

# Political haze over East Asia vision

Ambiguity remains over the political progression from an ASEAN grouping to an East Asian Community.

P. S. Suryanarayana

**L**ONG-TERM VISIONS of community-building were raised by 16 leaders, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, at the first East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formally anointed the driving force for the journey of all the 16 participant-countries towards the "community." Although the community remained entirely undefined, with not even a political label, the leaders dispersed after ensuring that the pre-summit divergences over its scope did not cause a collapse of the new dialogue itself. Behind the diplomatic scene, China earned praise for keeping the process going, while India was reckoned to be an enthusiastic participant with ideas such as a pan-Asian economic community that could still come into play in the future.

The EAS' idea of a community — across the ASEAN terrain, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand — is broadly understood to signify the possibility

of evolving an economic bloc with strategic and political dimensions as well. However, the larger vision is clouded by the political haze, which the latest series of ASEAN-organised summits has not cleared.

At the core of the process as now visualised is the effort towards an "ASEAN community" involving just the 10 countries of this group. The ASEAN+3 forum, which includes China, Japan, and South Korea, has characterised itself as the main vehicle to realise the long-term goal of a specific East Asian Community (EAC).

This means the proposed EAC will finally subsume the evolving ASEAN community. Much ambiguity, however, prevails beyond this political progression. Noteworthy is the failure of the EAS to clarify whether the EAC will in turn be subsumed by a larger community that all the 16 countries on the scene intend to build over time.

With ASEAN having failed to convince the ASEAN+3, notably China, that the EAC could be upgraded now itself into a community of 16, inclusive of India, the possibility exists for the formation of a plurality of communities. This means ASEAN,

ASEAN+3, and EAS existing simultaneously. But what happens if ASEAN should invite the United States, and maybe Russia, to the EAS in the future?

In a telephonic conversation on Sunday, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, however, said the dominant idea was that of "one common community" in respect of all the 16 participants, although "the destination is not clear yet."

The EAC, at the ASEAN+3 level, had not also been fully defined. As seen from Mr. Ong's perspective, the 16 leaders agreed to complement and also supplement their efforts, currently under way along "parallel tracks."

## The U.S. factor

As for the inevitable question about the relevance of the U.S. to the EAS process, Mr. Ong indicated that several ASEAN members were of the view that Washington would continue to be part of the East Asian landscape. It would, therefore, be left to ASEAN to decide whether to stop the EAS "bus" somewhere along the "highway" and pick up the U.S., he maintained.

It is the unresolved U.S. factor, not India's presence, that has given the Chinese foreign policy mandarins much to think about regarding the possible evolution of the EAS process.

There was indeed no disruptive China-India clash of will at the first EAS. More importantly, authoritative Chinese sources emphasise that Beijing is not practising any "Chinese Monroe Doctrine," with or without the "Roosevelt Corollary," of seeking absolute influence over entire East Asia (as alleged in the West).

Speculation about such later-day doctrines flows from China's apparent possessiveness about keeping the proposed East Asian Community as the exclusive domain of the ASEAN+3, despite Beijing's known political differences with Japan, another key player in this forum.

Any other checks and balances? While the overall evolution of the EAS process is still not clear, K. Kesavapany, Director of the Singapore-based Institute of South East Asian Studies, emphasises that ASEAN will remain in the driver's seat in determining the future course of the EAS process.

6 Aug 10-11 2012 ✓

# Summit pointers

*East Asia*

**I**s the East Asia Summit being held in Kuala Lumpur today (Wednesday) a harbinger for a new kind of economic and political order in Asia, or simply the creation of another regional talk shop? For the time being, the prospects seem mixed. Behind the rhetoric of "Asia's monumental leap forward" have been serious disagreements about membership, competing views of what constitutes East Asia and what arrangements will best create a sense of community. At the heart of these differences, however, are mounting tensions between regional powers China and Japan, at once bitter political rivals and economic partners.

China's rapid implementation of a market-based economy and ongoing high levels of growth have heightened Japanese worries about the long-term rise of Chinese power, including the negative (in their view) impact on regional strategic relations. The resulting state of affairs is frequently characterised as "economically hot and politically cold" as increasing economic co-operation and integration has occurred in tandem with growing levels of political discord and animosity between the two governments over a broad range of problems including, most significantly, increasing nationalism on both sides and mutual suspicion about each country's long-term ambitions and goals.

Sino-Japan relations are still coloured by historical animosity and territorial disputes, and have led to considerable political friction and historic tension as well as occasional naval clashes. The tensions date to 19th century disputes and Japan's 1931-45 occupation of China. They play out in recurring cycles of Chinese anger over Japan's perceived lack of contrition for atrocities during WW II and persisting disputes over the islands in the East China Sea the Chinese call Diaoyutai and the Japanese refer to as the Senkaku.

And as the two countries pursue fundamentally similar long-term goals – sustained economic growth, recognition as Asia's major regional power and greater influence in global affairs – reconciliation seems a distant dream. A fact substantially borne out by the subtle rivalry in the recent tsunami disaster relief efforts when Japan out-pledged China in committed financial aid, but China scored well in terms of material aid and private donations to tsunami-affected countries, a first in regional efforts for Beijing. Relations between Japan and China remain chilly, particularly following the Japanese Prime Minister's latest visit to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on 17 October. The shrine honours convicted Class-A war criminals from World War II along with the war dead. The latest visit led China to refuse to hold bilateral or trilateral summit talks with Japan on the sidelines of the multilateral events in Malaysia.

The battle of attrition that's raging between China and Japan isn't abating just yet. And strategic alliances are complex constructs built over time. India needs to read the signals emanating from the East Asia Summit right, writes SANJANA JOSHI



Against this backdrop and with the United States of America excluded, it is hardly surprising that the preparations for the East Asia Summit had to contend with varying formulations emanating from Tokyo and Beijing. First, the two countries sparred over membership with China and Malaysia proposing to turn the annual leaders' meeting between Asean members and China, Japan and South Korea – under the existing "Asean plus three" process – into an East Asian Summit as part of an ambitious plan to create an East Asian Community (EAC) backed by a region-wide free trade area. Japan, however, wary of what it perceived as China's effort to assume regional leadership, vigorously argued for open and inclusive regionalism to win admission for India, Australia and New Zealand. Now Russia is attending as a guest and

Beijing's line is discernable from a recent report in the People's Daily noting that Russia's inclusion in the club was "simply a matter of time".

Diplomatic attempts to draft a declaration to be released at the summit also ran into difficulties. Splits developed between participating countries that felt Asean plus three should be at the core of the EAC, and those wanting all sixteen summit participants to play an equally important role. China pushed for the Asean plus three idea while Japan

wanted the more inclusive approach, a position shared by India. In the final draft agreed to by the forum's foreign ministers, leaders are expected to iterate that the East Asia Summit will play a "significant role" in community-building in the region without, perhaps, specifically mentioning the proposed East Asian

Community. Already, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration signed by the leaders of Asean, Japan, China and South Korea after their annual summit on Monday in the Malaysian capital states that "the Asean-plus-three process will continue to be the main vehicle in achieving an East Asian Community, with Asean as the driving force" wherein the member countries "will

begin efforts to prepare a second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation in 2007 to set the future direction for East Asia community-building". It is expected, therefore, that the first summit will essentially be a confidence-building exercise – "a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern". In Bary Buzan's words: "We cannot expect the rise of an Asian Community simply by letting the web of regional interaction grow thicker."

East Asian regionalism remains constrained by the lack of historical reconciliation between the two big powers, China and Japan. The Indian policy establishment, gung-ho about the country's participation at this forum, would do well to maintain distance from any "balancer" prescriptions – news reports have quoted the Indian foreign secretary as saying that India was willing to create a "greater balance" in Asia.

Indeed, the single most important danger in being carried away by the "counterweight" theory is that it shifts the focus away from the urgent task of strengthening India's own economic interaction with East Asia. Numerous agreements including the liberal trading arrangements with Singapore and Thailand notwithstanding, India is yet to firmly walk the talk. While China's trade with Asean is reaching 100 billion US dollars, India has just about managed 20 billion US dollars.

The second phase of India's Look East policy is driven primarily by the country's impressive economic performance. Asean made this amply clear at the 2004 summit held in Vientiane, Laos, where Asean leaders formalised their intentions to bind themselves more closely to the two regional giants China and India to ensure their own prosperity

and greater global clout. And just a couple of days ago, was a speech of particular significance to business leaders by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, who called for a greater integration of Asean with China and India. This was the first official acknowledgement of India's growing importance to Asean at summit level and it was based on a vision of shared economic prosperity. Playing up strategic considerations will only dissipate regional enthusiasm.

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# Asian interests and the myth of 'balance'

Siddharth Varadarajan

**T**HIS WEEK, the leaders of several Asian countries — India, China, Korea, Japan, and the ASEAN states — will meet in Malaysia for the first-ever East Asia Summit (EAS). Australia and New Zealand, which, like India, are on the periphery of East Asia, have also been invited to the summit since they are considered vital to the economic geography of the region. Many years in the making, the EAS is still something of an unknown quantity. The countries participating know the event is important, even if they are not quite sure why. The only country that is quite clear about the importance of the summit is the United States, which, rightly, sees great strategic significance in the fact that it will not be there. The U.S. has a considerable and growing military presence in the continent stretching all the way from Turkey and Iraq in the west to the Kyrgyz Republic in the north and Okinawa in the east. Its armed forces are fighting two wars on the soil of Asia. Yet, people forget the fact that the U.S. is not in Asia.

## REALITY CHECK

When Mahathir Mohammed of Malaysia first proposed an East Asian Economic Caucus in the 1990s, Washington strongly objected to the idea. Japan, under trade pressure from the U.S. through Super 301, initially hinted at support for the concept but quickly backed off. The proposal soon withered. There were sound economic reasons for the Malaysian proposal failing to get traction at the time: China and India were not major players and Asian countries traded more with the outside world than with each other. Nor was Dr. Mahathir's political agenda an attractive one. The Cold War had ended, there was talk of "multipolarity" and little concern in Asia that the continent would need an organisation to restrain the exercise of American power. Into this institutional vacuum, the U.S., and Australia

The East Asian Summit process, the proposed Asian energy grid, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are three pillars of the emerging strategic architecture in Asia. There is no need for the region to turn to outside powers in the name of "balance of power."

stepped in with APEC, a forum linking East Asia with the Americas, thereby diluting the concept of Asia.

In the intervening decade and a half, the entire strategic scenario in Asia has changed. There are three distinct elements involved. First, patterns of trade — and the nature of trading arrangements — in Asia and the world have radically altered. Despite the onset of the World Trade Organisation with its emphasis on 'most favoured nation' status, there has been an explosion in preferential trading areas (PTAs) around the world. Asia has its share of bilateral PTAs but there is nothing at the multilateral level to match what Europe, North America, and South America have done. At the same time, intra-Asian trade has risen dramatically. The trade of each Asian country with the group of 'Developing Asian Countries' increased at a much faster rate than its trade with the rest of the world during 1991-2000, notes Ramesh Chand of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research in a recent monograph, *Free Trade in Asia* (Academic Foundation, 2006). China has supplanted the U.S. as South Korea's most important trading partner. India's trade with the DAC went up from 11.8 per cent of its total trade in 1990 to 24 per cent by 2000 (The only major exception to this trend is China, due to the sheer volume of its trade worldwide). This neighbourhood bias in trade suggests Asia is following the same path as Europe did in the run-up to its formal integration as a trading bloc.

Secondly, the growth of China and India and the discovery of oil and gas in Central Asia have transformed the Asian energy scene since some of the largest producers and consumers of hydrocarbons are now located in the continent. However, the dynamics of the world oil and gas markets are still driven by benchmarks set by Europe and North America. The price volatility of recent months — which is more the product of speculative activity on western mercantile exchanges than a reflection of actual supply-demand mismatch — provides an incentive for major Asian producers and consumers to come together and see what can be done to ensure greater stability in the energy market.

Thirdly, a host of new threats and security challenges have arisen in the run-up to 9/11 and its aftermath that require a collective Asian approach. These include terrorism, the stationing of outside military forces in the region, the development of new weapons of mass destruction and doctrines, the notions of 'regime change' and 'preventive war', as well as issues of maritime security and disaster relief.

Each of these three underlying changes — on the trade, energy, and security fronts — poses challenges and presents opportunities that require separate institutional mechanisms. It is not a coincidence that the past year has witnessed serious efforts by several Asian countries to push in this direction.

On the security front, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is evolving into a broad-

based entity linking China, Russia, and the Central Asian countries with India, Iran, and Pakistan — which joined as observers earlier this year. There is also the Russia-India-China initiative that has involved frequent consultations on strategic issues. At its last summit, the SCO called on the U.S.-led coalition forces in the region to specify a timeframe by when they will leave. At the same time, the organisation has begun speaking of developing regional capabilities to deal with the threats posed by terrorism. Joint military exercises between China and Russia, as well as China and India, and India and Russia have been held. The Russians are now speaking of trilateral military exercises involving these three countries. Could the SCO be the harbinger for a pan-Asian confidence-building body based on a new security concept of mutual respect and cooperation rather than the outdated, dangerous idea of "balance of power"? For this to happen, India, China, and Russia have to work closely together but Japan and South Korea too will have to be brought within the ambit of the SCO.

On the trade front, the EAS process will likely provide answers about the precise institutional shape greater Asian cooperation will take. Along with the creation of an Asian free trade area with developing country safeguards, there is need for Asia to develop its own financial institutions. The absence of such institutions led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis and to its deflationary de-nouement, as countries like Indonesia and South Korea were forced by the International Monetary Fund to accept irrational conditionalities.

Finally, the energy front has seen two sets of promising meetings between major Asian producers and consumers this year, held at the initiative of the Indian Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas. On the agenda are not just financial and inventory-related measures to stabilise prices but, more importantly, the creation of pan-Asian pipeline grids. The proposed \$22 billion grid will allow gas to be moved around the region more easily, avoiding geopolitically sensitive maritime choke points like the Straits of Hormuz, Malacca, and Taiwan. Pan-Asian energy grids will also give a major boost to regional political cooperation and inter-dependence.

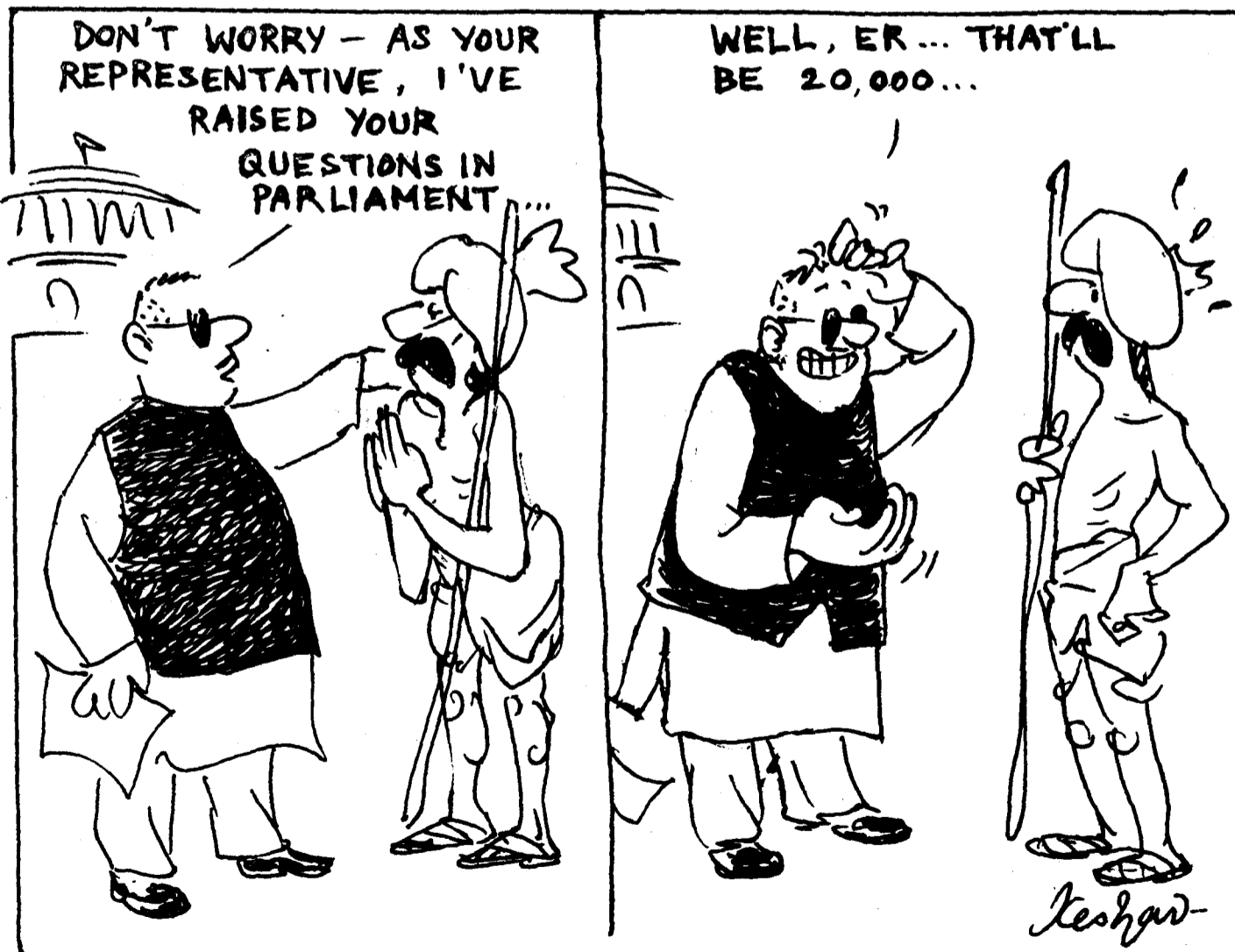
In the light of developments in these three directions, the evolution of an Asian strategic architecture is only a matter of time. The only fly in the ointment is the U.S. For years, Washington has thrived on Asian insecurities, often fuelling suspicions and rivalries between countries. The more there is a perception of insecurity — China versus Japan, China versus India, Japan versus Korea, India versus Pakistan, not to speak of 'minor' insecurities — the greater the role for the U.S. as a "balancer."

While it is understandable for the U.S. to advocate the concept of 'balance,' what is inexplicable is India's decision to do so as well. In a speech to the India Economic Forum on November 28, Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran offered the U.S. India's help in this 'balance of power' game. "If we are looking at Asia in the coming years, there is no doubt that there is a major realignment of forces taking place in Asia," Mr. Saran said. "There is the emergence of China as a global economic powerhouse. There will be increased capabilities that China will be able to bring to bear in this region and even beyond. India also is going to be a major player in Asia... I think India and the United States can contribute to a much better balance in the Asian region."

Though Mr. Saran acknowledges India's "strong engagement" with China, he adds: "We believe that in terms of managing the emerging security scenario in Asia we need to bring more and more countries within the discipline of a mutually agreed security paradigm for this region. I think both the U.S. and India can contribute to that." China, presumably, is the main country needing the "discipline" of a "security paradigm" to which India and the U.S. can "contribute."

It doesn't take a lot of analysis to recognise that these ideas run counter to the new spirit so evident in Asia. Taken together with other recent shifts in Indian foreign policy, they suggest India's commitment to Asia may be less robust than its commitment to the United States.

## CARTOONSCAPE



# HK marches for people power

Surge in streets for right to vote

Hong Kong, Dec. 4 (Reuters): Tens of thousands marched in Hong Kong today for the right to directly elect their leaders and to protest against a package of electoral reforms pushed by the city's chief executive and Beijing.

With organisers putting the number of protesters at quarter of a million, the march could irritate China's Communist Party leaders and embarrass Hong Kong chief executive Donald Tsang.

Police said 40,000 people gathered at the city's Victoria Park, but thousands more protesters wearing "Hong Kong loves democracy" stickers joined as the march snaked between skyscrapers to government offices.

A government spokesperson declined to comment on the march and demands of organisers.

The protest evoked memories of July 2003, when an economic slump and disaffection with the then chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, drew half a million people onto the streets of the former British colony.

Tsang, who took over from Tung this year, refuses to budge on his reform propos-



Democracy protesters carrying flags and a black banner rally for universal suffrage in Hong Kong. (Reuters)

als. Critics say the package is inadequate and sets no timetable for universal suffrage, which Hong Kong's post-colonial Constitution, the Basic Law, allows for.

"Donald Tsang is a good leader, but he's only elected by 800 people, which means he only has to please them," said Andrew Wong, 40. "I've brought my five-year-old daughter

here to teach her what democracy is."

Despite widespread calls for full democracy, Beijing, which regained control over Hong Kong in 1997, has been unwilling to let the territory decide for itself when this should come. Hong Kong's chief executive is anointed by Beijing and picked by a China-backed committee of 800 electors.

Only half of the members of its 60-seat legislature are directly elected.

The Tsang administration's reform plan would double the size of the chief executive selection committee and add 10 seats to the legislative council, five of which would be directly elected.

Walking among banners that read "You want a clown or

a chief executive?" and "Oppose bird-cage political reform", Paul Tsang, 83, said Hong Kong lacked direction without a plan for democracy.

"Early in the morning, you wake up with a schedule, to eat breakfast and do things during the day," the retired army officer said. "It's ridiculous to do something without a schedule."

## Rift over East Asia summit

P. S. Suryanarayana

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**SINGAPORE:** "Two groups" have emerged among the 16 countries, including India, which will participate in the first-ever East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur later this month.

This was indicated by Japanese Ambassador to Singapore, Taka-aki Kojima, on Friday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kojima said the two groups were "divided" over whether "the EAS or the Association of South East Asian Nations Plus Three (ASEAN+3) should be the main organ or primary organ for the formation of the [proposed] East Asia Community."

The forum of ASEAN+3 comprises the 10 member-states of the Association, China, Japan, and South Korea. The 16 invitees to the first EAS, which will be hosted by Malaysia, are the ASEAN+3, India, Australia, and New Zealand. He said it was still too early to predict the outcome of the December 14 summit.

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# Hong Kong's 'people power' comes to fore

## Unite To Pressurise China: Reforms Leader

Washington: Hong Kong pro-democracy leader Martin Lee said here on Wednesday that citizens of the former British colony have no options but to use "people power" in a bid to pressure Beijing for greater freedom.

Ahead of a mass democracy rally in Hong Kong on Sunday, Lee blamed the Chinese-administered territory's chief executive Donald Tsang "for not reflecting the strong aspirations of the people of Hong Kong to Beijing." "The people of Hong Kong have no other option but to show solidarity by joining together by taking part in peaceful assembly to voice our aspirations, to let the Beijing leaders know we really want and deserve democracy," Lee told a public forum here.

Tsang had offered a reform plan but without a timeframe for allowing Hong Kong citizens to elect their own leaders. He has come under attack from all 25 pro-democracy legislators who have vowed to vote the plan down in December.

Successive polls have shown public disquiet over the government's reform proposals and a survey by the Hong Kong Baptist University suggests

turnout for the weekend rally could be as high as 200,000 people.

Lee said Beijing was "not going to be too successful" in dampening the street protests despite offering an invitation to a group of pro-democracy opposition lawmakers to meet a Chinese official on the eve of the rally.

**Hong Kong chief executive Donald Tsang has urged pro-democracy lawmakers to support modest election reforms**



When Britain handed sovereignty of Hong Kong back to China in 1997, the post-colonial constitution, or Basic Law, provided for the eventual full democratic election of the territory's leaders.

However, the timing of the provision was hotly debated and led to a political

dispute between Hong Kong democrats and communist leaders in Beijing. Beijing reinterpreted the provision in April 2004 and ruled out a swift transition to full elections by 2007, apparently fearing it could spark political instability in the rest of China.

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, during talks with Lee emphasised "our conviction that the people of Hong Kong should determine the pace and scope of political reform in accordance with the Basic Law." Rice also told Lee "We support democracy and universal suffrage in Hong Kong."

Lee urged the international community to support the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, reminding them of their backing of a 1984 Sino-British declaration.

"Ideally, we don't have to take to the streets but let's be realistic. Democracy doesn't often fall from the sky, it doesn't find itself in a silver platter. I think the people of Hong Kong realise that ultimately it is for us to fight for democracy although any help from overseas is greatly appreciated. It is important for the people to know that we are not fighting alone," Lee said. AFP

# North Korea calls Bush wicked for praising South

**Seoul (South Korea):** North Korea denounced US President George W Bush as a "wicked man" comparable to Adolf Hitler, and labelled his advocating democracy a pretext for invading other countries.



"The US admonition for 'freedom' and 'democracy' is to invent pretexts for violating sovereignty of other countries and nations and establishing its unchallenged domination over the world," the North's official Korean Central News Agency wrote late on Monday.

Bush, addressing South Korea-based US troops on Sunday during an Asian tour, didn't directly mention the North but alluded to the communist nation as he praised the capitalist South. South Korea "is now a beacon of liberty that shines across the most heavily armed border in the world," Bush said. "It is a light reaching to a land shrouded in

darkness." *9-15 27/11*  
"Together the United States and (South Korea) have shown that the future belongs to freedom, and one day all Koreans will enjoy the blessings of freedom," he said. The North said Bush's "reckless remarks would entail adverse consequences in the process for denuclearising the Korean Peninsula." KCNA called Bush a "warlike president" who "took the lead in advocating state-sponsored terrorism" and "openly defended murderous torture in prisons"—which it claimed were reminiscent of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"History proves that the ringleaders of fascism that stood stern trials for their crimes against humanity advocated 'freedom' and 'democracy' more noisily than any others," KCNA wrote. "This will only more glaringly reveal his true colours as a wicked man whom the world compares to fascist fanatic Hitler." Agencies

# N. Korea raises curbs with U.S.

**BEIJING:** The latest round of the six-party talks on the Korean nuclear issue ended with the Chairman's statement, which experts say signifies all parties' endeavour to translate commitments into actions.

The first session of the talks, the fifth since 2003, began on Wednesday and focused on "outlining details, ways and procedures for the implementation" of the landmark joint statement adopted at the fourth round in September.

The Chairman's statement said the parties reaffirmed that they would "fully" implement the joint statement in line with the principle of "commitment for commitment, action for action".

"The statement shows that the talks have got a clearer focus and are drawing closer to the actual actions,"

said Liu Jiangyong, expert on international studies of Tsinghua University.

China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the U.S., the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan participated in the talks.

## Benchmark

Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill described the talks as "achieving benchmark," saying the delegations of China, ROK, Japan and Russia had all made "good approaches and positive suggestions." China shared with other parties its "roadmap" on Wednesday.

But the positions of the two primary actors, the DPRK and United States, remained widely apart. "We have raised very seriously the financial sanctions which were im-

posed by the U.S. on [North Korea]," Kim Gye-Gwan, DPRK's chief delegate, told reporters.

Washington imposed sanctions in October on some North Korean companies.

"These kinds of sanctions are in violation of the joint statement we have adopted and is going to hinder the implementation of the commitment we have made," Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Hill repeatedly told reporters that DPRK did not stop running its nuclear facilities after the landmark joint agreement.

He reiterated the U.S. position that the DPRK must abandon its nuclear weapons and uranium enrichment programmes at an early date.

Yet there is ground for the two parties to build up trust. — Xinhua



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## New Round Opens in North Korea Nuclear Talks

By Philip P. Pan  
Washington Post Foreign Service  
Wednesday, November 9, 2005; A24

BEIJING, Nov. 9 -- Delegates to six-nation talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program opened a fifth round of negotiations Wednesday with the task of working out how to implement a disarmament pact signed in September.

China's chief negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, began the session with an appeal for all parties to be flexible "so that we will be able to work out an implementation plan that is acceptable to all sides at an early date."

