



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

September 18-25, 2017

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Country	Comment
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">The Foreign Affairs Committee’s Open Letter to Parliaments of Different Countries</p> <p>September 25, 2017¹</p> <p>“The Foreign Affairs Committee of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly .. bitterly condemns the reckless remarks of Trump as an intolerable insult to the Korean people, a declaration of war against the DPRK and a grave threat to the global peace.”</p> <p>“Trump threatened to totally destroy the DPRK, a dignified</p>

¹ "Open Letter to Parliaments of Different Countries", KCNA, September 25, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506337334-409868659/open-letter-to-parliaments-of-different-countries/>

independent and sovereign state and a nuclear power. It is an extreme act of threatening to totally destroy the whole world.”

“The Foreign Affairs Committee of the DPRK SPA takes this opportunity to express belief that the parliaments of different countries loving independence, peace and justice will fully discharge their due mission and duty in realizing the desire of mankind for international justice and peace with sharp vigilance against the heinous and reckless moves of the Trump administration trying to drive the world into a horrible nuclear disaster.”

Open Letter of WPK Central Committee to Foreign Political Parties

September 25, 2017²

“Recalling that the chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission declared he would surely and definitely make the U.S. chief executive pay dearly for the remarks in which he denied the existence of the DPRK, insulted it and cried for its total destruction under the eyes of the world.”

“In order to realize the genuine international justice and defend elementary right to existence of mankind, it is necessary to counter the nukes of tyranny with the nuclear treasured sword of justice. This is the truth taught by the DPRK-U.S. confrontation to the world.”

“It also expresses the expectation and belief that they will send invariable support and solidarity to the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people in the just struggle to defend the sovereignty, dignity and right to existence of the country and protect the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region.”

² "Open Letter of WPK Central Committee to Foreign Political Parties", KCNA, September 25, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506337336-646536554/open-letter-of-wpk-central-committee-to-foreign-political-parties/>

Ri Yong-ho- Foreign Minister

September 25, 2017³

"It is clearly a declaration of war because those were words by an incumbent American president."

"As long as the U.S. has declared war, from now on, even if U.S. strategic bombers don't fly into our airspace, we will hold all the rights to self-defense, including the right to shoot them down at a time of our discretion. We will see then who lasts longer."

Sin Yong Chol - Director of the Political Bureau of the Cabinet

September 24, 2017⁴

"The statement of respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un was the resolute ultimatum sent by a tiger of Mt. Paektu to wipe out the U.S., the land of crimes, from the earth, and a volcano-like eruption of the faith and will of the entire army and all the people to certainly give vent to the pent-up wrath through the all-out charge against the wolf-like U.S. imperialists, kingpin of aggression and war."

Kim Man Su- Minister of Electric Power Industry

September 24, 2017⁵

"The gangster-like U.S. imperialists made the most ferocious declaration of a war against the DPRK, it is the fixed will of the Korean people to make them pay a thousand-fold price for the senseless remarks."

³ "N. Korea says Trump's words were declaration of war", The Yonhap News, September 26, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/0401000000AEN20170926000253315.html>

⁴ "Rally of SPA Presidium, Cabinet, Ministries and National Institutions Blasts Trump's Rubbish", KCNA, September 24, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506207781-434437073/rally-of-spa-presidium-cabinet-ministries-and-national-institutions-blasts-trumps-rubbish/>

⁵ "Rally of SPA Presidium, Cabinet, Ministries and National Institutions Blasts Trump's Rubbish", KCNA, September 24, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506207781-434437073/rally-of-spa-presidium-cabinet-ministries-and-national-institutions-blasts-trumps-rubbish/>

Kim Myong Chol- Department Director of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly,

September 24, 2017⁶

“We will beat mad Trump with nuclear fists of justice so that the U.S. warmongers would not let out rubbish again and not run amuck before the DPRK, and all the service personnel and people will become bullets and bombs to bring to an end the century-old confrontation with the U.S. with our exciting victory.”

Statement- Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee

September 24, 2017⁷

“(North Korea) will seriously review taking the strongest-ever response measure and our top leadership's bombshell declaration to deal with the U.S.' dotard with fire should not be overlooked.”

“If the U.S. misunderstands our power and willingness and pushes ahead with a reckless military option, it will lead to the most tragic end for the American empire.”

Spokesman- National Peace Committee of Korea

September 23, 2017⁸

“It is just the U.S., empire of evils, that should be totally destroyed and wiped off from the surface of our planet.”

“Let's annihilate the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the sworn enemy! this is a decision of the Korean nation getting stronger with each passing day.”

⁶ "Rally of SPA Presidium, Cabinet, Ministries and National Institutions Blasts Trump's Rubbish", KCNA, September 24, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternate Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506207781-434437073/rally-of-spa-presidium-cabinet-ministries-and-national-institutions-blasts-trumps-rubbish/>

⁷ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/24/0401000000AEN20170924004200315.html>

⁸ "U.S. Will Pay High Price for Hurting DPRK: NPCK", KCNA, September 23, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternate Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506182537-466259042/u-s-will-pay-high-price-for-hurting-dprk-npck/>

“Time only will show what a dear price the U.S. will have to pay for the crimes they committed against the Korean nation through generations.”

“A rabid dog, Trump and his clique will keenly realize what disastrous consequences are entailed by his recklessly barking at the DPRK after misunderstanding it.”

Ri Yong-ho – Foreign Minister

September 23, 2017⁹

“Since Trump uttered such reckless and violent words provoking the dignity of the DPRK supreme leadership and threatening the DPRK at this very platform, I think it is fair enough for me to make a response in the corresponding tone.”

