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Preparation Paper

Security Council

Decision on an urgent crisis (Korea)

Introduction and overview

The denuclearization of North Korea is of great interest to the international community and is a key premise of international policies toward North Korea and the discussion of reunification of the Republic of Korea. Unfortunately, efforts by the international community to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue have not produced visible results. Although the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States are attempting a two-track approach that includes dialogue as well as sanctions to deal with North Korea's nuclear program, the resolution of the problem does not seem easy. North Korea will attempt to use nuclear materials as leverage to receive compromises from the U.S. in negotiation processes. For the time being, however, it is more likely for North Korea to engage in intentional local provocations and negotiating tactics, creating a recurring unstable situation with a certain level of tension.¹

Naval Incident in the Yellow Sea. Tensions between the two Koreas, which are technically at war as the 1950-1953 conflict ended with an armistice, have risen following the March 26 incident in the Yellow Sea, when South Korea's 1,200-ton *Cheonan* corvette sank near the disputed Northern Limit Line after a sudden explosion. South Korea has accused the North of sinking the ship, which resulted in the deaths of 46 sailors. An international investigation concluded that the ship was destroyed by a torpedo launched from a North Korean submarine. US officials have said that the sinking of the ship represents a very challenging situation, and have promised strong support for the ROK. Clinton met with top officials in China in the last week of May to discuss the issue. With China bordering the DPRK to the north and thousands of US troops stationed in the ROK to the south, a common understanding between these two permanent members appears to be crucial in addressing the issue.

Six-party talks. Another issue is whether the DPRK will seek to use the possibility of a return to negotiations on its nuclear disarmament within the six-party framework to try to deflect Council members from taking up the *Cheonan* incident. An underlying problem is the lack of confidence between the DPRK and other members of the six-party talks. Past provocative acts on the part of the DPRK in the form of missile launches and military clashes and noncompliance with Security Council resolutions have exacerbated this lack of trust.

The six-party talks, consisting of China, ROK, DPRK, the U.S., Russia, and Japan; aim to find a peaceful resolution to the security concerns as a result of the North Korean nuclear weapons program. These talks were a result of North Korea withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003. Apparent gains following the fourth and fifth rounds were reversed by outside events. Five rounds of talks from 2003 to 2007 produced little net progress until the third phase of the fifth round of talks, when North Korea agreed to shut down its nuclear facilities in exchange for fuel aid and steps towards the normalization of relations with the U.S. and Japan. Responding angrily to the UN Security Council's Presidential Statement issued on April 13, 2009 that condemned the North Korean failed satellite launch, the DPRK declared on April 14, 2009 that it would pull out of Six Party Talks and that it would resume its nuclear enrichment program in order to boost its nuclear deterrent. North Korea has also expelled all nuclear inspectors from the country.

Key issues for the SC agenda

- DPRK's nuclear programme
- resumption of six-party talks, diplomatic and military issues
- threat situation resulting from the *Cheonan* incident (and possible future incidents?)
- efficiency the sanctions regime (Panel of Experts' reports)
- DPRK internal developments and human security

¹ cf. http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/04_north_korea_lee.aspx?p=1

Recent key developments

7 June	<p>Security Council Resolution 1928 (7 June 2010) extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts that assists the DPRK Sanctions Committee until 12 June 2011.</p> <p>DPRK Supreme People's Assembly held rare 2nd session; appointed brother-in-law of Kim Jong-il, as vice-chairman of National Defense Commission.</p>
8 June	<p>A letter from the DPRK Representative to the UN (S/2010/294) rejected the result of the <i>Cheonan</i> investigation, proposed that its own experts verify the result and warned of serious consequences if the matter were put on the Council's agenda.</p> <p>China lodged formal diplomatic protest after DPRK border guards shot and killed 3 Chinese citizens on border.</p>
27 Jun	DPRK government announced it will choose new party leaders later in year; clearing path of succession for Kim Jong-il's son.
15 June	ROK referred DPRK to UNSC over March sinking of ROK ship.
16 June	DPRK said its military would respond if rebuked by UNSC.
	U.S. extended sanctions on DPRK for further year, citing continued threat of DPRK nuclear program.
1 July	ROK rejected DPRK proposal for direct military talks on incident.
<i>further SC related</i>	http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gIKWLeMTIsG/b.2705183/k.61A/DPRK North Korea brHistorical Chronology.htm

Recommended links

Security Council Report	http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/lookup.asp?c=gIKWLeMTIsG&b=2431545
International Crisis Group	http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/north-east-asia/north-korea.aspx
Council on Foreign Relations	http://www.cfr.org/region/276/north_korea.html
GlobalSecurity.org	http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/dprk/index.html
UN SC Webcast	http://www.un.org/webcast/sc.html
UN News Centre:	http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=69&Body=democratic+people&Body1=Korea
IAEA and DPRK	http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/laeaDprk/
further research	please note that the above links constitute only a rudimentary basis for your information - sufficient preparation requires further individual thorough research by each delegate !