North Korea Nuclear Chronology

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2010

1 January 2010
North Korea used outlets throughout the state media to call for ending the hostilities with the U.S. and to make the Korean Peninsula "nuclear-free through dialogue and negotiations." Coordinated efforts through KCNA, KCBC, Rodong Sinmun, Josoninmingun and Chongnyonjonwii, expressed a desire for peace, however also lauded, "the successful launch of man-made satellite Kwangmyongsong-2 and the successful second underground nuclear test." There is no mention of a potential start date for the resumption of talks.


11 January 2010
North Korea's Foreign Ministry called for bilateral talks with the United States, focusing on an eventual peace treaty, according to state media KCNA. The following day, North Korean Ambassador to China Choe Jin Su reiterated, "To bring about trust between the DPRK and the United States, it is necessary to sign a peace accord first so as to remove the root cause of hostile relations and the state of war." Japanese media took the offer as "just North Korea's way of scheming to "delay" progress on the nuclear issue by first pushing for a peace treaty." The U.S. largely dismissed the statements.


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18 January 2010
North Korea stated that it will not return to the Six Party Talks until UN-imposed sanctions are removed. South Korea dismissed the demand responding, "neither the forum nor its participants have the authority to lift the punishment."

6-9 February 2010
Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, led a delegation to North Korea in an attempt to restart the Six-Party Talks. Wang met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, where he delivered a letter from President Hu Jintao. According to Chinese state media, Kim assured Wang that Pyongyang is committed to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. In a further sign of thawing relations, North Korean senior envoy to the Six-Party Talks, Kim Kye-gwan, returned to Beijing with Wang on the 9th for additional meetings.

10 February 2010
Former Vice Minister Wu Dawei was appointed Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Affairs, including representing China in the Six Party Talks. Wu had been expected to retire from his Vice Ministry position. He has represented China at the Six-Party Talks since 2005.

9-13 February 2010
North Korean envoy Kim Kye-gwan met with China’s newly re-appointed chief nuclear negotiator Wu Dawei on the subject of resuming the Six-Party Talks.

9-12 February 2010
U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe met with North Korean officials including North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun. It was the first high-level visit of a UN official since 2004. Pascoe delivered a gift and message from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; the content was not revealed. Pascoe said the North Koreans were, "certainly not
eager, not ruling out, but not eager to return to six-party talks,” upon his arrival in Beijing.

23-27 February 2010
On the 23rd, North Korean Communist Party official Kim Yong-il met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Jiarui and President Hu Jintao in Beijing, delivering a message from North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. The same day, Wi Sung-lac, South Korea's delegate to the Six-Party Talks, also arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart Wu Dawei to discuss China's plan for returning to the Six-Party Talks. American envoys Stephen Bosworth and Sung Kim arrived in the city and met with Wu Dawei the following day. Stephen Bosworth continued to Seoul where he met with Wi Sung-lac, as well as South Korea's National Security Advisor and the Minister of Unification. Special Envoy Bosworth then traveled to Tokyo where he met Japan's Foreign Minister and the Japanese delegate to the Six-Party Talks. Meanwhile also on the 26th, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sung Kim met with South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan in Washington. This group of meetings were held to discuss ways to restart the Six-Party Talks.

9 March 2010
In response to annual U.S.-ROK Key Resolve/Foal Eagle military exercises, North Korean state media quoted a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry as saying "the DPRK is fully ready for dialogue and war. It will continue bolstering up its nuclear deterrent as long as the U.S. military threats and provocations go on."

9 March 2010
South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met in Beijing; they discussed the North Korean nuclear issue, the Six-Party Talks, and agreed to step up efforts to restart the stalled Six-Party Talks.

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21-22 March 2010
In February 2010, when China's Special Representative for Korean Affairs Wu Dawei met with U.S. and ROK, China detailed a three-step proposal on the resumption of the Six-party Talks. The three-step plan included a resumption of bilateral talks between North Korea and the U.S., followed by a preparatory meeting of six parties, and ending with the formal resumption of the Six-Party Talks. On the March 21, the U.S. accepted the plan to hold a preparatory meeting of the delegations, opening the way for bilateral talks between the U.S. and North Korea. Washington also indicated that it was possible to discuss rolling back sanctions and requirements for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. By March 22 all parties except North Korea had agreed to hold a preparatory meeting.


26 March 2010
North Korea announced that, "Those who seek to bring down the system in the DPRK, will fall victim to the unprecedented nuclear strikes of the invincible army." The statement referred to a 19 March news report in South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo that the U.S. Pacific Command and think-tanks in South Korea and China will meet in April to discuss possible contingency plans for weapons of mass destruction in case of regime collapse in North Korea.


29 March 2010
State-run North Korean news agency KCNA announced that "the DPRK will witness the appearance of a light water reactor power plant relying on its own nuclear fuel in the near future in the 2010s." The remark was made in a lengthy article renouncing reports that the North Korean economy is weak or that the regime is in danger.


9 April 2010
North Korea's Foreign Ministry called the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review, "nothing different from the hostile policy pursued by the Bush administration." In the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review, the United States renounced the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states, but left its options open in the case of North Korea. North Korea claims it needs a nuclear deterrent against the United States and promised to "increase and update" its nuclear weapons.


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14 April 2010
Pyongyang renewed its calls for a peace treaty before returning to the Six-Party Talks. State-run Rodong Sinmun stated that the government called for an end to "the vicious cycle of distrust between the DPRK and the U.S." before the "denuclearization process to be pushed forward through confidence-building" could begin. Washington argued that a peace treaty should be put on hold until after North Korea has begun disarming.

21 April 2010
North Korea released a memorandum stating that it would limit the number of nuclear weapons it produced rejoin the denuclearization efforts in exchange for being recognized as a nuclear arms state. The U.S. refused its demands.

5-6 May 2010
Kim Jong-il met with President Hu Jintao of China, in part, to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Kim said that the DPRK was willing "to provide favorable conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks," according to state-run KCNA. No timetable or demands for the return to the Talks were made public. There was also no public discussion of the sinking of Cheonan, an ROK navy vessel, which has been an impediment to the resumption of the Talks.

14 May 2010
Unusually high levels of xenon gas were detected along the North-South Korean border. The gas could be due to a nuclear test, leakage from a nuclear plant, or rare industrial processes. According to an anonymous science and education ministry official, "the amount of xenon detected in the air at the Geojin monitoring site in Goseong county on May 14 was eight times more than normal." There was no sign of a tremor, which normally accompanies a nuclear test. There is no public evidence of the origin of the gas. Wind patterns were blowing north to south, indicating it could have come from Russia, northern China or North Korea. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization did not detect any unusual readings. On12 May 2010, North Korea announced that it had achieved nuclear fusion, which has been dismissed by scientists around the world.

24 May 2010
The DPRK Foreign Ministry gave a statement to state-run KCNA regarding the ongoing 2010 Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The statement defended North Korea’s withdrawal

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from the NPT in 2003 and said that North Korea had never violated the agreement while a member. Further, it claimed that the DPRK does not feel a need to be recognized a nuclear weapons state, and that "it is capable of reliably defending the sovereignty of the country and the security of the nation with its own nuclear weapons."