“The absurd reality that the person like Trump, a mentally deranged person full of megalomania and complacency, the person who is chastised even by American people as "commander in grief", "lying king", "president evil" is holding the seat of the U.S. president, and the dangerous reality that the gambler who grew old using threats, frauds and all other schemes to acquire a patch of land holds the nuclear button; these are what constitute the gravest threat to the international peace and security today.”

“Due to his lacking of basic common knowledge and proper sentiment, he tried to insult the supreme dignity of my country by referring it to a rocket. By doing so, however, he committed an irreversible mistake of making our rockets' visit to the entire U.S. mainland inevitable all the more.”

“Trump might not have been aware what is uttered from his mouth but we will make sure that he bears consequences far beyond his words, far beyond the scope of what he can handle even if he is ready to do so..”

⁹ "DPRK Foreign Minister on DPRK Government's Stand", KCNA, September 24, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506263823-747353819/dprk-foreign-minister-on-dprk-governments-stand/>

Ri Myong-su- Chief of General Staff, KPA

September 23, 2017¹⁰

"The strike of our style that we have prepared for the final battle against the U.S. imperialists for many years will be the most severe and dreadful retaliatory war, and this strike offensive will continue till we wipe them out to the last one... and until we annihilate the U.S. imperialists on this planet forever."

"(North Korea) will mercilessly smash the slightest provocation of the enemy to do harm to the supreme dignity of the DPRK the moment it is detected."

Statement- The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification

September 23, 2017¹¹

"Trump's rubbish is the open declaration of war against our supreme dignity, state, social system and people, and an unpardonable extra-large provocation."

"This is not a just invective of Trump but a vivid revelation of the vicious hostile policy of the U.S. administration toward the DPRK and its wicked intention to ignite a war."

"Anyone who dares insult our supreme dignity and deny the existence of our state can never go scot-free."

Kim Jong-un

September 21, 2017¹²

"Now that Trump has denied the existence of and insulted me and my country in front of the eyes of the world and made the most ferocious declaration of a war in history that he would destroy the DPRK, we will

¹⁰ "N.K. Workers' Party, military hold simultaneous rallies in support of leader's statement", The Yon hap News, September 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/23/0401000000AEN20170923002251315.html>

¹¹ "Trump's Rubbish under Fire", KCNA, September 23, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative Source:

<https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506182540-505542147/trumps-rubbish-under-fire/>

¹² "Statement of Chairman of State Affairs Commission of DPRK", KCNA, September 21, 2017,

<https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1506033115-921520320/statement-of-chairman-of-state-affairs-commission-of-dprk/>

consider with seriousness exercising of a corresponding, highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history.”

“Whatever Trump might have expected, he will face results beyond his expectation.”

“I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged U. S. dotard with fire.”

Ri Yong-ho - Foreign Minister

September 21, 2017¹³

"It could be the most powerful detonation of an H-bomb in the Pacific.”

"We have no idea about what actions could be taken as it will be ordered by leader Kim Jong-un."

Ri Yong-ho- Foreign Minister

September 20, 2017¹⁴

"If he was thinking he could scare us with the sound of a dog barking, that's really a dog dream.”

Uriminzokkiri (State controlled website)

September 20, 2017¹⁵

“The enemies' reckless and ridiculous sanctions, pressure, threat and blackmail will offer an opportunity to the DPRK to bolster up its deterrence, while bring bitterer disgrace to them. The DPRK, which towered as the most powerful nuclear weapons state

¹³ “N.K. FM says 'highest-level' actions in Kim's remarks may be H-bomb test in Pacific

“, The Yonhap News, September 22, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/22/11/0401000000AEN20170922004700315F.html>

¹⁴ “N. Korea says Trump threat is 'sound of dog barking’”, The Yonhap News, September 21, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/21/78/0401000000AEN20170921000652315F.html>

¹⁵ "U.S. Will Meet Nuclear Strike and Final Ruin", Uriminzokkiri, September 20, 2017,

<http://www.uriminzokkiri.com/index.php?type=english&no=995>

despite the unprecedented difficulties and trials, is not afraid of any sanctions, pressure and war. It is now in full readiness to destroy the enemies' bases with its resolute and preemptive strike if they show any slight sign of provocation.”

“In case the U.S. opts for confrontation and war at last, defying the strategic position of the DPRK, nuclear power of Juche and a world military giant, it will meet horrible nuclear strike and miserable and final ruin.”

Statement- Foreign Ministry

September 18, 2017¹⁶

“This (recent UNSC sanction) is the most vicious, unethical and inhumane act of hostility to physically exterminate the people of the DPRK, let alone its system and government. What is more deplorable is that the U.S. is misleading public opinion by disseminating the fraudulent claim that the sanctions and pressure are geared to the so-called peaceful solution.”

“It is a foolish dream to hope that the sanctions could work with the DPRK while the sanctions have failed to stop it from becoming a full-fledged nuclear weapons state and making rapid progress in the building of an economic power for more than half a century.”

“The increased moves of the U.S. and its vassal forces to impose sanctions and pressure on the DPRK will only increase our pace towards the ultimate completion of the state nuclear force.”

“The countries joining the U.S. in imposing sanctions on the DPRK should start working on a good explanation for the day when an actual balance of power is established between the DPRK and the U.S.”

