

TO: EDEN WR

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(Used to send to ...)

RAP PRESS GUIDANCE
December 18, 1991

KOREA: DECLARATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Q: Can you confirm President Roh Tae Woo's statement that there are no nuclear weapons in North Korea?

A: WE WELCOME PRESIDENT ROH'S STATEMENT. NORTH KOREA HAS CHALLENGED TO NORTH KOREA TO JOIN IN TAKING CONCRETE STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. NORTH KOREA HAS REFUSED TO SIGN AND IMPLEMENT ANT NUCLEAR TREATY IN PHASES. NORTH KOREA HAS APPROXIMATELY 3,000 ENRICHMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, THE LONGSTANDING U.S. POLICY TO NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT ANY LOCATION



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DASD(AW) 5 USC § 552 (b)(1); E.O. 13526 § 3.3(b)(6)

SEKPOL 3365

drafted: EAP/K...

cleared: EAP: ...

PAP/...

EA/...

PA:

PH: W...

OES/M/S: ABuch

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OSD/JBA: KWoon

DECLASSIFIED BY DASD(AW), DCS
USDP
DATE 04 OCT 2017
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13-m-4335



DEC 17, '91 16:28

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*USS (7) He Wolfowitz
920 Special Announcement
Proposed [unclear]
[unclear] ... [unclear]*

Special Announcement on Nuclear-free Korean Peninsula

Embargo: 00:00 December 00, 1991

Seoul, Korea

(Unofficial translation)

My fellow Koreans,

Last week, South and North Korea have agreed on a detailed accord in an effort to end the half-century-old Cold War and open a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

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The Accord, which was signed at the conclusion of the Fifth South-North High-Level Talks, consists of important measures that are necessary for the removal of long drawn-out national division and rivalry on the basis of mutual trust, for the establishment of a structure of peace on our land, and for the promotion of national reconciliation and common prosperity through exchanges and cooperation.

The Republic of Korea fully supports this Accord, for we believe that development of an inter-Korean relationship based on peaceful coexistence and common prosperity is an indispensable step toward the goal of national unification.

Together with the parallel entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations in September the signing of the South-North Korean Accord last week has set an epic milepost on our road to the resolution of the Korean Question and the attainment of national unity.

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Fellow Koreans,

Before we proceed with the implementation of the widely supported inter-Korean Accord, however, there is an important issue that needs to be resolved in the earliest possible date. It is the Korean Peninsula nuclear question.

On the eighth of last month, I have enunciated the Non-nuclear Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative, noting that the development of nuclear weapons by North Korea was an extremely dangerous venture, and that it posed serious threats not only to the peace and survival of the Korean people but also to the stability of Northeast Asia and the world.

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It was for these reasons that I issued a public pledge, specifically declaring that not only would South Korea not manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons, but we would also renounce the right to build nuclear reprocessing facilities, which we could very well have justified on grounds of economic necessity.

In order not to leave any ground or excuse for North Korea to evade nuclear inspections, the Government has, in consultation with the U.S. Government, also proposed to North Korea during the recent High-level Talks to conduct simultaneous nuclear inspections on the facilities and installations in South and North Korea, including the U.S. military bases in South Korea.

To submit military bases of a nuclear Superpower to

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international inspection is a truly exceptional precedent, but we have reached this decision for the sole purpose of peaceful and smooth resolution of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

It is gratifying to note that South and North Korea have jointly recognized at the High-level Talks last week that there should be no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. On this common basis, I sincerely hope that a definitive agreement on nuclear issues will emerge from the Panmunjom working-level conference later this month.

My fellow Koreans, so that we may come to an early resolution of the nuclear issue, I take this opportunity to make one thing emphatically and unequivocally clear to you as well as to North Korea and the world at large:

As of today, there does not exist any nuclear weapons whatsoever in the Republic of Korea, including her territory, territorial waters and airspace.

Clearly, then, the non-nuclear policy enunciated in my November 8th declaration has now been fulfilled insofar as the Republic of Korea is concerned.

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My fellow Koreans,

I would like to make the following very clear to the North Korean authorities:

Now that the Republic of Korea is completely nuclear-free

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and since we have accepted the simultaneous nuclear inspections proposal, there is no reason or excuse for North Korea to develop nuclear weapons or refuse nuclear inspection.

North Korea must immediately cease the development of nuclear weapons. It must forthwith conclude and ratify a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, abandon all nuclear reprocessing and enrichment facilities, and submit to international inspection.

North Korea is now under obligation to demonstrate its credibility to the entire Korean people and to the world that it is prepared to faithfully carry out the terms of the South-North Accord, by presenting an unequivocal position on this important question at the forthcoming Panmunjom meeting.

Obviously, we cannot successfully build peace and national reconciliation by holding one hand, while the other hand is building nuclear weapons.

All the nations of the world, indeed the entire international community, are searching for ways to deter North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, having recognized it to be a significant threat to the peace of this region and potentially a grave danger that would fuel the proliferation of nuclear weapons globally.

I believe that the North Korean authorities are well aware of the central issues. I hope and expect that they will

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comply with the legitimate demands of the Korean people and the world.

North Korea must immediately abandon the development of nuclear weapons. It is an impending duty that cannot and should not be delayed.

I sincerely hope that an agreement guaranteeing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula will emerge during the upcoming Panmunjom conference on nuclear issues so that it will provide a basis on which the two Koreas together will usher in a new era of reconciliation, cooperation, peace and common prosperity.

Thank you.

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