



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

March 9-26, 2018

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John \**

Country	Comments
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Permanent Mission, UN</b></p> <p>March 25, 2018<sup>1</sup></p> <p>North Korea's diplomatic missions to the U.N. and Geneva strongly rejected the adoption of a new resolution at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, criticizing Pyongyang for extensive and systematic human rights violations and urged the country to admit to the crimes and punish those responsible.</p> <p>"The DPRK Permanent Mission resolutely and totally rejects the 'resolution' framed by the U.S. and other hostile forces in pursuit of their political purpose to tarnish the image of the DPRK and isolate and stifle our style socialism."</p>

<sup>1</sup> "N. Korea's joint diplomatic mission condemns U.N. resolution on N.K. human rights", The Yonhap News, March 25, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/25/0401000000AEN20180325006300315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/25/0401000000AEN20180325006300315.html)

**Rodong Sinmun**

March 25, 2018<sup>2</sup>

South Korea announced its decision to deploy F-35A stealth jets and moves to buy more long-range air-to-ground missiles as part of a bid to strengthen weapons systems.

"(Such announcements) are open provocations against the negotiating party and a dangerous move that runs counter to the current mood for reconciliation and unity that the two Koreas had not witnessed in a long time."

"Negotiations and maneuvers for a war cannot stand together," and "Pursuing military options never works with us."

**KCNA**

March 21, 2018<sup>3</sup>

"It is really an expression of small-mindedness for the riffraff to spoil the atmosphere and say this or that even before the parties concerned are given a chance to study the inner thoughts of the other side and are seated at a negotiating table."

"We do like to remind that it is time for all to approach everything with prudence and with self-control and patience."

**KCNA**

March 17, 2018<sup>4</sup>

"The Japanese reactionaries are desperately inciting the atmosphere for sanctions and pressure on the DPRK, much upset by the ever-changing trend of the situation."

"This is just the last-ditch struggling aimed to reverse the trend of the times made by the islanders who have fished in troubled waters by

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<sup>2</sup> "N.K. slams S. Korean military for backpedaling against peace mood ", The Yonhap News, March 25, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/25/0401000000AEN20180325003600315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/25/0401000000AEN20180325003600315.html)

<sup>3</sup> "N.K. calls for prudence ahead of proposed summits with S. Korea, U.S.", The Yonhap News, March 21, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/21/0401000000AEN20180321001100315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/21/0401000000AEN20180321001100315.html)

<sup>4</sup> "N. Korea raps Japan for seeking to cripple ongoing dialogue", The Yonhap News, March 17, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/17/0401000000AEN20180317005000315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/17/0401000000AEN20180317005000315.html)

	<p>aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.”</p> <p>"Their stereo-typed rhetoric about 'sanctions and pressure' is nothing but rubbish ignorant of the developments.”</p> <p>"We have already warned that the Japanese reactionaries may not get a ticket for Pyongyang if they go ill-natured without discretion. It would be wise for them to stop useless struggling and follow the trend of the times, before it is too late.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rodong Sinmun</b></p> <p>March 14, 2018<sup>5</sup></p> <p>"What South Koreans want is an unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South, an unwelcome guest that poses a threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kim Jong-un (quoted)</b></p> <p>March 9, 2018<sup>6</sup></p> <p>"So far, if we fired a missile, President Moon Jae-in went through the trouble of convening a national security council meeting.”</p> <p>"As I made up my mind today, President Moon will no longer have to wake up early in the morning.”</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John Bolton- National Security Advisor (Nominated)</b></p> <p>March 25, 2018<sup>7</sup></p> <p>"I think we have to look at what North Korea's motivation is here. I think they're very worried that they've got a different president in the White House than Barack Obama. They're worried about the pressure that the president's already put on.”</p> <p>"They've got a fairly limited number of things they need to do in North Korea to make their nuclear warheads actually deliverable on targets in</p>

<sup>5</sup> "N. Korea claims S. Koreans want withdrawal of U.S. forces", The Yonhap News, March 14, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/14/0401000000AEN20180314003951315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/14/0401000000AEN20180314003951315.html)

<sup>6</sup> "N.K. leader: Moon will no longer have to wake up early to discuss N.K. missile launches ", The Yonhap News, March 9, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/09/0401000000AEN20180309010100315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/09/0401000000AEN20180309010100315.html)

<sup>7</sup> "Bolton: N. Korea wants to buy time to develop nukes", The Yonhap News, March 26, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/26/0401000000AEN20180326000300315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/26/0401000000AEN20180326000300315.html)

the United States. So they want to try and slow roll the negotiations to buy more time. This is something they've done consistently over the last 25 years."

"I think the sooner we have the meeting and have a very straightforward discussion -- Is North Korea going to give up its nuclear weapons? How are we going to do it? How are we going to take it out of the country? -- not a theoretical discussion about these issues but very concretely, how they're going to denuclearize North Korea -- the sooner we get to it, cut to the chase, the better."

**Heather Nauert- Spokeswoman, State Department**

March 22, 2018<sup>8</sup>

"China has been cooperating with us for the most part – we always say that they can do more – on the issue of North Korea and denuclearization. This is not just something that the United States is asking for, cooperation on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Many countries are, including China. So it's not just in our interest to get Kim Jong-un to give up his weapons programs. It is in the interest of China as well, and we think that China recognizes that."

"We have no comment or plans on a possible three-way summit (South Korea, North Korea and the US), but we're still going under the operating premise that we will be meeting with North Korea."

"Not at this point (Nothing heard from North Korea regarding the UK-Korea Summit)."

"That's why I go back to our close relationship with South Korea. I mean South Korea has been our – perhaps our best interlocutor in dealing with this issue. As neighbors, as two countries that had preliminary meetings already, they worked out some of this framework at the Olympics. And so we trust our allies and partners, and so we trust South Korea certainly."