Rodong Sinmun

September 18, 2017¹⁷

“Unless the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat are fundamentally

¹⁶ "FM Spokesman Discloses U.S. Intention of Claiming Implementation of "Resolution on Sanctions"", KCNA, September 18, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1505743349-511207787/fm-spokesman-discloses-u-s-intention-of-claiming-implementation-of-resolution-on-sanctions/>

¹⁷ "DPRK Is Sure to Make Victory in Showdown with U.S.-led Imperialists: Rodong Sinmun", KCNA, September 18, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative source: <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1505741524-260891212/dprk-is-sure-to-make-victory-in-showdown-with-u-s-led-imperialists-rodong-sinmun/>

	<p>removed, they will invariably follow the road of increasing the nuclear force, giving full play to the might of self-reliance and self-development. It is a daydream for the U.S. to stifle the DPRK as <u>it is guided by the great Party</u> and its people have the strong spirit of self-reliance and self-development.”</p>
<p>USA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sarah Sanders -Press Secretary, White House</p> <p>September 25, 2017¹⁸</p> <p>In response to North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho’s comment that President Trump had declared war on North Korea, the Press Secretary said,</p> <p>“Not at all. We’ve not declared war on North Korea. And frankly, the suggestion of that is absurd.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Colonel Robert Manning - Pentagon Spokesman</p> <p>September 25, 2017¹⁹</p> <p>“If North Korea does not stop their provocative actions, you know, we will make sure that we provide options to the President to deal with North Korea.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steven Mnuchin- U.S. Treasury Secretary</p> <p>September 24, 2017²⁰</p> <p>"I can assure you the president's number one priority is the safety of the American people and our allies." "The president doesn't want to be in a nuclear war. And we will do everything we can to make sure that doesn't occur." "The president has lots of alternatives that have been presented to him, and he'll make decisions at the time."</p>

¹⁸ "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders", The White House, September 25, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/25/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-9252017-16>

¹⁹ "Pentagon: Will provide Trump options if North Korea provocations continue", Reuters, September 25, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-pentagon/pentagon-will-provide-trump-options-if-north-korea-provocations-continue-idUSKCN1Co2E6>

²⁰ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/25/39/0401000000AEN20170925000351315F.html>

Statement- The White House

September 24, 2017²¹

“The government in North Korea does not cooperate with the United States Government in any respect and fails to satisfy all information-sharing requirements. Accordingly, the entry into the United States of nationals of North Korea as immigrants and nonimmigrants is suspended.”

Donald Trump- President

September 23, 2017²²

“Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!”

September 23, 2017²³

“Iran just test-fired a Ballistic Missile capable of reaching Israel. They are also working with North Korea. Not much of an agreement we have!”

September 22, 2017²⁴

"Kim Jong Un of North Korea, who is obviously a madman who doesn't mind starving or killing his people, will be tested like never before!"

²¹ "Fact Sheet: Proclamation on Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats", The White House, September 24, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/24/fact-sheet-proclamation-enhancing-vetting-capabilities-and-processes>

²² Donald Trump, Twitter, September 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/911789314169823232>

²³ Donald Trump, Twitter, September 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/911711539815702529>

²⁴ Donald Trump, Twitter, September 22, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/911175246853664768>

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

September 22, 2017²⁵

“We are quite challenged, but our diplomatic efforts continue unabated. We have put in place the strongest economic sanctions ever to have been assembled against Kim Jong-un, so he is being tested with these sanctions.”

“we’re not in this alone; we have developed strong allies and strong alliances internationally, and we are engaging with North Korea’s most important supporters, economic supporters, their friends China and Russia, to have them also engage with Kim Jong-un on this issue.”

Statement- White House

September 22, 2017²⁶

“The two presidents (Donald Trump of USA and Moon Jae-in of South Korea) condemned in the strongest terms North Korea’s continued provocations, including its sixth nuclear test on September 3 and its two recent launches of ballistic missiles over Japan.”

“The two leaders also agreed that maximum pressure and sanctions on North Korea are necessary to deter its threatening actions and take steps towards denuclearization.”

“President Trump and President Moon reaffirmed the two countries’ joint goal of pursuing the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea in a peaceful manner. They shared the view that maintaining overwhelming military superiority over North Korea is essential, and committed to maintain and strengthen our robust combined defense posture, including through South Korea’s acquisition and development of highly advanced military assets.”

²⁵ "Interview With David Muir of ABC's Good Morning America", The US Department of State, September 22, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274369.htm>

²⁶ "Joint Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump of the United States and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea", The White House, September 22, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/22/joint-readout-meeting-between-president-donald-j-trump-united-states-and>

Statement- White House

September 22, 2017²⁷

“The two leaders (Donald Trump of USA and Shinzo Abe of Japan) agreed that North Korea's continued provocative actions, including its two recent missile launches that overflowed Japan and the September 3rd nuclear test, constitute an unprecedented and grave threat to international peace. President Trump reiterated the U.S. commitment to defend Japan using the full range of U.S. military capabilities, and the leaders reaffirmed that the United States and Japan stand together shoulder-to-shoulder.”

“They also committed to pursue other efforts to maximize pressure on North Korea, including urging China and Russia to play more consequential roles.”

Statement- White House

September 22, 2017²⁸

The three leaders (Donald J. Trump's of USA, Shinzo Abe of Japan and Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea) agreed that North Korea's continued aggressive actions—including its two recent missile launches that overflowed Japan and its September 3, 2017 nuclear test—constitute clear and growing threats to their countries as well as to the rest of the world.”

“They agreed to mobilize all available means to maximize pressure on North Korea and call on all other nations to do the same. The three leaders agreed that North Korea's provocative actions have drawn their nations even closer together.”

²⁷ "Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan", The White House, September 22, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/22/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-meeting-prime-minister-shinzo-abe>

²⁸ "Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Trilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Abe of Japan and President Moon of the Republic of Korea", The White House, September 22, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/22/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-trilateral-meeting-prime-minister-abe>

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

September 21, 2017²⁹

"We will continue our efforts in the diplomatic arena, but all of our military options -- as the president has said -- is on the table."

"And once we can assess the nature of this threat, the president will make a decision regarding the appropriate actions."

"He is being tested with these sanctions."

"Voices from every corner of the world are calling on him to cease his program, come to the table and let's talk about the future of North Korea and the North Korean people."