30 May 2010
The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 2010 Review Conference unanimously adopted a 28 page declaration that, "strongly urged the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to fulfill commitments under the six-party talks, including the complete and verifiable abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in accordance with the September 2005 Joint Statement." The declaration also called for North Korea to return to NPT membership and adhere to IAEA safeguards.

28 June 2010
Citing the United States' recent disclosure of previously classified documents indicating it considered using nuclear weapons on North Korea in 1954 and 1969, state-run KCNA reports that the North’s foreign ministry wants "the DPRK to bolster its nuclear deterrent in a newly developed way to cope with the U.S. persistent hostile policy toward the DPRK and military threat toward it." The report does not provide details on how the DPRK plans to accomplish this goal.

26-30 August 2010
Kim Jong-il makes his second trip to China in 2010, and meets with President Hu Jintao in Changchun on 27 August. According to Chinese state-run media, Kim tells Hu that "the DPRK’s stance on adhering to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula had remained unchanged, and the country is not willing to see tensions on the peninsula."

23 September 2010
The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK promotes three officials who were involved in negotiating breakthroughs on nuclear issues with the United States. Kang Sok-ju is promoted to Vice-premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK. Previously, he represented North Korea in the 1994 Agreed Framework negotiations. Kim Kye-gwan, who oversaw the 2005 Six-party Talks, which led to a joint statement on denuclearization, is now First Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs. Ri Yong-ho is now his Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs. Ri was also Kim's deputy during the 2005 negotiations.

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30 September 2010
The Institute for Science and International Security releases a DigitalGlobe image from 29 September showing that North Korea recently constructed two buildings near the location of the demolished cooling tower at Yongbyon. Construction and excavation equipment remain at the site, and activity is ongoing. [Note: In November 2010, the construction is revealed to be related to a new light-water reactor.]

8 October 2010
The Institute for Science and International Security releases a report stating the likelihood that North Korea "has moved beyond laboratory-scale work and has the capability to build, at the very least, a pilot-scale gas centrifuge plant." The report is based on procurement data, and does not show a clear indication that North Korea is ready to produce a significant amount HEU for weapons.

21 October 2010
Conservative South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo cites an unidentified ROK government source as saying that a U.S. satellite detected personnel and vehicle movements at Punggye-ri, the site of North Korea's 2006 and 2009 nuclear tests. Washington warns North Korea against conducting a third test, and North Korea responds by saying its nuclear arsenal "serves as a treasured sword" against the United States.

9-13 November 2010
Siegfried Hecker, John Lewis, and Robert Carlin of Stanford University visit the Yongbyon Nuclear Complex during their 9-13 November trip to North Korea. There, they view an experimental 25-30 MW(e) light-water reactor (LWR) under construction, and a completed industrial-scale uranium enrichment facility. The scientists are told that the enrichment facility has 2,000 centrifuges and is already producing low-enriched uranium for the LWR, ostensibly for civilian power generation. Hecker estimates that the 2012 completion date of the LWR is "much too optimistic."

8-9 December 2010
Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo travels to Pyongyang, where he meets Kim Jong-il and holds "frank and in-depth talks" reaching a "consensus" according to Chinese media. Further details are not revealed until later, when an unidentified government source states that Kim Jong-il will accept IAEA nuclear inspections, should certain preconditions be met. The preconditions are not released publicly.
—"Dai Bingguo Holds 'Frank and In-depth' Talks with Kim Jong-il," Xinhua, 9 December 2010; Jack Kim and Ben

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16-20 December 2010

Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson visits North Korea as a private citizen at the DPRK’s invitation. Upon his return, Richardson confirms the rumored willingness of North Korea to allow IAEA inspectors into its new uranium enrichment facility, and also says that Pyongyang will agree to set up a new military-to-military hotline, and discuss the creation of a joint military commission on the Yellow Sea with South Korea and the U.S. State Department. U.S. officials remain skeptical.


2009

18 January 2009

According to Selig Harrison who visited Pyongyang and met North Korean officials including a senior Foreign Ministry official and a general of the military, North Korea claimed that they had "weaponized" their stockpiles of plutonium of 67.8 pounds, which is sufficient to build four or five nuclear warheads. He also said that "the North Koreans are saying in effect that 'we are a nuclear weapons state' and you have to deal with us on that basis."


21 January 2009

South Korea’s deputy nuclear envoy Hwang Joon-kook visited North Korea to discuss South Korea’s possible purchase of unused fuel rods stored at Yongbyun nuclear facilities. North Korea is reportedly said to have about 14,800 fresh fuel rod, which are equivalent to 100 tons of uranium and worthy over $10 million. South Korea is considering purchasing these unused fuel rods, but Hwang declined to say the result of his visit.


6 February 2009

Some U.S. high-ranking officials said that North Korea detonated nuclear "weapon" in 2006, conversing their original remarks of "nuclear device" test. Those remarks reignited controversy over North Korean nuclear status.

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that was erupted by a report of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in November 2008 that named North Korea in the list of five nuclear weapons states in Asia. In line with Leon Panetta, director-designate of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who recognized North Korea's nuclear weapon test, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said in his article that he believed North Korea had built several nuclear bombs.


24 February 2009
North Korea announces plans to launch its Kwangmyongsong-2 communications satellite via an Unha-2 delivery rocket from the Musudan-ni launch site in the near future, ostensibly as a development of North Korea's space program. The announcement raised concerns among critics, who believe that the move may be a front for continued missile testing following a failed test of the long-range Taepodong-2 in 2006. Officials from South Korea and the United States have stated that the launch would constitute a violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1695 and 1718.


24 March 2009
The Foreign Ministry of North Korea issued a statement warning that the Six-Party Talk will collapse if the United Nations imposes sanctions against its planned rocket launch.


20 April 2009
North Korea announces that it will rebuild the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which Pyongyang previously began dismantling as part of an agreement with its Six-Party Talks partners. Pyongyang also kicks out IAEA and U.S. inspectors. This will allow the facility to be reconstructed and commence the development of plutonium for nuclear weapons. North Korea's action follows the UN condemnation of the April 5 missile test, which Pyongyang views as an infringement on their sovereignty.


26 April 2009
North Korea begins reprocessing thousands of spent nuclear fuel rods at the Yongbyon site, extracting plutonium from the rods to develop fissile material for nuclear weapons. However, reconstructing the Yongbyon site to full capacity will require several months. Specialists in Seoul argue that North Korea reopened the reprocessing plant to produce plutonium from thousands of spent fuel rods. These rods could yield enough plutonium for one or two bombs.


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25 May 2009
North Korean Central News agency announced the DPRK had conducted a nuclear test. The DPRK described the test as contributing to safeguarding their sovereignty, and guaranteeing peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The USGS estimated a seismic activity of 4.7 on the Richter scale at coordinates of 41.331°N, 129.011°E. The activity was shallow and located in the same vicinity as the October 2006 nuclear test. That test had a seismic activity of 4.3 on the Richter scale. Martin Kalinowski of the Carl Friedrich von Weizäcker Center for Science and Peace Research at the University of Hamburg the explosive yield of the test ranged from 3-8 kilotons of TNT with a likely yield of 4kt. In 2006 the yield was 0.5-0.8kt of TNT.