But North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the government was "deeply concerned" about the future of the talks because of a remark made by President Bush in Brazil on Sunday referring to "a tyrant in North Korea."

Quoting a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, the agency condemned Bush's comments as a "blatant violation" of the September agreement and said they "deprive us of any trust in the negotiators of the U.S. side to the six-party talks."

The report underscored the differences between North Korea and the United States as their envoys and those from four other nations -- China, Japan, South Korea and Russia -- sat down to continue negotiations that began more than two years ago.

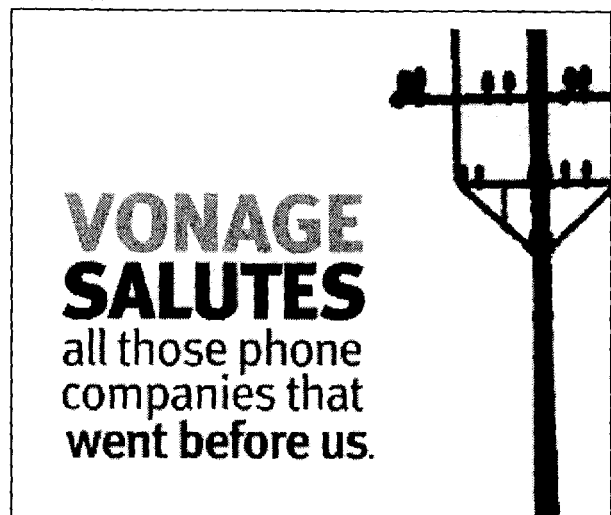
The last round ended in September with a general agreement in which North Korea promised to disarm in exchange for aid, diplomatic recognition and security guarantees. It is the only written accord reached by the negotiators.

But the deal left key disputes unresolved, including how and when the North Korean government of Kim Jong Il would dismantle its nuclear program, how the other nations would verify the dismantling, and when they would begin providing the North with the promised economic and diplomatic benefits.

Most notably, the parties agreed to discuss "at an appropriate time" providing North Korea with a light-water nuclear reactor. The Bush administration has said the only appropriate time for such a discussion would be after North Korea dismantled its nuclear facilities and allowed international inspections. But North Korea has demanded the reactor be built before it disarms.

China has declared that the talks will adjourn after three days to let the officials attend an Asia-Pacific economic forum in South Korea next week. Analysts and diplomats said little progress is expected; the

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parties planned to exchange proposals on how to proceed and resume discussions later this year.

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill, the chief U.S. envoy, said the parties should first agree on what specific steps North Korea must take to disarm, suggesting that the questions of what benefits it would receive in return, and when, should be set aside.

But South Korea's chief delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min Soon, told reporters after a meeting with his North Korean counterpart that the Pyongyang government wanted to discuss when it would get the light-water reactor.

"North Korea is not going to give up its demand for a light-water reactor in this round and that it be discussed first, before disarming," said Shen Dingli, an international relations expert at Fudan University in Shanghai, who visited Pyongyang this year.

Last month, President Hu Jintao of China made a rare visit to Pyongyang and secured a promise from Kim to press ahead with the talks. Chinese analysts with close ties to the government said high-level visits between China and North Korea are usually accompanied by substantial packages of economic aid to the North, and Hu is believed to have pledged a multi-year increase in aid during the trip.

The aid may have persuaded North Korea to return to the talks but could also take pressure off it to make a deal. North Korea claims that its crippled economy is recovering. If true, analysts said, the North might conclude that it can afford to drag out talks while continuing to develop nuclear arms.

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# Koreas to unite, at play

## Kickoff at Asian Games

Seoul, Nov. 1 (Reuters): North and South Korea agreed today to compete as a single team for the first time at the 2006 Asian Games and at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, a South Korean official said.

North and South Korea have been bitter ideological -- and sporting -- rivals for more than 50 years and are gradually building closer relations across the Demilitarised Zone.

"We had discussed making a single team since we jointly marched in such international events six times," Baek Sung-il, a spokesman for South Korea's Olympic Committee, said by telephone from Macau.

"As exchanges between South and North Korea have been progressing, the mood was ripe for reaching such an agreement."

Both Koreas are taking part in the East Asia Games in Macau. They marched together at that opening ceremony and more notably at the Sydney and Athens Olympics, but have not competed as one team at such major events.

Baek said the two sides would meet again in Kaesong, a city just north of the Demilitarised Zone, on December 7 to discuss the details of how to form a joint team.

Prior to the East Asia Games in Macau, North Korea suggested that the sports offi-

cial from the two Koreas try and thrash out details of forming joint teams on the sidelines of the event, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

The selection process for the joint team and its budget have yet to be worked out, Yonhap cited South Korean sports officials in Macau as saying.

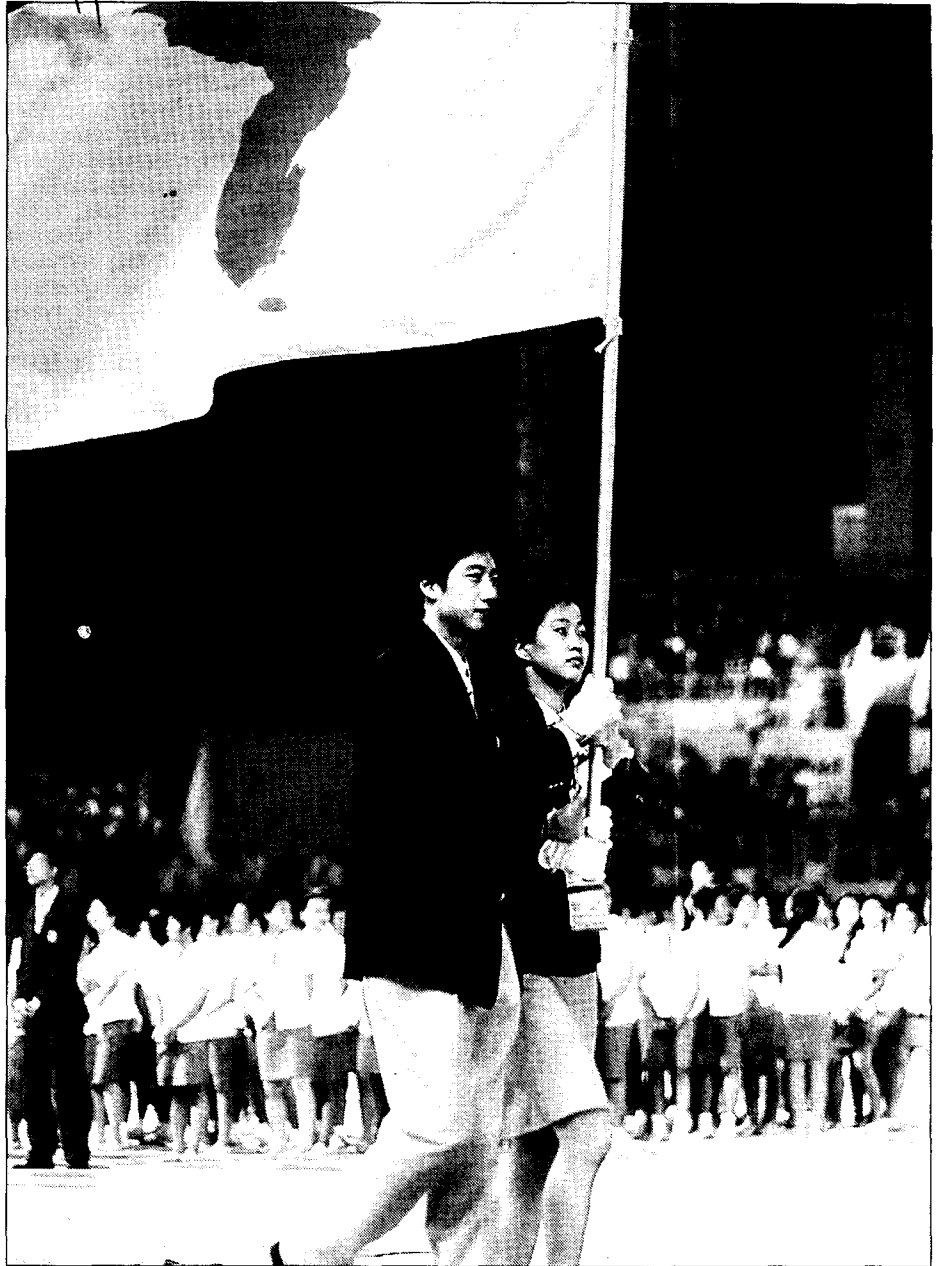
The communist North and capitalist South formed a single table tennis team and a soccer team in the 1990s but the experiment did not continue.

At the 2004 Athens Olympics, North Korea won five medals while South Korea won 30. Their joint total of 35 would have been good enough for seventh on the medals list between Japan and France.

The games breakthrough came as China proposed to other parties in the six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear programmes that they start a next round of negotiations on November 9, Kyodo news agency said on Tuesday.

None of the participants have raised objections to the plan, although they differ over how long the talks should last, Kyodo said in a report.

The next round of six-party talks among North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the US had been expected to take place next week, but no date has been set.



**THE WARM-UP:** South and North Koreans walk together under a unification flag during the opening ceremony for the 4th East Asian Games in Macau on Saturday. (AFP)

THE SOUTH 02 NOV 2005

# It's back to square one with Pyongyang

Perhaps you need to be a long-range meteorologist to understand US-North Korean diplomacy on nuclear weapons. The scene changes as swiftly as the sky over the ocean on a windy, autumnal day. Small white clouds chase big dark ones. The sea, ruffled by waves, changes from green to dark blue to almost black and soon the observer is lost in the shades of colour, unable to discern whether the day will turn out good or bad.

One thing we should all agree on: the weather is worse than a decade ago when President Bill Clinton, aided by the intervention of former President Jimmy Carter, managed to negotiate with the late President Kim Il Sung a nuclear freeze that probably stopped North Korea from building a good 30 nuclear weapons; and South Korea embarked on its so-called "sunshine" policy of political reconciliation. Early in its tenure, the Bush administration decided to throw the Clinton agreement out of the window, and North Korea followed suit. Still, despite all the posturing by both sides since then, a nuclear winter has been avoided. It seemed all along that both North Korea and the USA wanted an agreement. But macho politics trumped common sense, until last week when the outlines of a new deal appeared to take shape.

But one key issue is holding up a final accord. The administration is balking at the North Korean demand to build it two modern, non-plutonium-producing, nuclear power plants. This is just nonsensical. This was part of the original Clinton/Carter deal. Soon after the administration came to power, it proudly sent a deputy assistant secretary of state to be photographed standing by the half-built reactors. But at that time it looked as if secretary of state Colin Powell had a fair chance of winning the internal battle with vice-president Dick Cheney not to about the Clinton deal.

The Republicans from the beginning have had a

## World view JONATHAN POWER



Negotiators in Beijing for the six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear crisis on 13 September. — PTI

powerful internal lobby out to sabotage all deals. A Republican-controlled Congress made it often impossible for the Clinton administration to honour the deal in the way it was conceived. Promised oil deliveries and food supplies were repeatedly delayed at Congress' instigation. The Republicans forced Mr Clinton to break his promise to end sanctions, delaying action on this until 1999 when they were only partially lifted. There was the blockade on talking about ways to help North Korea with outside electricity supplies from the South, to tide over until the new reactors were built. Nor least, there was a slowdown on the building of the new reactors. By 2002, construction was five years behind schedule.

The slowdowns persuaded North Korea to ratchet up confrontation. Confrontation, they obviously decided, was the only way to get results. Whether it was digging an enormous hole than convinced the CIA the North was about to test nuclear triggers (wrongly as it turned out, after paying a huge sum to

be allowed to inspect it). Or test firing a long-range rocket over Japan, which was what persuaded Congress finally to ease the economic embargo.

All these delaying tactics of the Republican Congress in Mr Clinton's time were then subsumed into the active hostility of the Cheney-John Bolton-George Bush policy of the "axis of evil".

General Powell was pushed aside and Washington learnt on Seoul to slow down its policy of political reconciliation and prohibited it from keeping a promise to send electricity to the North.

For those few who watched the changing weather pattern in the North, it came as no big surprise that in 2002 Pyongyang decided to abrogate the 1994 agreement and take its plutonium-producing plant out of mothballs, in order, it said, to provide much needed electricity from its own resources. It is also argued — "though this is disputed" — that the North threatened to build as well an enriching plant capable of producing weapons-grade uranium. In September, last year Pyongyang told the UN that it had built a number of nuclear weapons. It has taken us all this time to get back to square two. Thanks to some clever Chinese diplomacy, both sides have agreed on the framework of a new deal. But still Washington demands that it will only take a new look at the building of civilian nuclear power generating plants once Pyongyang agrees to return to membership of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and agree to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

To get to square one, Washington will have to take one more jump and join each side's demands as a package deal, and quickly too. So much time has been wasted in useless and unproductive posturing. What has been gained? Nothing, except that the even more complicated negotiations with Iran, a potentially much more dangerous adversary, has been made more difficult.

# China using clout to seal North Korea nuclear deal

By Jai Taraporevala/TNN

The visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to North Korea is significant both in terms of timing and substance. Coming as it does shortly before the resumption of six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programme in early November and the trip of US President George Bush to China, the visit is an effort to begin the process of giving concrete shape to the agreement in principle reached in Beijing in September to dismantle Pyongyang's N-weapons. In substantive terms, the importance of the visit lies in the point that China is the only nation which has some influence with the North Korean regime of Kim Jong Il.

How much behind-the-scenes pressure Beijing will exert on Pyongyang is debatable given the ambivalence which characterises the former's stand on the subject. On the one hand, China is seeking to counter the assertive unilateralism underlying US foreign policy and the leadership in Beijing will calculate that the Bush administration (on account of its growing pre-occupations with Iraq and Iran) is not in a position to substantially turn up the heat on North Korea. Besides, Beijing will use the potential leverage it has with Pyongyang as a tactical counter in its bilateral relations with Washington.

On the other hand, however, a de-escalation

of tensions on the North Korean nuclear question will make it harder for the US to raise its military presence in the area. It will also create greater economic opportunities for China in the Asia-Pacific region which, in turn, could give it greater political mileage in the future. On balance, therefore, although Beijing will urge Pyongyang to keep the six-party talks on track, it is unlikely to place much pressure on the latter at this stage.



Beijing will use the potential leverage it has with Pyongyang as a tactical counter in its bilateral relations with Washington

China also has other tactical reasons not to use its fuel and food deliveries to North Korea as bargaining chips to get Pyongyang to demonstrate greater flexibility in the ongoing nuclear negotiations. After all, several key issues remain to be resolved in order to give tangible form to last month's six-party deal on North Korea's nuclear programme.

These include the Kim regime's demand for a light-water reactor, US financial and security guarantees to North Korea and the details of the inspections process.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# S Korea does a China on Japan

TOKYO, Oct. 27. — South Korea's foreign minister today began talks with Japanese officials in Tokyo amid a diplomatic row over Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi's visit to a controversial war shrine earlier this month.

Foreign minister Mr Ban Ki-moon arrived in Tokyo late today and met with his counterpart Mr Nobutaka Machimura. In a vein similar to China, the South Korean minister criticised

## The South Korean people were disillusioned by Mr Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni, says Seoul

the Japanese leader's visit at the start of the talks, but said he was in Japan to discuss efforts to persuade North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons programme, as well as plans for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit next month.

"The South Korean people were disillusioned by

Mr Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni. But my visit to Japan has been realised despite a very tense atmosphere," Mr Ban told reporters.

The Japanese minister answered that he looked forward to candid discussions. Mr Ban was to meet with Mr Koizumi tomorrow before returning to Seoul on Saturday.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated since Mr Koizumi's 17 October visit to Yasukuni Shrine.

In another development, the South Korean minister added that a visit by President Mr Roh Moo-hyun to Tokyo later this year was unlikely. Mr Roh's office has said a Seoul-Tokyo summit before the end of this year would be difficult "unless there is a significant change in the situation". — AP

THE STATESMAN

# U.S. brushes off N. Korean demand

**"Pyongyang's stance will not derail accord"**

Steven R. Weisman

**WASHINGTON:** The Bush administration on Tuesday brushed off a demand from North Korea for a light water nuclear reactor, saying that the accord announced in Beijing on Monday left it clear that the North must abandon its nuclear arms programme before such a matter can be discussed.

"I think we will not get hung up on this statement," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, referring to a comment from North Korea that it would continue to insist on getting a reactor up front, as a price for agreeing to the Beijing deal.

"We will stick to the text of the Beijing statement, and I believe we can make progress if everybody sticks to what was actually agreed to," Ms. Rice added, at a news briefing with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Mr. Lavrov said, "we shouldn't rely on oral statements" from North Korea or others.

## Guides to discussion

The Beijing agreement laid out a set of principles to guide discussions, which are scheduled to resume in November. The United States hailed the part of the accord in which North Korea agreed to abandon "all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes" and submit to international inspections.

In return, the United States agreed to join its four partners — Russia, Japan, South Korea and China — in providing security guarantees and economic incentives over time, according to the principle of "commitment for commitment, action for action."

Despite the efforts of American and other top officials to be positive about the Beijing agreement, the exchange about the nuclear reactor appeared to show that a wide gap remained between

North Korea and, on the other side, the United States and its partners, on the very question that had stymied the talks for weeks.

In recent talks, North Korea had demanded a light water reactor for its energy needs, of the sort promised in 1994 in return for an earlier agreement to freeze its nuclear programmes. But some experts who examined the Beijing accord said the problem of the light water reactor would come back to haunt the negotiators. —New York Times News Service

## Dangerous policy, says Pyongyang

**PYONGYANG:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday condemned the United States for its "dangerous attempt" to disarm the DPRK and stifle it with nuclear weapons.

According to the official newspaper *Rodong Sinmun*, the U.S. Department of Defence on September 10 published a "draft doctrine for joint nuclear operations," under which the field army commanders may ask the U.S. President to allow the use of nuclear weapons in emergency cases for mounting a pre-emptive attack on an enemy's weapons of mass destruction and dangerous conventional weapons.

It said the U.S. doctrine is a dangerous attempt to drastically widen the scope of using nuclear weapons and thus justify its pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons in any region and country. —Xinhua

22 SEP 2003

THE HINDU

# North Korea's nuclear agreement hits a snag

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Pyongyang insists on receiving light-water reactors from U.S.

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday affirmed that it would re-accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the safeguards under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "immediately" upon receiving light-water reactors from the United States.

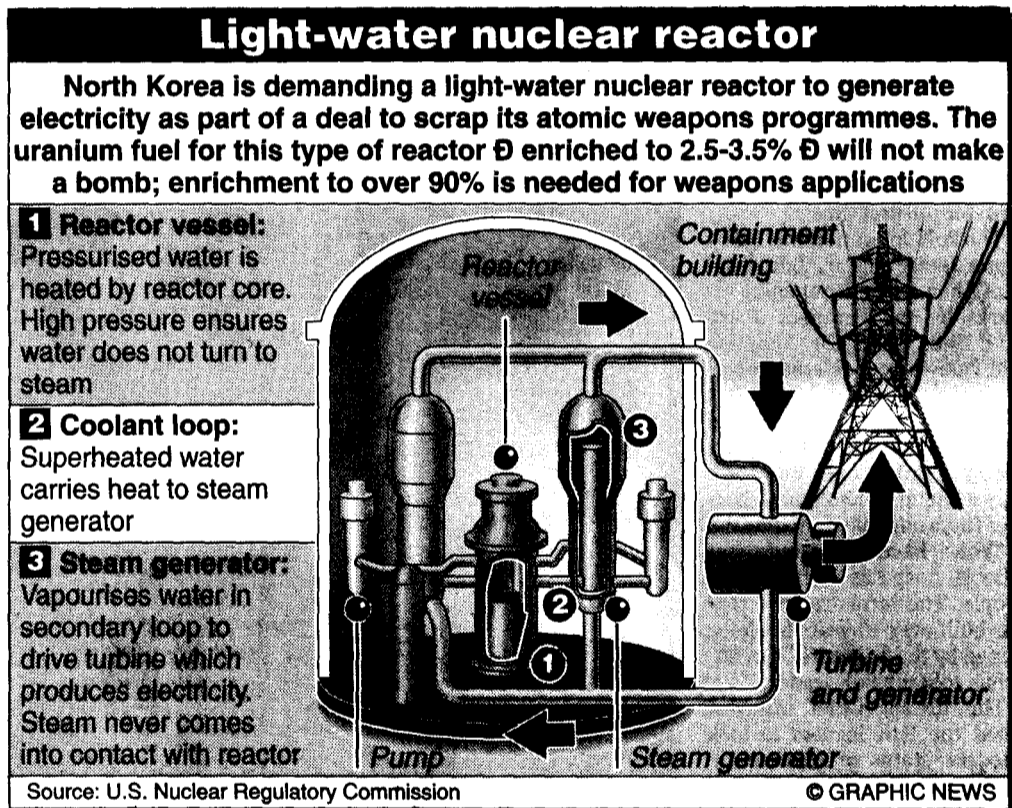
The DPRK's statement was seen in the regional diplomatic circles as possibly the first sign of shadow-boxing over the interpretations of the six-party statement on the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. The Joint Statement was issued in Beijing on Monday following the conclusion of the fourth round of parleys among the United States, the DPRK, China as the host, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

Pyongyang's new statement was monitored in Seoul, a traditional listening post for matters concerning the DPRK.

In the monitored statement, a spokesman of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry told the country's official news agency as follows: "As clarified in the Joint Statement, we will return to the NPT and sign the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and [also] comply with it immediately upon the U.S.' provision of light-water reactors, a basis of confidence-building, to us."

## Direct linkage

The DPRK's move of drawing



such a direct linkage was variously seen by regional diplomats as either an effort by Pyongyang to soft-pedal its way to fulfilling the commitments it made under the Joint Statement or, perhaps, a matter of back-tracking.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura emphasised that there could be difficulties in implementing the Joint Statement, while South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young took the line that

the issues of interpretation could be discussed and sorted out before the commencement of the fifth round, slated for November.

The issues arising out of the DPRK's statement were whether Pyongyang should first rejoin the NPT and subject itself to the IAEA safeguards before the other five parties could "discuss" the issue of providing a light-water reactor or whether these two aspects should be imple-

mented simultaneously. In Tuesday's statement, the DPRK pointedly spoke about the actual provision of light-water reactors (in plurality) by the U.S., while the Joint Statement was about discussing the issue in recognition of Pyongyang's right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, diplomatic observers noted. In addition, the DPRK now projected the actual provision of light-water reactors as a confidence-building measure.



# North Korea adds rider to nuke deal

REUTERS

Seoul/Beijing, September 20

NORTH KOREA jeopardised a six-country deal on giving up its nuclear arms just one day after it was struck by vowing on Tuesday to keep their nuclear weapons until Washington provides civilian atomic reactors. The US state department said Pyongyang's views, set out in a long statement, did not match the agreement signed in Beijing.

China asked all sides to fulfil their promises. Seoul said it would take the lead role in bridging the gap between the US and North Korean views. Japan saw a possible negotiating ploy.

The six countries, including

Russia, had agreed on Monday to a set of principles on winding up Pyongyang's nuclear programmes in return for aid and recognition of its right to a civilian nuclear programme. The six agreed to discuss providing a light-water reactor "at an appropriate time".

Analysts noted that the North had backtracked on seemingly rock-solid positions before, and so the deal was not yet dead.

"They've chosen the appropriate time to discuss it as now," said Peter Hayes, a North Korea expert at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. "I think what they're doing is negotiating. They're putting out a maximal position".

The North's foreign ministry statement could be mostly aimed at its own people, said Toshimitsu Shigemura, a professor at Waseda University in Tokyo and an expert on North Korea.

While official reaction to the end of the fourth round of talks had been upbeat, sceptics had already said the deal was long on words, vague on timing and sequence, and short on action.

The North's comments exposed those shortcomings.

"The US should not even dream of the issue of the DPRK's dismantlement of its nuclear deterrent before providing LWRs," said the statement, published by the KCNA news agency. "This is our just

and consistent stand as solid as a deeply rooted rock."

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. LWRs are light-water reactors that experts say are more proliferation-resistant than others.

As the North has given ground before, its statement may not be the last word. After the first round in August 2003, it said just a day after the talks it saw no need for more.

"It could be a lot of bluster," said one US official in Washington. But Tuesday's statement posed at least a challenge to a deal which delegates had applauded less than 24 hours earlier.

Referring to its nuclear de-

terrent, North Korea's chief delegate, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, told reporters in Beijing: "There will be no such thing as giving it up first". Back in Pyongyang, he said he hoped the North and Washington could take real action on the Beijing agreement.

Seoul said the North's overall comments were no surprise. "North Korea and the US may pull and push over the wording of 'appropriate time' but the South Korean government's role is to mediate," President Roh Moo-hyun's spokesman quoted him as saying. South Korea's stock market was optimistic, too. It ended on an all-time high, despite the apparent setback.

# উত্তর কোরিয়া নিয়ে নয়া বিতর্ক

সোল, ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর: উত্তর কোরিয়া পরমাণু অস্ত্র নষ্ট করার কথা ঘোষণা করার ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে তা নিয়ে বিতর্ক শুরু হয়ে গিয়েছে। আজ পিয়ংইয়ংয়ের পক্ষ থেকে জানানো হয়েছে, আমেরিকা তাদের অসামরিক পরমাণু বিদ্যুৎশক্তি তৈরির কাজে ব্যবহৃত বিশেষ চুল্লি না দিলে নিরস্ত্রীকরণের কাজে এক পা-ও এগোনো হবে না। উত্তর কোরিয়ার এই মন্তব্যের কড়া সমালোচনা করে আমেরিকা ও জাপান জানিয়েছে, এ ধরনের মনোভাব তারা বরদাস্ত করবে না।

আজ উত্তর কোরিয়ার বিদেশমন্ত্রকের এক মুখপাত্র সাফ বলেন, “আমেরিকা যতক্ষণ না সমঝোতা অনুযায়ী আমাদের ওই চুল্লি দিচ্ছে, ততক্ষণ পর্যন্ত পরমাণু নিরস্ত্রীকরণের কাজ শুরু হবে না।” শুধু তা-ই নয়, ওই চুল্লি না পেলে পরমাণু অস্ত্রপ্রসার রোধ চুক্তিতে (এনপিটি) ফিরে যাওয়ার কোনও প্রশ্নই উঠছে না। মুখপাত্রটির দাবি, আমেরিকা, জাপান, চীন, রাশিয়া ও দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার সঙ্গে কাল যে সমঝোতা হয়েছে, তাতে এ কথা স্পষ্ট করে জানানো হয়েছে।

এর প্রেক্ষিতে আমেরিকা আজ জানিয়েছে, সমঝোতায় উত্তর কোরিয়াকে বিশেষ চুল্লি দেওয়ার কথা আছে ঠিকই, কিন্তু পরমাণু অস্ত্র নষ্টের পরেই তা সরবরাহ করা হবে। এই চুল্লি পেতে হলে আগে তাদের এনপিটি-তে ফিরতে হবে ও আন্তর্জাতিক পরমাণু শক্তি সংস্থার নিয়মকানুন মেনে চলতে হবে। জাপানের পক্ষ থেকেও উত্তর কোরিয়ার এই নয়া অবস্থানের কড়া নিন্দা করা হয়েছে। —এএফপি, পিটিআই

PYONGYANG WANTS REACTORS BEFORE DISARMAMENT

# North Korea flip-flop

Reuters

BEIJING, Sept. 20. — North Korea jeopardised a six-country deal on giving up its nuclear arms just one day after it was struck by vowing today to keep the weapons until Washington provides civilian atomic reactors.