March 20, 2018

"We would love to have our American citizens brought home. A huge priority for this administration. But as far as we're concerned, there's nothing under way."

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<sup>8</sup> "Department Press Briefing", US State Department, March 22, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/03/279451.htm>

### **Brian Hook- Director of Policy Planning**

March 21, 2018<sup>9</sup>

“In terms of North Korea, when you look at the history of negotiations with North Korea, no one has moved the goalposts or negotiated in more bad faith than North Korea. They have a history of noncompliance, but with the United States, we then stick to the terms of the deal, and we have not had a partner – we have not had somebody on the other the side of the table in (inaudible) with the Kim family over three generations now who negotiate in good faith. And so we are determined not to make some of the past mistakes again in the context of North Korea, and the maximum pressure campaign continues.”

### **Statement- White House**

March 19, 2018<sup>10</sup>

“National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster of the United States, National Security Office Director Chung Eui-yong of the Republic of Korea, and Secretary General of the National Security Secretariat Shotaro Yachi of Japan held a trilateral meeting on March 17 and 18 in San Francisco to discuss the permanent denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the planned inter-Korean summit and United States-Democratic People’s Republic of Korea summit. The three national security advisors committed to avoiding mistakes of the past and to continue coordinating closely in the weeks ahead.”

March 16, 2018<sup>11</sup>

“President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to discuss ongoing efforts to prepare for their upcoming engagements with North Korea. Both leaders affirmed the importance of learning from the mistakes of the past, and pledged continued, close coordination to maintain maximum pressure on the

<sup>9</sup> "On-the-Record-Briefing on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Joint Commission and E3 Meetings In Vienna and Berlin", State Department, March 21, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/03/279441.htm>

<sup>10</sup> "Readout of National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster’s Meeting with National Security Office Director Chung Eui-yong of the Republic of Korea and Secretary General of the National Security Secretariat Shotaro Yachi of Japan", White House, March 19, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/readout-national-security-advisor-h-r-mcmasters-meeting-national-security-office-director-chung-eui-yong-republic-korea-secretary-general-national-security-secre/>

<sup>11</sup> "Readout of President Donald J. Trump’s Call with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea", White House, March 16, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-call-president-moon-jae-republic-korea-7/>

North Korean regime. The two leaders agreed that concrete actions, not words, will be the key to achieving permanent denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and President Trump reiterated his intention to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of May. The two leaders expressed cautious optimism over recent developments and emphasized that a brighter future is available for North Korea, if it chooses the correct path.”

**Heather Nauert - Spokesperson, State Department**

March 15, 2018<sup>12</sup>

“That is the agreement (North Korea-US Summit) that Kim Jong-un provided to the Republic of Korea. That information was presented to us, and so we are going forward in full faith and understanding that a meeting will go forward.

**Statement- White House**

March 14, 2018<sup>13</sup>

“Director Pompeo explained the CIA's creative, new methods that enabled the interdiction of certain shipments in violations of sanctions on North Korea.”

"Under Director Pompeo, the CIA has established mission centers focused specifically on North Korea and Iran to counter the threats both countries pose to the United States, our allies, and regional and global stability.”

**Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States**

March 12, 2018<sup>14</sup>

“With respect to the ongoing discussions about a potential meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong-un, as you know, it’s a very recent development. There will be – several steps will be necessary to agree on a location, agree on a scope of those discussions. It’s very early stages. We’ve not heard anything directly back from North Korea, although we expect to hear something directly from them. So I would – I know those are all questions that people are anxious to have answers

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<sup>12</sup> "Department Press Briefing", State Department, March 15, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/03/279305.htm>

<sup>13</sup> "Mike Pompeo's Distinguished Career as CIA Director", The White House, March 14, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/mike-pompeos-distinguished-career-cia-director/>

<sup>14</sup> "Remarks With Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama at a Press Availability Sh", The US Department of State, March 12, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/03/279203.htm>

to. I would say just remain patient and we'll see what happens.”

**Sarah Sanders- Press Secretary, White House**

March 12, 2018<sup>15</sup>

“We fully expect that it (Trump-Kim Summit) will (happen). The offer was made and we've accepted. North Korea made several promises and if — we hope that they would stick to those promises and, if so, the meeting will go on as planned.”

**Spokesperson- National Security Council**

March 11, 2018<sup>16</sup>

"The Press Secretary's statement about 'concrete actions' did not refer to new preconditions. The Press Secretary was conveying that North Korea must maintain its commitment to denuclearization and not test missiles or nuclear tests before the Summit."

"Based on that (Kim conveyed through a South Korean presidential delegation that he is committed to denuclearization, would refrain from any further nuclear or missile tests, and understands joint military exercises between South Korea and the U.S. will continue), the President agreed to accept Kim's invitation to meet in person.”

**Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States**

March 9, 2018<sup>17</sup>

“With respect to talks with North Korea versus negotiations – and I think this seems to be something that people continue to struggle with the difference. My comments have been that we're – the conditions are not right for negotiations, but we've been saying for some time we are open to talks. President Trump has said for some time that he was open to talks and he would willingly meet with Kim Jong-un when conditions were right and the time was right. And I think in the President's judgment, that time has arrived now. So there's no – in my comments yesterday, I was indicating comments about negotiations,

<sup>15</sup> "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders", The White House, March 12, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-031218/>

<sup>16</sup> "Trump to meet Kim as long as promises kept: White House", The Yonhap News, March 6, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312000200315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312000200315.html)

<sup>17</sup> "Press Availability With Djiboutian Foreign Minister Mahamoud Ali YoussoufShare", The US State Department, March 9, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/03/279142.htm#nk>

but we've been open for talks for some time."

