Jong-un's visit to Beijing crucial for settling North Korean crisis", TASS, March 28, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/996460>

⁴⁹ "Moon urges efforts to improve S. Korea-Japan ties", Yonhap News, April 11, 2018, english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/04/11/0401000000AEN20180411011400315.html

April 6, 2018⁵⁰

“Japan plans to closely observe the content of the ROK-North Korea and U.S.-North Korea Summit Meetings and seek the best methods together with the international community. This naturally includes the nuclear and missile development issue, as well as the abductions issue and the issue of detainees.”

“How things will be managed at the ROK-North Korea and U.S.-North Korea Summit Meetings is part of our strategy. Japan is naturally closely cooperating with the international community but will refrain from revealing our strategy.”

April 3, 2018⁵¹

“Based on publicly available information, it is apparent that North Korea’s activity is continuing at nuclear-related facilities, including the test site.”

Kono Taro- Foreign Minister

March 30, 2018⁵²

“Japan hopes to see firm efforts to address the nuclear, missile, and abductions issues. We are coordinating closely with the ROK and intend to make even more thorough efforts ahead of the meeting (inter-Korean Summit).”

“It (Kim-Xi Meeting) is therefore vital to confirm North Korea’s intent and seriousness regarding denuclearization. Japan intends to work even more closely with the international community ahead of the upcoming U.S.-North Korea and ROK-North Korea Summit Meetings.”

March 29, 2018⁵³

“With close coordination among Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea, the international community should work together to ensure that the North-South Summit Meeting and the U.S.-North Korea Summit Meeting lead to real actions by North Korea towards the

⁵⁰ "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, April 6, 2018, www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000484.html#topic2

⁵¹ "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, April 3, 2018, www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000483.html

⁵² "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, March 30, 2018, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken1e_000007.html

⁵³ "Extraordinary Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, March 29, 2018, www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken1e_000006.html

denuclearization of North Korea and the Korean Peninsula.”

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

March 26, 2018⁵⁴

“We have been communicating with North Korea through various means, including using embassy channels in Beijing, but I will refrain from revealing any further details.”

“Not ruling out the possibility of a Japan-U.S.-North Korea summit meeting. We have to explore a variety of necessary options to solve serious issues we have with North Korea, including the abductions.”

**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.

⁵⁴ "Abe says he's in contact with North about meeting Kim, suggests in Diet he'd be open to trilateral summit with U.S.", The Japan Times, March 26, 2018, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/03/26/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-says-hes-contact-north-meeting-kim-suggests-diet-hed-open-trilateral-summit-u-s/#.WsHmAlhuaM8>