South Koreans read the news about the six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear programme in Seoul yesterday. North Korea will not give up its nuclear weapons until the United States provides civilian atomic reactors, Pyongyang said on Tuesday in a statement that significantly undermined a deal reached just a day earlier. The headline reads "North Korea, abandon all of nuclear weapons and programmes." The six countries, including Russia, had agreed on Monday to a set of principles on winding up Pyongyang's nuclear programs in return for aid and recognition of its right to a civilian nuclear program. The six agreed to discuss providing a light-water reactor "at an appropriate time."

Analysts noted that the North had backtracked on seemingly rock-solid positions before, and so the



Mr Song Min-soon, South Korean deputy foreign minister, arrives at the Incheon International Airport, on Tuesday. — AFP

deal was not yet dead. "They've chosen the appropriate time to discuss it as now," said Mr Peter Hayes, a North Korea expert at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. "I think

what they're doing is negotiating. They're putting out a maximal position." The North's foreign ministry statement could be mostly aimed at its own people, said Mr Toshimitsu

Shigemura, a professor at Waseda University in Tokyo and an expert on North Korea.

The US state department said the North's views, set out in a long statement, did not match the agreement signed in Beijing. China asked all sides to fulfil their promises. Seoul said it would take the lead role in bridging the gap between the US and North Korean views. Japan saw a possible negotiating ploy.

"We must watch North Korea closely to see if there is really a fundamental difference on that point," Japanese Chief Cabinet spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters. "If we are completely at odds, that will mean going back to the beginning. But we do not believe that is the case."

While official reaction to the end of the fourth round of talks had been upbeat, skeptics had already said the deal was long on words, vague on timing and sequence, and short on action.

THE STATESMAN

# Japan, South Korea hail China's decisive role

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Tokyo happy over accord, promises to normalise ties with N. Korea

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** While praising China for its decisive role in bringing about a breakthrough at the six-party talks on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, South Korea and Japan on Monday emphasised the windows of opportunity that the accord opened up for the normalisation of their ties with Pyongyang.

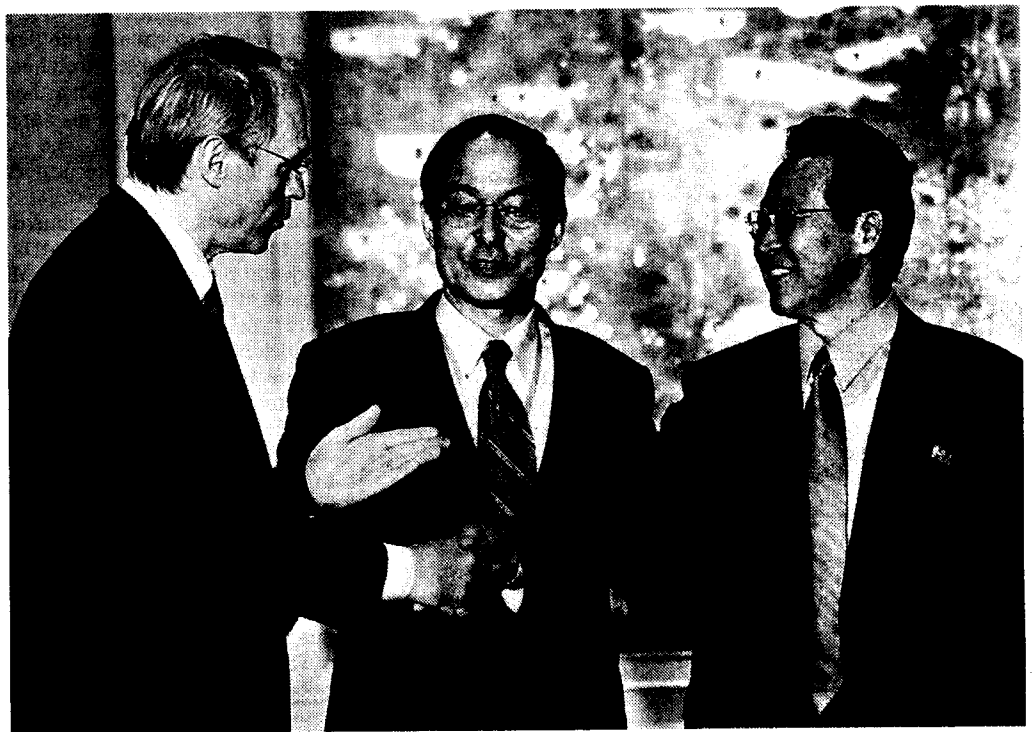
In Seoul, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun hailed the "epoch-making" accord, while Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said "peace talks [with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea] will be attempted at an appropriate time" now. These bilateral talks are required for a peace treaty between the two Koreas, which still remain "technically" at war, it was clarified.

However, the Minister claimed that the latest accord was an "accomplishment of South Korean diplomacy" as well, with Seoul's offer of massive electricity supplies to the DPRK being a factor that facilitated the deal.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said its chief delegate had assured the others at the six-party talks that Tokyo would "make utmost efforts" for normalising ties with Pyongyang. Tokyo was pleased with the passage in the joint statement issued in Beijing about the DPRK's willingness to undertake steps in this regard in association with Japan.

## Russia welcomes move

**MOSCOW:** Russia on Monday welcomed the outcome of Beijing talks saying the joint document gave hope for the ultimate goal of a nuclear-free Korean Penin-



**BREAKING THE ICE:** U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill (left) shakes hands with North Korea's chief negotiator Kim Gye Gwan (right) as South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon looks on at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, on Monday. - PHOTO: REUTERS

sula, the Foreign Ministry said.

"The most important part of this document is Pyongyang's commitment to abandon nuclear weapons, all existing nuclear programmes and return, at an early date, to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency," the Ministry said.

Russia's atomic chief said his country was ready to build a nuclear power station for North Korea. Federal Atomic Energy Agency chief Alexander Ru-

myantsev said the offer was in line with the agreement reached in Beijing. Mr. Rummyantsev said such assistance could involve construction of a nuclear power station in North Korea.

## Positive step, says Bush

North Korea's pledge is a "positive step," but a "verifiable process" will be needed to ensure Pyongyang adheres to its promise, said U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington on Monday. "It was a positive step yesterday," Mr. Bush said of the

North Korean pledge. "Five nations have spoken and said it is not in the world's interest that North Korea have a nuclear weapon," Mr. Bush told reporters.

"Now there's a way forward. And part of the way forward is for the North Koreans to understand that we're serious about this and that we expect there to be a verifiable process," he said.

"The question is, over time, will all parties adhere to the agreement?" Mr. Bush said. — Xinhua, AP, PTI

20 SEP 2004

THE ECONOMIST

# Doubts cloud Korea nuke breakthrough

Beijing, Sept. 19 (Reuters): North Korea promised to give up its nuclear weapons programme today, defusing a high-stakes crisis, but sceptics said the deal hammered out in Beijing was long on words and short on action.

South Korea, the US, Japan, Russia and China — the other players in the six-party talks — in exchange expressed a willingness to provide oil, energy aid and security guarantees.

Washington and Tokyo agreed to normalise ties with the impoverished and diplo-

matically isolated North, which pledged to rejoin the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"The joint statement is the most important achievement in the two years since the start of six-party talks," said Chinese chief negotiator Wu Dawei.

The seven-day session ended with a standing ovation by all delegates.

South Korea's unification minister, Chung Dong-young, went further, saying the agreement would serve as a first step toward dismantling the

Cold War confrontation between the two Koreas.

But in Washington, President George W. Bush said Pyongyang's compliance must be verified even as he cautiously welcomed the agreement.

Bush said a promise by North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons programme was a "step forward in making this world a more secure place."

But he added: "The question is, over time, will all parties adhere to the agreement?"

Bush said it was important the North Koreans "under-

stand we're serious about this and that we expect there to be a verifiable process."

Washington has been sceptical of any accord with Pyongyang since accusing the communist state of cheating on a deal to freeze its nuclear programmes in the 1990s.

Japan's chief delegate at the talks, Kenichiro Sasae, said: "We must secure specific agreements regarding the implementation of the agreed principles, particularly the specific sequence toward realisation of the abandonment of nuclear programmes by North

Korea and verification measures."

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog welcomed the deal and hoped it would lead to an early return of UN inspectors to North Korea.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Mohamed ElBaradei, in an apparent reference to Iran, which is defying the international community by insisting it pursue its nuclear programmes, said in Vienna the accord showed dialogue could work in solving nuclear standoffs.



US assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill (left) with South Korean deputy foreign minister Song Min-soon (centre) and North Korean chief negotiator Kim Gye Gwan in Beijing after the talks. (AP)

# N Korea agrees to abandon nukes

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, Sept. 19. — North Korea has agreed in principle to end its nuclear weapons project in return for security and economic commitments from the United States, in a major move towards peaceful settlement of a potential firestorm in East Asia.

The United States and North Korea also pledged to respect each other's sovereignty and right to peaceful coexistence and to work toward normalisation of relations. The two countries have no full diplomatic relations and did not sign a peace treaty after the Korean War.

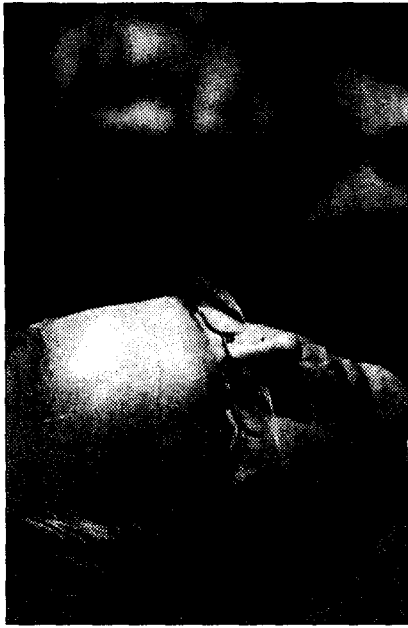
Chief envoys from the two countries, as well as China, South Korea, Japan and Russia, participating in negotiations in Beijing signed a draft accord today in which North Korea agreed to abandon efforts to produce nuclear weapons and re-admit international inspectors to

the suspected nuclear facilities.

In return, major parties to the six-party talks in Beijing said they would provide aid, diplomatic assurances and security guarantees and consider North Korea's request for a light-water nuclear reactor.

China's deputy foreign minister, Mr Wu Dawei, announced that the six participating nations will reconvene in early November in Beijing, to flesh out details of a range of critical issues concerning timing of implementation, when the inspectors will be allowed in, and what the economic aid package include.

Analysts in Beijing forecast that next round(s) of negotiations won't be easy and major disagreements could erupt. Even so, the new deal reached after week-long laborious talks appears to rescue a diplomatic process that was on the verge of collapse after multiple rounds of negotia-



US assistant secretary of state Mr Christopher Hill (left) talks to reporters in Beijing on Monday. — AFP

**"The joint statement is a good agreement. Everybody is winner... it's a win-win situation." — Chief US negotiator Christopher Hill**

**"It (the statement) is a balanced, win-win and constructive document... however, the talks will be very arduous." — Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan**

tions failed to produce even tougher measures, including freezing North Korean assets abroad and pushing

for international sanctions, if the latest round of talks collapsed. Mr Christopher Hill, the chief American negotiator, had said before the agreement was announced that he was determined to end the discussions and return to Washington.

The breakthrough came at the last minute, after American officials had prepared to wrap up the negotiations without an accord. More generally, it would appear to boost support for people inside the Bush administration who favoured pursuing laborious negotiations with the North Koreans. Hardliners in the administration and in Congress had raised questions about the usefulness of negotiations with the North.

North Korean officials had also demanded the country be given a light-water nuclear reactor at the latest talks, but Washington had said it and other countries at the talks wouldn't

meet that request. Putting aside the question for now, the joint statement said: "The other parties agreed to discuss at an appropriate time the subject of the provision of light-water reactor" to North Korea.

Pyongyang has also refused to totally disarm without getting concessions along the way, while Washington has said it wants to see the weapons programmes totally dismantled before granting rewards.

The statement, however, says the sides agree to take steps to implement the agreement "in a phased manner in line with the principle of 'commitment for commitment, action for action'".

The other countries at the talks said they were willing to give energy assistance to the North, including showing green light for a South Korean plan to deliver electricity across the heavily armed border dividing the peninsula.

# N Korea nuke talks hope

*Barrin* *9-9* *19/9*

**Beijing, Sept. 18 (Reuters):** Monday loomed as make-or-break day in prolonged but still deadlocked North Korean nuclear talks after the top US envoy said he would leave Beijing at the end of the day.

Parties at the talks involving the two Koreas, the US, Japan, Russia and China have been poring over a draft statement presented by China today.

It was thought to recognise in principle North Korea's right to nuclear energy, a position that Washington, backed by Japan, has up to now been against.

Japanese chief negotiator Kenichiro Sasae said the delegates were studying the draft but he would not give details.

"I believe there is a possibility of reaching an agreement," he said.

"Talks are in the direction of advancing now more than they were yesterday... The Chinese side presented a proposal in line with present views from each country and each country is studying it now."

US chief negotiator

Christopher Hill said he expected to fly home from talks in Beijing after a full plenary meeting tomorrow morning, and yet he still held out the possibility of an agreement.

"I can't say at this point how this is going to end up or whether we are optimistic or pessimistic, except to say that I don't think it is going to go much beyond tomorrow morning," he said. "I know that I expect to be leaving tomorrow afternoon."

He described the China draft as an effort to bridge the differences over Communist North Korea, whose official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). "I think it is a good deal for everybody, especially for the DPRK, which does have a long road to travel," Hill said.

Three previous rounds and a marathon 13-day, fourth-round session have failed to breach an impasse in the crisis that erupted in October 2002 when the US accused North Korea of possessing a clandestine nuclear programme.

# N. Korea has centrifuges: Musharraf

Pyongyang probably received a dozen from A.Q. Khan network

David E. Sanger

**NEW YORK:** President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan has said he believes that A.Q. Khan, Pakistani nuclear expert who ran the world's largest proliferation ring, exported "probably a dozen" centrifuges to North Korea to produce nuclear weapons fuel, but that after two years of interrogations of Dr. Khan there was still no evidence about whether he also gave North Korea a Chinese-origin design to build a nuclear weapon.

Gen. Musharraf's comments in an interview, which echo statements he made last month

to Japanese reporters, came a day before the United States reopens talks with North Korea about its nuclear programme in Beijing. The Pakistani leader's comments about the results of the interrogations of Dr. Khan, a national hero who is under a loose form of house arrest in Islamabad, are significant because they tend to confirm the accusations U.S. intelligence officials made against North Korea in 2002.

At that time, North Korean officials appeared to confirm that they had secretly started up a second nuclear programme to build atomic weapons using uranium technology obtained from Dr.

Khan's network, as an alternative to a plutonium programme that was frozen under a 1994 agreement with the U.S. But ever since, North Korea has denied that a second, secret bomb programme exists.

## Copying the design

A dozen centrifuges would not be enough to produce a significant amount of bomb-grade uranium. But U.S. officials say they would have enabled North Korea to copy the design and build their own. In a wide-ranging discussion in New York with three journalists from the *New York Times*, Gen. Musharraf also discussed

Pakistan's tentative diplomatic openings toward Israel and its efforts to track down Al-Qaeda leaders. He said that to Israel could flourish.

there is forward movement" in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, but he said, "this is by no means recognition of Israel."

Despite protests in Pakistan about the new initiative, he insisted that his move has met little opposition among mainstream Muslims in Pakistan, and he is to address a Jewish group for the first time during his visit here.

—New York Times News Service



## N Korea sticks to its N-plan, wants to resume talks

*8 Nov 1994*

**Seoul:** North Korea has proposed to China that six-nation talks on the elimination of its nuclear weapons programme resume on September 13, according to news reports on Tuesday. But the country appeared to be sticking to its demand for a peaceful nuclear programme, a key sticking point in the international disarmament talks that broke off for a recess last month.

"We will continue to conduct ceaseless and dynamic peaceful nuclear activities for the economic construction and the improvement of the standard of people's living," said a commentary in the Rodong Sinmun, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. Rodong Sinmun is the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party. "Our nuclear power facilities have been built on decades of belt-tightening of our people. Our people's sweat and blood is in those facilities. It is unimaginable for us to give this up without an alternative," the commentary said.

The commentary urged the US "to admit our right to a peaceful nuclear programme, and take a fair stance to resolve the nuclear crisis." The North delayed the meeting by two weeks in anger over US-South Korean military exercises and Washington's appointment of a special envoy on North Korea's human rights. AP

9 / 1994 NOV 15 10 10 AM EST IN/VA

# Of time and tactics over DPRK n-issue

## Talks on course despite the delay

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** The six-party talks on the "de-nuclearisation of Korean peninsula" have not gone off course, despite the delay in the commencement of the "second phase" of the fourth round. This is clear from the latest statement from China, the host, on the re-scheduling of these talks.

When the talks were adjourned over three weeks ago, the parties — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia — agreed to begin the second phase sometime during 'the week of August 29.'

The re-scheduling, without a specific date set as yet, followed another spell of intensive diplomatic efforts by China.

It is in this context that the chief Chinese delegate, Wu Dawei, has noted that the time being spent, during the current inter-session period, to narrow the differences and evolve "consensus" should also be seen as part of the negotiating process.

While the Chinese view reflects the ground reality, instead of being a platitude,

the nuanced views of other key players are also in focus behind the scenes.

Japan tends to believe that the resumption of talks will be meaningful only if there is progress, during this inter-session period, on whether or not the DPRK can be allowed to pursue a civilian nuclear-energy programme under suitable "international safeguards."

The riddle is central to the sovereign rights of the DPRK, even if it were to agree now to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime and dismantle its atomic-weapons programme(s), according to Asia-Pacific diplomats.

Defending the proposition that the DPRK should dismantle all its nuclear facilities, irrespective of their end-uses, the chief U.S. delegate, Christopher Hill, has sarcastically remarked that Pyongyang, in the past, "had trouble keeping peaceful energy peaceful!"

A defence-diplomat from the West said "it is politics as usual" for the DPRK to cite the annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises as a new irritant that could hold up the resumption of six-party talks.

# Nuke talks hit compensation wall

ASSOCIATED Press  
Beijing, July 31

NORTH KOREA'S demands for what it should receive in exchange for abandoning its nuclear weapons program snarled talks on Sunday on a draft agreement at international disarmament negotiations.

Deputy leaders of the six delegations spent five hours discussing a Chinese-drafted proposal, a South Korean official said on condition of anonymity due to the ongoing talks. But the negotiations ended their sixth day without an agreement and South Korea's main nuclear envoy said more consultations were planned on Monday.

South Korean deputy foreign minister Song Min-soon said

talks on Sunday focused on "what corresponding measures other parties will take" in return for an agreement by the North to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme.

The North has demanded concessions such as security guarantees and aid from Washington before it eliminates its weapons program, while the US wants to see the arms destroyed first. The North has also insisted that it be allowed to run a peaceful nuclear power program, something Washington objects to out of proliferation concerns.

"We are trying to come up with an agreed statement which contains all the key points that have been discussed so far, but how long it will take remains to be seen," Song said. No details of the

draft agreement have been released, but a Japanese news report said it called for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programs and other programs that could potentially produce such arms. The draft also addresses normalisation of US and Japanese relations with the North, Kyodo News agency reported, citing an anonymous source at the talks. The Japanese side is dissatisfied with the draft because it fails to include a mention of its citizens the North has admitted to kidnapping, Kyodo said.

The chief US envoy, assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill, earlier said the Chinese draft proposed Saturday was a "good basis" for future negotiations. No end date for the talks has been set, and Hill said Sun-

day that "it's going to take a while." He noted that the process requires translating texts into the five languages of the six nations at the talks: Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean and Russian. "I want to caution everyone that it's a lot of work to look at a document and go line by line by line," Hill said. "Things are moving, we have to see how it goes."

The current round of disarmament talks with North Korea, which began on Tuesday in Beijing, has lasted the longest since such talks began in 2003. The three earlier rounds had lasted about three days each. North Korea's foreign minister has repeated that the communist nation could rejoin the NPT and admit international inspectors if the talks are successful.

01 AUG 2005 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Koreas pledge to work for nuke talks' success

Associated Press

VIENTIANE, (Laos) July 28. — Foreign ministers of South Korea and North Korea pledged today to work towards the success of six-party talks in Beijing aimed at getting North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons programme.

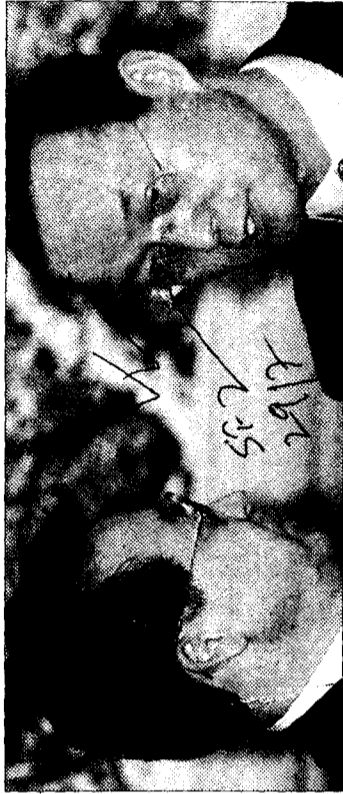
The South Korean foreign minister Mr Ban Ki-moon met briefly at a hotel in the Laotian capital with the North Korean foreign minister Mr Paek NamSun during a conference of the Association of South East Asian Nations Regional Forum.

“Both North Korea and South Korea

will work together to expedite the process and to contribute to the early resolution and peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue and achievement of the ultimate goal of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula,” they said in a joint statement after their meeting.

Earlier, Mr Ban noted that the last time the two ministers met was an year ago during the Asean Regional Forum in Jakarta.

“We hope to have regular meetings between the North and South Korean ministers,” Mr Ban said before heading into the meeting with Mr Paek.



South Korean deputy foreign minister Mr Song Min-soon (right), talks to the North Korean vice foreign minister, Mr Kim Gye Gwan, in Beijing on Thursday. — (PT)

# Seoul proposes “two pillars” solution

HO-15  
287

## Delegates take part in plenary meeting

**BEIJING:** The Republic of Korea proposed a “two pillars” solution to the Korean nuclear issue, said a member of the country’s delegation here on Wednesday.

The official, unwilling to reveal his name, said the proposal was made by Song Min-soon, head of the ROK delegation and deputy Foreign Minister, in a keynote speech at the plenary meeting held on Wednesday. Mr. Song was quoted as saying the talks should result in a document such as a common declaration.

The “two pillars” refer to the promise on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) side to give up its nuclear programme and a promise by the other five parties to normalise their relations with it, provide security guarantee and economic cooperation.

He said the ROK delegation said the common document should take “words for words and action for action” as a precondition and all the sides should carry out the measures they have agreed on in order to show the principle of acting simultaneously.

### Call for political courage

Chinese delegation head Wu Dawei called on all sides to seize opportunities, meet challenges and work together with their utmost political courage to create a better future for

• DPRK must give up nuclear programme

• Other parties must normalise ties with Pyongyang

• China calls on all parties to seize opportunities

• Beijing for better future for Asia

Asia. Mr. Wu, also China’s Vice Foreign Minister, said the negotiators stated their stand and advanced opinions on how to achieve denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

They reiterated that they would adhere to the goal of denuclearisation and to dialogues for a peaceful resolution.

“They agreed to, on the basis of the results achieved in the previous three rounds of talks, continue in-depth discussions, give earnest considerations to the concerns and stances of the other parties, and work together for positive progress in the ongoing talks,” he said.

Through a series of one-to-one meetings, the six parties exchanged views in a candid and in-depth way and enhanced mutual understanding, said the Chinese delegation head. The talks are a process of “seeking common points while reserving differences, reducing difference, accumulating consensus and creating peace.” — Xinhua

28 JUL 2005

11:00 AM

# Envoys reach for North Korea nuke talks

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, July 25. — The USA and North Korea today held their first bilateral parleys since Pyongyang agreed to re-join the six-party talks on its contentious nuclear programme, with Washington saying it was trying to make "some real progress" in the fresh round beginning here tomorrow.

The rare one-on-one meeting between head of the US delegation Mr Christopher Hill and his North Korean counterpart Mr Kim Kye-Gwan was held at the Diaoyutai state guest house here, the venue for the new round of six-party talks, which also involves Japan, South Korea, China and Russia.

The meeting lasted about 75 minutes, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"I want to stress these are not negotiations. We are just trying to get acquainted, to review how we see things coming up and compare notes," Mr Hill told reporters before the talks started.

Today's meeting between Mr Hill and Mr Kim was the first since they met in Beijing on 9 July during which Pyongyang

agreed to rejoin the six-nation talks after USA assured its sovereignty.

Mr Hill said that the purpose of the bilateral meetings was to "make sure we're all in agreement that we need to make some real progress." The six parties attending talks gathered for the first time today for a meeting with the foreign minister of the host country China on the eve of the crucial parleys here. Mr Li Zhaoxing will hold a banquet after the meeting with chief negotiators of North Korea, USA, Japan, South Korea, Russia and China at the Diaoyutai state guest house. The fourth round of in-camera talks is scheduled to begin here at 630 a.m (IST) tomorrow. The talks are to be attended by the US assistant secretary of state Mr Christopher Hill, North Korean vice-foreign minister, Mr Kim Kye-gwan, South Korean deputy foreign minister, Mr Song Min-soon, Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr Wu Dawei, director general of Asia and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of Japanese foreign ministry, Mr Sasae Kenichiro and Russian deputy foreign minister, Mr Alexander Alexeyev.



North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Mr Kim Gye Gwan (L) looks at US Assistant Secretary of State Mr Christopher Hill (R) at a welcome banquet for the negotiators of the six-party talks, held by Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, today. The fourth round of the talks on North Korea's nuclear programme will take place tomorrow in the Chinese capital. — AFP

26 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Koreans hold parleys ahead of six-party talks

No time limit has been set

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Asia  
Korea  
490-15

**BEIJING:** With the Russian delegation arriving in Beijing on Monday morning, all the six parties involved have gathered in the Chinese capital for the new round of talks on the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue slated to open on Tuesday.

China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, Russia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan will start the fourth round of talks on Tuesday morning at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse in central-western Beijing, the venue for the previous three rounds of talks.

## Consensus on issues

Shortly after their arrival, the delegations started holding bilateral meetings to coordinate stances. The two Korean delegations held a 100-minute meeting on Sunday and reached consensus on "many issues," including forging a framework for the denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. delegation conferred with the ROK and Japanese delegations respectively on Monday, and held bilateral talks with the DPRK delegation on Monday afternoon. The ROK and Japanese delegations also met on Monday afternoon.

Upon its arrival in Beijing, the Russian delegation headed directly to the DPRK embassy in Beijing, and exchanged opinions with the DPRK delegation on the upcoming talks.

The DPRK delegation, headed by Vice-Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, and the Russian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeyev, arrived here on Friday

• All teams in Beijing

• Bilateral meetings on

• U.S. firm on talks

afternoon and Monday morning respectively.

## Laying the foundation

The ROK delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, arrived here on Saturday morning. "During the upcoming talks, we will make every effort to lay a foundation for solving the nuclear issue," Mr. Song Min-soon said upon his arrival.

The U.S. delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, arrived here on Sunday. Mr. Hill told reporters that the United States is "very much committed" to the fourth round of six-party talks, and that he wouldn't expect this to be the last set of negotiations.

Sasae Kenichiro, director general of the Asia and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who headed the Japanese delegation, told reporters that Japan would work with the other parties to promote the talks to make progress. No time limit has been set for the multilateral talks, demonstrating all parties' determination to achieve some progress in the talks. New progress should be made and the Korean peninsula nuclear issue should be resolved through the six-nation talks, said Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the welcoming banquet the Chinese side held here Monday evening.