12 June 2009
The UN Security Council passed resolution reprimanding North Korea for the 25 May nuclear and 26 May missile tests. The resolution imposes new sanctions, expands arms embargos, and authorizes ship searches on the high seas. The resolution aims to deprive North Korea of the means for financing its nuclear and missile programs, and bans DPRK arms exports, especially missiles. The resolution calls on countries to refrain from providing financial support to industries that could contribute to North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

13 June 2009
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Korea issued a statement in response to UNSC Resolution 1874. Pyongyang states the second nuclear test was an exercise of self defensive to counter U.S. hostility. The DPRK rejects the UNSC resolution 1874 and will adopt countermeasures to protect their sovereignty and national dignity. Ministry of Foreign Affairs also states they will weaponize all of their newly extracted plutonium, commence the processing of uranium enrichment, and regards any attempt by the United States or its allies to blockade North Korea as an act of war which will be met with decisive military response.

15 June 2009
The North Korean Foreign Ministry stated, "The processing of uranium enrichment will be commenced." This draws considerable criticism of North Korea since it has stated achieved considerable success in developing and experimenting with uranium enrichment technology. Uranium enrichment will provide North Korea with another method to build nuclear weapons other than reprocessing plutonium.

16 July 2009
Kim Yong-nam, the president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK, declares that the Six Party Talks are over. Kim states that dialogue cannot proceed "where the principles of respect for sovereign rights
and equality are denied." Kim emphasized the need to strengthen the DPRK's nuclear deterrence. The statement was made at a Non-Alignment Movement meeting at the Egyptian resort Sharm el-Sheikh.


17 July 2009

In keeping with UNSCR 1718, which was adopted in 2006 after North Korea's first nuclear test, the UN Security Council imposes new sanctions on high ranking North Korean nuclear officials. The Council's sanctions committee imposes an asset freeze and a travel ban on officials from the General Bureau of Atomic Energy — the Bureau's directory Ri Je Son, Hwang Sok Hwa, head of the Bureau's Scientific Guidance Department — along with Ri Hong Sop, former director of Yongbyon nuclear research center. The sanctions also targeted Yun Ho Jin and Han Yu Ro, the heads of North Korean trading companies — Namchonggang, Korea Hykosin, and Korea Tangun — that are suspected of acquiring and transporting nuclear and missile parts for North Korea. The General Bureau of Atomic Energy, Namchonggang Trading Corp, Korea Hykosin Trading Corp, and Hong Kong Electronics (an Iranian based entity) were also placed on the UN blacklist.


27 July 2009

North Korea issued a statement calling for direct talks with the United States. The Obama administration responded that the Washington will engage in direct negotiations with North Korea in the Six-Party framework.


31 July 2009

U.S. Treasury Department places the Korea Hyoksin Trading Corporation, a North Korean entity, under sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13382. The North Korean firm owned by Korea Ryonbong General Corporation was blacklisted for their involvement in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The order effectively freezes the assets of WMD proliferators and prohibits U.S. persons from financial transactions with the entity.


12 August 2009

The U.S. blacklisted a North Korean bank under Executive Order 13382 for its affiliation with firms sanctioned under the UNSCR 1874. The Department of Treasury identified the Korea Kwangson Banking Corporation for providing financial services to Tanchon Commercial Bank and Korea Hyoksin Trading Corporation.

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25 August 2009
North Korea invites U.S. envoys to Pyongyang for bilateral discussions on the DPRK’s nuclear activities. North Korea reportedly extended the invitation during former U.S. President Bill Clinton's 4 August visit to Pyongyang to secure the release of two detained American journalists.

3 September 2009
North Korea informs the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that: "Experimental uranium enrichment has successfully been conducted and entered into the completion phase," and "Reprocessing of spent fuel rods is at its final phase and extracted plutonium is being weaponized." Included in a letter issued to the UNSC sanctions committee, the DPRK announcement is also broadcast on the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The DPRK letter was in response to the committee's inquiry into a North Korean arms shipment seized by the United Arab Emirates in mid-July 2009.

8 September 2009
The U.S. State Department imposes restrictions targeting two North Korean entities—the General Bureau of Atomic Energy (GBAE) and Korea Tangun Trading Corporation. Designated under Executive Order 13382. The restrictions freeze any assets owned by the entities within U.S. jurisdiction and prohibit U.S. persons “from conducting any transactions with these entities.” The announcement of the designation also emphasizes that the action is in uniformity with UNSCR1718 and UNSCR1874.

18-24 September 2009
ROK defense officials indicate that locations of North Korean nuclear weapons are known to the South Korean military. Additionally, these locations are included among "major targets" in DPRK territory identified for early attack in the event of a military conflict. The statements made by chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, Kim Tae-young, and General Lee Sang-eui during their confirmation hearings before the ROK National Assembly for defense minister and chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman respectively.

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21 September 2009
ROK President Lee Myung-bak proposes a "grand bargain" as a means to "fundamentally resolve the North Korean nuclear issue." According to the South Korean proposal, the DPRK would dismantle key elements of its nuclear program. In turn, the countries participating in the Six-Party Talks would "simultaneously provide security guarantees and international assistance to North Korea."

24 September 2009
At a rare summit-level meeting chaired by U.S. President Barack Obama, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously passes resolution 1887 (UNSCR 1887) in an effort to reinforce the international nuclear nonproliferation regime. Based on a draft resolution introduced by the United States, UNSCR1887 "reaffirms" prior DPRK-related resolutions UNSCR1718 and UNSCR1874 and discourages any withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Additionally, various speakers at the meeting - most notably French President Nicolas Sarkozy - criticize North Korea's record on efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

5 October 2009
In a meeting with visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il signals a possible DPRK return to the Six-Party Talks, but conditioned it on the result of "bilateral talks" with the United States. Kim's remarks at the meeting were carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. The Kim-Wen meeting was held in the context of a North Korean celebration of the 60th anniversary of official PRC-DPRK relations, and Kim's statements are later reconfirmed in official comments from China's Foreign Ministry. Kim also made reference at the meeting to an "unchanged" North Korean "commitment to realizing the denuclearization of the peninsula."

6 October 2009
The South Korean news agency Yonhap reports that North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facility is in the "final stage" of restoration. Yonhap's report is based on a South Korean defense source who referenced intelligence data from a parliamentary audit. The intelligence data was apparently drawn from "South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities" following an analysis of approximately 10 nuclear facilities.

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6 October 2009
Defense Minister Kim Tae-young advises the ROK National Assembly the North Korean military may not yet be able to attach their nuclear warheads to their delivery systems. Kim notes that while "it is not clear whether North Korea has nuclear arms," South Korean forces "have sufficient information on the locations where items related to the nuclear program are stored and where the delivery means are placed."

2 November 2009
North Korea demands direct talks with the United States on its nuclear program, warning in a Foreign Ministry statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, that if the U.S. is not ready to "sit down at a negotiating table", then the DPRK "will go its own way." However, the DPRK's demand also indicates a willingness to return to the Six-Party Talks.

3 November 2009
North Korea announces that reprocessing of 8,000 spent fuel rods was completed in August. According to the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the reprocessing was "part of the measure taken to restore the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon to their original state." The KCNA report also asserts "noticeable successes have been made in turning the extracted plutonium into weapons-grade for the purposes of bolstering up the nuclear deterrent of the DPRK." A senior South Korean defense official confirms that, based on satellite imagery analysis, the reprocessing facility at Yongbyon "appears to have been restored to its earlier condition." Commenting on the North Korean announcement, the U.S. State Department states that the DPRK's action "violates UN Security Council resolutions."