"In terms of the decision to engage between President Trump and Kim Jong-un, that's a decision the President took himself. ..So no surprise. We know that there's been a lot of discussion, and you've been reading about it too through the intra-Korean dialogue. We also had been having contacts back and forth with them, as you're well aware, through channels that we have had open for some time. And I think this was the most forward-leaning report that we've have had in terms of Kim Jong-un's, not just willingness, but his strong desire for talks."

"So I think it was really – what changed was his posture in a fairly dramatic way that, in all honesty, was a – came as a little bit of a surprise to us as well that he was so forward-leaning in his conversations with the delegation from South Korea."

**Sarah Sanders - Press Secretary, White House**

March 9, 2018<sup>18</sup>

"The President is hopeful that we can make some continued progress. . We know that it has put a tremendous amount of pressure on North Korea. And they have made some major promises. They've made promises to denuclearize. They've made promises to stop nuclear and missile testing. And they've recognized that regular military exercises between the U.S. and its ally, South Korea, will continue."

"The maximum pressure campaign, we're not letting up. We're not going to step back or make any changes to that. We're going to continue in that effort, and we're not going to have this meeting take place until we see concrete actions that match the words and the rhetoric of North Korea."

"We're not in the negotiation right now. We've accepted the invitation to talk, based on them following through with concrete actions on the promises that they've made."

"Let's be very clear: The United States has made zero concessions. But North Korea has made some promises. And, again, this meeting won't take place without concrete actions that match the promises that have been made by North Korea."

"For the first time in a long time, the United States is actually having

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<sup>18</sup> "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders", The White House, March 9, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-030918/>



conversations from a position of strength, not a position of weakness, like the one that North Korea finds itself in due to the maximum pressure campaign.”

#### **Statement- White House**

March 9 2018<sup>19</sup>

“President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China about recent developments related to North Korea. The two leaders welcomed the prospect of dialogue between the United States and North Korea, and committed to maintain pressure and sanctions until North Korea takes tangible steps toward complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization.”

#### **Mike Pence- Vice President**

March 9, 2018<sup>20</sup>

“North Korea’s desire to meet to discuss denuclearization – while suspending all ballistic missile and nuclear testing – is evidence that President Trump’s strategy to isolate the Kim regime is working. The North Koreans are coming to the table despite the United States making zero concessions and, in close coordination with our allies, we have consistently increased the pressure on the Kim regime. Our resolve is undeterred and our policy remains the same: all sanctions remain in place and the maximum pressure campaign will continue until North Korea takes concrete, permanent, and verifiable steps to end their nuclear program.”

#### **Statement- White House**

March 8, 2018<sup>21</sup>

“President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to discuss the situation in North Korea and to continue the close coordination between our two countries. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe assessed that the maximum pressure policy, together with

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<sup>19</sup> "Readout of President Donald J. Trump’s Call with President Xi Jinping of China", The White House, March 9, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-call-president-xi-jinping-china-4/>

<sup>20</sup> "Statement from Vice President Mike Pence on North Korea", The White House, March 9, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-vice-president-mike-pence-north-korea-2/>

<sup>21</sup> "Readout of President Donald J. Trump’s Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan", The White House, March 9, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-call-prime-minister-shinzo-abe-japan-7/>

	<p>international solidarity, brought us to this critical juncture. The leaders affirmed their strong intention to continue close trilateral coordination with South Korea to maintain pressure and enforce international sanctions until such point that North Korea takes tangible steps toward complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization. President Trump expressed his hope that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's invitation signals his desire to give the North Korean people a brighter future."</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cho Myoung-gyon- Unification Minister</b></p> <p>March 23, 2018</p> <p>"The government is preparing for the summit, hoping for better results in resolving the North Korea nuclear issue, along with an improvement in inter-Korean ties."</p> <p>"It would be good if we can resolve the North Korea nuclear problem in one shot and we cannot exclude such a possibility. But from the realistic perspective, there is a need to handle this matter step by step."</p> <p>"(But) as the U.S. is making consultations via various channels, I don't think the move would (negatively) affect Washington's preparation for the summit, even if the U.S. replaces the top diplomat and the national security advisor."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Ministry of National Defense</b></p> <p>March 23, 2018<sup>22</sup></p> <p>"In order to curb, thwart and eventually eradicate North Korea's illegal maritime activity, including illicit shipment, the three countries (Japan, South Korea and the US) have decided to continue a pivotal role in multilateral coordination efforts to ensure the implementation of related U.N. Security Council resolutions."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Ministry of Unification</b></p> <p>March 22, 2018<sup>23</sup></p>

<sup>22</sup> "S. Korea, U.S., Japan vow unrelenting fight against N. Korea's illicit trade", The Yonhap News, March 23, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/23/0401000000AEN20180323003600315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/23/0401000000AEN20180323003600315.html)

On March 24, 2018, North Korea has accepted South Korea's proposal to hold high-level talks on March 29 to discuss the date and agenda items for an inter-Korean summit slated for late April.

"North Korea delivered its agreement via the border communication channel today, saying it will send a three-member delegation headed by Ri Son-gwon, chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification."

"The government will make full preparations for the inter-Korean summit through the March 29 talks."

### **Moon Jae-in**

March 21, 2018

"Holding a North Korea-U.S. summit following a South-North Korea summit itself is a historical event. And depending on their outcomes, they may lead to a three-way summit of South, North and U.S."

"We must completely resolve the issues of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and establishing peace through these upcoming talks and others that will follow."

"(Denuclearization) is not something that can be realized only through an agreement between the South and the North. It requires a U.S. guarantee, and that would require normalization of the North-U.S. relationship or even economic cooperation between the two."