— Xinhua

THE HINDU

## Taiwan: China General warns of N-attack if US intrudes

JOSEPH KAHN

BEIJING, JULY 15

CHINA should use nuclear weapons against the US if the American military intervenes in any conflict over Taiwan, a senior Chinese military official has said.

"If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition at the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," Major General Zhu Chenghu said at an official briefing.

Zhu stressed that his comments were his personal views and not official policy. But in extensive comments to a visiting delegation of correspondents based in Hong Kong, Zhu said he believed China

was under internal pressure to change its often-stated "no first use" policy on nuclear weapons and to make clear that it would employ the most powerful weapons it has, to defend its claim over Taiwan.

The Pentagon is preparing a report on the Chinese military that some experts say will warn that China could emerge as its strategic rival.

Beijing has said repeatedly that it would use military force to prevent Taiwan from becoming a formally independent country. But Zhu's comments suggest that some elements in it's military are prepared to widen the conflict.

President Bush has made it clear that the US would defend Taiwan. —NYT

16 JUL 2005

INDIA...



## 15/7 Yen for Pyongyang 6 Am HT-6

SOUTH KOREA'S offer last Monday to supply a vast amount of electrical power to the North — in return for Pyongyang dismantling its nuclear weapons programme — brings fresh hope to efforts to resolve the crisis on the Korean peninsula. Seoul proposes to string powerlines across the tense border and distribute up to 2,000 MW of electricity to the energy-starved regions inside the North. With the North desperately looking for power to run its homes and factories, the Kim Jong Il regime would be well advised to accept Seoul's overture.

The announcement comes on the heels of developments that could have complicated the Pyongyang's agreement to re-join the six-nation disarmament talks later this month, involving the US, the two Koreas, Russia, China and Japan. Tokyo insists on making the long-festering issue of North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens decades ago part of the negotiations, but this is opposed by China and South Korea. But Seoul has done well not to let such issues hijack the all-important

negotiations, which broke down last year when North Korea pulled out saying it was stockpiling atomic weapons to defend itself from the US. Since then, it had denounced all efforts to multilateralise the issue, playing mind games by withdrawing from negotiations indefinitely, but not abandoning them completely.

This was a tactic to win economic incentives from Seoul and Beijing to coax it back to the negotiating table and dilute US demands for the complete dismantling of North's nuclear programme. In fact, North Korea's nod to sit at the round table probably has a lot to do with Washington's allegation that it sold enriched uranium to Libya. For this undermines Pyongyang's claim that its nuclear arsenal is defensive, and could escalate its row with the US to a dangerous new level. Hopefully, the offer from Seoul will call the North's bluff, taking away the fig leaf of civilian power production that Pyongyang has used to cover its secretive nuclear weapons programme, and make the next round of talks more meaningful.

# Six-party North Korea talks may not make any headway

By Jai Taraporevala/TNN

The assertion by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice that China will have to step up pressure on North Korea if progress is to be made in the six-party nuclear talks which begin on July 25 after a gap of 13 months has highlighted the competing pulls that Beijing is having to balance on this issue.

China's cautious approach has been partly shaped by the politico-strategic objective of countering growing US assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region and forging closer links with the Roh Moo-hyun administration in Seoul which supports the policy of constructive engagement with Pyongyang.

Beijing will calculate that there are several reasons which make military operations against North Korea unattractive from Washington's point of view. After all, the US remains deeply embroiled in Iraq and Afghanistan, Pyongyang possesses a few crude nuclear bombs and missiles capability and the fact that Seoul is less than 100 km from the De-Militarised Zone makes it highly probable that there will be a large number of civilian casualties in the event of a war.

Besides, the refusal of China to significantly turn up the heat on North Korea should be interpreted in terms of the



Condoleezza Rice with Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the first stop on a four-nation East Asia swing that is aimed at getting North Korea to join nuclear talks

bilateral irritants in the Sino-US relationship, including the issues of trade, Taiwan and human rights. This being so, Beijing will continue to use the question of North Korea's nuclear programme as a tactical counter in negotiations with Washington.

On the other hand, however, an escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula is not in the interest of China since that will deflect attention away from its primary focus on expanding trade and investment links in the region and prompt the US to strengthen its already large military presence in South Korea and Japan. Beijing's concerns are also a reflection of its gradually diminishing influence in North Korea and the narrow base of support of the Kim Jong-il regime in Pyongyang.

Even so, China still enjoys a measure of leverage in North Korea since it is the latter's main supporter on the diplomatic stage and supplier of a substantial amount of food grains and fuel. Beijing will use these close economic and political ties to urge Pyongyang to try

and keep the six-party talks going as an effective means of reducing tensions. But whether any substantive headway is achieved in the six-party discussions is debatable given the security apprehensions of Pyongyang and the continuing reluctance of the US to enter into a formal non-aggression treaty with North Korea.

# N Korea agrees to reopen nuclear talks

## Says US No Longer Calls It 'Outpost Of Tyranny'

Beijing: The United States and China said on Sunday that North Korea's surprise decision to return to nuclear talks was "only the first step" and that progress must be made in the negotiations scheduled for late July.

The communist regime said late Saturday it would return to talks with the US, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia aimed at ending its nuclear weapons drive, a diplomatic process stalled for more than a year.

A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said Pyongyang would "do its utmost" to achieve progress but "the most essential thing is for the talks to have an in-depth discussion on ways of denuclearising the Korean peninsula," according to the official KCNA.



A North Korean TV broadcast announcing the return to N-talks

The agency said a day earlier that North Korea agreed to return to the table after the US recognised it as a sovereign state and pledged not to invade it as well as to hold bilateral talks within the framework of the six-party talks. It interpreted recent statements by the US as "a retraction" of its designation of North Korea as an "outpost of tyranny".

"We agreed that this is only the first step, and the real issue is to make progress in the talks,"

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters on Sunday after meeting with Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing in Beijing. Li, standing beside Rice, said: "Let us continue to work together to achieve our shared goal: that is a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons."

Just after Rice touched down in Beijing late on Saturday on the first stop of a four-nation Asian trip, one of her key officials clinched a deal with his North Korean counterpart to resume the multilateral talks.

The secret meeting between US assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill and North Korea's deputy foreign minister Kim Gye Gwan was held at a Chinese foreign ministry facility. AFP

11 JUL 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# China, Taiwan for stronger cooperation

B. Asia  
Taiwan  
107-15  
277

**Both sides for further exchanges on economic and cultural fronts**

**NANJING:** China's mainland and Taiwan voiced their common aspiration on Wednesday to intensify all-round cooperation between their counties and small cities.

Two hundred persons attended the "200 Forum" that opened in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on Wednesday, including 100 representatives from 18 counties and cities in Taiwan and 100 lawmakers, or deputies to the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), from 28 counties, cities and districts in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian provinces and Shanghai municipality. They are expected to discuss ways to promote cooperation and exchanges in economic, cultural and urban development sectors at the forum, which carries the theme of "cross-Straits cooperation, common development."

Cheng Siwei, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said the forum is a "new form" for people-to-people exchanges across the Taiwan Straits and a "significant event" in promoting cross-Straits cooperation and common development. "The occasion will enhance the mutual-understanding and friendship between people across the Taiwan Straits," he said at the opening ceremony.

"Counties and small cities from across the Taiwan Straits can certainly join hands in meeting the new challenges of the times and seeking mutual benefits."

## Common will

It is the common will of Chinese compatriots from both sides of the Taiwan Straits to enhance exchanges, dialogue and cooperation, as the mainland is going all-out to build a fairly affluent society and Taiwan is seeking a new round of rapid economic growth, said Li Yuanchao, secretary of the Jiangsu Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).



**DEEPENING TIES:** Taiwan's New Party Chairman Yok Mu-ming (left) with Zhang Dejiang, Communist Party chief of Guangdong, in Guangzhou, on Wednesday. - PHOTO: AP

"It's our solemn mission and common responsibility to maintain, develop and protect the happiness and benefits of Chinese compatriots on the two sides of the Taiwan Straits," he said. He said Jiangsu Province, as one of the major interfaces for cross-Straits cooperation, wishes to take the opportunity to push ahead all-round exchanges and cooperation with Taiwan.

According to Mr. Li, Taiwan compatriots had made 3.95 million trips to Jiangsu Province by the end of 2004, visiting relatives, seeking business opportunities and for sightseeing tours.

"About 50,000 Taiwan compatriots are living permanently in Jiangsu Province," he added.

"Of the top 100 Taiwan businesses, at least 60 have come to invest in Jiangsu."

Wu Junli, a representative from Taitung county, said he hoped the "200 Forum" will enhance mutual understanding so that the Chinese mainland and Taiwan will work together in building their future on a "win-win" basis. Chen Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, was also present at the opening ceremony. - Xinhua

7 JUL 2004

THE HINDU

# Towards reunification?

Whenever I think of the North Korean nuclear question, I am reminded of a wise old Korean farmer's saying, "What could have been handled by a hoe is now harder to tackle even by a shovel or a plough."

Resolving the North Korean nuclear problem is compounded by triple challenges - the worsening security dilemma among powers concerned on the Korean Peninsula, the widening inter-Korean economic gap and the deepening inter-Korean integration process.

These triple incongruities are inherently intertwined. The deepening inter-Korean integration process may ameliorate the inter-Korean economic gap and positively influence the security dilemma.

Conversely, the worsening security dilemma may slow down and even cripple the inter-Korean integration process, thereby, widening the inter-Korean economic gap further.

Specifically, at the core of the security dilemma on the peninsula today lies two almost incongruent questions — one fundamental and the other strategic.

The fundamental issue is the question of Korean reunification. How, when, and with whose help, can Korea, the only remaining divided nation in post-Cold War era, achieve reunification peacefully under liberal democracy and free market economy?

How can the Korean people's aspiration for national reunification be reconciled with the conflicting strategic interests of the powers concerned in the region?

The first and foremost strategic question involves North Korea's nuclear development projects, including other weapons of mass destruction. With the USA, Japan, China and Russia, the Republic of Korea's position towards North Korea's nuclear question is clear: complete verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID). There is no disagreement with others on this position. The differences stem from the ways and means to achieve CVID.

Putting it simply, the crux of the North Korean nuclear question is not the lack of solution, but the absence of will to resolve it. What is missing is the consensus on how to approach it.

YANG SUNG-CHUL analyses the worsening security crisis on the Korean Peninsula, the widening inter-Korean economic gap and the deepening inter-Korean integration process



Kwon Ho-ung (left), chief Cabinet counsellor for North Korea and the head of the North Korean delegation, with South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young at the Inter-Korean ministerial talks in Seoul. Senior officials from South and North Korea hold the 15th round of Inter-Korean ministerial meetings. — AFP

The 2004 Bank of Korea data clearly demonstrates the widening inter-Korean economic gap. For example, South Korea's gross national income of \$681 billion is 33 times greater than that of North Korea's \$20.8 billion. The South's per capita GNI in the same year, \$14,162 was 16 times larger than that of the North, \$914. By any measure, the inter-Korean economic gap is far greater than that of East Germany and West Germany at the time of unification in 1990.

The evidence of the deepening inter-Korean integration process is too extensive to mention. To cite a few examples, the number of South Korean tourists to Mt Geumgang from 18 November, 1998, to this June surpassed one million. Until 1989, there were 607 refugees and escapees from the North but by 2004, 6,304 of them had been

resettled in the South. Inter-Korean shipping has also expanded. At present, four ports in the North and three ports in the South are reconnected by regular shipping lines, while a few more are open for periodic special shipping needs. Fourteen ports in the South and 12 ports in the North have opened.

The following key inter-Korean cooperative projects, too, are noteworthy in this context.

The Gaeseong Industrial Complex of 65 sqkm is being developed. The first of the three-stage development projects is now completed. The Gyongui Railway from Seoul to Sineiju in the North was relinked in December 2002. Reconnecting the East Sea Railway from the South to the North is nearing completion. The land route connecting the

South and the North in the West Coast is finished.

The land route relinking the South and the North in the East Coast was completed in December 2004.

What do all these developments imply for policymaking? The inter-Korean integration process has gone too far now to reverse the tide. As in the past, there will undoubtedly be temporary setbacks, stalling or even backpedaling, but the major thrust of changes between the two is almost impossible to undo.

Any sudden absorption of a West German-East German variety will almost certainly create havoc in both Koreas, not to mention the strategic and security complexities in East Asian dynamics.

It, thus, calls for policymakers in the region to take a piecemeal

approach with enormous patience, persistence and prudence in dealing with North Korea. Any other quick fix may usher in disaster and human tragedy.

Any sudden unexpected political/security/economic turn of events in North Korea is possible and even probable.

Barring the eruption of such political tempest, we — both our allies and surrounding nations — must cooperate with each other until the North becomes more compatible both economically and politically with the South.

The triple dilemma poses a challenge not only for Korea and its people but for all who desire a genuine peace and envision a unified and free democratic Korea. In realising this lofty goal, the Republic of Korea-US alliance, celebrating its 52nd anniversary this year, has been pivotal and will continue to be so beyond both nations' present regimes.

In looking back, Korea has overcome numerous crises during all these years.

Now the Republic of Korea and the USA, with Japan, share core political and economic values. In addition to these three nations, constructive cooperation of China and Russia is vital in untangling the Korean Gordian knot.

What can be done to break the current stalemate?

- Appoint and send a high-level special envoy to North Korea; the higher the level, the better the positive impact and results;
- Create business-like atmosphere for dialogue;
- Cease the war of rhetoric and get on with the tasks at hand;
- Adopt a mutually beneficial interest-based bargaining strategy;
- Strengthen trilateral cooperation and coordination among the Republic of Korea, Japan and the USA;
- Differentiate the issues and do not lump bilateral, trilateral or even multilateral issues in one basket and
- North Korea must fulfil its 2000 South-North summit agreement, especially Kim Jong-il's promise to visit the South.

— The Korea Herald/ANN

23 JUN 2005

THE STATESMAN

# N Korea team flies into protest

Associated Press

SEOUL, June 21. — A high-level North Korean delegation arrived in Seoul for talks today amid renewed optimism over reconciliation between the two Koreas, but the visit got off to a rocky start when protesters displayed banners condemning the North's leader.

This week's North-South meetings are aimed at improving ties and elaborating on agreements made during a surprise meeting in Pyongyang last Friday between North Korean leader Mr Kim Jong Il and the South's top envoy to the North.

Although the South is expected to raise the international standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, the communist North is likely to focus on aid for its impoverished economy and maintain its insistence

that the nuclear issue can only be resolved with the United States.

As the North Korean delegates were being driven from the airport to the hotel where the talks were scheduled, vehicles adorned with posters calling for Kim to be punished and displaying him tied in ropes drove close to their motorcade, one of the protesters said at a police station where he was taken for questioning along with two other activists.

The protester, who didn't give his name, said the group encountered the North Korean delegation accidentally. The North Koreans complained when confronted by the protesters, slightly delaying their arrival at the hotel.

In the North, Mr Kim is the object of an official personality cult along with his father, founding President Kim Il Sung, and strictures govern how their images are to be treated.

# Hong Kong: Tsang elected unopposed

Faces the challenge of mollifying  
"pro-democracy" activists

8 Aug.  
119-17  
17/6

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's former Chief Secretary and a one-time Acting Chief Executive, was on Thursday declared elected unopposed to the highest position in the Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

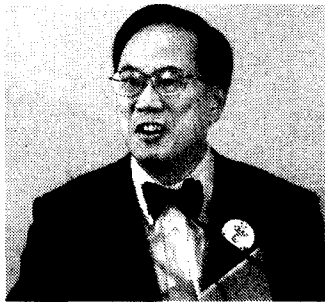
Mr. Tsang, whose acceptability ratings in sample surveys are 70 per cent, will be formally appointed by the Central Government in Beijing as the Chief Executive.

Being the second person to hold the position since Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty from British colonial rule, Mr. Tsang's term will be about two years, as of now. He will complete the remainder period of the term of Tung Chee Hwa, who resigned as Chief Executive on March 10 on grounds of ill-health.

Mr. Tsang was the only one, in a field of six, whose nomination was assessed valid. The nomination deadline ended on Thursday. He was nominated by 674 members of the 800-strong Election Committee - the electoral college in all but name.

## Suave civil servant

Known to have been a suave civil servant, during the colonial period as also under Mr. Tung's stewardship, he faces the challenge of mollifying the "pro-democracy" campaigners who remained disaffected with the



Donald Tsang

previous Chief Executive.

The "pro-democracy" activists, with the often-tacit and sometimes-open support of the West, allege that the principle of "One country, Two systems," on the basis of which Hong Kong is run under the overall direction of Beijing, is incompatible with their demand of universal suffrage. Mr. Tsang's task is to harmonise Beijing's control over Hong Kong with the political aspirations of the "pro-democracy" activists, according to observers.

## Stress on dialogue

AFP reports:

Mr. Tsang (61) thanked its members for their support as well as the people of Hong Kong. "The election has been an exhilarating experience for me. I shall treasure it dearly," he told reporters.

"The dialogue that I have started with various sectors of the community will not be a one-off exercise."

17 JUN 2005

THE HINDU

# Tsang set to become Hong Kong leader

Associated Press

HONG KONG, June 15. — Veteran civil servant Mr Donald Tsang effectively won Hong Kong's leadership race today, filing papers that showed he had the solid backing of an election committee that picks the Chinese territory's leaders.

Mr Tsang trounced his two rivals by collecting 710 of the nominations from an 800-member election panel. The other candidates, both lawmakers, conceded days ago they couldn't win the minimum 100 nominations needed to be on the 10 July ballot.

The 800-member committee that chooses Hong Kong's leader is partial to Beijing, and the territory's people currently elect half of their 60 lawmakers. In a recent survey, 60 per cent of respondents said they wanted universal suffrage for those posts.

The flamboyant Mr Tsang, who wears suspenders and colourful bow ties, said his goal was for Hong Kong to be a "modern, efficient society backed up by a first-rate, efficient, clean government". But the career civil servant said this important financial centre wasn't ready for full democracy



Mr Donald Tsang trounced his two rivals by collecting 710 of the nominations from an 800-member election commission. — AFP

during his two-year term. "We have to build up our own political institutions," he said. "We have to agree on the best arrangement." He, however, added that universal suffrage "is our ultimate goal".

Hong Kong voters were never allowed to directly elect their leaders when it was a British colony. China continued to deny that right when the city returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a system designed to give it a broad autonomy and civil liberties mainland Chinese can only dream of.



# Wanted: A roadmap for

## Pyongyang

President Bush's hardline policy, which demands North Korean de-nuclearisation before anything else, has coincided with a quadrupling of the estimated North Korean nuclear arsenal over the past three years. And Bill Clinton's strategy didn't work for too long either, writes MICHAEL O'HANLON

With the South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun arriving for a 10 June consultation with President George W Bush amidst a growing crisis over North Korean nuclear ambition, it is time for a fundamentally fresh approach. As North Korea indicates a tentative, lukewarm interest in returning to negotiations over its nuclear weapons programme, one thing is clear: Washington's approach has not been working.

President Bush's hardline policy, in which he has demanded North Korean de-nuclearisation before anything else, has coincided with a quadrupling of the estimated North Korean nuclear arsenal over the past three years.

Former US President Bill Clinton's earlier policy of engagement did help cap the North Korean nuclear arsenal for years. But Pyongyang invalidated that approach when, starting around 1998, it began to cheat on its 1994 treaty commitments and developed a uranium enrichment programme for nuclear weapons purposes.

Both approaches have effectively been invalidated, or at least rendered obsolete, by their track records. Much of the conversation in the USA now concerns whether to commit only to six-party talks – involving the two Koreas as well as Russia, China, and Japan – or complement them with bilateral negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington.

But this debate is not particularly productive. It begs the question of what one should discuss after negotiations begin, and what type of basic strategy the USA should bring to the table. Some proponents of bilateral talks, it often seems, argue that if the USA were to grant North Korea the respect of direct high-level contact, their legitimate interests might be addressed and the crisis resolved. But this ignores the fact that Stalinists don't tend to be reasonable no matter how you approach them – unless you propose a policy that, for one reason or another, they can't refuse.

Proponents of bilateral talks also seem to forget that North Korea began to cheat on its nuclear obligations when the Clinton administration was attempting a policy of concerted, bilateral contact, going so far as to send Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Pyongyang.

Many in this camp would also offer North Korea even more aid than did the USA and its partners in the Agreed Framework in 1994. Alas, this would seem to reward Pyongyang's extortionate behaviour. Perhaps even worse, it would fail to

address the underlying fact that as long as North Korea's economy is in fundamental disrepair, Pyongyang will be tempted to create future crises to extract resources from the international community – especially after setting the precedent that doing so produces results.

On the other hand, strident advocates of Mr Bush's six-party format sometimes seem to suggest that any wavering from that approach would be tantamount to appeasement. But this view ignores the fact that the USA has had plenty of direct contacts with unsavoury regimes before, and that nothing about such bilateral meetings has prevented Washington from delivering blunt, principled, resolute messages.

Moreover, proponents must recognise that the theoretical reason for creating the six-party talks has not translated into practical results. Rather than allowing South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and the USA to deliver a united message to Kim Jong-il about the need for him to denuclearise, it has led to a split among the five.

China and South Korea do not believe Washington is being nearly

flexible enough in the talks. They are unwilling to consider UN Security Council sanctions or other coercive approaches, as they partially blame the USA for the failure of the negotiations to date.

The issue is not where or how to meet. Although my Brookings colleague and former US negotiator with North Korea, Jack Pritchard, has convinced me that bilateral talks can usefully supplement the multilateral framework, this is a secondary point.

The crux of the matter is defining a substantive agenda that would stand the

maximum chance of success – and best position the USA to get tough with North Korea should the talks fail.

The USA must broaden its negotiating strategy. Focusing on the nuclear issue alone may seem sensible because it aims squarely at what threatens American security the most. It may also seem principled because it requires North Korea to make a fundamental choice about whether to honour its international obligations before anything else – aid and trade benefits, for instance – can be discussed.

But this nuclear-only approach has failed. It will almost surely continue to fail. The USA has not offered North Korea enough incentives to cede what is effectively its one national resource. Nor has the USA sufficiently threatened the North Koreans to turn around their behaviour through intimidation. When you negotiate with no carrots and no sticks, your prospects for success are poor.

Since there is no solution to this dilemma on the narrow terms of the nuclear issue, the only way out of this diplomatic

impasse is to change the nature of the problem – and in particular, to broaden it. The USA should indeed offer North Korea more, but only if it is prepared to do much more than denuclearise.

A proposal that casts the nuclear issue as one plank of a broader reform and normalisation agenda will allow negotiators to dangle many more carrots in Kim Jong-il's face without being vulnerable to a charge of appeasement, and without encouraging a dangerous form of behaviour that would set a horrible precedent in the Korean context and beyond.

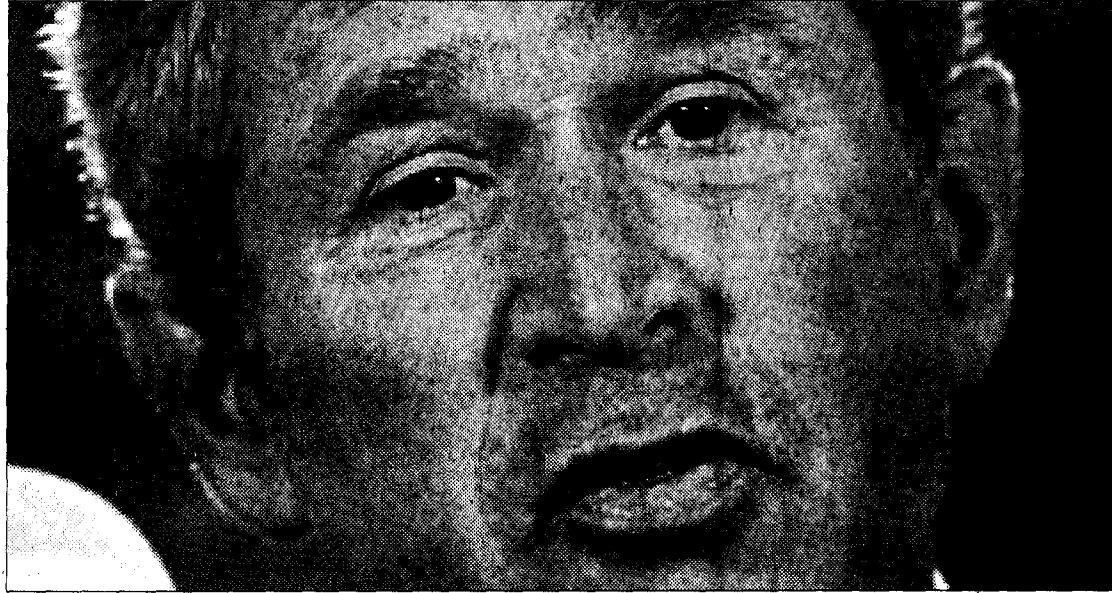
To put it differently, the USA should test North Korea's willingness to begin economic and broader societal reform, Vietnam-style. If Pyongyang proved willing to do so, the USA could support a US-North Korea roadmap similar to that which facilitated US-Vietnam normalisation (in political as well as economic and other spheres). The USA and its allies could help – by helping North Korea improve its ports and roads, providing more donations of fertilizer and agricultural equipment, offering greater energy assistance, and gradually lifting US trade sanctions.

Japan, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund are likely to offer much more development assistance if the USA chooses this path. But the price for such generosity would be steep. In addition to denuclearising over a period of several years, North Korea would also have to give up chemical weapons and long-range missiles, cut its conventional military substantially to reduce its enormous drain on the economy (as well as the threat it poses to Seoul), begin a dialogue with the Red Cross about human rights conditions in its prisons, and allow Japanese kidnapping victims to go home.

Not all of this would have to happen immediately. Not all would have to be codified in detail in a treaty. But without a broader framework, the USA will be back in the same old dead-end negotiation about nuclear weapons that could easily make it a Pyrrhic victory to get North Korea back to the bargaining table.

And if such a US plan is rejected by North Korea – out of fear of reform or simple spite at the international community – Washington would then be in a much stronger position to argue to the other six-party participants that whatever their initial dithers, the time for more coercive measures had finally come.

(Reprinted with permission from YaleGlobal Online [http://yaleglobal.yale.edu] a publication of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization.)



US President George W Bush and (below) North Korean President Kim Jong-il: Incommunicado



wide angle

SALMAN HAIDER

## Nuclear challenge in N Korea

The controversy attached to North Korea's nuclear plans has become one of the longest running concerns of the international community.

For well over a decade North Korea has hinted, teased, played cat and mouse with the International Atomic Energy Agency, claimed to have nuclear capacity, then

denied it, only to affirm again.

Well before India and Pakistan crossed the nuclear Rubicon, North Korea was launched on the diplomatic

test of engaging and then disengaging with IAEA's inspection regime.

Unlike India and Pakistan, it is a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, so it has taken on important obligations of international safeguards and inspections.

How fully it has discharged these obligations has been an endlessly contentious matter.

The international reaction to the deliberate ambiguities in Pyongyang's actions was initially one of great alarm but it has evolved significantly. When North Korea first hinted that it may have acquired nuclear capacity, incalculable consequences were feared in the entire Far East. Its nearest neighbour and chief antagonist, South Korea, could not but feel vulnerable, and the tremors of insecurity spread much further, to Japan in particular, and onward into South East Asia.

Even Australia became watchful. But today these anxieties have taken a different form. There is little sign of panic, hence little overt pressure within the region to match North Korean plans in kind. While diplomatic inducements to contain its nuclear programme continue, there is a sense that Pyongyang has chosen the path of folly, and if it ever tried to use the small nuclear arsenal it might have accumulated, that would only rebound shatteringly on North Korea.