Donald Trump- President

September 21, 2017

"Our new order will give the Treasury Department the discretion to sanction any foreign bank that knowingly conducts or facilitates significant transactions tied to trade with North Korea. And again, I want to just say, and thank President Xi of China for the very bold move he made today. That was a somewhat unexpected move and we appreciate it."

"Foreign banks will face a clear choice: Do business with the United States or facilitate trade with the lawless regime in North Korea -- and they won't have so much trade."

"Prime Minister Abe, President Moon and I are going to discuss what more we can do working together. We're had a very, very close relationship. I think our nations have become closer because of this."

²⁹ <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/23/0401000000AEN20170923000351315.html>

Nikki Haley- US Ambassador to UN

September 21, 2017³⁰

“Anyone that deals with North Korea, any financial institution that deals with North Korea is going to be punished. And so I think it's important. And it's like Secretary Mnuchin said: If you're going to support North Korea, then you have to be prepared to be sanctioned as well.”

“We always knew that the sanctions may not work. What the goal of the sanctions was always intended to be is to cut the revenue so they could do less of their reckless behavior. If they don't have the funding for the ballistic missiles, for the nuclear production, then they can do less of it. That's the goal of the sanctions. It doesn't mean that it's necessarily going to change Kim's attitude or his belief on what he wants to do, but it will slow down the production of the nuclear process going forward.”

“We don't want war. That's the last thing anyone wants. We don't want loss of life. That's the last thing anyone wants.”

“But at the same time, we're not going to run scared. If for any reason North Korea attacks the United States or our allies, the U.S. will respond, period. That's what's going to happen. What you're seeing now is we continue to go through diplomatic measures, we continue to exhaust everything we have. And the key right now is that other countries actually support the sanctions and follow through with them, and they also continue to isolate North Korea until we can get them to come to the negotiating table. But until then, that's just the reality. If they were to strike the United States, of course we would have to respond back.”

³⁰ “Press Briefing by U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley”, The White House, September 21, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/press-briefing-us-ambassador-un-nikki-haley>

Steven Mnuchin- Treasury Secretary

September 21, 2017³¹

“President Trump's new executive order significantly expands Treasury's authorities to target those who enable this regime's economic activity wherever they are located.”

“This new executive order will authorize Treasury to impose a range of sanctions, such as suspending U.S. correspondent account access to any foreign bank that knowingly conducts or facilitates significant transactions tied to trade with North Korea. These sanctions will be forward-looking and applied to behavior that occurs following today”.

“This new executive order enables Treasury to freeze assets of anyone conducting significant trade in goods, services, or technology with North Korea. It also allows us to freeze assets of actors supporting North Korea's textile, fishing, IT, and manufacturing industries.”

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

September 21, 2017³²

“Though North Korea may assume that nuclear weapons will ensure the survival of its regime, in truth, nuclear weapons are clearly only leading to greater isolation, ignominy, and deprivation. Continued threats against us – against us, the U.S., and now, the entire global community, will not create safety for the regime, but will rather stiffen our collective resolve and our commitment to deterring North Korean aggression.”

“If Russia wants to restore its role as a credible actor in resolving the situation with North Korea, it can prove its good intentions by upholding its commitments to established international efforts on nuclear security and arms control.”

“Cooperation from China is also essential if the international

³¹ “Press Briefing by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin”, The White House, September 21, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/press-briefing-treasury-secretary-steven-mnuchin>

³² “Remarks at the United Nations Security Council Session on Nuclear Non-Proliferation”, The US Department of State, September 21, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274362.htm>

community is to bring North Korean nuclear and missile threats under control and prevent a catastrophe spiraling of instability and conflict on the Korean Peninsula. If China truly desires to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, to promote stability, and to avoid conflict in that sensitive region, right on its own border, now is the time to work with the rest of us, the rest of the international community, to put the kind of pressure on North Korea that can change its strategic calculation before it's too late."

Statement- White House

September 21, 2017³³

"Foreign financial institutions must choose between doing business with the United States or facilitating trade with North Korea or its designated supporters."

Mike Pence- Vice President

September 20, 2017³⁴

"The United States of America will continue to bring the full range of American power to bear on the regime in Pyongyang. We will continue to marshal economic and diplomatic pressure -- ours and from countries across the world -- to demand that North Korea abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs."

"As the President said yesterday, the United States has "great strength and patience." but all options are on the table. And if we are forced to defend ourselves and our allies, we will do so with military power that is effective and overwhelming."

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States

September 20, 2017³⁵

"We would take a very different view of the nature of the North Korean

³³ "Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Increases Pressure to Cut off Funding for North Korea", The White House, September 21, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-increases-pressure-cut-funding-north>

³⁴ "Remarks by the Vice President to the UN Security Council", The White House, September 20, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/20/remarks-vice-president-un-security-council>

³⁵ "Remarks at a Press Availability", The US Department of State, September 20, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274327.htm>

agreement. And it is because while the threat is the same – it's nuclear weapons – the issues surrounding North Korea are very different than the issues surrounding Iran.”

Nikki Haley- US Ambassador to the UN

September 20, 2017³⁶

"I think what you saw was the president responding to North Korea's ballistic missile testing, their nuclear bomb test and their threats that they're going to reduce the United States to ashes, as well as destroy Japan”.

"So what you saw was a very firm response to the Kim regime that they need to back off, and (Trump) had the entire international community with him."

"We have reduced all our diplomatic measures as much as possible to try and see how we can get to him (Kim)."³⁷

Jim Mattis- Secretary of Defense

September 20, 2017³⁸

"It is still a diplomatically led effort".

"You see it as a primary effort of the United Nations General Assembly meetings going on this week in New York."

"We continue to press on the diplomatic level. That includes economic sanctions. But at this time we must also recognize the somber reality that military options must be available in order to protect our allies and ourselves."