"I ask you to make preparations so that we can show and persuade, from an objective point of view, how the South, the North and the U.S. may each benefit and how they may exchange such benefits."

"Though it is an unexplored path we have never walked, we have clear plans and a clear vision of goals we seek to achieve through an agreement between the leaders of the South, North and the U.S."

"They may be the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and the normalization of the North-U.S. relationship, development of South-North Korean relations and economic cooperation between the North and the U.S. or the North, U.S. and South Korea."

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<sup>23</sup> "N. Korea agrees to high-level inter-Korean talks March 29: ministry", The Yonhap News, March 24, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/24/0401000000AEN20180324001851315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/24/0401000000AEN20180324001851315.html)

"We must institutionalize what is agreed upon at the South-North Korean summit. We must have them ratified by the National Assembly so they will continue to be pursued even if there should be a change in political conditions."

**Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister**

March 20, 2018<sup>24</sup>

"The principle is that we do not provide any compensation for the North coming out for talks. Sanctions will not be eased until the North agrees to detailed plans on denuclearization and takes action. In that process, the security guarantee for its regime that the North wants will also be discussed."

"I think it would be hard time wise to draw up detailed (denuclearization) roadmap before the North Korea-U.S. summit. I suppose that through an agreement on the overall outline between the leaders, there will be a future direction and timetable shaping up."

"The government earlier determined its principle that humanitarian assistance should be dealt with independent of the sanctions. We are ready for that."

**Moon Jae-in- President**

March 20, 2018<sup>25</sup>

"We were able to send a message of peace to the rest of the world by staging a peaceful Olympic and Paralympic Games, which were enabled by the participation of a North Korean delegation, and a new path is now opening to peace on the Korean Peninsula as they have led to a South-North Korean summit and a North Korea-U.S. summit."

**Statement- Ministry of Defense**

March 20, 2018<sup>26</sup>

"The practice is slated to begin April 1, and it will be conducted at a

<sup>24</sup> "Sanctions won't be eased until N.K. takes action on denuclearization: Kang", The Yonhap News, March 20, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320007400315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320007400315.html)

<sup>25</sup> "Moon urges continued efforts to make PyeongChang Olympics true success", The Yonhap News, March 20, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320004500315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320004500315.html)

<sup>26</sup> "S. Korea, U.S. to begin massive military drills April 1: ministry", The Yonhap News, March 20, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320004151315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN20180320004151315.html)

similar size to previous years.”

**Chung Eui-yong, head of the National Security Office**

March 20, 2018<sup>27</sup>

Meeting of South Korean National Security Advisor Chung Eui-yong – McMaster, US National Security Advisor, was held in San Francisco on March 18-19, 2018. The two-day meeting also involved their Japanese counterpart, Shotaro Yachi.

“We have agreed the U.S.-North Korea summit must succeed not only for peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula but those of the entire world.”

“The three countries agreed to work closely together for the success of the South-North summit that will be held in late April and the U.S.-North Korea summit to be held shortly thereafter.”

**Kim Eui-kyeom – Spokesman, Office of the President**

March 19, 2018<sup>28</sup>

On March 19, 2018, Chung Eui-yong, top security adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, traveled to the United States over the weekend to hold talks with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts on the upcoming dialogue with North Korea

The three “held consultations on the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the South-North Korea, U.S.-North Korea summits.”

“The participants agreed on the importance of not repeating the countries' past failures and agreed to continue closely working together over the next few weeks.”

**Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister**

March 18, 2018<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> “S. Korea, U.S. agree success of dialogue with N. Korea critical to peace: official”, The Yonhap News, March 20, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN201803200001100315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/20/0401000000AEN201803200001100315.html)

<sup>28</sup> “Top security advisers of S. Korea, U.S., Japan meet over N. Korea: Cheong Wa Dae”, The Yonhap News, March 19, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/19/0401000000AEN20180319001200315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/19/0401000000AEN20180319001200315.html)

“Nothing publicly (from North Korea on North Korea-US Summit). But there is a channel of communication now established. So I’m sure there are back and forth messages. But, I think the North Korean leader would also need some time given the readiness with which President Trump has accepted the invitation to talks. I think we were all quite surprised by-- by the-- the readiness of that decision. I think it was an extremely courageous decision on the part of President Trump. We believe the North Korean leader is now taking stock. We give them the benefit of the doubt, and the time that he would need to come out with some public messaging.”

“We have asked the North to indicate in clear terms the commitment to denuclearization, and he has in fact conveyed that commitment.”

"He (Kim Jong-un) has given his word (on denuclearization)."

"But the significance of his word is quite weighty in the sense that this is the first time that the words came directly from the North Korean supreme leader himself. And that has never been done before."

"At this point we haven't offered (North Korea) anything. We had made it clear that we will engage, but there will be no reward for dialogue."

### **Moon Jae-in- President**

March 17, 2018<sup>30</sup>

“(Denuclearization) the most important goal and process in order to secure peace in the world, let alone the Korean Peninsula.”

"Our firm stance is that (we) can't make concessions (on the issue) under any circumstances and conditions."

"We will make thorough preparations with regard to worries stemming from failures in the past."

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<sup>29</sup> "N.K. leader gave 'his word' on denuclearization: Kang", The Yonhap News, March 18, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/19/0401000000AEN20180319000200315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/19/0401000000AEN20180319000200315.html)

<sup>30</sup> "Moon, Trump reaffirm close cooperation on N. Korea in phone talks", The Yonhap News, March 17, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/16/0401000000AEN20180316011054315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/16/0401000000AEN20180316011054315.html)

**Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister**

March 17, 2018<sup>31</sup>

"We are very clear in our stated goal of complete denuclearization of North Korea. It will take a long while because the program is very advanced."