If this were all there is to it, the course chosen by North Korea would appear self-defeating, and nuclear weapons, if indeed it has them, would only add to its

problems. Pyongyang, however, must see things rather differently. In its own estimation, it is a regime under threat, increasingly isolated in an unfriendly world. It has no security arrangement that could deter direct attack from outside, apart from its alliance with China which cannot be regarded as the reliable ally it once was.

So North Korea has to look after its own security and find the means to deter its enemies. Nuclear weapons serve this purpose and give the regime some breathing space. The results achieved so far can be interpreted to support this line of reasoning:

unlike Afghanistan and Iraq, it has not suffered invasion; unlike Iran, and also Syria, which are under severe pressure, North Korea is still being wooed, persuaded and cajoled. Its nuclear capacity, it can be argued, could have ensured that it has to be handled with much greater care than the others.

Yet there are signs that the time for diplomacy may be running out. Recently, President George W Bush has spoken about North Korea in more forthright language than he used in the past, and his manner has suggested that more direct means of dealing with that

country have not been excluded.

There has been talk of imposing sanctions through the UN Security Council. As may be expected, Pyongyang has been defiant, but

it is its actions rather than what it says that will be under close scrutiny.

IAEA inspection involves some complicated technical issues that cannot be set aside and will have to be pursued. In the meantime, North Korea has undertaken missile tests that underline its offensive capacity, and it has given typically

is one of the prime beneficiaries. It does not have a great deal more to sell, and as its economy remains in the doldrums, the temptation to sell all kinds of weapons technology will increase.

There are also increasing fears of clandestine nuclear programmes in other countries that may turn to North Korea for surreptitious support if they have not already done so. This seems to be the principal international concern at the moment.

China remains North Korea's chief prop, the source of essential supplies of food and fuel. Its actions will come into close focus as the screw tightens, especially if the matter is now taken to the Security Council. The neighbours, too, who have been active in the effort to engage North Korea in dialogue and deflect its nuclear ambitions, will have to deal with a new set of challenges.

India is not as directly involved as these others but it has stood against proliferation and will be supportive of international effort in this direction. Indeed, the responsible policies it has pursued from the start, neither acquiring nuclear materials and know-how through dubious channels nor passing them on to others, should be recognised.

The international community would do well to get over its post-Pokhran II reservations which have left India outside the pale of the international nuclear restraint regime. There are various international structures promoting this cause with which India can be usefully associated.

(The author is a former Foreign Secretary, Government of India.)

# Pyongyang fires salvo as Bush meets Roh

REUTERS  
SEOUL, JUNE 10

HOURS before a summit meeting on Friday between South Korea and the United States likely to focus on North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes, Pyongyang again said Washington's hostile policy toward it was the major irritant.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will meet US President George W. Bush to discuss North Korea's nuclear aims and how to better coordinate their approach to the crisis.

"The US hostile policy toward the DPRK is a stumbling block lying in the way of settling the nuclear issue," the North's *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said in a signed article, in a report from the official KCNA news agency.

The call for the US to end what Pyongyang sees as a hostile policy toward it is a familiar one from North Korea, but Seoul has been looking for Washington to show greater flexibility toward the North, analysts said. On Tuesday, the US said North Korea had agreed at a meeting in New York to return to six-party talks on curbing its nuclear ambitions.

No date had been set for the talks, which caused scepticism among government officials and analysts about the North's actual intent in saying it will return to the talks.

## US, Seoul look to project united stand on N. Korea

STEVE HOLLAND  
WASHINGTON, JUNE 10

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun are expected to use a White House meeting on Friday to send a joint message that North Korea must return to talks on its nuclear weapons program.

The two leaders' session in the Oval Office, followed by lunch, comes at a time when North Korea may be on the brink of returning to six-party negotiations it walked away from a year ago.

Differences between Washington and Seoul on how to settle the long-running North Korean saga are likely to be publicly set aside so the leaders can present a united front and reaffirm their commitment to a diplomatic resolution.

Analysts say differences between Seoul and Washington have widened in the past few years, mostly related to North Korea, which has confirmed that it has



South Korea's Roh

**Differences between Seoul and Washington have widened in the past few years, mostly related to North Korea, which said it has nuclear weapons**

some nuclear weapons. Pyongyang also hinted it might be on the verge of conducting a weapons test.

Washington backs a hard line with Pyongyang and wants to see verifiable progress by North Korea on the nuclear issue, and then give rewards. Seoul wants more engagement and flexibility for relations with the North, while providing rewards to entice the North to make progress.

2005

INDIA EXPRESS

# Pyongyang has nuke bombs, says minister

Washington, June 9

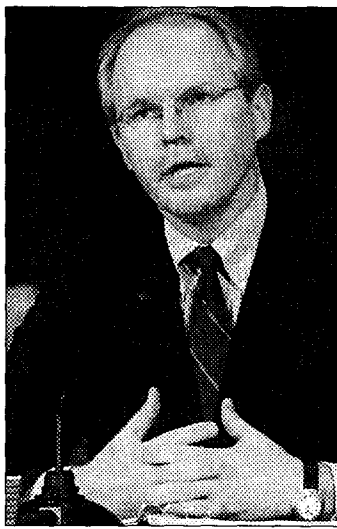
NORTH KOREA has a stockpile of nuclear bombs and is building more such weapons, the country's vice foreign minister Kim Gye Gwan said in a US television interview.

"I should say that we have enough nuclear bombs to defend against a US attack," the North Korean official told ABC News in the interview, released on Wednesday, when asked how many nuclear bombs it possessed. Asked whether Pyongyang was building more nuclear bombs, Kim said: "Yes."

His open admission about North Korea's nuclear weapon ambitions further clouds efforts to bring a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear crisis gripping the Korean peninsula.

Washington believes North Korea possesses one or two crude bombs and may have reprocessed enough plutonium for half-a-dozen more, from spent fuel rods at its Yongbyon nuclear complex. The Stalinist state also has an arsenal of missiles. It fired a long-range missile over Japan and into the Pacific Ocean in 1998.

Kim, North Korea's chief negotiator in six-party talks designed to wean the hardline communist state from its nuclear weapons program, would neither confirm nor deny that North Korea had a missile capa-



US assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill is likely to hold talks with North Korea.

ble of hitting mainland US. He was also noncommittal when asked about North Korea's ability to put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles.

"I want you to know that our scientists have the knowledge, comparable to other scientists around the world," he said. "You can take it as you like." But Kim stressed that North Korea "don't have any intention at all of attacking the US."

The State Department had no comment about the report. President George W. Bush said in an

interview with Fox News on Wednesday that international sanctions against North Korea remained an option.

"North Korea must understand ... that the US is serious about working with four other countries to convince them to get rid of their weapons systems," he said.

China, a close ally of North Korea, said it had no information about any nuclear arsenal while Japan described its East Asian neighbour as a "challenge to world peace" and urged it to return to the six-party talks.

Pyongyang has boasted publicly in the past of possessing a nuclear deterrent and has vowed never to dismantle its atomic arsenal unless the US drops its "hostile" policy. In February, it declared that it had developed nuclear weapons to protect itself against a US attack and would indefinitely boycott multilateral talks aimed at dismantling its atomic programs.

North Korea had attended three rounds of six-party talks with the US, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia but refused to attend the fourth round scheduled in September last year, citing what it termed hostile US policy.

The official Korean Central News Agency said on Wednesday that new talks would take place only when the US agrees to its demands.

AFP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Taipei seeks dialogue with Beijing

Associated Press

TAIPEI, May 23. — Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian today said he believed the self-governing island could imitate the EU and hold dialogue with rival China on the basis of parity, part of his effort to restart stalled talks with the mainland.

The last planned talks between China and Taiwan in 1999, were called off by Beijing in a dispute over Taiwan's political status.

"We will continue to seek normalisation of relations, but dialogue and reconciliation must be conducted under the principle of democracy, parity and peace," Mr Chen said at a meeting with Mr Bastiaan Belder, a member of the European parliament. Taiwan and China could learn from the EU, where members are given equal footing despite discrepancies of income and area, he added.

Taiwan recently rejected China's talks offer under the "One-China" principle that treats the island as an inseparable part of the mainland.

24 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

# N Korea willing to talk

**Korea Herald/ANN & AP**

WASHINGTON/SEOUL, June 7. — North Korea has informed the USA that it's willing to resume six-party negotiations on its nuclear weapons programme, but did not fix a date for reopening the long-stalled talks, the Bush administration said today.

Meeting with American diplomats yesterday at the North Korean mission to the UN in New York, "the North Koreans said they would return but didn't give us a time", a US State Department spokesman said.

He added that the talks in New York were a way to keep in touch, but are not a format for negotiations.

His statements followed similar remarks earlier today at the White House by Mr Scott McClellan, President Bush's chief spokesman.

The unexpected turn-about could turn out to be

**The US State Department has said the 'North Koreans told us that they would return, but did not give a time'**

a significant step toward de-nuclearising the Korean peninsula, but that would depend on the outcome of resumed negotiations.

Also today, the South foreign ministry confirmed that Mr Joseph DeTrani,

Washington's deputy chief negotiator in the six-party talks, and the US State Department's director of Korean affairs, Mr James Foster, met their North Korean counterparts Mr Pak Gil-yon, chief of the North's mission in New York, and his deputy, Mr Amb Han Song-ryol.

The development comes as Mr Bush and his South Korean counterpart, Mr Roh Moo-hyun, finalised preparations for their weekend summit.

A high-ranking government official in Seoul denied a New York Times report that Mr Roh may bring up a new proposal at the Washington summit to bring North Korea back to the negotiation table.

08 JUN 2006 THE STATESMAN

## Rival Koreas extend talks for extra day

Associated Press

1975

SEOUL, May 18. — South Korea will get another chance to press North Korea to return to the nuclear bargaining table after the two sides today agreed to extend their first talks in 10 months for an extra day.

Pressure grew on the reclusive Stalinist North to attend a fourth round of six-country talks over its worrisome nuclear weapons programme as South Korea appeared to balk at Pyongyang's request for food aid and fertiliser. A top US official suggested the North should rejoin the negotiations if it is concerned about its economic well-being and security.

But the North, long accustomed to brinkmanship, was resisting any commitment. Vice-unification minister Mr Rhee Bong-jo, head of the South's delegation, said the North Koreans listened to his entreaties without comment.

19 MAY 2005

# Seoul for N-talk, North Korea aid

Seoul/Tokyo, May 17

SOUTH KOREA pressed North Korea on Tuesday to resume talks on its nuclear programmes, while China denied a report that the North wanted it to arrange a visit to Pyongyang by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice.

Seoul's top official to the North-South talks — the first in 10 months — promised on Monday that South Korea would offer a new and serious proposal if Pyongyang returned to six-country talks on dismantling its nuclear arms programmes.

Nearly a year after the last round of bilateral talks, concerns are rising that Pyongyang may test a nuclear device.

"On the nuclear issue, we urged again, as we did yesterday, early participation in the six-party talks," South Korea's vice unification minister Rhee Bong-jo told pool reporters in the North Korean city of Kaesong, where the talks were being held.

"We had some additional exchanges of views on the nuclear problem and the dates for South-North dialogue and on family reunions, but we'll have to continue discussions," Rhee added.

Impoverished North Korea asked for food and fertiliser aid on Monday and Seoul proposed to discuss the issue further at the ministerial level in June.

Rhee has declined to elaborate on what the proposal would include, but said earlier in Seoul that a pledge by the North to return to the six-way talks would be key to normalising brittle relations between the two Koreas.

Pyongyang declared in February that it had nuclear weapons and said this month it had extracted spent fuel from a nuclear reactor, a move that could yield more material for weapons.

North Korea abruptly agreed at the weekend to meet for bilateral talks. It broke off all dialogue last July in anger at Seoul's secret airlift of 468 North Korean refugees from Vietnam and its refusal to let a delegation attend a memorial in the North Korean capital.

Japanese and Chinese officials denied a report by financial daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* that North Korea had asked China to arrange for Rice to visit Pyongyang. The newspaper, quoting unidentified diplomatic sources, said North Korea's proposal was conveyed to Rice by Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing during a telephone conversation on May 13. The US has repeatedly rejected bilateral talks with Pyongyang outside the six-party framework. In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a news conference the report was "imaginative, but not factual"

Reuters

78 MAY 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Koreas on talking terms again

Korea Herald/ANN

SEOUL, May 16. — The two Koreas opened two days of vice-ministerial level talks today in the northern border town of Gaeseong amid hopes that they will help stabilise inter-Korean relations after a 10-month hiatus and nudge the North toward resuming six-party talks on its nuclear weapons programme.

In the dialogue, the first since July last year, the three-member South Korean delegation proposed ways to get back stalled inter-Korean relations back on track and convey concerns about the North

Korean nuclear standoff.

"We have urged the North to rejoin the six-party talks as soon as possible," the head of the South Korean delegation, vice-unification minister Mr Rhee Bong-jo, told reporters.

The dialogue, which the North sought to discuss fertilizer aid, comes amid steps by Pyongyang to build more atomic bombs after it announced on 10 February that it has nuclear weapons and will boycott the six-party talks indefinitely.

Since then it has unloaded 8,000 spent fuel rods from its Yongbyon nuclear power plant, a move that will help it increase its supply of weapons-grade plutonium.



South Korean vice-unification minister Mr Rhee Bong-jo (left) meets his North Korean counterpart, Mr Chung Dong-young, in Seoul on Monday. — AFP

"If the six-party talks resume, it shouldn't be talks for the sake of talks," rean minister said. "For

this, the South side is preparing for a substantial proposal, and will propose it to the related countries when the talks resume."

Mr Rhee did not elaborate on the "substantial proposal", saying only that the details would be revealed after talks with other countries. He said the North Koreans listened to his points on the nuclear issue without comment.

The Kaesong meeting coincides with other efforts to resume the six-party talks, with Washington's top envoy in that dispute, US Assistant Secretary of State Mr Christopher Hill, today meeting with South Korean deputy foreign minister Mr Song Min-soon.



# Taiwan delivers 'One-China' snub

**Associated Press**

TAIPEI, May 14. — Taiwan's ruling party won an election today for a special Assembly charged with amending the Constitution, in a boost for President Chen Shui-bian's policy of resisting unification with mainland China.

With 99 per cent of the ballots counted, the Central Election Commission said the Democratic Progressive Party had won 42.5 per cent of the vote, against 38.9 per cent for the Opposition Nationalist Party.

The result appeared to be vindication for Mr Chen's independence-leaning policies, after recent visits to the mainland by two Opposition leaders put him on the

defensive and transformed the National Assembly election into a test of strength for his ruling party.

China gave a lavish welcome to the two Opposition leaders — Mr

Lien Chan of the Nationalist Party and Mr James Soong of the People First Party — who favour eventual reunification with the mainland.

Mr Chen's supporters had urged followers to

vote in large numbers, saying that a vote against the DPP was a vote for unification with China.

Vice-President Ms Annette Lu of the DPP congratulated the party for its victory, and took a backhanded swipe at China for what she said were its failed efforts to influence the results.

"I would like to thank the Chinese Communist Party, because each time there is pressure from China, the people show that democracy is what people embrace here in Taiwan," the Vice-President said.

"Our Chinese friends on the mainland and (Chinese) President Hu Jintao, you have heard the voice of Taiwan's people... Taiwan belongs to its people," she added.



The vote is a boost for President Chen's party. AFP

# N Korea to resume talks with Seoul

Seoul, May 14

NORTH KOREA says it will return to inter-Korean dialogue, raising hopes here that Pyongyang might come back to six-party talks on ending its nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea's chief delegate to the high-level inter-Korean talks, senior councillor of the Cabinet Kwon Ho Ung, called for the resumption of the government-to-government talks after a 10-month hiatus. In a message sent to his South Korean counterpart unification minister Chung Dong-Young, Kwon suggested the two sides hold talks at the vice-ministerial-level early next week in the North Korean border town of Kaesong.

"We have the pleasure to notify you that we will send three delegates and three suite members to Kaesong from May 16 to 17 for the working-level talks," Kwon was quoted as saying in the message. Kwon said the move was "prompted by the desire to put relations between the two Koreas on a normal track in the idea of 'by our nation itself' at an early date," according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency.

South Korean vice unification minister Rhee Bong-Jo said he would lead a three-member delegation to the preliminary talks at Kaesong. "We hope that the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue will help facilitate the efforts to reopen the six-party talks," Rhee said, adding that ways of improving inter-Korean relations would also be on the agenda.

Pyongyang has persistently refused to discuss the nuclear issue at inter-Korean talks, arguing it must be dealt with at talks between Pyongyang and Washington. Rhee said the North was expected to call for fertiliser aid from the South, adding Seoul will consider providing fertiliser aid of up to 300,000 tonnes of fertiliser.

The proposal for talks with Seoul came after North Korea's No. 2 leader Kim Yong-Nam and the South's Prime Minister Lee Hae-Chan agreed on the need for the resumption of inter-Korean talks when they attended a summit of Asian and African leaders in Jakarta last month.

AFP



US assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill and South Korea's foreign minister Song Min-soon at Incheon airport.

## US AND CHINA

### US shrugs off China slur

THE WHITE House shrugged off China's veiled criticism of US policy toward North Korea, noting that the most important issue was to bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table.

"All our partners, including China, have made it clear that they're opposed to North Korea developing nuclear weapons. They all want to see a nuclear-free peninsula," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

"We're all saying to North Korea that they need to come back to the six-party talks so that we can talk about how to move forward on the proposal that was outlined at the last round of talks," he said.

The spokesman added that "there are no preconditions" for coming back to the talks. On Tuesday, Beijing indirectly rebuked US President George W. Bush for referring to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il as a "tyrant".

AFP, Washington

15 MAY 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Inter-Korean talks to resume

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** Raising hopes of some forward movement over the issue of North Korea's nuclear-weapons programme, South Korea announced on Saturday that the stalled bilateral talks with Pyongyang would be resumed on Monday.

The inter-Korean dialogue has remained suspended for nearly 10 months over the "defection" of several hundred North Koreans to the South from Vietnam through China. The bilateral parleys, first decided upon during the historic inter-Korean summit in 2000, do not actually constitute an agreed framework for discussions on Pyongyang's nuclear-weapons programme.

However, South Korea has, while responding now to the sudden "overture" from the North for the resumption of the bilateral talks, indicated that the nuclear issue, too, would now be placed on the agenda.

Speaking to reporters in Seoul on Saturday, the South Korean Vice-Minister for Unification, Rhee Bong-jo, said: "We will urge the North to rejoin the six-party talks as soon as possible. .... We are conveying the concerns of the international community over the North Korean nuclear issue".

## Nuclear move

Seoul's new move comes in the context of continuing speculation that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) might be preparing itself for carrying out an underground testing of a nuclear weapon.

While this speculation is based on U.S. "intelligence" as gathered through remote-sensing satellite imagery from outer space, Pyongyang's latest initiative for the resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue at this moment has given the South an opportunity to try and enlarge the scope of these bilateral talks, according to regional diplomats.

Pyongyang's new initiative was communicated to the South Korean Unification Minister, Chung Dong-young, by his DPRK counterpart, Kwon Ho-ung. While inter-Korean family reunions and Seoul's supply of fertilizer to the DPRK would figure in the fresh talks, Mr. Rhee indicated that a significant issue would be the "ways to get back on track the stalled inter-Korean relations" and the South's "position on the North Korean nuclear issue".

# Taiwan rejects China offer

Taipei/Beijing, May 13 (Reuters): Taiwan today rejected Chinese offers of economic sweeteners and a new formula to define current bilateral ties, dashing hopes for fresh talks between the rivals and prolonging a dangerous stalemate.

James Soong, head of Taiwan's second-biggest opposition party, and Chinese President Hu Jintao proposed a "two sides, one China" formula yesterday as a basis for talks between Beijing and an island it considers its own.

China also offered to ease employment for Taiwan residents on the mainland, simplify entry and exit procedures and reduce tuition fees for Taiwan students. The move came as Soong ended a nine-day visit, the latest in a string by opposition delegations.

Beijing's strategy aims to increase pressure on President Chen Shui-bian, who supports independence for Taiwan, the self-governing island. China insists must return to the fold. China's Kuomintang Nationalist authorities fled to Taiwan in 1949 and set up their government there after losing power on the mainland to Mao Zedong's communist armies.

Chen's government said today that any agreements be-

tween China and the island's opposition parties were of no consequence and Beijing should deal with the government on these issues.

"The government is disappointed and regrets that China's policy towards Taiwan is still rigid and shows no concrete sincerity to improve bilateral relations," said Michael You, vice chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council. "We insist any issues relating to government authority must be discussed through official channels on both sides," he said, adding that Taiwan remained willing to open dialogue with China on an equal basis with no preconditions.

China said its offers were aimed at deepening ties between the two sides. Economic links have flourished despite a long political stalemate that has turned the Taiwan Strait into a dangerous flashpoint.

"This is another gesture of sincerity of easing tensions across the Taiwan Strait," China's Xinhua news agency reported, quoting Chen Yunlin, head of China's Taiwan Affairs Office.

# N Korea raises nuke stakes

Associated Press

SEOUL, May 11. — North Korea today said it had completed removing spent nuclear fuel rods from a reactor — a move that would allow it to harvest more weapons-grade plutonium — in the Stalinist state's latest provocation amid a deadlock in disarmament talks.

A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement that the country had "successfully finished" removing 8,000 fuel rods from the reactor at its Yongbyon nuclear complex, which was shut down last month, so it can "bolster its nuclear arsenal".

South Korean media reported that reprocessing the spent rods could yield enough plutonium for about two nuclear bombs. To get the plutonium, the rods would first need to cool for a couple months and then be reprocessed, which also takes two months.

North Korea — which claims it already has at least one atomic weapon — is boosting its arsenal "for the defensive purpose of coping with the prevailing situation", the unnamed North Korean spokesman said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

The South Korean foreign ministry expressed "serious concern" at the development. "North Ko-

## Israeli fears

JERUSALEM, May 11. — Israel suspects that Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia might have acquired nuclear know-how from Pakistan's disgraced scientist Dr AQ Khan's network or from North Korea, a media report said. But Israel doesn't have any solid evidence of any secret nuclear activity beyond suspicions and circumstantial evidence, daily Ha'aretz said. Israeli officials, who deal with nuclear policy and weapons controls, are said to be keenly following the proceedings of the monitoring committee of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in New York, which convened yesterday for its second week of deliberations, it said. — PTI

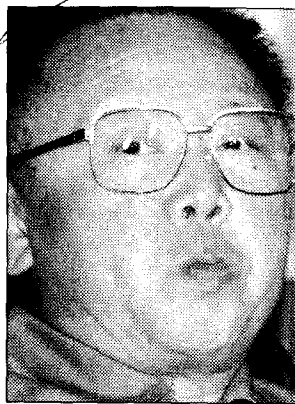
rea should immediately halt actions that have a negative impact" on efforts to resume disarmament talks, the ministry said. "We strongly urge North Korea to return to the six-party talks without delay."

The North spokesman emphasised Pyongyang's desire to have a self-reliant nuclear power industry.

Six-nation talks aimed at getting Pyongyang to give up its nuclear ambitions have been stalled since June, with Pyongyang insisting it won't return until Washington drops its "hostile policy". North Korea says the USA is planning an invasion.

12 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN



Kim Jong-il

## Korea on brink of first nuke blast: US

**FRANCIS HARRIS**

**Washington, May 7:** America's spy satellites have detected frenetic activity in North Korea indicating that the secretive Stalinist state is on the verge of detonating a nuclear weapon for the first time.

The preparations include the construction of a reviewing stand that might be used by Pyongyang's leadership to observe a test explosion.

Intelligence officers regard that as highly significant since Kim Jong-il's regime constructed a similar stand seven years ago when it fired a new missile over Japan, an act which triggered a major regional security crisis.

Three US officials described evidence of extensive tunnelling in the country's north-east in an area called Kilchu, similar to that required for an underground nuclear blast, the *New York Times* reported. The work was said to resemble the activity associated with Pakistan's nuclear test in 1998.

The activity could not be explained by commercial mining, American officials said. To prepare an underground test site, earth is removed and a nuclear device is placed deep underground before the spoil is reused to seal up the shaft.

The aim is to keep the radioactivity underground. "You see them ... taking material back into the mine to plug it up," an official explained. Bush administration officials told the newspaper that it was possible that the activity was designed to fool the Americans, to ratchet up the pressure on them to give ground to the impoverished state in negotiations.

On Thursday, President George W. Bush made a lengthy telephone call to Hu Jintao, the Chinese President, during which they discussed North Korea. Washington has also passed the intelligence material to its allies in the region, including Japan and South Korea.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

08 MAY 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

NEHA SAHAY

CHINA DIARY

## BACK FROM THE DEAD

**T**he entire country seems to have demonstrated against the Japanese attempt to rewrite history in their textbooks, by whitewashing the Rape of Nanjing in 1937 by their occupation troops, who systematically massacred 300,000 unarmed Chinese. Ironically, when students of Nanjing University wanted to march in protest against Japan last week, their professors told them not to.

"We can never forget," said a 21-year-old student for whom the horror is part of history. To make sure that his generation, and future ones never forget, the government has set up the Memorial of the Nanjing Massacre. Unlike other historical sites, entry here is free. Imaginatively designed to depict a desolate wasteland, with white cobblestones symbolizing corpses; huge stone reliefs depicting scenes of the massacre; photographs taken by Japanese soldiers of executions, of raped women crying in agony or being further humiliated by being made to strip; and even a life-like recreation of the construction site where the remains of thousands of bodies were excavated in 1998-99 — the memorial leaves visitors shaken. Memorial tablets listing the massacre sites and the number of bodies found in each exhort visitors never to forget, and advise the Chinese to learn from history and revitalize China to prevent any such incident recurring. If only a similar memorial existed to the Jallianwala Bagh victims!

### Golden city

Like Beijing, Nanjing is an old city whose recorded history goes back to 453 BC. It was twice China's capital, from the 14th to the 17th century and again during Chiang Kai Shek's reign, till Mao's army liberated it in 1949. A monument commemorating the Red Army's crossing of the Yangtze River on April 23, 1949 and the liberation of Nanjing from the Kuomintang, stands tall in the center of the city. Statues of Mao in various poses are available in the old city, and his slogan, exhorting students to unite, is inscribed on the gate of Nanjing University.

But unlike Beijing and Shanghai, Nanjing's old quarter, called Fuzimiao, has been allowed to retain its distinct character. A centre of Confucian studies for the last 1,500 years, Fuzimiao's main attraction is the Qinhuai River. On both sides of its banks are traditional Chinese buildings, the most important being the Confucius Temple, which has the tallest statue of Confucius in China, erected just 20 years ago. Nearby are the imperial examination halls, where aspiring bureaucrats sat in separate cubicles to write their exams, though even this did not prevent cheating, according to the inscriptions there.

It was not even 100 years ago that the imperial exams were abolished to make way for a public school system. Yet, the contrast between the turn-of-the-century elites and their descendants today couldn't be greater — the former characterized by their pigtails and their long silk gowns, the latter in jeans and streaked hair.

Fuzimiao abounds in contrasts: just 20 feet from the Confucius Temple are KFC, McDonald's and an old-style theatre. Young girls in the shortest of black hot pants, bikini tops and boots strut around its entrance, inviting viewers inside, while an open police jeep makes its rounds. In contrast, the new Nanjing city seems deserted even in this "Golden May Day Holiday Week".

EGRAPH





# China lifts Taiwan tourism curbs

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, May 3. — Beijing will lift restrictions on Chinese tourists to Taiwan. The Chinese government has also offered to scrap tariffs on more than 10 kinds of fruit from Taiwan and allow imports of six more fruit species, in a package of aids to help the island's economy.