8-10 December 2009
U.S. special envoy Stephen Bosworth visits North Korea and meets with DPRK First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sokju, to explore restarting the six-party talks. North Korea's Korean Central News Agency later describes the meeting as "businesslike and candid", saying that the two sides "deepened the mutual understanding, narrowed their differences and found not a few common points." Bosworth later told the press that he urged the North not to conduct a third test, and promised "a vision of the future which would be a lot different than the present or the

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past", should the North abandon its nuclear programs. The DPRK lobbied for a loosening of sanctions, which Bosworth said was not possible until they returned to nuclear negotiations and dismantling of their atomic programs. No clear conclusion emerges from the meeting regarding the Six-Party Talks or next steps.


2008
4 January 2008
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement in which it claims that Pyongyang had submitted a nuclear declaration in November 2007 and had "sufficient consultation with the U.S. side" on the contents. If further states that North Korea has allowed the United States to inspect military facilities that used imported aluminum tubes to address U.S. suspicions regarding their use in a uranium enrichment program. In addition, while the disablement process has entered its last phase of unloading the spent fuel, Pyongyang is slowing down disablement work in response to the delay in the delivery of heavy fuel oil and other rewards promised by the members of the Six-Party Talks.

In response to North Korea's statement, U.S. officials disputed North Korea's claim that it had submitted a declaration. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill states that the United States does not regard North Korea's account a final declaration and furthermore urges North Korea to submit a "complete and correct" declaration on all its nuclear programs as required by the October 3, 2007 agreement. However, Hill acknowledged that U.S. officials were granted access to the sites that used the imported aluminum tubes.


7 January 2008
South Korean President-elect, Lee Myung Bak's transition committee asks the Ministry of Unification to link inter-

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Korea economic cooperation projects to progress on North Korea’s nuclear disarmament. During the Ministry’s policy briefing, a key member of the committee stated that while humanitarian projects can continue, "economic cooperation projects should be carried out in parallel with the pace of North Korea nuclear talks." As a result, large-scale cross-border projects to reconnect the cross-border railways and expand the Kaesong industrial complex may be placed under review.


30 January 2008

In a meeting with Wang Jiarui, head of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party, in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il says that North Korea remains fully committed to implementing the agreements reached during the Six-Party Talks. He adds that the other parties should fulfill their commitments under the principle of "action for action."


31 January - 2 February 2008

Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department’s Office of Korea Affairs visited Pyongyang to discuss ways to move the Six-Party Talks process forward. During his visit, he met with North Korean Foreign Ministry officials and told them that the nuclear declaration must be complete and accurate.


12 February - 16 February 2008

A U.S. team of experts make a trip to North Korea to assess progress in disablement of the key facilities in Yongbyon and discuss the possibility of implementing a U.S. program in the dismantling of North Korean nuclear weapons, a program resembling that of the 1991 Nunn-Lugar program. The team, which traveled in an unofficial capacity, consisted of Sigfried Hecker, the former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Joel Wit, a former State Department official and Keith Luse, an aide to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar. Upon return from the trip, Sigfried Hecker says that they enjoyed broad access to North Korea's nuclear facilities and that North Korea is serious about the denuclearization process as well as willing to consider a Nunn-Lugar type program in North Korea. However, Hecker says that North Korea is unwilling to move further unless the United States and other parties meet their end of the bargain. He also added that North Korea has slowed down the removal of the spent fuel rods at the Yongbyon reactor site.


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19 February 2008
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and North Korean Vice Minister Kim Kye Kwan hold unannounced bilateral talks in Beijing. In his brief to reporters Hill says that Kim Kye Kwan was careful not to characterize the current situation as a stalemate and indicated North Korea is prepared to work towards moving the denuclearization process forward. According to Hill, Kim Kye Kwan "wanted to make it very clear that they are not at present having any nuclear cooperation with any other country and they will not in future."


26 February 2008
The New York Philharmonic orchestra makes a historic performance in Pyongyang. It is reported that former Defense Secretary William Perry and former U.S. Ambassador to Korea Donald Gregg met North Korean Vice Minister Kim Kye Kwan and director-general of the North American division at the Foreign Ministry, Ri Gun, the day of the concert. In their meeting, the two former U.S. officials reportedly conveyed the message from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill urging for a quick resolution.


13 March 2008
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye Gwan meet in Geneva. Despite what is described by Hill as "substantive" discussions, they fail to reach a deal to move past the disagreement over the submission of a full nuclear accounting of North Korea's entire nuclear program. Hill says that they made considerable progress on discussing the format of the nuclear declaration, however, that the "really problematic element is that, we don't have a commitment from the DPRK to provide and complete and correct declaration."


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26 March 2008
The new, conservative South Korean administration signals a tougher stance with North Korea by warning that it will speak out against human rights abuses in North Korea and that it improving economic ties will be contingent on North Korea abandoning its nuclear weapons program. In his policy briefing to President Lee Myung Bak, Minister of Unification, Kim Ha Joong links inter-Korean engagement to progress in dismantling North Korea's nuclear program. He states that "the speed and scope of as well as ways to push for any development in inter-Korea relations will be decided according to progress in the North Korean nuclear issue."

1 April 2008
Breaking a long silence, North Korea's state-run Rodong Shinmun vehemently criticizes the new, conservative South Korean President Lee Myung Bak and his North Korea policies. The commentary criticizes President Lee's North Korea policy for attaching "complete nuclear abandonment" of Pyongyang as a precondition to improving North-South relations and accuses Lee of "making a complete mess of the process to denuclearize the peninsula."

8 April 2008
U.S Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and North Korean Vice Minister Kim Kye Gwan hold bilateral talks in Singapore where they report "important progress" in working towards breaking the current impasse in the Six-Party Talks. Furthermore, it is reported that the two parties reached a tentative agreement in which they would side-step the dispute over how much information North Korea is required to provide about any past uranium enrichment related activities and its suspected nuclear cooperation with Syria. This allows for the parties to focus on addressing North Korea's plutonium production capability, past and present. The agreement reportedly requires North Korea to finish the disablement process at Yongbyon and also to provide a full accounting of its stockpile of plutonium while "acknowledging" U.S. allegations regarding the uranium enrichment program and nuclear cooperation with Syria. In return, the United States will move toward lifting sanctions under the Trading with the Enemy Act and removing North Korea from U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
22 April - 24 April 2008
A U.S. interagency delegation, led by Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department's Korean Affairs office, visited North Korea to follow up on a provisional agreement reached between Kim Kye Gwan and Christopher Hill in Singapore earlier in the month. A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson told the Korean Central News Agency that "technical matters for winding up the implementation of the October 3 agreement, including the contents of the nuclear declaration" were discussed with the U.S. delegation.