"We are prepared for the long haul, but we approach this with clear eyes and with nerves of steel but with a clear goal in mind."

"My president has been, from the very beginning, consistent and persistent in his message about North Korea. And that message has been that North Korea's missile and nuclear programs will never be accepted, but we want to engage to find a way toward a peaceful resolution."

"This is a much better situation I think we all agree than we found ourselves mid-last year or even at the end of last year," she added. "We are cautiously optimistic that the talks will happen, and this will be a breakthrough for a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue."

"It is a regime that we still need to deal with. It poses grave security threat to Korea and to the whole world. You can only deal with this threat by engaging with it. We are absolutely clear that the military solution is not an option."

"There cannot be another war on the Korean Peninsula. This requires a peaceful solution and to have a peaceful solution, you have to deal with them. You have to engage them."

"I have confidence in his capability to deliver on his strong desire to come to grips with this issue of the North Korean missile and nuclear threats."

**Im Jong-seok- Presidential Chief of Staff**

March 16, 2018<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> "S. Korean foreign minister upbeat about upcoming summits with N. Korea", The Yonhap News, March 17, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/17/0401000000AEN20180317001300315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/17/0401000000AEN20180317001300315.html)

<sup>32</sup> "S. Korea to push for summit preparation talks with N. Korea late this month", The Yonhap News, March 16, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/16/0401000000AEN20180316010151315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/16/0401000000AEN20180316010151315.html)

"First, we will officially propose high-level talks right away."

"We confirmed in the (committee) meeting that this inter-Korean summit should be a turning point for fundamentally addressing the issue of peace on the Korean Peninsula."

"For this, we decided to make preparations with a focus on agenda items for bringing permanent peace, including denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and a dramatic reduction of military tensions, and for making fresh, bold progress in inter-Korean relations."

"I think holding talks at Panmunjeom is very efficient in terms of security and all other aspects, rather than us visiting the North or inviting them to the South."

**Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister**

March 15, 2018<sup>33</sup>

"It is necessary to maintain close coordination (between South Korea and the U.S.) at various levels in making preparations for critical diplomatic events going forward."

"(We) will make efforts to maintain communication without any problem. This trip is also aimed at making sure of that."

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, went ahead with her three-day travel plan despite the decision announced by President Trump to replace Tillerson with Mike Pompeo, head of the Central Intelligence Agency. Kang and Tillerson were scheduled to meet on Friday. Kang is instead to meet with Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, who is serving as acting secretary.

**Chung Eui-yong- National Security Advisor**

March 15, 2018<sup>34</sup>

"Both the leaders of China and Russia greatly welcomed the positive change in conditions on the Korean Peninsula and the mood for reconciliation and cooperation between South and North Korea to that end."

"The (Seoul) government will continue to seek the active support of not only these related countries but also the international community,

<sup>33</sup> "Kang emphasizes S.Korea-U.S. coordination ahead of summits", The Yonhap News, March 15, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/15/0401000000AEN20180315004400315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/15/0401000000AEN20180315004400315.html)

<sup>34</sup> "Chinese, Russian leaders vow support for dialogue with N. Korea: official", The Yonhap News, March 15, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/15/0401000000AEN20180315002800315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/15/0401000000AEN20180315002800315.html)



including the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to make sure the summits between the South and the North, the U.S. and the North will be an epochal opportunity for peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula.”

#### **Official- Office of the President**

March 14, 2018<sup>35</sup>

"The North Korea-U.S. summit will be held as scheduled as President Trump has personally expressed his decision to do so.”

"I believe the fact that President Trump tapped his close advisor as the state secretary shows that he sought to enhance the teamwork of the foreign relations team ahead of the North Korea-U.S. summit.”

#### **Moon Jae-in- President**

March 12, 2018<sup>36</sup>

"We now have a very precious chance to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, establish a permanent peace regime and build a path of joint prosperity for South and North Korea.”

"There will be important changes as a South-North Korea summit and a U.S.-North Korea summit will be held. Should we succeed, there will be dramatic changes in world history, and the Republic of Korea will have played the leading role.”

"Now the world is paying attention to our ability. The fate of the Republic of Korea and the Korean Peninsula depends on whether we successfully seize this opportunity.”

"This is too important an opportunity to miss, not just for a government but also for the nation of the Republic of Korea.”

"What we hope to achieve in such a short period of time of about two months is a great transition that the world has failed to realize so far. And that is why we may not be optimistic about the outcome and must remain careful in the process.”

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<sup>35</sup> "Tillerson's departure will not affect U.S.-N. Korea dialogue: Cheong Wa Dae", The Yonhap News, March 14, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/14/0401000000AEN20180314011500315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/14/0401000000AEN20180314011500315.html)

<sup>36</sup> "Moon says next two months critical to peace, denuclearization", The Yonhap News, march 12, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312007700315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312007700315.html)

	<p>"Only the people's support will be our strength that will lead us to success while overcoming unpredictable external factors. I sincerely ask our people, ruling and opposition parties and conservatives and liberals to overcome their differences and join all their strength as one, so the upcoming talks will be successful."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baik Tae-hyun-Spokesman, Unification Ministry</b></p> <p>March 12, 2018<sup>37</sup></p> <p>"North Korea seems to need more time and take to take a cautious approach in setting its stance (over envisioned summits with the South and the U.S.)."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Official- Korean Government</b></p> <p>March 9, 2018<sup>38</sup></p> <p>"Kim asked (Chung) to deliver a special message to President Trump (in addition the invitation to meet)."</p> <p>"It was part of (Kim's) effort to build trust toward a summit (with Trump)."</p> <p>"It (special message) was very comprehensive."</p>
China	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lu Kang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</b></p> <p>March 16, 2018<sup>39</sup></p> <p>On March 14, 2018, The United States has blocked the Russia-and China-initiated draft statement of the United Nations Security Council in support of the progress in the settlement of the situation on the Korean Peninsula.</p> <p>"Recently, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has witnessed positive changes. Such development accords with China's consistent position on the Korean Peninsula issue, conforms to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and serves the common interests of all parties. China believes that in light of the latest development of the situation,</p>

