



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Choe Su Hon
Head of the Delegation of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**At the General Debate of
the fifty-ninth session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 27 September Juche 93(2004)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Mr. Jean Ping on your election as president of the 59th session of the UN General Assembly and believe that your skilful leadership will bring about fruitful results of the current session.

I also appreciate the active efforts exerted by Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure the central role of the UN in addressing major international issues.

Mr. President,

4 years have passed since the beginning of a new century. However, humankind is still confronted with grave challenges in its efforts to realize the aspiration to build a peaceful and prosperous world.

Unilateralism and high-handedness become ever more undisguised giving rise to aggression, arbitrariness and instability in many parts of the world. Consequently, there continues unabated a vicious cycle of the sovereignty and interests of weak and small countries being trampled down for the sake of the exclusive interests of specific countries.

Today, the main factor undermining international peace and stability is unilateralism and high-handed acts based on the "logic" of power.

The challenge facing the humankind today requires, more urgently than ever before, the

On the Korean peninsula, the national division forced by outside forces has been lasting for more than half a century and the danger of war is snowballing owing to the US extreme moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK and threats of preemptive strikes against it.

Even at this moment, all kinds of sophisticated war equipment are being deployed in and around the Korean peninsula, targeting the DPRK.

The acute political and military situation prevailing in and around the Korean peninsula proves clearly once again how just it is for the DPRK to have built up its strong self-defensive military power to prevent war and ensure peace upholding the Songun policy of the respected General Kim Jong Il.

The more vicious the moves of the outside forces to isolate and stifle the DPRK, the higher our army and people, firmly united around their leader, are holding the banner of Songun and pushing ahead with their struggle to build a prosperous and powerful state with optimism for the future and devotion to the socialist cause.

The Songun policy, the independent policy of the DPRK, serves as a reliable deterrent to secure peace and security not only on the Korean peninsula, but also in the region of the northeast Asia and the rest of the world, for which we feel great pride and self-confidence.

Mr. President,

The reunification of the country is the prerequisite to achieving a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, and it is our invariable stand to achieve national reunification

It is regrettable, however, that the abovementioned process of reconciliation and cooperation between the north and south of Korea did not hold out towards a durable peace and reunification, going through twists and turns on the way.

It is because the process is unwelcoming for the United States and therefore, it is dead set against the improved relations and on-going cooperation activities at all levels between the north and south of Korea.

The United States should no longer hamper the north and south of Korea in their efforts to achieve national reconciliation, collaboration and reunification.

No matter how the situation may change in the future, the Government of the DPRK will continue to strive to overcome all the challenges of the anti-reunification forces within and without and open up a broad path to independent reunification of the country through national cooperation under the great proposition of "by our nation itself".

Mr. President,

I wish to take this opportunity to clarify once again the principled stand of our Government regarding the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the US.

As I already made it clear time and again at this platform, the nuclear issue is the product of the deep-rooted hostile policy on the DPRK pursued by the US for more than half a century.

In other words, the DPRK is left with no other option but to possess a nuclear deterrent in the face of the situation in which the present US administration, being accustomed to rejecting our system, has been attempting to eliminate the DPRK by force while designating it as part of an "axis of evil" and a target of preemptive nuclear strikes.

Peace is most precious to our people, who have been living for more than half a century with a heartbreaking pain of national division forced by the outside forces and under the constant threat of the world's only super power.

Our people aspire after peace more than others, but never beg for peace. The peace that they want to achieve is the one for independent life, not a peace for slaves deprived of freedom.

The confrontation on the Korean peninsula today is, in essence, the one between the foreign forces intruding into one's home and the owners struggling to defend it.

The nuclear deterrent of the DPRK constitutes a legitimate self-defensive means to counter ever-growing US nuclear threat and aggression against the DPRK and reliably defend sovereignty, peace and security of the country.

Denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is our goal, and it is the consistent position of the DPRK to address the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the US peacefully through dialogue and negotiations.

If the United States renounces practically its hostile policy on the DPRK including the cessation of nuclear threats, the DPRK also is willing to scrap its nuclear deterrent accordingly.

Basing itself on this position, the DPRK government proposed a package solution based on the principle of "word for word" and "action for action" for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue, and as the first step to this end, offered such a flexible proposal as the "reward for freeze".

In this regard, at the third round of six party talks last June, the countries concerned shared the view on the importance of the both sides adhering to the principles of the "word for word", "action for action" and "corresponding measures for freeze" and reached an agreement.

The proposal on the "reward for freeze" provides that the DPRK would freeze all the nuclear weapon-related facilities and the output from their operation on the premise that the US abandons its hostile policy, in particular its assertion on the "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of our nuclear program" (CVID), and that at the same time, the United States, for its part, would lift its economic sanctions and blockade against the DPRK,

By offering this proposal, we intend to build mutual confidence in the first place and eventually solve the nuclear issue fundamentally through addressing each other's concerns and meeting their respective demands step-by-step on the basis of simultaneous actions under the present situation characterized by the hostile relations of extreme distrust between the two countries.

The process of realizing the proposed "reward for freeze" will be the one of confidence-building between the DPRK and the US, and this is possible only when the US itself rewards for our freeze.

It is natural that there are a start and order in doing anything. From this point of view, our freeze will be the first step towards eventual dismantlement of our nuclear program. Of course, the freeze will be followed by the objective verification.

In order to further clarify our will to dismantle the nuclear deterrent, we had intended to include in our freeze no more manufacturing of nuclear weapons, and no test and transfer of them.

The US, however, disregarding the common understanding and agreement reached at the third round of six party talks, has been further intensifying its hostile acts against the DPRK in a more undisguised way, even openly announcing that there would be no reward for the freeze and dismantlement of our nuclear facilities.

Most recently, the US passed a "bill on human rights in north Korea" and thus fixed it as a law to provide financial and material support for overthrowing our system and force the third countries to do so.

The US went so far as to slander and debase the supreme leadership of its dialogue partner. It also forces us to "disarm ourselves" like a defeated nation does, thus attempting to forcibly "dismantle our nuclear program first" and "overthrow our system" through the "CVID". Consequently, the basis of negotiations, which was hardly in the making to resolve the nuclear issue, has been completely destroyed.

If the United States has the will to co-exist peacefully with the DPRK by abandoning its hostile policy on the DPRK, the nuclear issue will be resolved properly.

With regard to the six party talks, the DPRK is also of the position to continue the talks. Nevertheless, the ever intensifying US hostile policy and the clandestine nuclear related

In this regard, our delegation is of the view that the General Assembly should be empowered to review and approve the resolutions of the Security Council relating to sanctions and the use of force directly affecting international peace and security.

The reform of the Security Council should be realized in such a way as to enable it to ensure the full representation and interests of the non-aligned and other developing countries which account for overwhelming majority of the UN member states and contribute to a fair solution to disputes.

In addition, practical measures should be taken one after another to actively assist the developing countries in their efforts for sustainable development by strengthening the role of the UN and its affiliated organs in the socio-economic fields.

Mr. President,

The DPRK Government will, in the future, too, regard independence, peace and