24 April 2008
In its first public statement since the Israeli bombing of a Syrian site on 6 September 2007, the White House confirms that Syria has been clandestinely engaged in building a nuclear reactor capable of plutonium production with the assistance of North Korea. The White House says that North Korea's covert nuclear cooperation with Syria is a "dangerous manifestation" of Pyongyang's proliferation activities which poses a serious concern. The Bush administration also released photographs taken inside the reactor before it was destroyed to support its assertion. However, Washington reaffirms its commitment to the Six-Party Talks framework "to achieve the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." The White House issued its statement shortly after Central Intelligence Agency Director Michael Hayden, White House national security advisor Stephen Hadley, and Director of National Intelligence J. Michael McConnell briefed congressional committees about the North Korea-Syria connection.

8 May 2008
North Korean officials turn over 18,000 pages of documents related to its plutonium program to Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department’s Korean Affairs office on his follow-up visit to Pyongyang. An unnamed senior U.S. official says that the documents contain information about North Korea’s three major campaigns to reprocess plutonium in 1990, 2003 and 2005. However, the document does not include information about its alleged uranium enrichment program or its nuclear proliferation to other countries.
27 May - 29 May 2008
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and North Korean Vice Minister Kim Kye Gwan meet in Beijing to discuss filling the remaining gaps in North Korea's nuclear declaration as well as the timeframe for its submission.

10 June - 11 June 2008
Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department's Korean Affairs, meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss the remaining tasks for disablement, including how to deal with the used fuel rods. South Korea had previously offered to purchase the fresh fuel rods to use in its power reactors. North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson says that the discussions focused on "technical and practical ways of rounding off the disablement of the DPRK nuclear facilities and the issue of winding up the political and economic compensation for it."

26 June 2008
North Korea submits its long-awaited nuclear declaration to China almost seven months past the deadline. The United States welcomes this development and vowed to "respond to North Korea's actions by lifting the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act, as well as announcing our intent to rescind North Korea's designation as a States Sponsor of Terror in 45 days."

27 June 2008
North Korea demolishes the cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor site. The event was broadcasted by international media at Pyongyang's invitation.
1 July 2008

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill said, at the Center for International and Strategic Studies in Washington on July 1, that the North Korea deal is "a partially finished product." He also stated that "We have to keep working on issues that have not been fully disclosed, although not denied by the North Koreans." However, he emphasized that even though there are the unanswered questions about a uranium-enrichment program, the administration has succeeded in shutting down North Korea's nuclear reactor.


2 July 2008

According to a source close to the Six-Party Talks, North Korea said it extracted a total of about 30 kilograms of plutonium in three different years in 1990, 2003, and 2005 and used 2 kilograms in the experiment conducted in October 2006. The U.S. government believed North Korea may be able to extract approximately 8 kilograms of plutonium from unprocessed spent nuclear fuel rods stored at nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, the source said. There are about 4 kilograms of residual plutonium inside components of the nuclear facilities and another 2 kilograms in nuclear waste stored at the facilities. The United States believes the plutonium extracted by North Korea plus an additional 8 kilograms of the substance yet to be removed, totals about 44 kilograms.


4 July 2008

According to sources from the participants of the Six Party Talks, North Korea revealed in the declaration submitted to China that it used 25.5-26 kilograms of plutonium for manufacturing nuclear weapons. The sources said that the above amount does not include the 2 kilogram which North Korea acknowledged in the report as the amount used for its first nuclear test in October 2006.


10-12 July 2008

After a nine-month hiatus, the six countries convened the Heads of Delegation Meeting of the Six Party Talks in Beijing from 10 to 12 July in 2008. The two main issues of the talks were the verification and monitoring system of North Korea's nuclear program and energy assistance to North Korea. Six countries reached an agreement to set a verification mechanism consisting of experts of the six parties to verify the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They agreed that the verification measures would include visits to facilities, review of documents, interviews with technical personnel and other measures. As for the Yongbyun nuclear facilities, North Korea agreed to work to complete the disablement of the facilities by the end of October 2008. Despite the agreement the principle of verification mechanism, six countries failed to agree on a number of details including scope and subjects of verification which were deferred to working-level discussions. No agreement was reached on a timetable for a verification protocol and Washington remained critical of the North Korea's 26 June declaration, arguing that it did not cover its alleged uranium-enrichment program and foreign weapons deals.

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17 July 2008
According to sources close to the Six Party Talks, North Korea has pulled 4,000 nuclear fuel rods from the reactor in Yongbyun and put them into a water pond. Reportedly this discharge was a result of the most recent round of the Six Party Talks, where North Korea committed to try to complete the disablement of Yongbyun nuclear complex by end of October 2008.


22 July 2008
After meeting with his US counterparts Christopher Hill in Singapore on 22 July, Kim Sook, the South Korean delegation to the Six Party Talks said reporters that North Korea has already received the draft of a verification protocol. He added that "The ball is actually in North Korea's court because they already received the draft of a verification protocol." According to Christopher Hill, the U.S. top negotiator on the North Korean nuclear issue, the draft includes ways to verify North Korea’s claims about nuclear past but does not contain a timeline.


23 July 2008
Foreign Ministers of the Six Party Talks countries had an informal meeting in Singapore on 23 July on the sidelines of the annual ASEAN Security Forum. After a 90-minute discussion, the ministers released a six-point agreement declaring their commitments. The ministers agreed that there had been achievements made so far in the six-way talks and reaffirmed their determination to ensure each country’s obligations were met. In addition, they emphasized that a complete and balanced conclusion was crucial for the second denuclearization phase and that a verification mechanism must be promptly prepared. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated the meeting was "very good," adding that "it wasn't a standoff with people just stating their positions." According to the North Korean delegation's spokesman, Ri Dong Il, North Korean Foreign Minster Pak Ui Chun said North Korea was willing "to implement its own obligations," including verification, "closely following the implementation by other parties on the principle of action-for-action." Mr. Ri also said that "what's important is for the U.S. to fundamentally and
entirely withdraw its hostile policy."

30 July 2008
A senior official in the U.S. government said that Washington might suspend its removal of North Korea from the list of terror-sponsoring nations if the verification regime for verifying North Korea's nuclear program is not established. On 25 July, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned North Korea of a possible postponement of the removal unless the verifying mechanism is set up.

31 July-1 August 2008
Sung Kim, the US State Department's special envoy for the six-party talks and Li Gun, head of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's American affairs bureau met two times in Beijing from 31 July to 1 August to talk about the verification protocol. Even though there was no elaboration from them, it is reportedly said that there was no progress in the verification issue. According to a senior South Korean official in background briefing, "North Korea is still refusing to agree some basic stuff."

12 August 2008
The Bush administration continues to delay the removal of North Korea from its terrorism list although the deadline for removal had passed. North Korea knows "what they need to do on a verification package, and we’re continuing to work with them," US State Department spokesman Kelley Osterthaler said. State deputy spokesman Robert Wood also said "The 45 days are a minimum period, and what weneed from North Korea is a strong verification regime."

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26 August 2008
North Korea released a statement saying that it halted disablement process at the Yongbyon site, its main nuclear facility, and was considering restoring and restarting operations at the facility. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted the North Korean Foreign spokesman as saying: "we have decided to immediately suspend disabling our nuclear facilities. This measure has been effective on Aug. 14, and related parties have been notified of it." The State Department described the announcement as a "step backward."