<sup>37</sup> "N.K. apparently cautious in reporting planned summits with S. Korea, U.S.: Seoul", The Yonhap News, March 12, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312004300315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/12/0401000000AEN20180312004300315.html)

<sup>38</sup> "Envoy gave Trump 'special message' from Kim: official", The Yonhap News, March 10, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/10/0401000000AEN20180310000400315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/10/0401000000AEN20180310000400315.html)

<sup>39</sup> "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", MOFA, PRC, March 16, 2018, [www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1543040.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1543040.shtml)

the UN Security Council need to send out some positive signals to further encourage and support dialogues and talks. With such considerations in mind, China proposed to the Security Council to issue a press statement by its President, and together with Russia, we distributed a draft statement to other members. The draft statement is mainly about recognizing the positive changes on the Korean Peninsula, supporting the amelioration of inter-Korean relations, and welcoming the proposed talks and interactions between the US and the DPRK. It also stresses the goal of realizing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and maintaining its peace and stability and reaffirms the commitment to supporting the Six-Party Talks.”

### **Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang**

March 13, 2018<sup>40</sup>

“Points briefly on how China perceives the current Korean Peninsula situation.”

“First, an opportunity has been presented to bring the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue back to the track of a negotiated settlement. This merits encouragement and support. We are glad that President Trump said he hopes the issue could be resolved finally through peaceful means, which is what China has been calling for all along. Special Envoy Chung Eui-yong also said that the ROK side appreciates China's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the denuclearization goal, and inter-Korean talks, which enabled positive progress on the Korean Peninsula issue.”

“Second, the US and the DPRK eventually expressed their political will to have direct dialogues. This also merits encouragement and support. We look forward to see a smooth running of the inter-Korean meeting and DPRK-US talks. President Xi Jinping told President Trump very clearly that he hopes the US and the DPRK could begin contacts and dialogues sooner than later and strive to achieve positive outcomes. President Trump said that facts have proven that President Xi is right in insisting on the US having dialogues with the DPRK. Special Envoy Chung Eui-yong also thanked China for upholding direct talks between the US and the DPRK and looked to China to continue with its important role.”

“Third, China is firmly committed to realizing denuclearization, peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, and resolving the issue through

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<sup>40</sup> "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", MOFA, PRC, March 13, 2018 [www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1542047.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1542047.shtml)

dialogue and negotiation. We will continue to play our unique role in getting the talks started and sustaining the talks till good outcomes are achieved and a peaceful, stable and denuclearized Korean Peninsula is realized. This serves the interests of not only the DPRK and the ROK, but also other regional countries, and meets the common expectations of the international community.”

**Xi Jinping- President**

March 12, 2018<sup>41</sup>

“China remains persistent in denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace and stability on the Peninsula. At present, the situation on the Peninsula faces an important opportunity for easing tension and dialogue. China speaks positively of the ROK’s efforts to this regard and is willing to work with the international community including the ROK to further work on all parties concerned, and boost the political settlement process of the Korean Peninsula issue by combining China’s “dual-track approach” with helpful proposals from all sides. In the meantime, all sides should be patient and careful, and exercise their political wisdom to properly deal with and defuse various issues and disturbances in resuming talks. China expects a smooth DPRK-ROK summit and DPRK-US dialogue, and hopes that there will be substantial progress in promoting the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula and the normalization of relations between the parties. With utmost sincerity, no difficulty is insurmountable. As long as all parties can focus on the fundamental goal of denuclearization, peace and stability, the Korean Peninsula will finally usher in the spring, when ice will thaw and flowers will bloom.”

**Yang Jiechi- State Councilor**

March 12, 2018<sup>42</sup>

“China is willing to work with the ROK to further well implement the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and President Moon Jae-in to promote the continuous improvement and development of the China-ROK relations. China appreciates the ROK’s efforts in promoting the easing of the situation on the Peninsula. The current positive changes in the situation of the Peninsula are conducive to bringing the denuclearization process of the Peninsula back to the right track of settlement through dialogue, and also conform to the direction set by

<sup>41</sup> "Xi Jinping Meets with Special Envoy of the ROK President Chung Eui-yong", MOFA, PRC, March 12, 2018, [www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1542151.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1542151.shtml)

<sup>42</sup> "Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with Special Envoy of the ROK President and National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong", MOFA, PRC, March 12, 2018, [www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1542148.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1542148.shtml)

	<p>the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the DPRK. It is hoped that all parties will remain committed to political and diplomatic settlement, so as to push for constant progress of the Peninsula issue in a direction that is in line with the common expectation of the international community. China is willing to continuously play a positive and constructive role to this end.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Geng Shuang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</b></p> <p>March 9, 2018<sup>43</sup></p> <p>“We welcome the positive messages conveyed by the US and the DPRK on direct dialogues. The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is moving in a right direction towards its settlement. We fully commend and support the efforts made by all relevant parties to resolve this issue through dialogue and consultation.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wang Yi- Foreign Minister</b></p> <p>March 9, 2018<sup>44</sup></p> <p>“The Korean Peninsula issue has finally taken an important step in the right direction. China fully commends and supports the efforts made by the two Koreas.”</p>
Russia	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Andrei Kulik- Director, Asia Department, Foreign Ministry</b></p> <p>March 20, 2018<sup>45</sup></p> <p>"We are always ready for the most close dialogue with North Korea and all other parties concerned in the interests of creating conditions for practical steps towards this goal (normalization of the situation)."</p> <p>"Russia has always been speaking in favor of comprehensive settlement of the Korean Peninsula's problems, including the nuclear problem, by diplomatic means and with due account of legal interests of the sides. We see the ultimate goal of this process in the normalization of the</p>