The offerings, in addition to a pair of giant pandas, were made by Beijing as a gesture of goodwill at the end of a landmark visit by Taiwan Kuomintang (KMT) leader Mr Lien Chan today.

However, it is up to the Taiwan government headed by Mr Chen Shui-bian whether the offerings will be accepted and implemented, analysts said.

"We feel that their gift of giant pandas is partly to further their political goal of re-unification," said DPP member Jao Yung-ching at a news conference in Taiwan.

Mr Lien is the first KMT chairman to set foot on the mainland since 1949. He has left Shanghai for Taipei on Tuesday after a historical week-long trip in which he also visited Nanjing, Beijing and Xi'an.

The trip "finished very happily, smoothly and successfully", Mr Lien said before boarding the plane. "We have been warmly received by the central committee of the Communist Party." The Taiwanese Opposition leader said the KMT had agreed with China's Communist Party to establish a "platform" for exchanges in the economic and trade field. "The establishment of such a platform is of vital importance, as currently there's still no sign of official contacts between the two sides," he said, referring to the chilly relationship between Taiwan's government and Beijing.

"The Taiwan government should make adequate preparation so that the two sides can negotiate and implement their agreement to end hostilities," Lien said.

Lien said that as part of the peace agreement, the two sides ought to set up a system of military confidence-building measures. "Oral arrangements are not enough," he said. "It's important to establish a system to ensure mutual military

Beijing's offers gave Lien high-profile symbolic success to help deflect criticism from



GOODWILL GESTURE: China on Tuesday said it would present Taiwan with a pair of pandas as a symbol of friendship. — AFP

those in Taiwan who accuse him of selling out the island's interests.

His success could boost his party's platform of unification with China, while undermining Chen's independence-leaning policies.

The fruit tariff exemption could help the KMT win supporters in southern Taiwan, a mainly agricultural region, eroding the support base of Mr Chen Shui-bian, who is reviled by the mainlanders and overseas Chinese community for his pro-independence stance.

"The mainland is ready to provide convenience in terms of

toms pass, inspection and quarantine for Taiwan fruits to access the mainland market," the head of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, Mr Chen Yunlin, said. "We hope relevant Taiwan departments in charge of the issue will give the green light for Taiwan agricultural

organisations to hold consultations with the mainland on issues concerning the place of origin certificate, inspection, quarantine as well as direct transport to improve efficiency and reduce risk."

The biggest obstacle to the sale of Taiwan's farm

duce on the mainland was the absence of direct flights. Beijing has been pushing for Taipei to end a decades-old ban on direct trade, transport and mail links.

Mr Lien's visit, and one starting later this week by James Soong, head of Taiwan's People First Party (PFP), "helped deepen the affection between Chinese compatriots on the two sides," Mr Chen said. "We hope the pandas, with their tame nature, air of nobleness and cuddly looks will bring joy and laughter to the Taiwan compatriots, children in particular."

04 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Missile test hits peace hopes

## N. Korean projectile can hit U.S., fears intelligence agency

Justin McCurry 11/15

**TOKYO:** International efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its suspected nuclear weapons programme were in danger of unravelling on Sunday amid reports that it has launched a short-range conventional missile into the Sea of Japan.

"It appears that there was a test of a short-range missile by the North Koreans and it landed in the Sea of Japan," the White House Chief of Staff, Andrew Card, said.

U.S. agencies were still assessing the information to determine exactly what

took place. Yonhap, the official South Korean news agency, quoted intelligence officials in Seoul as saying a missile was launched just north of Hamhung on North Korea's east coast.

Japanese media had earlier quoted Government sources as saying that the missile, launched at around 8 a.m. Japanese time, had a range of about 100 km and was most likely to have been an anti-ship or small ballistic missile.

It was not immediately clear whether the launch was a test.

The launch of a missile would almost certainly damage the prospects for the multi-party nuclear talks involving the

two Koreas, China, the U.S., Russia and Japan, which have been stalled for almost a year.

### "Negotiating tactic"

However, analysts say such launches are part of a familiar negotiating tactic — that of creating a minor crisis which could force concessions.

The North is thought to have test-fired short-range missiles three times in 2003. The U.S. defence intelligence agency has said that Pyongyang could mount a nuclear warhead on a missile capable of hitting the U.S. west coast. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

03 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

## Neighbours shrug off N. Korea missile test

**Seoul/Tokyo, May 2**  
(Reuters): North Korea's suspected missile test at the weekend was not a major worry for the region since it appeared to be a short-range weapon incapable of carrying a nuclear warhead, officials said today.

But the test would strain efforts to restart talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programmes, they said.

North Korea test-launched what appeared to be a short-range missile into the Sea of Japan yesterday, US officials said.

The test came as Washington officials indicated Pyongyang may be headed toward a nuclear test.

"Is this the kind of missile that can carry a nuclear warhead? Not really," a South Korean government official said on condition of anonymity, referring to yesterday's test.

A defence ministry spokeswoman in Tokyo said Japan had yet to confirm whether the launch took place.

"At this point, the missile in question is thought to have flown a very short distance and cannot be described as something that immediately has a particular impact on our country's security," a spokeswoman said.

Analysts said Pyongyang may have meant to send a jolt to a six-party process aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions, which have been stalled since June 2004.

03 MAY 2005 THE TELEGRAPH

# Taipei rejects truce talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAIPEI, April 30. — Taiwan's Premier today said Opposition leader Mr Lien Chan made illegal pledges during a meeting with China's President — the highest-level contact since the Communists and Nationalists split during a civil war nearly six decades ago.

In Beijing yesterday, Mr Lien and Chinese President Hu Jintao said they would promote an end to cross-strait hostilities and seek closer economic ties.

In Taipei today, Taiwan Premier Mr Frank Hsieh said it was up to the government to negotiate deals with China, not Opposition groups.

"The Opposition party must make an effort to become the ruling party, and then represent the people and go negotiate," he told reporters. "You



*Premier Mr Frank Hsieh*

can't have the Opposition going to negotiate, that's not defensible from a legal standpoint."

Other government officials have also criticised the meeting, calling Beijing insincere and saying the talks would not improve frosty relations.

Mr Hsieh also had a dig at how the Nationalist-led Opposition — which holds a majority in Taiwan's parliament — obstructed government proposals. "I envy the Communist Party — in 15 minutes they can reach a consensus. But here at the legislature, public works budgets still haven't been passed after 15 months," he said.

Also yesterday, Mr Lien voiced concerns that Taiwan's democracy could "recede" and accused the island's judiciary of a lack of impartiality.

Mr Su Tseng-chang, chairman of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, said Mr Lien's comments were ill-placed. "Mr Lien... goes to China, (a country) which doesn't have democracy, to criticise Taiwan's democracy... that makes people shake their head."

04 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

# China, Taiwan parties pledge to halt hostilities

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, April 29. — The Communist Party of China (CPC) and Taiwan's Opposition Kuomintang party (KMT) have agreed to work jointly to promote the formal end of hostilities across the Taiwan Straits, according to a statement released after a meeting between the Chinese President, Mr Hu Jintao, and visiting KMT leader Mr Lien Chan today.

The two parties will also work together for reaching a peace accord and establish a framework for peaceful and steady development of cross-Straits relations, including a

mechanism of military mutual trust in order to avoid military conflicts between the two sides.

The two parties have reached consensus of a wide range of issues regarding the promotion for the early resumption of cross-Straits dialogue, the signing of a peace accord and the building of a mechanism for military mutual trust, according to the press release.

## ■ International activities

The KMT and CPC agreed to discuss the issue of Taiwan's participation in international activities after the resumption of dialogue across the Taiwan Straits. "Priority will be given to

the discussion about Taiwan's participation in activities of the World Health Organisation. The two sides will join hands to create conditions and find a way out step by step," according to the release.

## ■ 'Taiwan independence'

The two parties also reached consensus to adhere to the 1992 Consensus and oppose "Taiwan's independence". It is the common stance of the CPC and the KMT to seek ways for the peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, promote the cross-Straits relations, and safeguard the interests for people across the Taiwan Straits, the release said.

## ■ Economic cooperation

The two parties agreed to carry out all-round economic cooperation, cement economic and trade relations and promote the "three direct links" across the Taiwan Straits. The two parties also agreed to take steps to increase and guarantee investment and trade across the Straits and enhance cooperation in agriculture and fishery sectors to facilitate the sales of Taiwan farm produce to the mainland.

They would also work to improve the order of cross-Straits exchanges and crack down on crime in order to establish a stable economic cooperation mechanism and

promote the discussion for establishing a cross-Straits common market.

## ■ Regular exchanges

The two parties have agreed to maintain regular exchanges on the cross-Straits relations, according to the joint communiqué. People from all walks of life will be invited to join in their discussions on issues concerning the interests of the people across the Taiwan Straits. Both KMT and CPC hope the meeting will benefit the people across the Straits, open up a new chapter for the cross-Straits relations and lead to a bright future of the Chinese nationality.



HISTORIC HANDSHAKE: Taiwan's Opposition Kuomintang Party leader, Mr Lien Chan (left), with President Hu Jintao in Beijing on Friday. — AFP

THE STATESMAN

30 APR 2005

# Taiwan leader on 'historic' China visit



Supporters and opponents of Lien Chan scuffle at Chiang Kai-shek International airport in Taiwan.

**Reuters**  
*Nanjing, April 26*

**TAIWAN OPPOSITION** leader Lien Chan began a historic "journey of peace" to China on Tuesday, seeking reconciliation with an old enemy even as pro-independence supporters in Taipei protested against the trip.

Lien, the first chairman of the Nationalist Party or Kuomintang (KMT) to set foot on Chinese soil since 1949, when the party was toppled by the communists and fled to Taiwan, was lavished with red-carpet treatment and flowers upon his arrival in Nanjing.

"Geographically, Nanjing is not far from Taipei but it has been more than 60 years since my last visit here," Lien told a crowd on the tarmac, referring to the Nationalists' one-time capital. "So, seeing you now, I regret that I have not seen you earlier."

China views Taiwan as

part of its territory and has pointed an estimated 700 missiles at the democratically ruled island, making Taiwan Strait one of Asia's most dangerous hot spots. Tensions have been re-ignited by Beijing's enactment of an anti-secession law in March, which sanctioned non-peaceful measures against Taiwan should it push for formal statehood.

In Taipei, protesters called Lien "traitor!" and scuffled with riot police at the airport, infuriated that he appeared to be playing into Beijing's strategy of wooing the pro-unification opposition to alienate independence-leaning Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian.

Lien, whose KMT party supports unification with a democratic China, avoided the angry crowds who waved sticks, threw eggs, fired slingshots and lit firecrackers. Several protesters had bloodied foreheads.

27 APR 2005

27 APR 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Taiwan Opposition leader in China on peace mission

Lien Chan's eight-day visit could be a path-breaking exercise

P. S. Suriyanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** The Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman and Taiwan's Opposition leader, Lien Chan, arrived in Nanjing in China's mainland on Tuesday on an eight-day visit which, according to political observers in the region, could turn out to be a path-breaking exercise.

The international community recognises the non-sovereign territory of Taiwan as an integral part of the People's Republic of China (PRC) under the universally endorsed One-China policy.

Mr. Lien, who had earlier accepted the tour-invitation from the Communist Party of China

(CPC) Central Committee, is scheduled to meet the President, Hu Jintao.

The meeting will be the first between the highest leaders of the CPC and the KMT since August 1945, when Chairman Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-Shek, met at Chongqing to "negotiate an end to the civil war" between the two sides, it was recalled in Beijing on Tuesday. With the CPC triumphing in the civil war, the PRC came into being in 1949, even as Taiwan became home to the KMT and its followers.

Mr. Lien will visit Beijing, Xi'an [his birthplace] and Shanghai, besides Nanjing, once the capital of the KMT regime.

Mr. Lien said he was hopeful

that his visit to the Chinese mainland could "lay the groundwork for improved relations and closer trade links" across the Taiwan Straits.

## Scuffles at airport

Scuffles broke out between the KMT followers and the supporters of Taiwan's 'pro-independence' President, Chen Shui-bian, at the Taipei airport, even as Mr. Lien left for Nanjing.

While these clashes were seen in the regional diplomatic circles as a sign of the current political divide within Taiwan, Mr. Lien had emphasised, a day earlier, that "cross-Straits exchanges should no longer be hampered by the mindset of civil war."

The KMT, which now described Mr. Lien's visit as "a journey of peace," had earlier sent a delegation, led by Chiang Pin-kung, to the Chinese mainland on what was described as "an ice-breaking trip."

Mr. Lien's visit has acquired much importance in the cross-Straits relations in the specific context of the new Taiwan-related anti-secession law that China's National People's Congress has enacted.

According to diplomatic sources, China's anti-secession law is an answer to the Taiwan Relations Act of the United States - an enactment which Washington often cites in its dealings with Beijing.

# China, Japan to mend ripped ties

Jakarta, April 23 (Reuters): The leaders of China and Japan agreed to mend ruptured ties during ice-breaking talks in Jakarta today, although Chinese President Hu Jintao said Japan needed to learn from its wartime past.

The talks came a day after Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made an unusually public apology for Japan's past atrocities in Asia during a summit of Asian and African leaders in the Indonesian capital.

Ties between the Asian giants had deteriorated to their worst since the normalisation

of relations in 1972, putting at risk economic links worth \$212 billion in annual trade.

"If the appearance of serious problems in Sino-Japanese relations is not handled properly ... not only will it be detrimental to China and Japan, but it will also affect the stability and development of Asia," Hu said.

"Remorse expressed for the war of aggression should be translated into action. (Japan) should never do anything again that would hurt the feelings of the Chinese people or the people of other Asian countries."

Koizumi said he had frank and meaningful exchange with Hu, adding the two had agreed not to debate Japan's wartime history or visits by Japanese politicians to a controversial war shrine in Tokyo, both sources of much of the friction.

"We were able to confirm at the meeting that rather than criticising each other's past shortcomings and aggravating antagonistic feelings, we should make efforts to develop the bilateral friendship," Koizumi said after the one-hour talks.

"The Japan-China friend-

ship is beneficial not only for the two countries but also for Asia and the international community."

Hu said differences between the countries needed to be resolved through dialogue. Japan also needed to meet its commitments not to support the independence of Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province, Hu added.

There have been violent anti-Japan demonstrations in China over school history textbooks that critics say sugarcoat its wartime history and over other irritants, including Tokyo's campaign for a per-

manent seat on the UN Security Council.

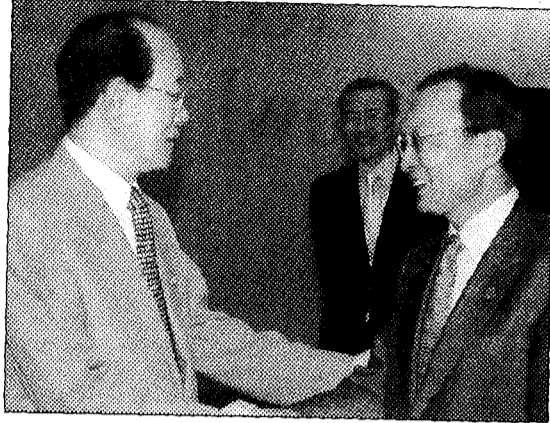
The two shook hands as they met in a ballroom, Koizumi using both hands but appearing relaxed while Hu was stiff and expressionless. When they sat opposite each other at a long table, Koizumi told Hu about his trip to the tsunami-hit province of Aceh.

"I went to Aceh province today ... I saw that a roof of a two-storey building had been destroyed by the tsunami and realised how tall the waves were," Koizumi said before reporters were ushered out of the room.



Hu Jintao in Jakarta. (AFP)





AP

North Korean leader Kim Yong-Nam and South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-Chan meet in Jakarta.

## No breakthrough in Korea N-talks

Reuters  
Jakarta, April 23

*8 Apr 17 21/4*

NORTH AND South Korea discussed the stalled six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear plans in Jakarta on Saturday, but there was no breakthrough on the impasse.

It was the second high-level meeting between the two sides after their first such contact in five years the previous day.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, however, said the second-ranked leaders of the two Koreas, who met on the sidelines of an Asia-Africa summit, did agree that stalled bilateral dialogue between them should resume.

The North had broken off formal contact with the South last July after Seoul airlifted 468 North Korean defectors from Vietnam, angering Pyongyang.

"It was the highest-level meeting between the South and the North since the summit on June 15, 2000," said South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, after the talks with North Korea's president of parliament, Kim Yong-nam, who deferred to Lee when asked by reporters to comment.

"We had a great deal of

frank discussions on important issues ... going beyond scheduled time.

It was a good meeting," Lee said. The discussions lasted about 30 minutes.

"We had frank discussions about dialogue between the authorities (of the South and North) and the six-party talks," he said without elaborating.

Kim Yong-nam echoed the North's existing position on the six-party talks, saying Pyongyang would return to the table "if the climate is mature," Yonhap quoted Lee's spokesman as saying.

But on bilateral dialogue, the spokesman quoted Kim as saying: "Based on the principle of co-existence of our people, it is the North's firm position to realise talks between the authorities of the North and South."

The two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China have met for three rounds of discussions — aimed by the others at stopping the North's development of nuclear weapons — without substantive progress.

A fourth round scheduled for last year never took place because Pyongyang wants Washington to drop what it calls a hostile policy.

24 APR 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Taiwan leader to visit China after 56 yrs

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, April 20. — Mr Lien Chan, chairman of Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) party, will visit the mainland cities of Nanjing, Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai from 26 April to 3 May, officials said today.

Mr Lien will be the first KMT chairman to visit the mainland since the then ruling party fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war.

The schedule was jointly decided by the Taiwan Work Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the relevant department of the KMT party.

Mr Lien will lead a KMT delegation for the visit at the invitation of Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

On 18 April Mr Chen Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Work Office of CPC Central Committee, held talks with Mr Lin Feng-cheng, secretary-general of the KMT party, to finalise details of Mr Lien's trip.

"I will sincerely exchange views with Chinese Communist Party general secretary Hu Jintao on issues of mutual concerns," Mr Lien told KMT officials and reporters.

"My goal is to seek peace and stability over the Taiwan Strait and to create a mutually beneficial basis for the future development of cross-strait relations," he said. "We are making the trip with peace, goodwill and sincerity in mind... there is no need to blow up the issue like some 'friends' are deliberately doing so," he said.

Mr Lien is scheduled to head to Nanjing on 26 April on his eight-day "peace trip" that will also take him to Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

## Appeal for calm

China today appealed to its people to end violent protests over Japan's handling of its wartime past, urging them to express their feelings in a "calm" way, but also asked Tokyo to adopt "a correct view of history" if it wants to improve Sino-Japanese relations, adds PTI

21 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Halt at North Korean nuclear reactor raises bomb fear

Move designed to pressure America to resume talks?

Jonathan Watts

**LONDON:** North Korea has halted operations at its nuclear reactor, prompting the fear that it may be extracting fuel rods for processing into weapons-grade plutonium.

Less than a week after Pyongyang threatened to expand its atomic arsenal, the action seems to be designed to frighten the U.S. and regional powers into resuming talks.

The 5MW reactor in Yongbyon is thought to have been in operation since early 2003, several months after international nuclear inspectors were ejected.

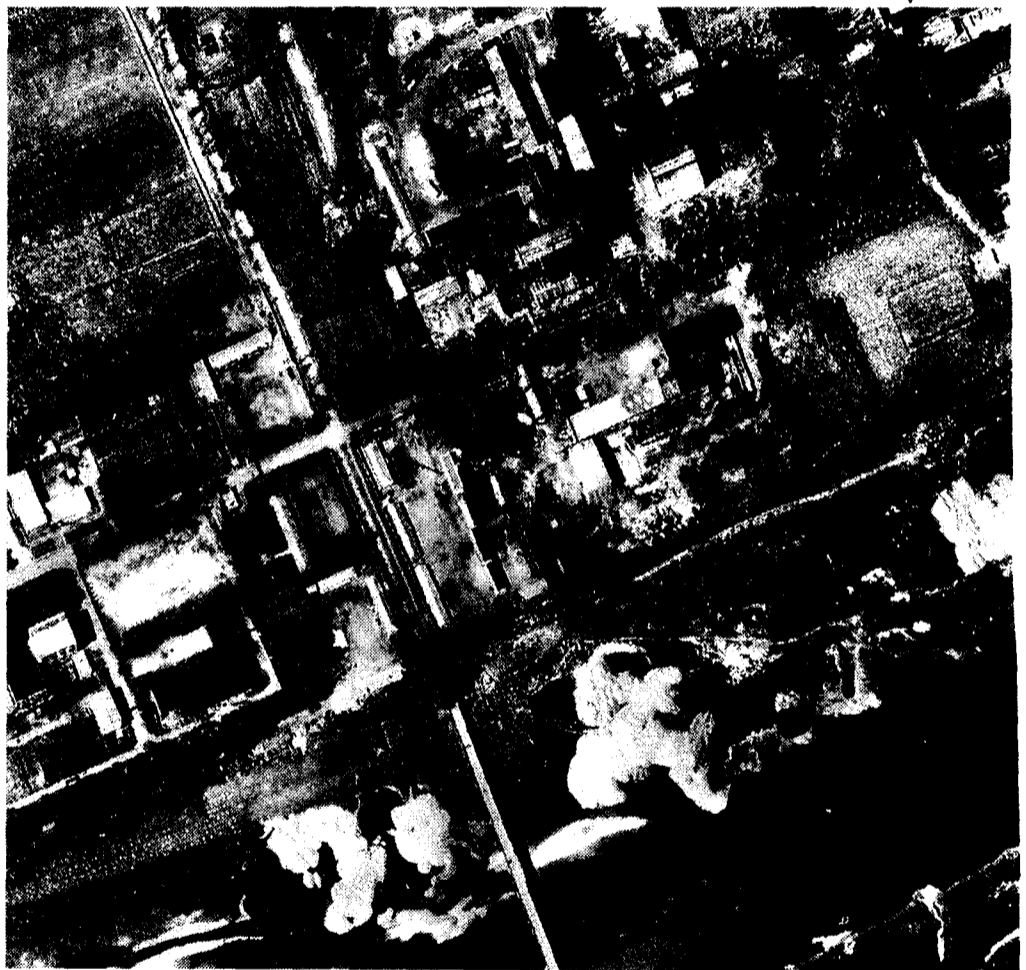
Analysts estimate that the rods could yield enough plutonium for at least two bombs if North Korea has the necessary reprocessing technology.

The CIA and South Korean intelligence believe Pyongyang has enough fissile material for six weapons. More would increase its military options or, it is feared, let it sell bombs for much needed foreign currency.

"I think we'll have to deal with the suspension of the 5MW reactor as a weighty issue," Kim Sook, Director-General of the South Korean Foreign Ministry, told journalists.

Last week, North Korea boasted that it was "a mighty possessor of nuclear weapons."

Kim Yong-nam, the National Assembly president, said, "We will continue to expand our atomic forces as long as the United States conducts policies to isolate and suffocate North Korea." Washington is thought



**CLOSURE OPENS FEARS:** A nuclear facility in Yongbyon, North Korea, is seen in this DigitalGlobe satellite image. — REUTERS

to be considering a tougher policy towards Pyongyang, including asking the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions.

The first Bush administration

nullified an agreement which froze North Korea's nuclear programme for eight years but put nothing in its place.

Sporadic talks aimed at easing

the nuclear stand-off have produced no tangible results after almost two years. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

20 APR 2005

THE HINDU

# N Korea's brakes on nukes baffle world

Reuters  
Seoul, April 18

NORTH KOREA has suspended the operation of its nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, a South Korean foreign ministry official said on Monday, a move analysts said could be aimed at extracting material for nuclear weapons.

The official said the purpose of the stoppage was unclear, but also said Seoul was treating the suspension as a potentially serious development.

North Korea said explicitly for the first time in February that it possessed nuclear weapons. It has also previously said it had reprocessed nuclear fuel to get

weapons-grade plutonium. South Korean and Japanese media reported at the weekend that North Korea had stopped the reactor in Yongbyon. "We have more or less what had been reported in the media, but we'll have to see what North Korea's intention or its future actions will be," Kim Sook, the foreign ministry's director general for North American affairs, said.

Analysts said a suspension of the plant could allow the North to extract spent fuel rods, which could be turned into weapons-grade plutonium. "I think we'll have to deal with the suspension of the 5-megawatt reactor as a weighty issue," Kim added. Selig Harrison of the Washington-based Centre for Interna-

tional Policy said that North Koreans had told him the plant would be shut to remove spent fuel rods as part of routine maintenance. Harrison visited Pyongyang earlier this month and met senior North Korean officials.

The plant in Yongbyon had been shut down and sealed under a 1994 pact between the US and North Korea, but is believed to have been restarted in early 2003. North Korea is also suspected of running a separate nuclear development program based on uranium enrichment technology.

There has been little progress in multilateral talks started in 2003 to negotiate an end to the North's nuclear programs, including the sus-

pected uranium-based scheme. The two Koreas, the US, Japan, Russia and China have met for three rounds of the talks, but a fourth round has not materialised after the North demanded an end to what it called a hostile policy by the US.

The North said on Monday that a new plan drawn up by the South Korean and US military, which is reported to include scenarios such as a North Korean collapse, was proof that Washington had no intention of settling the nuclear issue peacefully.

"The DPRK's nuclear weapons serve as main deterrent to avert a war and ensure peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of northeast Asia," the North's 'Rodong Sinmun' newspaper said.

19 Apr 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Taiwanese march against war threat

Associated Press  
Taiwan, March 26

HUNDREDS OF thousands of Taiwanese marched in the capital on Saturday to protest Beijing's new law sanctioning the use of force if Taiwan moves toward formal independence. "China is a violent country. We want nothing to do with it," said protester Wu Chao-hsiung, a carpenter from Taipei. "We have to insist on the freedom to determine our own fate," he added.

China's annual session of parliament passed the anti-secession law on March 14. Beijing has claimed Taiwan as its own since their split at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. Thousands of tour buses from all over the island arrived in Taipei filled with protesters, who assembled in 10 different areas — each route representing one of the articles of the anti-secession law. The protesters then converged on the wide boulevard in front of the President's office. Police estimated the crowd at about a million.

President Chen Shui-bian, a fierce critic of Beijing's communist leadership, appeared at an intersection along one of the protest routes and waved at bystanders. As he promised, Chen didn't speak at the rally, but he mounted a stage and chanted slogans with the crowds. He closed off the event by singing a song — *Taiwan is our baby*.

China's state-run *China Daily* said the march could raise tensions and set back bilateral ties, and cautioned against acts by Chen at the rally.

# Pyongyang thumbs its nose at Washington

4 **Seoul:** North Korea raised the stakes in the nuclear standoff on Tuesday, saying it had increased its atomic arsenal as Washington pressed Pyongyang to return to six-party talks.

1 Just hours after US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called on North Korea to make a "strategic" choice to drop its nuclear weapons, Pyongyang said it had already taken measures to boost its arsenal.

1 **"In the face of the enemy's mounting war provocations, our armed forces and the people have already been fully prepared for war mobilisations in order to bust any aggression attempts at one sweep and taken the decisive measure of increasing our nuclear arsenal,"** North Korea said in a radio broadcast monitored here by Yonhap news agency.

1 The North Korean statement came as the country's premier, Pak Pong-ju, arrived in China for talks that are likely to touch on the nuclear crisis. China is the North's main benefactor and analysts said

Pak's talks in Beijing would probably cover how the North responds to Rice's visit.

China has hosted three inconclusive rounds of the talks that include North and South Korea, the US, Chi-



**North Korean premier Pak Pong-Ju (right) reviews a guard of honour in Beijing on Tuesday accompanied by his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao**

na, Japan and Russia. A fourth round planned for late 2004 never materialised.