36 "Nikki Haley on President Trump calling Kim Jong Un 'Rocket Man': 'It worked'", The USA Today, September 20, 2017, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/09/20/nikki-haley-president-trump-calling-kim-jong-un-rocket-man-it-worked/684312001/>

37 "U.S. envoy defends Trump's 'Rocket Man' remark", The Yonhap News, September 21, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/21/0401000000AEN20170921000300315.html>

38 "Mattis: Diplomacy still leads in effort to denuclearize N. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/20/0401000000AEN20170920012800315.html>

Donald Trump – President

September 19, 2017³⁹

“No one has shown more contempt for other nations and for the wellbeing of their own people than the depraved regime in North Korea.”

“It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with such a regime, but would arm, supply, and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict.”

“The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime. The United States is ready, willing and able, but hopefully this will not be necessary.”

It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future.”

“It is time for all nations to work together to isolate the Kim regime until it ceases its hostile behavior.”

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

September 19, 2017⁴⁰

“We have the strictest sanctions ever put in place. We do believe there are early signs of those having an effect. Ultimately, though, we’re going to need the assistance of the neighbors in the region. We have strong support in our trilateral security arrangements with Japan and South Korea, but we also are in very, very constant dialogue with China and with Russia, because they have a very important role they can play here to also carry the message of the international community that this program really has to be halted, and we have to have an opportunity to talk about the future of North Korea and a denuclearized Korean

³⁹ "Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly", The White House, September 19, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

⁴⁰ "Interview With Bret Baier of Fox News", The US Department of State, September 19, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274275.htm>

Peninsula.”

Jim Mattis – Secretary Defense

September 19, 2017⁴¹

“We are dealing with the North Korean situation through the international processes, and we will continue to do so with Secretary Tillerson leading the effort. And we will hopefully get this resolved through diplomatic means.”

Cory Gardner- Senator and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs

September 19, 2017⁴²

"China has actually carried out its vindication. It's a vindictive campaign against South Korea, vindictiveness over the deployment of a missile defense system in South Korea."

"If they were to take that same aggressive approach to North Korea, we could actually see something different today."

"It's time that China stand up to those businesses and say enough is enough. We need to sanction those businesses."

"So instead of aiming their fire at South Korea, it's time for China to actually aim it at North Korea."

Jim Mattis – Secretary of Defense

September 18, 2017

“Why we don't shoot down the missiles.”

“Number one, those missiles are not directly threatening any of us. Obviously, Japan's missile defenses are up, and their radars are operating. Ours are. And they are intentionally doing provocations that seem to press against the envelope for just how far can they push without going over some kind of a line in their minds that would make

⁴¹ "Remarks by Secretary Mattis at an Enhanced Honor Cordon Welcoming Mihai-Viorel Fifor, Minister of National Defence of Romania, to the Pentagon", The US Department of States, September 19, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1317276/remarks-by-secretary-mattis-at-an-enhanced-honor-cordon-welcoming-mihai-viorel/>

⁴² "U.S. senator tells China to be aggressive with N. Korea, not just S. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/20/0401000000AEN20170920000700315.html>

them vulnerable. So they aim for the middle of the Pacific Ocean, as you know, where at least we hope no ships are around.”

“And the bottom line is that, when the missiles -- were they to be a threat, whether it be to U.S. territory, Guam, obviously Japan -- Japan's territory, that would elicit a different response from us.”

“Ambassador Haley is correct. There are many military options, in concert with our allies that we will take to defend our allies and our own interests.”

Secretary's response to the question whether or not sanctions are effective.

“What we've done with the sanctions is we are putting the leader in North Korea in a position to be aware that the international community, voting unanimously twice now in the United Nations Security Council, seeing the increasing diplomatic isolation that comes with it, comes with the economic sanction that there's a penalty to be paid for ignoring international concerns and norms.”

“I noticed while I was in Mexico, that Mexico had declared the DPRK ambassador persona non grata and he was dispatched home. That's an example of what is working. It's a pressurization effort to raise the cost. You notice Peru has done the same. Other nations have ordered their workers home. So yes, it's working.”

On a question regarding the availability of any military option the U.S. can take with North Korea that would not put Seoul at grave risk, the Secretary said , “Yes, there are, but I will not go into details”.

On the possibility of miscalculation, Secretary said “I believe there is always the potential for miscalculation by the DPRK leader.”

On the redeployment of tactical nukes to the Korean peninsula, secretary said “No, I said that we discussed the option.”

	<p style="text-align: center;">Statement- White House</p> <p>September 18, 2017⁴³</p> <p>“President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China to discuss North Korea’s continued defiance of the international community and its efforts to destabilize Northeast Asia. The two leaders committed to maximizing pressure on North Korea through vigorous enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions.”</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister</p> <p>September 25, 2017⁴⁴</p> <p>"With the threat from the North growing, it is more important than ever to sternly respond to its provocations through close coordination between South Korea and the U.S., while at the same time managing the situation in a stable and cool-headed manner.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baik Tae-hyun - Spokesman, Ministry of Unification</p> <p>September 25, 2017⁴⁵</p> <p>"The government honors all existing inter-Korean agreements including the Oct. 4 summit declaration. North Korea should respect all inter-Korean deals and come to the path toward better inter-Korean relations and peace."</p>

⁴³ "Readout of President Donald J. Trump’s Call with President Xi Jinping of China", The White House, September 18, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/18/readout-president-donald-j-trumps-call-president-xi-jinping-china>

⁴⁴ "Seoul's top diplomat calls for stern but cool-headed approach to N.K.", The Yonhap News, September 25, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/26/89/0401000000AEN20170926005300315F.html>

⁴⁵ "S. Korea urges N.K. to seek peace ahead of 2007 inter-Korean summit anniv., The Yonhap News, September 25, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/25/15/0401000000AEN20170925005500315F.html>

Moon Jae-in - President

September 21, 2017⁴⁶

“We do not desire the collapse of North Korea. We will not seek unification by absorption or artificial means. If North Korea makes a decision even now to stand on the right side of history, we are ready to assist North Korea together with the international community.”