4 September 2008
The Foreign Ministry of South Korea confirmed that North Korea took measures to restore its nuclear facilities at Yongbyun, officially expressing regret over North Korea's activities. Meanwhile, Christopher Hill, the top U.S. negotiator, said that it was not still clear that North Korea was attempting to restart operation at the Yongbyun facilities, adding North Korea's real intention was still unclear. After meeting with his counterparts of South Korean, Japan and China in Beijing, he urged North Korea to agree on the verification regime.


22-24 September 2008
North Korea asked the IAEA to remove seals and surveillance equipment at a nuclear reprocessing facility at Yongbyun to conduct tests. North Korea then ordered inspectors of the IAEA to leave the country and notified the agency that it would reintroduce nuclear material into the nuclear complex. According to a spokesperson for the agency, all the agency seals and surveillance equipment were removed from the Yongbyun facilities on 24 September.

1-3 October 2008

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill visited Pyongyang and had talks about the disputed verification regime for the North Korea’s nuclear program with his counterpart Kim Kye-gwan. Hill reportedly proposed a new approach to North Korea, under which North Korea would submit its list of nuclear site to China and still have to permit inspections from the U.S. as well as Chinese officials. According to U.S. government sources, the proposal would be limited to North Korean nuclear activities and facilities that are reported to China in June, and in turn, the United States would provisionally remove North Korea from its terrorism-sponsoring states list. As for weapon program and undeclared other activities, North Korea would declare its intention to cooperate with the comprehensive verification by the IAEA.


11 October 2008

The United States removed North Korea in its list of states sponsoring terrorism after North Korea agreed to resume disabling its nuclear plant and allow inspectors access to the declared nuclear sites. The State Department issued a statement saying that "North Korea has agreed to a series of verification measures," and "North Korea has also stated it will assume disablement of its nuclear facilities." As for the verification protocol, the department said it would be "finalized and adopted by the six parties in the near future." In response to the U.S. decision, North Korea announced it was resuming the disablement of its nuclear program and would allow international monitors back to the site.


12 November 2008

North Korea refused to allow inspectors to take soil and nuclear waste samples from a nuclear site, claiming that it had never agreed to allow sampling in its territory. The U.S. State of Department said that such a step would

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violate the agreement between them, adding that "it was basically agreed that experts could take samples and remove them from the country for testing."


8-11 December 2008
Six-Party Talks are held in Beijing and the parties negotiate a draft of a document on ways to verify North Korea's nuclear information. The negotiation ended without a document.


2007
16-18 January 2007
In an unusual bilateral meeting, top U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill and his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye-gwan discuss ways to revive the Six-Party Talks. Without disclosing any further detail, North Korea’s KCNA website issues a Foreign Ministry statement noting that a "certain agreement" was reached during the meeting. Meanwhile Hill declares that North Korea is willing to return to the Six-Party Talks.


8-13 February 2007
The third session of the fifth round of the Six-Party Talks is held in Beijing, where the participant countries reach an agreement. The adopted "Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement" commits North Korea to shutting down and sealing nuclear facilities at Yongbyon within 60 days and allowing IAEA monitoring and verification in exchange for 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil.

19 March 2007
U.S. Deputy Assistant Treasury Secretary Daniel Glaser announces that Washington would authorize the transfer of US$25 million in frozen North Korean funds that had been held in an account with the Macao-based Banco Delta Asia. Glaser says the money will be transferred to a North Korean bank account in Beijing. Pyongyang had cited the frozen funds as the reason for the DPRK not beginning to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility in accordance with the 13 February agreement. At the same time as the financial dispute between the United States and North Korea is being resolved, another round of the Six-Party Talks begins.

22 March 2007
North Korean envoy to the Six-Party Talks Kim Kyong-gwan leaves Beijing as the DPRK refuses to discuss implementing the 13 February agreement to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility until after it receives the US$25 million dollars from its Banco Delta Asia account.

25 June 2007
A spokesman for the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that it has finally received the funds from its Banco Delta Asia account and it will begin implementing the 13 February agreement to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility. The announcement comes over two months past the 14 April deadline to enact the agreement made in February.

14 July 2007
IAEA inspectors arrive in North Korea in order to confirm that the DPRK has shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility. In the meantime the first shipment of heavy fuel oil aid to North Korea arrives from South Korea.

18 July 2007
IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei confirms that North Korea has shut down all of its five main nuclear facilities which include the 5 MW experimental reactor, the reprocessing plant and the nuclear fuel rod fabrication plant at

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Yongbyon. Meanwhile, as a new round of Six-Party Talks begins, South Korea's nuclear envoy Chun Yung-woo indicated that North Korea expressed its intention to declare and disable all of its nuclear facilities by the end of the year.


20 July 2007

The Six-Party Talks end without North Korea giving a hard deadline for when they will completely dismantle all of their nuclear weapons programs. However, U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill says that even without setting a deadline the goal of North Korea disarming its nuclear weapons by the end of the year is "doable."


2 September 2007

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill says that North Korea has for the first time offered a timeline to declare and disable all of its nuclear weapons programs by the end of the year. Hill's announcement comes after meeting with North Korea nuclear envoy Kim Kye-gwan in Geneva.


6 September 2007

Israeli warplanes destroy suspected nuclear facility in Syria while concerns are raised about a potential nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Syria.


11 September 2007

A team of nine experts from the United States, Russia and China, headed by Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department's Office of Korea Affairs, arrive in North Korea to examine and discuss the disabling of nuclear facilities at Yongbyon with North Korean officials. The team is expected to report its findings to the next session of the Six-Party Talks.


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27 September 2007 - 3 October 2007
The second session of the sixth round of Six-Party Talks is held in Beijing. At the close of the session, the parties adopt the "Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement," which calls on North Korea to declare by 31 December 2007 its entire nuclear program and to disable its main nuclear facilities that had been shut down and sealed under the 13 February accord. The United States pledges to start the process of removing the designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism while all parties reaffirm their commitment to deliver the remaining 900,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea in return for nuclear disablement.

4 October 2007
At the close of the inter-Korean summit, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il sign the "Declaration on the Advancement of South-North Relations, Peace and Prosperity," in which the two leaders reaffirm their commitment to the denuclearization process.

11-18 October 2007
A working group of U.S. experts led by Sung Kim, director of the U.S. State Department’s Office of Korea Affairs, visit North Korea to map out a plan for disabling North Korea’s nuclear facilities.

27-29 November 2007
A fact-finding team composed of ten officials from China, South Korea, Russia and the United States visit North Korea to follow up on the progress in the disablement of the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon. The KCNA reports that the officials witnessed the "processes of disabling the 5 MW test reactor, the reprocessing plant and fuel rod plant including the cooling tower and confirmed that the disabling operation is making proper progress."

3-5 December 2007
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill makes a trip to North Korea to discuss with his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye-gwan the disablement progress and declaration of all nuclear programs. Hill states that the disablement process is going smoothly and that North Korea has "done a lot of work in preparation of discharging the fuel in the reactor." He also said that North Korea is "pretty close to providing a declaration." During his visit,

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Hill also delivered a letter from U.S. President Bush addressed to Kim Jong-il. In his first direct communication to the North Korean leader, President Bush urges Kim Jong-il to fully disclose all nuclear programs before the end of the year.