<sup>43</sup> "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, March 9, 2018,

[www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1541071.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1541071.shtml)

<sup>44</sup> "Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press", The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, March 9, 2018, [www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1540928.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1540928.shtml)

<sup>45</sup> "Russia ready for dialogue with North Korea — Foreign Ministry", TASS, March 20, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/995294>

situation in Northeastern Asia, in turning this region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity.”

"A major condition for fruitful cooperation between Russia and North Korea is stability of the military political situation on the Korean Peninsula.”

"In this context, we hail the North Korean leadership’s steps towards establishing inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation, including sending North Korean athletes and an official delegation to the Olympic Winter Games in South Korea’s PyeongChang, and the reception by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un of a South Korean president’s envoy in Pyongyang.”

**Sergey Lavrov- Foreign Minister**

March 17, 2018<sup>46</sup>

"Even when US President Donald Trump said he was ready to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-in and settle all the problems, US presidential administration officials rushed to say that further pressure on Pyongyang was needed as it had backed down.”

"Such things are not practices in diplomacy. When a meeting is agreed, the sides typically try to cherish such an agreement rather than call for actions that can be seen as provocations aiming to break down a summit.”

"It filled us with hope when the North Korean and US leaders, Kim Jon-un and Donald Trump, announced their readiness to meet personally. If such a meeting does take place, we will be only happy.”

"We think that the impetus was given when the parties found the resolve to use the Olympic truce and send each other positive signals. We hail that and wish success to forthcoming contacts, first of all, to the inter-Korean summit, which, according to our colleagues, is to take place in April.”

**Fyodor Strzhizhovsky- Press Secretary, Russia’s UN Mission**

March 14, 2018<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> "Lavrov warns US against provocations aiming to break down Trump’s meeting with Kim Jong-un", TASS, March 17, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/994612>

The United States has blocked the Russia-and China-initiated draft statement of the United Nations Security Council in support of the progress in the settlement of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, Russia's permanent mission to the United Nations said,

"The United States' decision to cut short work on the Russian-Chinese initiative without discussion among the United Nations Security Council members generates the question about Washington's actual plans in the context of the emerging thaw in the inter-Korean relations."

**Sergey Lavrov- Foreign Minister**

March 13, 2018<sup>48</sup>

"Mr Moon Jae-in, is at the centre of attention of the international community. You (Chung Eui-yong- National Security Advisor, South Korea) have visited Pyongyang, Washington, Beijing and today you are in Moscow. This once again underscores the understanding by your leadership of the need to form a sufficiently strong front of all those who can help in a peaceful settlement of the crisis on the Korean Peninsula."

**Sergey Lavrov- Foreign Minister**

March 9, 2018<sup>49</sup>

Regarding the announcement of the meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, foreign minister said,

"We consider it to be a step in the right direction. Hopefully, the agreement will be implemented. Obviously it is necessary for normalizing the situation around the Korean peninsula."

"We also welcome the agreement reached by Seoul and Pyongyang to hold an inter-Korean summit in April."

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"US blocks Russian-Chinese draft UNSC statement on North Korea", TASS, March 14, 2018, [tass.com/politics/994185](http://tass.com/politics/994185)<sup>47</sup>

<sup>48</sup> "Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks during talks with Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Korea and Head of the National Security Directorate under the President of the Republic of Korea, Chung Eui-yong, Moscow", MOFA, Russian federation, March 13, 2018 [www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3118598](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3118598)

<sup>49</sup> "Moscow hopes US, North Korean leaders will meet - Lavrov", TASS, March 9, 2018, <http://tass.com/politics/993342>

	<p>"This all is what both the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and many other countries have called for, taking a stand in favor of clearing the air around the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula and using not threats, ultimatums, unilateral sanctions, but a dialogue based on mutual respect, through looking for such agreements that all sides will be satisfied with."</p> <p>"I will not comment on whether it was the pressure of sanctions that helped reach an agreement to organize a top-level meeting between Washington and Pyongyang. I think that each side wants to present its interpretation as correct. Let's not elaborate on what triggered this agreement, what is important is that it has been reached."</p> <p>"What is even more important is to make sure that the agreement will be implemented instead of ending in nothing, but will open up the way to a full-fledged political negotiation process to be resumed to settle the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula based on existing principles approved at the six-party talks and at the UN Security Council."</p>
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Taro Kono- Foreign Minister</b></p> <p>March 20, 2018<sup>50</sup></p> <p>"I believe these U.S.-ROK joint exercises are a major element comprising deterrence in parallel with Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK defense cooperation, so I believe it contributes to the peace and safety of the region. A ROK-North Korea summit meeting and a U.S.-North Korea summit meeting are expected to be held going forward, but the international community requires North Korea to not only say they are committed to denuclearization but also take concrete actions. Until North Korea takes concrete actions in a firm manner, we should properly impose economic sanctions and conduct these kinds of military exercises."</p> <p>March 17, 2018<sup>51</sup></p> <p>"I held a meeting with Dr. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK). I expressed my appreciation for the detailed explanation provided by Mr. Seo Hoon, Director of the</p>

<sup>50</sup> "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, March 20, 2018 [www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e\\_000478.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000478.html)

<sup>51</sup> "Extraordinary Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, 2018, March 17, 2018, [www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e\\_000477.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000477.html)



National Intelligence Service of the ROK about his interactions with North Korea, and also conveyed my respect for the efforts by the Government of the ROK. I also noted that based on past experience, it is necessary to uphold the position to continue to apply maximum pressure to ensure the realization of complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) by North Korea, and the ROK side is of exactly the same view. I stated that Japan's stance of seeking to normalize its relations with North Korea remains the same, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern such as the abductions, nuclear and missile issues, and I also requested the ROK side to raise the abductions issue during the upcoming inter-Korean summit meeting. I requested close cooperation between Japan and the ROK towards the resolution of the abductions issue. In addition, I noted that Japan will engage in close trilateral cooperation with the ROK and the United States ahead of the inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea summit meetings.”

**Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister**

March 18, 2018<sup>52</sup>

“An international society must be united in applying maximum pressure on North Korea until it takes concrete action. My firm position on supporting this is never shaken.”

**Taro Kono- Foreign Minister**

March 13, 2018<sup>53</sup>

“What necessary is how North Korea takes complete, irreversible, and verifiable actions toward denuclearization and toward abandoning the development of missiles, and, because we are constantly saying “verifiable,” how those actions can be verified. Regarding the abandonment of the nuclear program, Japan is ready to provide full support to ensure that thorough IAEA inspections can begin in North Korea quickly.”

March 12, 2018<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> "Abe repeats maximum pressure mantra at defense academy's graduation ceremony in Yokosuka", The Japan Times, March 18, 2018, [https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/03/18/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-repeats-maximum-pressure-mantra-defense-academys-graduation-ceremony-yokosuka/#.Wrc095e\\_Ooo](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/03/18/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-repeats-maximum-pressure-mantra-defense-academys-graduation-ceremony-yokosuka/#.Wrc095e_Ooo)

<sup>53</sup> "Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, March 13, 2018, [www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e\\_000473.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000473.html)

“The Government of Japan’s stance remains that it is seeking resolution of the missile and nuclear issues and also resolution of the abductions issue prior to normalization of relations with North Korea.”

“Since Japan, the United States, and the ROK have agreed that maximum pressure must continue until North Korea switches to taking action beyond just words, our view is that the international community has nothing to lose from proceeding with the ROK-North Korea summit meeting and U.S.-North Korea summit meeting.”

**Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister**

March 13, 2018<sup>55</sup>

"It is our basic stance that the nuclear and missile problems and the kidnapping issue of Japanese people should be resolved."

"It is important to implement words through action and for the North to take concrete action."

**Official- Foreign Ministry**

March 10, 2018<sup>56</sup>

“It never occurred to us that such a decision (Trump-Kim meeting) would be made at this time.”

**Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister**

March 9, 2018<sup>57</sup>

"I agreed with President Trump that (this development) is the result of Japan, the United States and South Korea, together with the international community, having continued to put a high level of pressure on North Korea."

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<sup>54</sup> "Extraordinary Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan , MArCh 12, 2018, [www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e\\_000474.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000474.html)

<sup>55</sup> "Abe calls for N. Korea's 'concrete' action for denuclearization", The Yonhap News, March 13, 2018, [english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/13/0401000000AEN20180313005351315.html](http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2018/03/13/0401000000AEN20180313005351315.html)

<sup>56</sup> "Japan shocked to be left out in cold by Trump on North Korea", The Asahi Shimbun, March 10, 2018, [www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201803100035.html](http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201803100035.html)

<sup>57</sup> "Abe to visit US in April to discuss N. Korea with Trump", The Mainichi, march 9, 2018, <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180309/p2g/oom/odm/037000c>

"The solid position of Japan and the United States -- that we will continue to put maximum pressure on North Korea until it takes concrete actions toward the complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment of its nuclear (weapons) and missiles -- is absolutely unwavering."

"I will continue to coordinate with President Trump toward resolving North Korea's nuclear and missile (development) and the abduction issue, and we will address these issues in even closer cooperation."

**Itsunori Onodera- Defense Minister**

March 9, 2018<sup>58</sup>

"There is no change to our position that North Korea needs to display concrete actions toward denuclearization in order for dialogue to be meaningful."

**Taro Kono- Foreign Minister**

March 9, 2018<sup>59</sup>

"President Trump explained that there would be preparations for the meeting with Chairman Kim Jong-un while monitoring the situation going forward. Japan would like to express its respect for the efforts of the ROK Government to reach this stage. This movement by North Korea is the result of the maximum pressure implemented through close Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperation. At the same time, we will naturally continue the maximum pressure until North Korea has realized abandonment of all nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. "

"There will be no change in terms of maintaining economic sanctions and military pressure. North Korea will gain nothing until it stops violating various international rules, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions on nuclear tests and missile launches."

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<sup>58</sup> "Abe to visit US in April to discuss N. Korea with Trump", The Mainichi, march 9, 2018, <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180309/p2g/oom/odm/037000c>

<sup>59</sup> "Extraordinary Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", MOFA, Japan, March 9, 2018, [www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e\\_000472.html#topic1](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000472.html#topic1)

“North Korea will gain nothing with just a statement of intention. Anyone can say he is committed to denuclearization. The important point is taking concrete action for this. North Korea never exhibited this behavior before sanctions were firmly implemented. The fact that North Korea, which has defied various international laws and rules to conduct nuclear tests and missile launches, has stated that at least it is committed to denuclearization is a major indication of the efficacy of these sanctions, and North Korea accepts this. In that sense, this can be valued as a step forward by North Korea.”

“I believe that this (US-North Korea talk) is not a bilateral framework between the United States and North Korea, but rather the United States representing the international community in a discussion with North Korea.”

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*\*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.*