North Korea should acknowledge all these immutable facts as soon as possible. It must immediately cease making reckless choices that could lead to its own isolation and downfall and choose the path of dialogue. I urge North Korea to abandon its hostile policies against other countries and give up its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable and irreversible way.”

“The most important role the United Nations is asked to play today is to come up with fundamental measures to stop the vicious cycle of increased provocations and heightened sanctions. “

September 21, 2017⁴⁷

“Over the years, North Korea has continued to make provocations, and this is extremely deplorable and this has angered both me and our people. But the United States has responded firmly and in a very good way, and because of this I also believe that we have very close coordination between Korea and the United States. And because of this, I'm very satisfied.”

“Mr. President, in the U.N. General Assembly, you made a very strong speech, and I believe that the strength of your speech will also help to change North Korea.”

⁴⁶ "Full text of President Moon Jae-in's U.N. General Assembly keynote speech ", The Korea Times, September 21, 2017, https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2017/09/103_236857.html

⁴⁷ "Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before Bilateral Meeting", The White House, September 21, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/remarks-president-trump-and-president-moon-republic-korea-bilateral>

September 21, 2017⁴⁸

"North Korea must quickly acknowledge these immovable facts. It must immediately give up its reckless decisions that lead to self isolation and collapse, and come to the dialogue table. I urge North Korea to give up its hostile policy and give up its nuclear weapons in a verifiable and irreversible manner."

Statement- Foreign Ministry

September 22, 2017⁴⁹

"(South Korea) appreciates the U.S. government's announcement of an executive order with fresh sanctions on North Korea." the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release. "The latest executive order is expected to add to joint efforts by South Korea and the United States and the international community to bring North Korea to the path of denuclearization through strong sanctions and pressure."

"As long as North Korea continues its provocations, South Korea will keep considering various actions in cooperation with the U.S. to intensify international pressure on North Korea." the foreign ministry said.

"The faithful and complete implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2371 and 2375, is more important than anything else."

Cho June-hyuck - Foreign Ministry Spokesman

September 21, 2017⁵⁰

"Various measures are under consideration to place more pressure on the North."

48 "Moon heads home after four-day visit for U.N. meeting, bilateral summits", The Yonhap News, September 22, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/21/0401000000AEN20170921013200315.html>

49 <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/22/0401000000AEN20170922007600315.html>

50 "S. Korea mulling various measures to intensify pressure on N.K.: foreign ministry", The Yonhap News, September 21, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/21/0401000000AEN20170921008151315.html>

"Consultations are underway among the relevant government agencies."

Statement –Office of the President

September 20, 2017⁵¹

"We view the speech as portraying a firm and specific stance on the key issues regarding keeping peace and safety that the international community and the United Nations are faced with."

"It clearly showed how seriously the United States government views North Korea's nuclear program as the president spent an unusual amount of time discussing the issue".

Trump's speech "reaffirmed that North Korea should be made to realize denuclearization is the only way to the future through utmost sanctions and pressure".

Kang Kyung-wha - Foreign Minister

September 20, 2017⁵²

On South Korean government's announcement that the country is considering providing US\$8 million worth of aid to North Korea via U.N. agencies including UNICE, Foreign Minister said,

"Details such as its timing will be determined by taking into account comprehensive aspects including the current inter-Korean relations and the North's nuclear and missile provocations".

"Our government's basic stance is that the assistance issue should be separated from any political considerations".

Moon Jae-in - President

September 18, 2017⁵³

"I believe you may have held great concerns and worries due to North

⁵¹ "South Korea says Trump's warning to North Korea 'firm and specific'", Reuters, September 20, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-trump-reaction/south-korea-says-trumps-warning-to-north-korea-firm-and-specific-idUSKCNiBVoDQ>

⁵² "Seoul to separate aid to N.K. from political situations", The Yonhap News, September 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/20/0401000000AEN20170920002700315.html>

⁵³ "Moon vows to find fundamental solution to N. Korean nukes at U.N. gathering", The Yonhap News, September 19, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/0401000000AEN20170918004000315.html>

Korea's repeated missile provocations and nuclear test that took place recently.”

“Through my participation at the U.N. General Assembly, I will discuss ways to fundamentally resolve the North Korean nuclear issue with other leaders of the international community.”

Park Soo-hyun- Spokesman, Office of the President

September 18, 2017⁵⁴

Briefing on President Moon’s telephone conversation with President Trump

“The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the close cooperation between South Korea and the United States, and put more practical pressure on North Korea based on their cooperation to make North Korea realize it will only become more isolated diplomatically and face additional economic pressure if it continues to make provocations and eventually enter the path of collapse.”

September 18, 2017⁵⁵

Briefing on President Moon Jae-in’s meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

“While saying he highly evaluated the swift and unanimous adoption of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Sept. 11, President Moon underscored the need for the international community to work together to thoroughly implement the resolution.”

Song Young-moo - Defense Minister

September 18, 2017⁵⁶

“I've heard that the government is likely to delay and adjust the timing of giving aid.”

⁵⁴ “Moon vows to find fundamental solution to N. Korean nukes at U.N. gathering”, The Yonhap News, September 19, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/0401000000AEN20170918004000315.html>

⁵⁵ “S. Korean president urges int'l efforts to implement sanctions against N. Korea”, The Yonhap News, September 19, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/19/0401000000AEN20170919002400315.html>

⁵⁶ “S. Korea's defense minister says provision of N.K. aid could be delayed”, The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/0401000000AEN20170918004352315.html>

China

Liu Jieyi - Ambassador to U.N.