South Korean officials said North's announcement on Tuesday was Pyongyang's way of toughening its stance against Washington and expressing its anger about war games in the South. Agencies

# US misled allies on N Korea N-transfer

DAFNA LINZER

WASHINGTON, MARCH 20

**I**N AN effort to increase pressure on North Korea, the Bush administration told its Asian allies in briefings earlier this year that Pyongyang had exported nuclear material to Libya. That was a significant new charge, the first allegation that North Korea was helping to create a new nuclear weapons state. But that is not what US intelligence reported, according to two officials with knowledge of the transaction.

North Korea, according to the intelligence, had supplied uranium hexafluoride — which can be enriched to weapons-grade uranium — to Pakistan. It was Pakistan, a key US ally with its own nuclear arsenal, that sold the material to Libya. The US government had no evidence, the officials said, that North Korea knew of the sec-

ond transaction. Pakistan's role as both the buyer and the seller was concealed to cover up the part played by Washington's partner in the hunt for Al-Qaeda leaders, according to the officials, who discussed the issue on the condition of anonymity.

In addition, a North Korea-Pakistan transfer would not have been news to the US allies, which have known of such transfers for

## WASHINGTON POST

years and viewed them as a business matter between sovereign states. The Bush administration's approach, intended to isolate North Korea, instead left allies increasingly doubtful as they began to learn that the briefings omitted essential details about the transaction, US officials and foreign diplomats said.

North Korea responded to public reports last month about the briefings by withdrawing from talks with its neighbors and

Reuters



**Ahead of a Sunday meeting with Wen Jiabao, Condoleezza Rice said the US would not allow the stalemate over talks with North Korea to go on forever.**

the US. In an effort to repair the damage, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is traveling through East Asia this weekend trying to get the six-nation talks back on track.

The details follow a string of controversies concerning the Bush administration's use of intelligence on weapons of mass destruction, especially in the run up to the Iraq war.

The US briefed allies on North Korea in late January and early February. Shortly afterward, administration officials, speaking to *The Washington Post* on the condition of anonymity, said North Korea had sold uranium hexafluoride to Libya and portrayed the briefings as part of regular discussions with China, South Korea and Japan ahead of a new round of hoped-for negotiations on North Korea's nuclear programme.

But in recent days, two other US officials said the briefings were hastily arranged after China and South Korea indicated they were considering bolting from the six-party talks.

# North Korea sounds N-warning for US

## Pyongyang Says It May Increase Arsenal to Prevent American Attack

Seoul: North Korea on Tuesday said it might increase its nuclear arsenal to maintain a balance of power in east Asia and prevent an US attack on the reclusive Communist state.

Pyongyang's latest statement came as US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice left for Asia to push for a resumption of the stalled six-party talks aimed at curbing the North's nuclear ambitions. Bush administration officials have repeatedly said the US had no intention of invading North Korea. "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will take necessary counter-measures, including bolstering its nuclear arsenal, to cope with the extremely hostile attempt of the US to bring down the system in the DPRK," a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said, adding, "The reality testifies to the fact that the DPRK's nuclear weapons serve as a powerful deterrent to keep the equilibrium of forces in the region, avert a new war and ensure peace." The comments came at the end of a long critique of annual US-South Korean joint military training exercises, which the North condemns each time they are held.

Meanwhile, a Russian agency reported that

North Korea would hold civil defence drills across the country in response to the South-US joint manoeuvres which begin on Saturday.

For the first time ever, North Korea officially declared last month that it had nuclear weapons. It said it needed them to counter what it called Washington's hostile policies. When Pyongyang made its nuclear boast, it also said it was pulling out of the disarmament talks. It later hinted at a return to the negotiating table if the conditions were right and the US showed what it called "sincerity".

However, China, the Communist North's main benefactor and its sole remaining major ally, is believed to be increasingly impatient over signs that Pyongyang is dragging its heels over the six-party talks. Since August 2003, Beijing has hosted three inconclusive rounds of talks involving the two Koreas, the US, China, Japan and Russia. A fourth round planned for late 2004 never materialised. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said North Korean Premier Pak Pong-ju would visit China from March 22 to 27. Although Pak is considered an economics expert, Liu said he expected Pak and Chinese officials to discuss nuclear issues. Pak, who appears

to be taking on an increasingly high profile in the secretive state, is reported to have accompanied the North's leader Kim Jong-Il on a recent visit to the Russian embassy in Pyongyang.

Meanwhile, Rice recently told in an interview that Pyongyang was throwing up "smoke screens" in its continued refusal to return to the six-way talks. "Let's be realistic. This isn't an issue of what we say or what we don't say. This is an issue of whether the North Koreans come to the table prepared to make a strategic choice to give up their nuclear activities," she said. Rice said she would discuss with Chinese, South Korean and Japanese officials "what other steps need to be taken" to deal with the nuclear issue.

There has been a flurry of diplomatic activity in the weeks leading up to Rice's visit to Asia, as negotiators to the nuclear talks and other government officials shuffled between meetings in an attempt to coax the North back to the table. South Korea's defence ministry said minister Yoon Kwang-ung would visit China from March 30 to April 2 for talks with Chinese officials. They would discuss the North's nuclear weapons programmes and bilateral military cooperation. Reuters



A woman holds a picture of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il marked with a cross during an anti-Pyongyang rally in Seoul recently



# China can 'legally' invade Taiwan now

Associated Press  
Beijing, March 14

CHINA'S PARLIAMENT enacted a law on Monday, authorising force to stop rival Taiwan from pursuing formal independence, sparking outrage on the self-governing island and warnings that the measure would fuel regional tensions.

The National People's Congress passed the law despite US appeals for restraint. It came a day after President Hu Jintao called on China's military to be ready for war and followed a 12.6 per cent increase in the country's defence budget for 2005.

Premier Wen Jiabao said the mainland still wants to unite peacefully with the island and doesn't want to disrupt the status quo. "It is not targeted at the people of Taiwan, nor is

it a war bill," Wen said at a news conference. But he also warned outsiders not to get involved: "We do not wish to see foreign intervention." A Taiwanese government spokesman rejected the measure as a "serious provocation."

"It brings emotional pain to the Taiwanese people, restricts Taiwan's freedom and democracy, and has a serious impact on security in the East-Asia region," said Joseph Wu, chairman of the island's Mainland Affairs Council, which handles policy toward Beijing.

In a session broadcast on national television, the Chinese delegates burst into applause after the law was approved by a 2,896 to 0 vote, with two abstentions. The body usually votes overwhelmingly for Communist Party policies, but the emphatic result was

meant to send a message of the intensity of Beijing's sentiment on the issue.

Taiwan and China split in 1949. Beijing has threatened repeatedly to attack if it tries to make its de facto independence permanent. The United States is Taiwan's biggest arms supplier and could be drawn into any conflict over the island.

A leading Taiwanese lawmaker criticised the measure as a "savage law." It shows that China feels futile and doesn't know how to deal with Taiwan's democracy and freedom," said Chen Chin-jun, a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. "We can clearly see that Taiwan and China are not one country. They are two Chinas or one country on each side," Chen said in Taipei. "Whatever law they passed, Taiwan has its own sovereignty, government and democracy."

LEGISLATION AUTHORIZES USE OF FORCE AGAINST TAIWAN

# China tables anti-cessation law

China Daily/ANN & AP

BEIJING, March 8 — China put forward a law today authorising an attack if Taiwan moves toward formal independence, ratcheting up pressure on the self-ruled island while warning other countries not to interfere.

Taiwan denounced the legislation as a "blank check to invade" and announced war games aimed at repelling an attack.

The proposed anti-cession law, read out for the first time before the ceremonial National People's Congress, doesn't say what specific actions might invite a Chinese attack. "If possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted, the state shall employ non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Mr Wang Kang, deputy chairman of the NPC's Standing Committee, told the nearly 3,000 NPC members gathered in the Great Hall of the People.

Beijing claims Taiwan, split from China since 1949, is part of its territory. The communist mainland repeatedly has threatened to invade if Taiwan tries to make its independence permanent, and the new law doesn't impose any new conditions or make new threats. But it lays out for the first time legal requirements for military action.

Mainland lawmakers immediately expressed support for the anti-cession measure, which is sure to be passed when they vote on 14 March. The NPC routinely approves all legislation already decided by Communist Party leaders.

Mainland Taiwan's military "a blank check to invade Taiwan" and "exposed the Chinese communist Party leaders.



POLITICS CAN BE SO BORING: Some of the delegates take a nap during the session of the annual National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday. — AFP

analysts said. The largely ceremonial position was the last top post Mr Jiang held in the government for the past 15 years and his stepping down marks full retirement from active politics.

law was prompted in part by Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian's plans for a referendum on a new Constitution for the island that Beijing worries might include a declaration of independence.

## Jiang's resignation

China's parliament today overwhelmingly approved the resignation of Mr Jiang Zemin as the Chairman of the State Central Military Commission, formally ending his chequered political career while paving way for President Hu Jintao to succeed him.

The largely ceremonial position was the last top post Mr Jiang held in the government for the past 15 years and his stepping down marks full retirement from active politics, analysts said.

# No independence for Taiwan: China

Reuters  
Beijing, March 5

CHINESE PREMIER Wen Jiabao opened the annual session of the National People's Congress in Beijing by saying a planned anti-secession law would never permit independence for Taiwan.

Addressing the gathering of almost 3,000 delegates in the vast Great Hall of the People on Saturday, Wen said the law reflects the "strong determination of the Chinese people to never allow secessionist forces working for Taiwan independence to separate Taiwan from China."

But in his two-hour speech, Wen gave few details of a law that could provide a legal basis for an attack on the island. China has considered Taiwan a renegade province since communist forces drove national-ists from the mainland in 1949, and has repeatedly threatened to use military power against the island if it declares

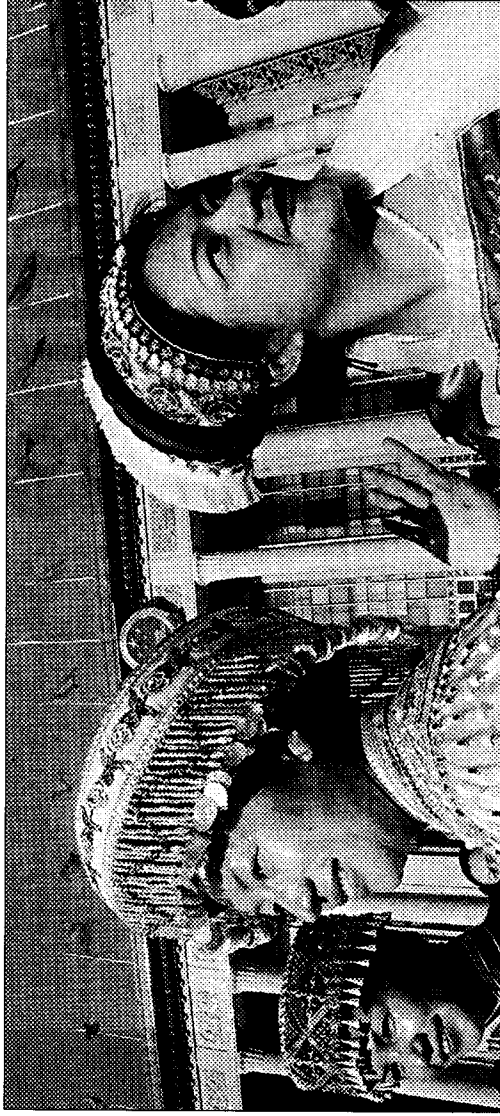
independence.

The Premier, though, allayed fears that China is contemplating an attack on Taiwan and promised to work for peaceful reunification with the self-ruled country. "We will make the greatest possible effort to do anything conducive to the development of cross-straits relations and the countries' peaceful reunification," he asserted.

The proposed new law is worrying people in Taiwan, where more than 80 percent oppose it, according to an opinion poll conducted by the National Chengchi University in February.

"A dark cloud now overshadows the atmosphere of reconciliation," Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian said on Tuesday in a videoconference with European lawmakers and academics.

At the start of the 10-day meeting, Wen also mentioned efforts to rein in the country's red-hot economy, as well as the need to maintain social stability



AP  
Chinese delegates are at their ethnic best as they arrive at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Saturday.

in China. He revealed the country plans to spend \$29.9 billion on its military this year, though analysts say China's true spending is as much as several times the reported figure.

Wen also vowed to push forward with the costly modernisation of the huge but antiquated People's Liberation Army, whose 2.5 million members make up the world's biggest

fighting force. The 12.6 per cent increase in military spending is China's fourth double-digit increase in five years. Wen said military modernisation was key to "safeguarding national security

and reunification" — a reference to Taiwan.

China, aiming for a growth of eight per cent in 2005, would push ahead with reforms to its yuan currency, fixed at about 8.28 per dollar, Wen informed. "In the light of current economic conditions, macroeconomic controls cannot be relaxed," said Wen, who is trying to shepherd the economy through challenges from overhauling ailing banks to finding jobs for millions of workers laid off from state firms.

The eight per cent growth forecast contrasts with the seven per cent forecast issued in previous years and routinely exceeded. China's gross domestic product grew by 9.5 per cent in 2004. Wen's two-hour speech, interrupted repeatedly by applause, focussed on domestic concerns. In a passing reference to foreign affairs, Wen said China would oppose terrorism and hegemony — Beijing's term for sweeping US global power.

# U.S., Japan concerned over North Korean move

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 20. The United States and Japan have expressed "deep concern" over North Korea, especially Pyongyang's withdrawal from the multi-party talks over its nuclear programmes; and the Japanese Foreign Minister, Nobutaka Machimura, has agreed with China's assessment that saw "no prospects as to when" North Korea would be returning to the talks.

The security talks between the two countries involving the American Secretaries of State and Defence along with their Japanese counterparts seemed to be mostly focussed on the evolving situation over North Korea but is also said to have included other issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific including Taiwan.

A brief joint press conference after the meeting had no reference to Taiwan even as a joint statement talked of "en-

couraging the peaceful resolution of issues concerning the Taiwan Strait" as a "common strategic objective". Administration officials have quickly sought to make the point that this is perhaps the first time Tokyo has publicly stated its concern about the tensions in that part of the world.

One of the critical things that emerged after the security talks was the understanding between Washington and Tokyo that "especially China" will play an "important role" in persuading Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table. Coinciding with the talks here and the visit of a Chinese official to Pyongyang, the North Korean Foreign Ministry has said that the country has no justification for any talks with the U.S., given the hostile policy of Washington. The U.S. and Japan also expressed concern about the increasing military capability of China and what this all means to the Asia Pacific.

THE HINDU

21 FEB 2005

# N Korea won't talk with nations

Associated Press  
Beijing, February 19

NORTH KOREA no longer wants to negotiate with the United States and four other nations in an effort to ease the ongoing standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program, China's state news agency said on Saturday.

The official Xinhua News Agency, citing an anonymous North Korea Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the official reiterated the communist regime's February 10 decision to indefinitely suspend its participation in six-party nuclear disarmament talks. Those parties are the United States, the two Koreas, China, Russia and Japan.

Reviving the stalled talks has taken on greater urgency since North Korea's explosive but unconfirmed declaration earlier this month that it has become a nuclear power.

After announcing it had an arsenal, Pyongyang demanded one-on-

one meetings with the United States to discuss the nuclear dispute — a move Washington rejected. On Saturday, the North Korean official withdrew that demand.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pyongyang no longer was willing to hold direct talks with Washington because of what it described as the US' alleged persistent attempts to try to topple the communist regime, Xinhua said.

"The DPRK has no justification to take bilateral talks ... on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula with the United States now," Xinhua quoted the spokesman as saying. DPRK is the acronym for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The comments came as the head of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, Wang Jiarui, met North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong Nam, in Pyongyang, said the North's official news

agency, KCNA. They had a "friendly conversation," the report said without elaborating.

During his stay, Wang Jiarui plans to meet the country's reclusive leader, Kim Jong Il, to give a "strong recommendation" that Pyongyang return to the six-party talks, South Korea's *Munhwa Ilbo* newspaper reported, quoting diplomatic sources in Beijing.

It was not clear how long Wang Jiarui would stay in the North.

North Korea expelled the last UN nuclear monitors in late 2002. It is not known to have tested an atomic bomb, although international officials have long suspected it has one or two nuclear weapons and could be making more.

## ElBaradei's call

The UN's chief nuclear inspector, Mohammed ElBaradei, called on North Korea's leader to allow the In-

ternational Atomic Energy Agency to return to his nation, offering in an interview released on Saturday to go personally if it would help.

Speaking to Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine, ElBaradei said his agency has no concrete information North Korea actually possesses nuclear weapons, although he said Pyongyang has the know-how and enough plutonium to make "at least six to eight bombs."

Washington hopes Beijing — North Korea's last major ally — will use its economic influence on the North to persuade Pyongyang to return to negotiations. China is an indispensable source of fuel and trade for the impoverished North, but Beijing has insisted it has little influence over Kim's regime.

Meanwhile, a North Korean diplomat said in an interview published Saturday that his government has "burned its bridges" behind itself in the escalating nuclear standoff.

## South Korea disclaims North's nuke status

Korea Herald/ANN/15/2

SEOUL, Feb. 14. — South Korea's unification minister today said North Korea's announcement that it possesses nuclear weapons does not mean that it is a nuclear weapons state.

"There is a difference between possessing nuclear weapons and claiming to possess nuclear weapons," Mr. Chung Dong-young told the National Assembly. "It is too early for us to claim North Korea as a nuclear state... there is no reason to immediately change our policies towards North Korea that have been consistent until now."

Mr. Chung, who also heads the National Security Council, said the North's announcement last Thursday that it possesses nuclear weapons and will boycott the six-party talks may be an effort to increase its bargaining chip in the multilateral negotiations. "I believe the true purpose of the North's announcement was to ask for its demands to be met, rather than to announce its possession of nuclear weapons."

A senior official said Seoul is pushing to open tripartite talks with the USA and Japan at the end of this month to discuss counter measures. The three-way meeting will possibly involve top negotiators of the six-party talks on the North's nuclear problems, a foreign ministry official confirmed.

THE STATESMAN

15 FEB 2005

## Taiwan issue: U.S., Japan make common cause

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, FEB. 18.** In what is seen as a major shift in not only alliance politics but also for its foreign policies, Japan will join the United States and declare that Taiwan is a mutual security concern. The significant shift will come after meetings between the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, with their counterparts from Tokyo here on Saturday.

According to *The Washington Post*, which has seen the draft of the document, Japan will join the Bush administration in identifying security in the Taiwan Strait as a "common security objective" and in the process, signifi-

cantly alter the nature and scope of the existing Japan-U.S. Security Alliance which has been the cornerstone of American East Asian policy. The revisions in the alliance also call for Japan to assume a greater role in conjunction with the U.S. in Asia and beyond.

The Japanese move is bound to unsettle relations with China for Tokyo has been content until now to stay on the sidelines of the Taiwan issue and has even now maintained that it has not changed its stance that the Taiwan issue must be resolved peacefully. For the record Japanese officials have said that their Constitution places limitations on what can be done in the event of a U.S.-China confrontation over Taiwan.

197/2

## PYONGYANG TALKS TOUGH

419-10

WHILE NORTH KOREA has not tested a nuclear weapon, the international community for several reasons has not dismissed out of hand its claim that it possesses atomic bombs. Pyongyang never hid its intent to develop a nuclear weapon capability; its nuclear facilities were not monitored over the past three years; and it is believed to have had a long association with the proliferation network associated with Abdul Qadeer Khan. With the circumstantial evidence tending to substantiate the claim, international attention has focussed on other aspects of the issue after North Korea declared its status as a nuclear weapon power on February 10. Two questions have come to the fore. What led Pyongyang to make the declaration now? And, can this particular genie be put back into the bottle through the revival of the six-party talks devoted to the issue or by other means? The Democratic People's Republic maintains it was provoked into declaring its nuclear status and simultaneously announcing its withdrawal from the stalled talks because the United States was pursuing an "ever-more undisguised policy" to isolate and stifle it. This explanation appears credible given recent signals from the Bush administration that it has not lost its appetite for "regime change" despite the experience of its disastrous Iraq policy. After U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently described it as an "outpost of tyranny," North Korea had even more reason to fear that it would be targeted. However, analysts have offered additional explanations. Some think that the internal dynamics of the Kim Jong Il regime drove it to make the declaration. Others believe the declaration was intended to strengthen Pyongyang's bargaining position before it returned to the negotiating table.

China alone has sufficient credibility and influence to persuade North Korea to re-engage in

the six-party discussions. Russia has also followed a balanced approach but it can at best play a complementary role. While South Korea has stuck to the "Sunshine Policy" of reaching out to its northern brethren, it cannot by itself do much to revive the discussions. Japan appears, for its own complex reasons, to have disengaged from the six-party process. However, the countries that are interested might not be able to do more than ensure that the talks resumed. They cannot provide the incentives that would make Pyongyang jettison its nuclear weapon programme. Those incentives can be provided only by the United States as was demonstrated by the relative efficacy of the Agreed Framework policy followed by the Clinton administration. North Korea suspended its weapon programme and allowed international inspection of its nuclear facilities during the eight years of Clinton presidency in response to aid in the form of money, food, and fuel. Pyongyang evidently did not abandon its pursuit of a uranium enrichment programme while agreeing to suspend the plutonium reprocessing activities. For all that, there was clearly some movement towards de-weaponisation.

While the Bush administration's response to the February 10 declaration was less harsh than expected, the relative mildness might not last. The U.S. has often spoken of its desire to raise the North Korean nuclear weapon question in the United Nations Security Council. Given the position that China and Russia have taken on the issue, there is little chance that the Security Council will impose sanctions. Under the regional and international circumstances, the best Washington can hope for is a revival of the six-party discussions. However, for these talks to be successful, the U.S. must at some stage engage with North Korea bilaterally.



# Korean checkers

Non-proliferation agenda is unravelling

Does Pyongyang's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons really make it the world's eighth nuclear weapons state? Unlike the other seven, however, it is not known to have carried out any nuclear weapon tests. One possibility, therefore, is that it may be bluffing. But US intelligence estimates that it has between two and ten nuclear weapons, although it is not known whether it is able to deploy them.

Testing them may not be necessary, as the Pakistanis have provided them with tested bomb designs in exchange for ballistic missile technology, in which Pyongyang is known to be fairly advanced. The latter is a prime reason why the trigger-happy Bush administration is not contemplating any kind of military option against Pyongyang, because even with conventional missiles they could devastate Seoul, and perhaps Tokyo besides, in case of war.

But given its ideological orientation, and its desire to adopt an approach different from the Clinton administration on Korea, the Bush team is not inclined to make any concessions and face-saving gestures towards Pyongyang during multilateral negotiations, despite Beijing and Seoul pressing them to do so. The talks, which began in 2003, have not produced any tangible results so far. The current declaration of nuclear weapon status could be Pyongyang's way of upping the ante.

Compared to its consistent sabre-rattling over Iraq and Iran, Washington seems to have reacted very coolly to the provocation from North Korea. But Washington is facing a dilemma as well. If it chooses to ignore Pyongyang's latest move, it could up the ante by actually carrying out a nuclear test. That would provoke Seoul and Tokyo to test, and certainly blow the lid from Washington's non-proliferation agenda.

Another option would appear to be to call for United Nations sanctions against North Korea, but sanctions have in the past hardly ever been efficacious, whether against Iraq, India or Pakistan. It is doubtful if the Chinese and the Russians, both permanent UN Security Council members, will sign on to the sanctions. North Korea is a country where sanctions would push it over the edge; it is also unlikely that South Korea would stand by while the North starved.

It is very significant that Teheran is also hardening its rhetoric on the nuclear issue, and President Khatami has stated quite clearly that in case of an invasion of Iran, the country would be a "burning hell" for invaders, which could mean atomic weapons. The non-proliferation agenda of Washington could well be unravelling before our eyes.

If so, its inner inconsistency is to blame: Washington keeps on developing its own nuclear devices, "modernises" its arsenal and stays out of biological weapons conventions, while expecting other countries to refrain. If Washington wishes to be unilateral other countries can claim excuses for going down the same route. If nuclear weapons become widespread, one day terrorists will get their hands on them as well.

# Hard bargain with N-boast

Reuters

Seoul, February 12

NORTH KOREA has taken a calculated bargaining risk by announcing for the first time it has nuclear weapons, a South Korean official said on Saturday, after the United States rejected North Korean calls for one-on-one talks.

Pyongyang's announcement on Thursday that it had nuclear weapons and was pulling out of six-party talks aimed at curbing its atomic ambitions presents a major challenge to South Korea, its main ally, the US, and China, which has played a lead role in the disarmament effort.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said after discussions with the North Korean and Chinese envoys in Canberra that he saw a reasonable chance that Pyongyang would return to the talks. South Korean vice-foreign minister Lee Tae-shik said it was significant the North had not declared outright it would not return to the negotiating table.

"It seems like the North was trying to raise interest and the stakes," Lee said. "North Korea's statement said it had stopped participating in six-way talks because conditions were not ripe. That indicated there was room for interpretation."

North Korean media declared on Saturday that the US wanted



AP

South Korean soldiers man the border with the North on Saturday.

to invade North Korea to dominate Asia but conservative South Korean dailies said Seoul must not back down to Pyongyang.

## Critical time

World leaders have warned Pyongyang against upping the ante with its nuclear boast and tried to play down its significance, saying it merely confirmed what they already knew. But the development comes at a critical time for President Bush at the start of his second term, and who also faces con-

frontation with Iran over its nuclear ambitions. Secretary of state Condoleezza Rice is to discuss North Korea with Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing and South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon is already in Washington for talks.

Australia is seeking to mediate in the face-off between Pyongyang and Washington. "There's a reasonable chance that North will participate in the six-party talks," Downer said. "I thought it was important that China, as well as the US and others, played a role in getting these negotiations going again, and there is cautious optimism that the talks would resume."

South Korea, still technically at war with its impoverished neighbour half a century after the Korean War ended with an inconclusive truce, has tried to improve relations through economic and humanitarian assistance. Still, it lives under constant threat from a state that masses 70 per cent of its 1.2-million-strong army along a border that passes just 65 km north of Seoul.

China, which has taken the lead in promoting the talks, now faces its toughest diplomatic challenge. It must choose between putting pressure on its unruly neighbour or watch three years of diplomacy vanish in a cloud of angry rhetoric.

# Kim regime seeks public loyalty

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, Feb. 12. — North Korea today urged its people to rally around Stalinist leader Kim Jong Il, after Washington rebuffed the country's demand for bilateral talks to curb nuclear tension.

Pyongyang's state-run daily *Rodong Sinmun* today allotted the whole front page of its edition to an editorial that said "the single-minded unity serves as the strongest weapon".

"At a time like today, when the situation gets tense, no task is more important than to strengthen our single-minded unity," the editorial said. *Minju Joson*, another state-run daily, said: "Devotedly protecting the leader is our life and soul."

At the same time, North Korea repeated warnings of military clashes on its tense western sea border with South Korea, accusing Seoul of infiltrating a warship into communist waters today following "a grave situation created due to the US imperialist warhawks' invariable hostile policy (towards the North)".

In a news released carried by the official news agency KCNA, North Korea's navy command said: "Such dangerous military provocations may entail a very serious disaster." The accusa-

tions, repeated several times in recent weeks and denied by the South, coincided with the worsening nuclear standoff.

The surge in communist rhetoric followed North Korea's announcement on Thursday that the communist country has nuclear weapons for self-defence. With that declaration, Kim brandished his strongest diplomatic card yet and dramatically escalated the nuclear standoff with Washington and its allies.