2006
10-18 January 2006
North Korean leader Kim Jong-il travels to China and meets with President Hu Jintao. At the unofficial summit meeting, Kim Jong-il reaffirmed North Korea’s commitment to the Six-Party Talks. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that the two countries "agreed to continue to the peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula’s nuclear issue by continually pursuing the six-way talks process."


18 January 2006
Chief nuclear envoys to the Six-Party Talks from North Korea, China and the United States meet in Beijing to discuss ways to revive the Talks. The trilateral meeting is held between U.S. Assistant Security of State Christopher Hill, North Korea’s Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan and China’s Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei.


4 March 2006
U.S. and North Korean officials hold a meeting in New York where U.S. officials provided a briefing on the punitive financial actions the United States had taken against Banco Delta Asia (BDA). Ri Gun, director of American affairs in the North Korean Foreign Ministry, pressed Washington to cease such efforts threatening that "under such pressure, we cannot return to the six-way talks."


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5 July 2006

North Korea test fires multiple ballistic missiles over the Sea of Japan including a long-range Taepodong-2 that apparently failed or was aborted 42 seconds after it was launched according to U.S. White House and Pentagon officials. The other missiles launched are a mix of short-range Scud-C missiles and intermediate-range Rodong missiles. In reaction to the test, the Bush administration strongly condemns North Korea's activities as "provocations"; however North Korea's Foreign Ministry states that the missile tests were "irrelevant to the six-party talks."


15 July 2006

The United Nations Security Council adopts a resolution condemning North Korea's missile launches and imposing limited sanctions. Resolution 1695 demands that North Korea suspend its ballistic missile program, and calls on all countries to prevent North Korea from receiving or transferring missile-related items. Furthermore, the resolution "strongly urges" North Korea to abandon its nuclear program and to return to the Six-Party Talks.


19 August 2006

The director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, Kim Seung-kyu, stated that North Korea was capable of conducting an underground nuclear test. Speaking at a closed-door briefing to the National Assembly, Director Kim said that "North Korea is believed to have facilities for a nuclear test" and that "the possibility of [a] nuclear test is always open as soon as Kim Jong-il makes a decision."


24 September 2006

After meeting with North Korea officials in Pyongyang, U.S. scholar Selig S. Harrison states that North Korea intends to unload fuel rods from the Yongbyon reactor and extract plutonium earlier than had been expected. Harrison quotes North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan as saying that the fuel rods would be unloaded this fall.

3 October 2006
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement declaring that it plans to conduct a nuclear test. The statement cites "the extreme threat of a nuclear war and U.S. sanctions and pressure" as the reason for North Korea having to bolster its nuclear deterrent. The statement did not specify when the test would take place.

6 October 2006
The United Nations Security Council issues a statement urging North Korea not to carry out a planned nuclear weapon test saying that such action would "jeopardize peace, stability and security in the region and beyond."

9 October 2006
North Korea conducts an underground nuclear test. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) releases a report confirming the nuclear test and states that the test was "conducted with [100 percent] indigenous wisdom and technology." The U.N. Security Council holds an emergency meeting, strongly condemning North Korea’s test, and vows to enact a "strong and swift" response.

11 October 2006
In a meeting with Kyodo News delegation at Pyongyang’s Mansude Assembly Hall, Kim Yong-nam, president of the DPRK Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, stated that "the issue of future nuclear tests is linked to U.S. policy towards our country." He also stated that North Korea’s return to the Six-Party Talks will also depend on U.S. policy towards North Korea.

14 October 2006
The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopts a resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter condemning North Korea’s nuclear test of October 9, 2006. Resolution 1718 bans the transfer of nuclear or ballistic missile materials and imposes an embargo on luxury good to North Korea. It further demands that no further tests or ballistic missile launches take place and calls on North Korea to immediately return to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

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31 October 2006
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill and his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye-gwan hold secret talks in Beijing under the auspices of the Chinese government, where North Korea agrees to return to the Six-Party Talks. After the meeting, U.S. officials downplay the suggestion that North Korea's recent nuclear test would now make negotiations more difficult. According to a statement by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice: "Nobody accepts that [North Korea is] a nuclear power."

18–22 December 2006
The second phase of the fifth round of Six-Party Talks resume in Beijing after a 13-month break. After holding five days of negotiations, the talks recess without achieving any tangible progress. North Korea insists that the issue of the frozen funds at Banco Delta Asia (BDA) needs to be resolved. The Chairman's Statement at the close of the session states that the six parties "agreed to recess to report to capitals and to reconvene at the earliest opportunity."

2005
5 January 2005
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, says the United States should not even "dream" of North Korean disarmament while the two nations have hostile relations.

5 January 2005
International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei tells Reuters that the North Korean nuclear program poses the greatest proliferation threat to the world and is worsening.
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Kwang-ung and both reaffirm their commitments to continue to work towards resuming the Six-Party Talks at an early date.


11-14 January 2005
A congressional delegation led by U.S. Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, visits Pyongyang to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapons program with the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yŏng-nam, Foreign Minister Paek Nam-Sun, and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan. Weldon states that he and his delegation emphasized to the North Koreans the United States' commitment to a peaceful resolution of the nuclear crisis.


14 January 2005
The DPRK's official Korean Central News Agency says North Korea will return to the Six-Party Talks if U.S. President George W. Bush pursues a more friendly policy towards the DPRK.


14 January 2005
U.S. Department of State spokesman Richard Boucher says the United States hopes that North Korea's recent statements about returning to the Six-Party Talks "do, indeed, presage a return to the talks."


18 January 2005
U.S. Congressman Curt Weldon reportedly says to Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda and Vice Foreign Minister Shotaro Yachi that North Korea will return to the Six-Party Talks in early February, provided that U.S. government leaders refrain from "inflammatory rhetoric."


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18 January 2005
Newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the DPRK can receive multinational security assurances in exchange for abandoning its nuclear weapons.

24 January 2005
According to Japan's Nihon Keizai Shimbun, China is encouraging the DPRK to admit the existence of its uranium enrichment activities for nuclear weapons development.

26 January 2005
Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi (Mu'ammar al Qadhafi) urges North Korea and Iran to follow Libya's example and give up nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction programs.

27 January 2005
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda says Japan "will make a strong appeal" to address the issue of abductions of Japanese nationals at the next round of the Six-Party Talks.

27 January 2005
Japan's TV Asahi airs part of an interview with Hwang Chang-yŏp, the highest ranking North Korean defector in South Korea. Hwang reportedly says that before leaving North Korea he heard from a senior official in the military industry department of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee that North Korea had reached an agreement with another country to build nuclear weapons by producing enriched uranium.

28 January 2005
Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko denies media reports that North Korea may have purchased nuclear weapons from states of the former Soviet Union.

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2 February 2005
U.S. President George W. Bush says the United States is working "to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions" during the State of the Union Address. The statement, which marks the beginning of his second term as president, is perceived to be less confrontational than previous statements.

2 February 2005
According to articles in the New York Times and Washington Post, scientific tests conducted at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory have led U.S. officials to conclude that nearly two tons of uranium hexafluoride sold to Libya, which can be enriched and used in a nuclear device, most likely originated from North Korea.

2-3 February 2005
Michael Green, U.S. Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council, visits Seoul to meet with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon, Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, and Deputy Secretary-General of the National Security Council Lee Jong-seok to discuss resuming the Six-Party Talks and the two tons of uranium hexafluoride believed to have been transferred from North Korea to Libya.