September 25, 2017⁵⁷

“We want things to calm down. It’s getting too dangerous and it’s in nobody’s interest.”

“We certainly hope that (the United States and North Korea) will see that there is no other way than negotiations to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula ... The alternative is a disaster.”

Wang Yi- Foreign Minister

September 23, 2017⁵⁸

“If the Japanese side only talks about sanctions and does not bring up talks, or even goes against talks, it will be seen as contravening Security Council resolutions.”

Lu Kang- Foreign Minister Spokesperson

September 22, 2017⁵⁹

On responding to the latest US unilateral sanction against North Korea, the spokesperson said,

“The Chinese side has always opposed the unilateral sanctions outside the framework of the UN Security Council. This position remains clear and consistent.”

In response to the report that the central bank of China has issued a notice to require all Chinese banks to stop providing financial services to new clients from the DPRK, the spokesperson said,

“According to my information at hand, what you said is inconsistent

⁵⁷ "China's U.N. envoy says North Korea, U.S. rhetoric 'too dangerous'", Reuters, September 25, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-un-china/chinas-u-n-envoy-says-north-korea-u-s-rhetoric-too-dangerous-idUSKCN1Co2PU>

⁵⁸ "China tells Japan not to abandon dialogue over North Korea", Reuters, September 23, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-china/china-tells-japan-not-to-abandon-dialogue-over-north-korea-idUSKCN1BY02R>

⁵⁹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 22, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1495913.shtml

with the facts.”

Wang Yi- Foreign Minister

September 21, 2017⁶⁰

"Whatever changes may take place, no matter how long it will take, and whatever difficulties we may face, China will stay firmly committed to the de-nuclearization of the peninsula."

Central Bank of China

September 21, 2017⁶¹

"At present, management of North Korea-related business has become an issue of national-level politics and national security."

"Our bank is fulfilling our international obligations and implementing United Nations sanctions against North Korea. As such, we refuse to handle any individual loans connected to North Korea."

Lu Kang- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

September 20, 2017⁶²

"The current situation on the Korean Peninsula remains complex and delicate, we hope all relevant parties can stay restrained and take more actions that are conducive to easing the tension and create necessary atmosphere and conditions for an early return to the track of settling the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through negotiation."

⁶⁰ "China committed to de-nuclearization of Korean Peninsula: FM", Xinhua, September 21, 2017, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/22/c_136629337.htm

⁶¹ "China's central bank tells banks to stop doing business with North Korea: sources", Reuters, September 21, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-banks-china/chinas-central-bank-tells-banks-to-stop-doing-business-with-north-korea-sources-idUSKCN1BW1DL>

⁶² "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 20, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1494956.shtml

Lu Kang- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

September 19, 2017⁶³

“Developments in the peninsula nuclear issue up to this point prove that, no matter whether it is military threats in words or in action, they cannot promote and advance a resolution.”

“The core of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is the security issue and the crux of the issue is the conflict between the US and the DPRK; addressing the concerns of various parties in a balanced, synchronized and reciprocal manner and following the principle of commitment for commitment and action for action.”

Wang Yi- Foreign Minister

September 19, 2017⁶⁴

“The current deepening vicious cycle must be broken. Resuming peace talks is an equally important step in implementing security council resolutions.”

Lu Kang - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

September 18, 2017⁶⁵

“The relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council have demonstrated the consensus among the international community in response to the DPRK's nuclear and missile program and reflected the shared will of the international community. The UN Security Council Resolution 2375 was just adopted not long ago. The pressing matter of the moment for all relevant parties is implementing the resolution comprehensively and strictly, rather than complicating the issue.”

⁶³ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 19, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1494465.shtml

⁶⁴ "China says North Korea nuclear issue must be resolved peacefully", Reuters, September 19, 2017,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-china/china-says-north-korea-nuclear-issue-must-be-resolved-peacefully-idUSKCNiBUo8E?il=0>

⁶⁵ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference on September 18, 2017", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 18, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1494008.shtml

	<p>“A probe into how the Korean Peninsula issue has evolved to where it is today will find that the relevant parties have sent out threats, either in terms of rhetoric or action, to each other from time to time, which have failed to help resolve the issue. On the contrary, they have ramped up the tension and is in no way conducive to its solution. Therefore, I want to stress again that we hope various parties can implement all the DPRK-related UN Security Council resolutions in a comprehensive, accurate, strict and effective manner.”</p> <p>“Over the recent period of time, we have also taken note of the positive messages sent out by President Moon Jae-in that the ROK is ready to offer humanitarian aids to the DPRK. The DPRK and the ROK descend from the same nation. China has always supported the two sides in strengthening contact and communication, improving relationship and promoting reconciliation. We also hope the relevant parties can perceive, appreciate and respect the national sentiment of the two sides and support their normal communication.”</p>
<p>Russia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sergei Lavrov - Foreign Minister</p> <p>September 21, 2017⁶⁶</p> <p>"We are witnessing a very dangerous confrontation spiral around the DPRK."</p> <p>"We resolutely condemn the nuclear missile adventures of Pyongyang in violation of Security Council resolutions, but military hysteria is not just an impasse, it is a disaster."</p> <p>"All the Security Council resolutions have to be implemented."</p> <p>"No one is arguing with that. But all of them and all of the sanctions have provisions for the need to go back to negotiations."</p> <p>September 20, 2017⁶⁷</p> <p>“Our position of principle is that we do not demonise anyone but try to get to the bottom of the problem. Some are concerned about their</p>

⁶⁶ "China, Russia, South Korea urge caution with DPRK at UN assembly", Xinhua, September 21, 2017, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/22/c_136629198.htm