It remained unclear whether North Korea intended to remain a nuclear power or was trying to use the weapons as a bargaining chip to win aid, diplomatic recognition and a non-aggression treaty with the Bush administration.

## Singing the old tune

Harping on its old alleged fears, North Korea today said the USA was seeking to invade the country in order to turn the Korean peninsula into a springboard for its dominance in Asia, adds AFP. *Rodong Sinmun*, the official daily of the Stalinist country's ruling Korean Workers Party, also accused Washington of exploiting "human rights" issues in the Stalinist nation in order to cover up its hegemony.

THE STATESMAN

13 FEB 2005

# Barb by Rice prompted Pyongyang's action

They Have The Raw Materials, A Delivery System And Now The Intention: IAEA

Seoul (South Korea): Since 2003, the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia have held three rounds of talks in Beijing aimed at persuading the North to abandon nuclear weapons development in return for economic and diplomatic rewards. No significant progress has been made. A fourth round scheduled for last September was canceled when North Korea refused to attend, citing what it called a "hostile" US policy.

On Thursday North Korea publicly acknowledged that it has nuclear weapons. Its Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, said Korea's "nuclear weapons will remain (a) nuclear deterrent for self-defense under any circumstances."

It said Washington's alleged attempt to topple the North's regime "compels us to take a measure to bolster its nuclear weapons arsenal in order to protect the ideology, system, freedom and democracy chosen by its people."

In recent weeks, hopes had risen that North Korea might return to the six-nation talks, especially after Bush refrained from any direct criticism of North Korea when he started his second term last month.

On Thursday, North Korea said it decided not to rejoin such talks any time soon after studying Bush's inaugural and State of the Union speeches and after Rice labeled North Korea one of the

"outposts of tyranny."

"We have wanted the six-party talks but we are compelled to suspend our participation in the talks for an indefinite period till we have recognized that there is justification for us to attend the talks and there are ample conditions and atmosphere to expect positive results from the talks," the ministry said.

Still, North Korea said it retained its "principled stand to solve the issue through dialogue and negotiations and its ultimate goal to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula remain unchanged." Such a comment has widely been interpreted as North Korea's negotiating tactic to get more economic and diplomatic concessions from the US before joining any crucial talks.

In Vienna, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency said that "North Korea remains our single highest priority."

"We know they have raw materials to build nuclear weapons. We also know that they have a delivery system and they've expressed their intentions to have a nuclear arsenal," spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said.

The nuclear crisis erupted in October 2002 when U.S. officials accused North Korea of running a secret uranium-enrichment program in violation of international treaties. Washington and its allies cut off free fuel oil shipments for the impoverished country under a 1994 deal with the United States. AP

South Korea: "It is regrettable ... We want North Korea's unconditional participation in six-party talks. Our stance is that North Korean nuclear weapons must not be tolerated under any circumstances."

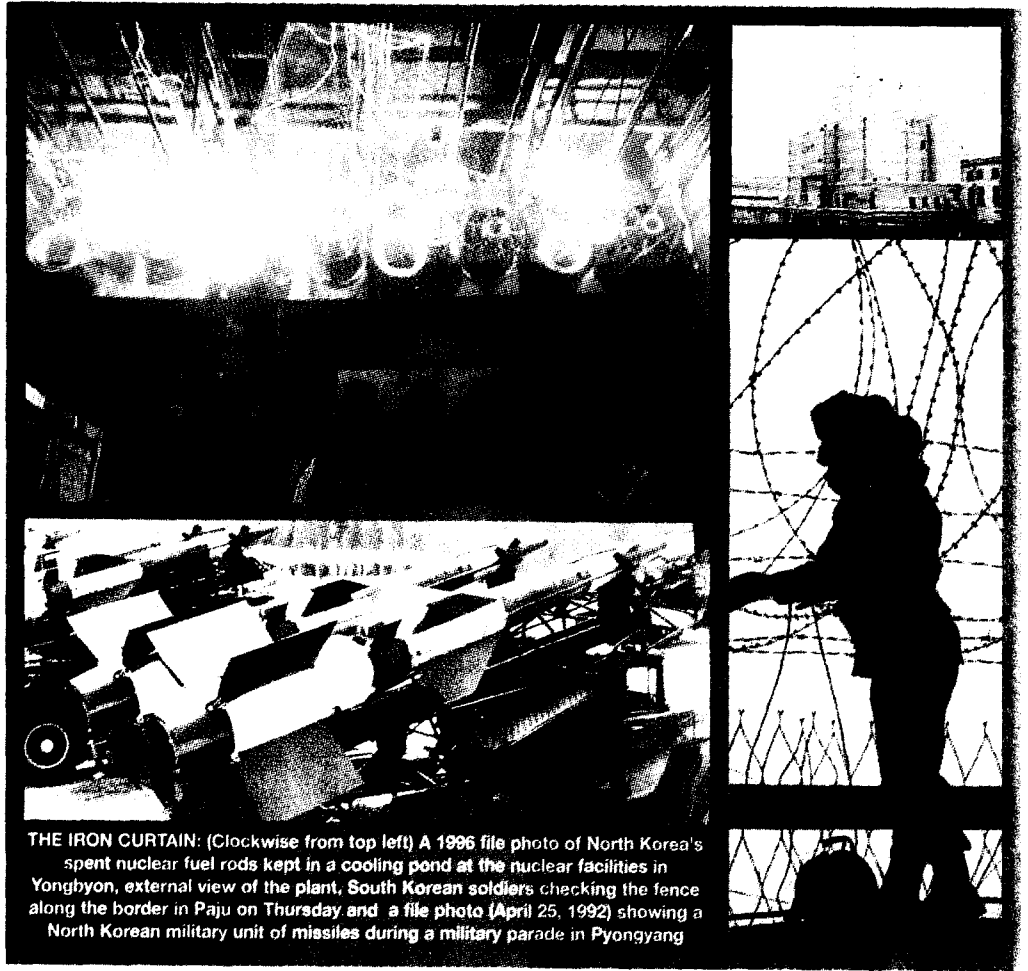
— Official Statement

Japan: "As we have been doing, we are going to work for a resumption of the six-way talks while cooperating with other participants."

— Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi



FOES AGAIN: North Korea's Kim Jong Il (left) and US president George Bush with secretary of state C Rice



THE IRON CURTAIN: (Clockwise from top left) A 1996 file photo of North Korea's spent nuclear fuel rods kept in a cooling pond at the nuclear facilities in Yonghyon, external view of the plant, South Korean soldiers checking the fence along the border in Paju on Thursday and a file photo (April 25, 1992) showing a North Korean military unit of missiles during a military parade in Pyongyang

## Tackle has Beijing in a corner

By Keith Bradsher

**Beijing:** After years of trying to find middle ground between the United States and North Korea, China now finds itself in a difficult diplomatic position with Pyongyang's announcement that it has manufactured nuclear weapons and is suspending nuclear negotiations, Chinese foreign policy experts said today.

Chinese leaders have consistently urged the rest of the world, and especially the US, to show more patience with North Korea. Beijing has consistently contended that it was unclear whether North Korea had developed nuclear weapons, notwithstanding a growing volume of American intelligence to the contrary.

Confronted with a statement by Pyongyang mentioning that nu-

clear weapons had been manufactured, the Chinese government's initial reaction today was silence. North Korea's actions now puts Beijing in a quandary. "China is now facing a more awkward situation because China always tries to persuade states to be more patient," said Jin Canrong, associate dean of the School of International Studies at People's University here.

Many Chinese diplomats are likely to have a personal reason for being upset with Pyongyang this week: today's statement came in the middle of Chinese New Year celebrations, the biggest festival of the year. Offices across Beijing are empty following an exodus last weekend, as millions of people across China returned to their hometowns to celebrate with their families. NYT News Service

## Track 11 under way

**Washington:** Driven by new evidence that North Korea may have begun selling nuclear materials around the world, US president George Bush sent an emissary last week to see President Hu Jintao of China and urge him to intensify diplomatic pressure on the North to give up its weapons program, according to senior American and Asian officials.

The emissary, Michael Green, delivered a letter from Bush to Hu that, in the words of one American official, "was written to underscore the greatly heightened urgency" of the problem. NYT News Service

Britain: "We deplore North Korea's refusal to negotiate on an issue, the resolution of which would bring so much benefit to the people of that country."

— Junior Foreign Office minister Bill Rammell

US: "North Korea should return to disarmament talks and end its international isolation. The president of the United States said in South Korea that the United States has no intention to attack North Korea."

— Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

# N Korea demands talks with US

Associated Press  
Seoul, February 11

NORTH KOREA has demanded bilateral talks with the United States to defuse the tension created by its announcement that it is a nuclear power, the communist state's UN envoy said in a South Korean newspaper interview on Friday.

Han Sung Ryol, a senior diplomat at North Korea's UN delegation in New York, was the first North Korean official to speak to outside news media since Pyongyang's foreign ministry defied the US and its allies by declaring on Thursday that it has nuclear weapons, its first public announcement that it has weapons.

North Korea said the weapons are a deterrent against a US invasion and that it doesn't intend to join six-nation disarmament talks any time soon.

"We will return to the six-nation talks when we see a reason to do so and the conditions are ripe," Han told Seoul's *Hankyoreh* in a Thursday interview in New York. "If the US moves to have di-

rect dialogue with us, we can take that as a signal that the US is changing its hostile policy toward us," Han's suggestion came as the two-year-old standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes plummeted to a new chill with Pyongyang's statement pm Thursday.

It's a long-running North Korean strategy to try to engage the US in bilateral talks even as it keeps six-nation talks open, believing such meetings would boost the isolated country's international status and help it win bigger concessions. In the current six-nation talks, North Korea has increasingly found itself surrounded by countries, including allies China and Russia, who are critical of its nuclear ambitions. The US has refused to engage in bilateral talks.

Governments around the world have expressed concern over North Korea's nuclear statement and urged it to return to talks on ending its nuclear ambitions in return for economic and diplomatic benefits. But North Korea says it won't do so as long as Washington maintains

its "hostile" policy toward the North. "The key is a change in the hostile US policy toward the North," Han said. "We have no other option but to regard the US' refusal to have direct dialogue with us as an intention not to recognise us and to eliminate our system."

Hopes for the resumption of talks rose after President Bush began his second term without using harsh words against the Stalinist regime. But Pyongyang said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's labeling it as one of the "outposts of tyranny" was insult enough to scuttle the diplomatic process. It interpreted that Bush's recent emphasis on spreading freedom and ending tyranny around the world "effectively targeted" North Korea, Han said. "Although Bush didn't mention our country by name, the context makes it clear that there is a strong connection with" the comments by Rice.

South Korea urged the US to be calm, reminding them that brinkmanship was nothing new in Pyongyang's diplomatic tactics.



REUTERS  
S Korean troops stand behind a defamed portrait of Kim Jong-il at an anti-N Korea rally in Seoul on Friday.

# N. Korea drops nuke bombshell

Seoul, Feb. 10 (Reuters): North Korea declared today for the first time it possessed nuclear weapons and pulled out indefinitely from six-party talks on its atomic ambitions, saying it needed a defence against a hostile US.

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice played down the dramatic announcement, saying the United States had assumed since the mid-1990s that North Korea could make nuclear weapons.

But she said North Korea would only deepen its own isolation, and forego international security guarantees if it pulled out of six-party talks on its nuclear programme.

Britain said it deplored the north's announcement, which comes as some of the world's largest military powers have been trying to coax the reclusive communist government to return to the stalled disarmament talks.

"We... have manufactured nukes to cope with the Bush administration's evermore undisguised policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK," the foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

DPRK is short for the north's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "Nuclear weapons will remain (a) nuclear deterrent for self-defence under any circumstances," the ministry said. The statement marks the first time the north has publicly said it has nuclear weapons and is Pyongyang's

first response to resuming six-party talks since President George W. Bush said in his inauguration speech on January 20 that he was committed to ending tyranny.

While Bush did not specify countries in his address last month, Rice has singled out North Korea as one of six tyrannical regimes.

The statement also poses a challenge to Bush, who has long backed a diplomatic solution to the crisis but now faces two nations he once named as part of an "axis of evil" being openly defiant about their nuclear programmes — North Korea and Iran. He went to war with the third axis nation, Iraq.

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said today he believed North Korea could be brought back to the negotiating table, while Russia's foreign ministry said it regretted the north's declaration of intent to build up its nuclear arsenal and halt its participation in the six-way dialogue.

Neighbouring South Korea and Japan responded swiftly to the north's move to raise the stakes in a crisis that has engulfed North Asia for more than two years, urging it to abandon its nuclear programmes.

"We express our grave concern over North Korea's comment on its possessing nuclear weapons and we make it clear again that we won't tolerate north's nuclear weapons," a South Korean foreign ministry spokesman said.

## BEHIND RED CURTAIN



Missiles on display at a military parade in Pyongyang. (AFP)

◆ In 1945, Soviet troops entered the northern half of Korea and US troops the southern half to disarm the Japanese, who had ruled the peninsula as a colony for 35 years

◆ In 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was established in Pyongyang under Kim Il-sung

◆ In June 1950, North Korean troops attacked the South in an attempt to reunite the country. Chinese "volunteers" later joined them in battling US-led United Nations forces. The July 1953 truce left the two Koreas still technically at war

◆ In 1994, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il inherited power from his father Kim Il-sung in the first communist dynastic succession

◆ North Korea is the world's most militarised state relative to population, with active forces of 1.14 million and reserves of 7.45 million

◆ Tensions rose in late 2002 after the US said Pyongyang had admitted to pursuing a nuclear arms programme in violation of a 1994 agreement that was to have frozen its atomic weapons ambitions

Rice, speaking in Luxembourg, said the US had no intention of attacking or invading North Korea and said she hoped the talks, which also involve South Korea, China, Japan and Russia, would resume soon.

"The fact of the matter is that the world has given them

a way out and they should take that way out," she said.

Nuclear proliferation experts said North Korea has likely produced enough plutonium for a small number of weapons but no one can say for certain if the north has the ability to assemble and deliver a nuclear bomb.

## Analysts sceptical

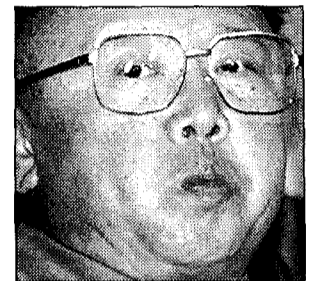
Seoul, Feb. 10 (Reuters): North Korea's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons does not necessarily mean it has a tested nuclear weapons system that can be deployed, defence analysts said today.

North Korea made the first official declaration of possessing nuclear weapons today and said it was suspending participation in six-country talks on its nuclear programmes because the US was hardening its stand.

"It is one thing to talk about having a weapon and it's a different matter to talk about a complete nuclear weapons system," said Baek Seung-joo, who heads research on the North Korean military at South Korea's Institute for Defence Analyses.

North Korea has test fired short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, but its missile programme has been marred by accidents.

The reliability of the north's boast that it has nuclear weapons does not translate to its possession of a genuine and certified weapons system, which requires tests, Baek said. "It is questionable whether North Korea has the



Kim Jong-il

capability to mount a reliable nuclear warhead," Baek said.

Gary Samore, director of Studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in the United Kingdom said those looking at the issue are pretty confident that North Korea has enough plutonium to build a small number of weapons. But he cautioned that nothing was confirmed regarding the north's nuclear capabilities.

"Most people in the field assume that North Korea can deliver a simple, implosion weapon by missile with a range that could hit Tokyo," Samore said, adding that no one was certain if North Korea had actually produced nuclear weapons.

# Nuclear arms to face U.S. threat, says N. Korea

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, FEB. 10. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) today announced its open-ended withdrawal from the stalled six-party talks on its nuclear-weapons programme.

Significantly, Pyongyang has also affirmed, in the most categorical terms yet, that it has "manufactured nukes" to face Washington's "ever-more undisguised policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK."

Announcing the decision on the multilateral parleys, which are being hosted by China, the DPRK explicitly cited its threat perceptions arising out of the statements by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and his colleagues.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, is reported to have said at Luxembourg that North Korea's move might only "deepen" its "isolation" and that Washington must consult the other participants on this development.

## Possible scenario

The other participants in the dialogue are South Korea, Japan and Russia. So far, three rounds have been held, launched in August 2003, and there has so far been no agreement on scheduling the fourth round that was originally proposed for last September.

Though no definitive progress has been achieved so far, several possible scenarios for a final solution emerged during the third round, on the basis of a general consensus on the need for a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of the North Korean nuclear-weapons programme.

## Emphasis

Pyongyang has always insisted on suitable security assurances, while some participants

have laid emphasis on keeping the entire Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

As monitored today in Seoul, a traditional listening post in respect of North Korea, the DPRK Foreign Ministry said: "We have wanted the six-way talks but we are compelled to suspend our participation in the talks for an indefinite period until we have recognised that there is justification for us to attend the talks and [until] there are ample conditions and an atmosphere to expect positive results from the talks."

Other key elements of Pyongyang's new statement related to its perceptions that the U.S. had now "disclosed its attempt to topple the political system in the DPRK at any cost" and that Washington was "threatening" to use "the nuclear stick" in pursuit of this objective.

The statement said: "The [second] Bush administration [has] termed the DPRK, its dialogue partner, an 'outpost of tyranny.'" Rejecting this "hostile policy," Pyongyang said such an attitude had compelled it to "bolster its nuclear weapons arsenal".

## China's hope on talks

BEIJING, FEB 10. China, host of the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue today expressed hope that the negotiation mechanism could continue.

"China has noticed the reports saying the democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) will suspend its participation in the six-party talks for an indefinite period," said the Chinese Foreign Ministry here. — PTI

# S Korea makes a major shift on North

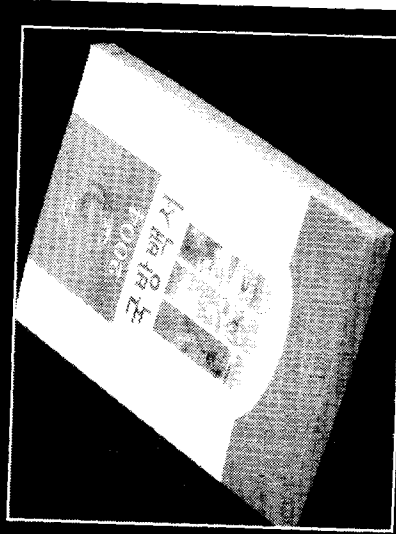
JACK KIM  
SEOUL, FEBRUARY 4

**F**OR the first time in a decade, South Korea has stopped labelling North Korea its "main enemy" but its latest Defence White Paper on Friday said it suspects the reclusive state of possessing nuclear weapons.

The tag of main enemy has angered the North in the past and the move to drop the label coincides with attempts by Seoul to coax the communist state back to six-party talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. The Defence White Paper adopted the "main enemy" terminology in 1995, a year after a top North general said the communist state would turn Seoul into "a sea of fire" in the event of war.

"The existing expression of the main enemy North Korea has been replaced by an explanation of the North's specific military threat, such as its conventional

**Seoul's Defence White Paper has stopped labelling North Korea its main enemy**



weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and its forward deployment of military power," the Defence Ministry said in briefing notes to the White Paper.

The North stopped using hostile language when referring to the South after an unprecedented summit between the two Koreas in 2000, the White Paper said, citing this as a reason for dropping

ties, and clashes in the Yellow Sea off the West coast in recent years have killed or injured dozens of sailors on both sides.

Rare high-level military meetings last year led to an agreement to prevent provocations, but the North has still mounted sporadic intrusions of a disputed maritime border.

North Korea is stepping up the drive to arm itself both militarily and politically under its "military-first" policy called Songun, the White Paper said.

South Korea and the United States on Thursday began a new round of talks on realigning the US military in the south. The White Paper said the United States will move 690,000 troops, 160 battleships and 2,000 aircraft to defend South Korea in the event of war.

North Korea's official KCNA news agency said on Thursday a two-day military meeting ended successfully with a pledge to step up the effort to "attain the high goal of building a great prosperous power nation".

—Reuters

the main enemy tag. The paper said there was no conclusive evidence that North Korea possessed nuclear weapons, but that Pyongyang "has been operating a five-megawatt nuclear reactor capable of producing additional plutonium since February 2003".

Military tension remains high despite warming political and commercial



# N Korea threatens attack on US bases

Associated Press  
Seoul, February 4

NORTH KOREA will turn US military bases in the region into a "sea of fire" if war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula, North Korean media on Friday quoted a communist officer as saying.

The North's state-run news media highlighted the comment hours after South Korea released a new defense policy paper that revealed a United States reinforcement plan to dispatch 690,000 troops and 2,000 warplanes if war breaks out in Korea.

North Korea's sabre-rattling rhetoric comes as the isolated North is urging its military to prepare for what it calls a US plan to invade.

Washington and its allies say they are trying to end the North's nuclear weapons programmes through multinational disarmament talks.

"If the United States' imperialists ignite flames of war, we will first of all strike all bases of US imperialist aggressors and turn them into a sea of fire," North Korea's Central Radio quoted officer Hur Ryong as saying, according to the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

Hur was also quoted as saying that the North Korean military will "thoroughly incinerate the aggressor elements that collude with the United States imperialists," in an apparent reference to South Korea and Japan.

Hur made his comment on Wednesday during a debate in Pyongyang on leader Kim Jong Il's "army-first" policy that stresses military strength.

# China, Taiwan begin historic direct flights

Agence France-Presse  
Taipei, January 29

THE FIRST direct flights between bitter rivals China and Taiwan — since the end of a civil war 55 years ago — started carrying Lunar New Year holidaymakers amid hopes of improving cross-straits relations.

Six Chinese planes landed in Taipei and one in southern Kaohsiung, while Taiwan's China Airlines and EVA Airways also sent a flight each to Beijing on the first day of the temporary opening of the air links. The planes are all scheduled to return to their home bases later on Saturday.

China's flag carrier Air China flew two planes from its subsidiary Shangdong Airlines to avoid showing the mainland flag in Taiwan. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, currently visiting the Pacific nation of Palau, said the landmark flights proved "difficulties can be overcome as long as the two sides have sincerity and sit down to negotiate". Chen also urged Beijing to allow the aircraft to fly over the airspace of other countries, rather than just Hong Kong, as with the current services, the *United Daily News* here reported.

Government officials, parlia-



REUTERS

Dragon dancers perform as Taiwanese passengers board a China Eastern flight bound for Taipei at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai on Saturday.

mentarians and business representatives greeted passengers and crew aboard the flights that first landed in Taiwan at Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport. "The exchange of commercial flights is a historic step in cross-straits relations", said Chiu Tai-san, vice-chairman of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council.

30 JAN 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# North Korea ready for nuke talks

Associated France Presse  
Seoul, January 14

NORTH KOREA said today it would resume talks on its nuclear weapons drive if US President George W. Bush toned down his rhetoric and formulated a more friendly policy towards Pyongyang.

The Stalinist state also said it was ready to respect the United States as a friend in a conciliatory statement issued at the end of a four-day visit to North Korea by a six-member US congressional delegation.

The offer to resume six-party talks could be withdrawn, however, if Bush "slanders" the North's system and interferes in its internal affairs, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

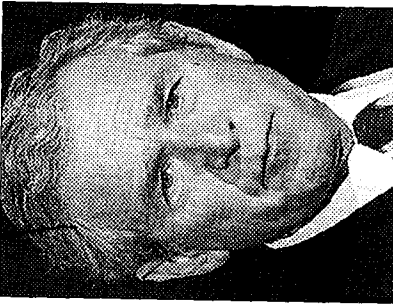
The US President will be inaugurated for a second term next week and mem-

bers of the congressional delegation led by Republican Curt Weldon said North Korea would be watching out for a friendly gesture from Bush, notably during his State of the Union address that will follow later in January.

Bush used his 2002 State of the Union speech to brand North Korea part of an "axis of evil", a term that inflamed Pyongyang's leadership. The President has also referred to North Korea as a leader Kim Jong-il as a pigmy and expressed personal animosity towards him.

"They are waiting to see what the President will say in his State of the Union address," Solomon Ortiz, a Texas Democrat and a member of the delegation from the House Armed Service Committee, told a press conference in Seoul.

The North's conciliatory



George Bush

gesture came after Weldon and his team engaged in lengthy discussions with senior North Korean leaders and assured them that Bush had no intention of invading the country or toppling its regime.

Weldon said North Korea could return to six-party



Kim Jong-il

talks on its nuclear weapons drive within "a matter of weeks. I'm convinced ... six-party talks can or will resume in a matter of weeks as opposed to months or years," he said.

Weldon, from Pennsylvania, said he told North Korean leaders that the Ameri-

can people do not want war on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea has repeatedly accused Washington of planning a pre-emptive nuclear strike and seeking to oust its leader.

Weldon said that he told the North Koreans that Bush had no plans for an attack or regime change. "I am not speaking for the President, I am just repeating what he has said," he said. "North Korea definitely needs and wants an assurance that they will not be preemptively attacked and our President has said he is sure he can find a way to do that."

The KCNA dispatch said that North Korea wanted to see the words of the congressional delegation translated into official Bush policy.

"The DPRK (North Korea) side assured the US side that the DPRK would opt for finding a final solution to all

the outstanding issues between the two countries, to say nothing of the resumption of the six-party talks and the nuclear issue, if what US congressmen said would be formulated as a policy of the second Bush administration," KCNA said.

After attending three rounds of inconclusive six-party talks, which also involved South Korea, Japan, Russia, China and the US, North Korea boycotted a fourth round scheduled for last September in Beijing.

Until now North Korea has refused to attend a further round of talks, saying Washington must first drop its "hostile" policy towards the Stalinist state. However, at talks with the visiting US lawmakers, North Korea stressed the need to take a "future-oriented approach toward improving the bilateral relations," KCNA said.

# N Korea issued wartime guidelines: Daily

Associated Press

## South olive branch

SEOUL, Jan. 5. — A newspaper report has revealed that North Korea had ordered its people to prepare for a protracted war against the United States, issuing guidelines on how they would evacuate to underground bunkers with weapons, food and portraits of leader Kim Jong II.

The 33-page "Detailed Wartime Guidelines" published in South Korea's *Kyunghyang* newspaper today and verified by Seoul, was issued on 7 April, 2004, at a time when the Communist regime was claiming that it was Washington's next target of invasion following the Iraq War.

The manual — the first such North Korean document made public to the outside world — was signed by Kim Jong II in his capacity as chairman of the Central Military Committee of the ruling Workers' Party. That ended speculation over whether Kim has assumed the top military post following the death of his father President Kim Il Sung in 1994.

Analysts said the guidelines reflect Pyongyang's fears of a possible US military strike amid talks on its nuclear weapons programmes, as well as its campaign to whip up a sense of crisis among its 22 million populace.

SEOUL, Jan. 5. — Unification minister Mr Chung Dong-young today said that S Korea harbours no intention of threatening the N Korean regime. He also said that Seoul's earlier policy of competing against the Communist country has been discarded. He ruled out possible mass defections of North Korean refugees in the future, saying the North could feel threatened by any large defection. "Undermining the North with North Korean defectors is not our policy," Mr Chung said. "The policy to compete with each system is already obsolete." His remarks are seen as a government effort to assure the regime's safety and to resume the stalled talks.

— The Korea Herald/ANN

"The USA has cooked up suspicion over our nuclear programmes and is escalating an offensive of international pressure to strangle and destroy our republic," the booklet said. "If this tactic doesn't work, it plots to use this (nuclear) problem as an excuse for armed invasion."

*Kyunghyang* did not clarify where it acquired the document classified as "top secret" from. Seoul's National Intelligence Service said in a one-sentence statement: "We believe the document reflects North Korea's wartime preparations."