⁶⁷ "Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's answers to Russian media questions, New York, September 19, 2017", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, September 20, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/2867341

	<p>security, others are focused on developing relations with their neighbours, and still others are dealing with an internal conflict. Condemnation and threats will only antagonise the countries that we want to influence. Therefore, we prefer to work with all concerned parties, to encourage them to enter into a dialogue, both regarding domestic conflicts or problems like the nuclear threat on the Korean Peninsula.”</p>
<p>Japan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shinto Abe – Prime Minister</p> <p>September 25, 2017⁶⁸</p> <p>Reuters reported Abe saying that “his decision to call a snap election would not distract his government from responding to North Korean threats, pledging to increase pressure if Pyongyang failed to halt its missile and nuclear weapons development.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister</p> <p>September 22, 2017⁶⁹</p> <p>““Through cooperation between Japan, the United States and South Korea as well as by joining with the international community, we will apply an unprecedented higher level of pressure on North Korea to force it to change policy.”</p> <p>“Through cooperation between Japan, the United States and South Korea, we will discuss the strategy that would lead to North Korea abandoning its nuclear weapons development program in order to decide on what future steps were needed.”</p>

⁶⁸ "Japanese PM Abe says election won't distract him from tackling North Korea", Reuters, September 25, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-election-northkorea/japanese-pm-abe-says-election-wont-distract-him-from-tackling-north-korea-idUSKCN1CooZZ>

⁶⁹ "Abe: Higher level of pressure needed against North Korea", The Asahi Shimbun, September 22, 2017, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201709220038.html>

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

September 21, 2017⁷⁰

“First of all, in your remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, you touched on Ms. Megumi Yokota, one of the Japanese abductees. For the parents of her, as well as the family members of those who have been abducted by North Korea, your message was very, very encouraging, and I do appreciate your message.”

“So for us, the key is to change the course of action, as well as policy of North Korea. And in that context, dialogue for the sake of dialogue would not produce anything.”

“The key at this moment is to exercise and apply pressure against North Korea in a robust manner. And together with Donald, we've been successfully demonstrating our strong will to exercise pressure against North Korea. And that actually led to the unification of the international community to address this challenge.”

Taro Kano- Foreign Minister

September 21, 2017⁷¹

“We have to urge these countries to cut their diplomatic and economic relationships with North Korea.”

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

September 20, 2017⁷²

“It is indisputably a matter of urgency.”

“For North Korea, dialogue was instead the best means of deceiving us and buying time.”

⁷⁰ "Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting", The White House, September 21, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/21/remarks-president-trump-and-prime-minister-abe-japan-bilateral-meeting>

⁷¹ "Kono urges nations to cut ties with North Korea, uphold U.N. sanctions", The Japan Times, September 21, 2017, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/09/22/national/politics-diplomacy/kono-urges-nations-cut-ties-north-korea-uphold-u-n-sanctions/#.WcS35Mig-M9>

⁷² "Full text of Abe's address at U.N. General Assembly", The Japan Times, September 21, 2017, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/09/21/national/politics-diplomacy/full-text-abes-address-u-n-general-assembly/#.WcNRhcig-M9>

“Again and again, attempts to resolve issues through dialogue have all come to naught.”

“In what hope of success are we now repeating the very same failure a third time?”

“We must make North Korea abandon all nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.”

“What is needed to do that is not dialogue, but pressure.”

“Japan will face up to North Korea’s nuclear and missile threat through the Japan-U.S. Alliance and through Japan, the U.S. and the ROK acting in unity.”

“We consistently support the stance of the United States: that “all options are on the table.”

Yoshihide Suga- Chief Cabinet Secretary

September 20, 2017⁷³

“(Trump) has reaffirmed his policy calling for denuclearization of North Korea, and calling for cooperation of the international society including China and Russia to strengthen pressure on the North. We highly appreciate this.” Suga told a regular news conference. “He also mentioned the abduction issue ... this is extremely important, too.”

Itsunori Onodera- Minister of Defense

September 20, 2017⁷⁴

“President Trump's position has consistently been that all options are on the table. Therefore, it is important that the Government of Japan, particularly the MOD/SDF, assumes various situations and develops full preparedness.”

⁷³ “Japan welcomes Trump’s rebuke of North Korea’s abduction of Japanese”, The Japan Times, September 20, 2017, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/09/20/national/politics-diplomacy/japan-welcomes-trumps-rebuke-targeting-north-koreas-past-abductions-japanese/#.WcNQwMig-M->

⁷⁴ “Extra Press Conference by Defense Minister Onodera”, Ministry of Defense, Japan, September 20, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/conference/2017/09/20.html>

Yasutoshi Nishimura - Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

September 20, 2017⁷⁵

Responding President Trump's criticism of North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s in his address to the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Nishimura said,

"I think it means an understanding (about the issue) has gotten through" to the United States and other countries. "We earned understanding from President Trump, who quoted the issue in the speech."

Statement- Ministry of Defense

September 20, 2017⁷⁶

"The three (US, Japan and South Korea) sides resolved to continue bolstering trilateral security cooperation and coordination to deter and respond to threats posed by North Korea. They also concurred on continuing to apply maximum pressure on North Korea, in concert with the international community, to compel it to take concrete action to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and not to take any further provocative actions."

"The United States reaffirmed its ironclad security commitments to Japan and the ROK."

**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.

⁷⁵ "Japan welcomes Trump's rebuke of North Korea's abduction of Japanese", The Nikkei Asian Review, September 20, 2017, <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/International-Relations/Japan-welcomes-Trump-s-rebuke-of-North-Korea-s-abduction-of-Japanese>

⁷⁶ "Press Release: Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea Trilateral Video Teleconference", Ministry of Defense, Japan, September 20, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/release/2017/09/20a.html>