3 February 2005
The Washington Post reports that unnamed U.S. and IAEA officials say evidence linking North Korea to uranium sold to Libya is inconclusive and Pakistan instead may have been the real source of proliferation.

9 February 2005
Michael Green, U.S. Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council, travels to Beijing and delivers a letter from U.S. President George W. Bush to Chinese President Hu Jintao that urges China to apply greater diplomatic pressure on North Korea to disarm its nuclear weapons program.

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10 February 2005
A North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman announces that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons for "self-defense" and will be suspending its participation in the Six-Party Talks indefinitely due to the U.S. administration's hostile policy towards the DPRK. The spokesman specifically mentions U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's reference to the DPRK as an "outpost of tyranny" and President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address that includes the ultimate objective of "ending tyranny in our world."

10 February 2005
United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urges North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks to resolve the nuclear issue.

10 February 2005
U.S. Whitehouse Spokesman Scott McClellan says the United States will continue to pursue "a peaceful, diplomatic solution" to the nuclear crisis, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged North Korea to return to negotiations rather than risk "further international isolation."

10 February 2005
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says he is disappointed with North Korea's announcement that it is suspending its participation in the Six-Party talks. Ban says he expects China to play a more "positive" role in persuading the DPRK back to the negotiating table.

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10 February 2005
Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alexander Yakovenko says Russia "regrets" the DPRK's decision to suspend the Six-Party Talks but still feels that the nuclear issue should be resolved through the six-way forum.

11 February 2005
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says bringing North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks will still be first priority for Japan to deal with the nuclear crisis.

11 February 2005
North Korea's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Han Sŏng-ryŏl says a U.S. decision to conduct direct bilateral negotiations with the DPRK would be perceived as "a signal that the United States is changing its hostile policy," giving North Korea the necessary impetus to rejoin the Six-Party Talks.

11 February 2005
U.S. White House Spokesman Scott McClellan states Washington will not negotiate bilaterally with North Korea but adds that "there's plenty of opportunity for North Korea to speak directly with us in the context of the Six-Party Talks."

12 February 2005
Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing tells U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice via telephone that Beijing will work with all relevant parties to resume the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible.

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14 February 2005
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice reaffirm their commitment to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis within the Six-Party Talks and to increase diplomatic efforts to bring North Korea back to the negotiations as soon as possible "without any preconditions."

14 February 2005
South Korean Unification Minister Chŏng Dong-yŏng says to the National Assembly that North Korea's 10 February statement of possession of nuclear weapons "does not make North Korea a nuclear armed state."

16 February 2005
A bipartisan six-member delegation of the U.S. Congress, which was led by Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) to the January 2005 visit to Pyongyang, sends a letter to the DPRK Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yŏng-nam urging North Korea to reconsider its decision to suspend its participation in the Six-Party Talks.

17 February 2005
Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura consult and agree that both countries should work together to convince North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks. Machimura says he expects "a significant role by China" to help bring North Korea back to the negotiations.

17 February 2005
South Korean Ambassador to China Kim Ha-chung says that China has much greater leverage over North Korea than is currently employed or realized.

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18 February 2005
At a Korea University breakfast, U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill says China and the United States are in absolute agreement in the goal of bringing North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks.

19 February 2005
North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Han Sŏng-ryŏl says the DPRK will return to the Six-Party Talks if Washington promises peaceful coexistence and noninterference in Pyongyang's internal affairs.

19 February 2005
Following a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Nobutaka Machimura and Japanese Defense Agency Chief Yoshinori Ono (also known as the "two plus two" talks), Rice says the group urges North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks to end its nuclear programs. Rice says North Korea should return to the talks "so that people don't have to contemplate other measures."

19-22 February 2005
China's special envoy to North Korea Ning Fukui and other officials travel to Pyongyang to discuss resuming the Six-Party Talks with the DPRK Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yŏng-nam and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il. North Korean officials say they will return to the Six-Party Talks if the United States shows "trustworthy sincerity."

24 February 2005
South Korea's National Intelligence Service says in a report to the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee that they believe North Korea does not possess any nuclear bombs made with highly enriched uranium (HEU), and that North Korea has not reached the stage of building a large-scale uranium enrichment plant.
—Chŏng Chae-kwŏn, "Puk, Uranyumnongch’uk Sŏnggong Mothantŭt/P’ŭllut’onyum Hwakporo Haek 1~2 Kae,"

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26 February 2005
Top negotiators to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill of the United States, Kenichiro Sasae of Japan and Song Min-sun of South Korea meet in Seoul to discuss the resumption of negotiations and ways to urge North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks.

28 February 2005
The Kyodo News Service reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il gave four conditions for North Korea’s return to the Six-Party Talks to the head of the Chinese Communist Party’s International Department Wang Jiarui during the 19-22 February meeting in Pyongyang. The four conditions for the United States are a security guarantee, reasons for labeling North Korea an "outpost of tyranny," willingness to negotiate on an equal basis, and the ability to demonstrate trustworthiness through its actions.

1 March 2005
According to the Kyodo World Service North Korean leader Kim Jong-il tells Chinese Communist Party International Department head Wang Jiarui that the DPRK has produced nuclear weapons and that North Korea possessing them is "not something new that happened yesterday or today." The Chinese Foreign Ministry declines to comment on the matter.

2 March 2005
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says during his weekly press briefing that if North Korea returns to the Six-Party Talks, the DPRK will be able to negotiate one-on-one with the United States within the framework of the multilateral discussions.
2 March 2005

The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a rare memorandum outlining the DPRK's position on the Six-Party Talks. The memorandum explains why North Korea feels that currently there are "no grounds whatsoever to sit face to face with the United States, whether it is at the Six-Party Talks or DPRK-U.S. bilateral talks." The memorandum outlines what the United States must do in order to resume the multilateral negotiations over North Korea's nuclear issue. A spokesperson for the DPRK says that North Korea "will go to the talks any time if the U.S. takes a trustworthy sincere attitude and moves to provide conditions and justification for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks."


2 March 2005

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf says that former nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan "may have given some centrifuges or know-how to North Korea but they developed their nuclear programs from Western technology."


6 March 2005

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing says that while China remains committed to the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula it also believes that "the legitimate concerns of the DPRK should be addressed." Li also says that the North Korean leadership has stated that they are "ready and willing to continue to participate in the Six-Party Talks." Li remains noncommittal on China's stance towards the existence of a secret North Korean uranium enrichment program, only saying to reporters "I don't know anything more than you do."


7 March 2005

An article in the Asahi Shimbun cites unnamed Japanese government officials who say that the United States handed over to the Japanese government significant test result evidence that allegedly proves North Korea exported uranium hexafluoride to Libya. The article also says that during his meeting with Japanese Chief Cabinet

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Secretary Hosoda Hiroyuki and other officials that the U.S. National Security Council's Asia director Michael Green revealed that North Korea had exported the uranium to Libya through Pakistan's A.Q. Khan nuclear black market. —“Proof Libya Got North’s Uranium,” Asahi Shimbun, 7 March 2005, in “Japan: High-Level Sources Say U.S. Has 'Solid Evidence' of Nuclear Black Market,” OSC Document ID JPP20050307000048.

8 March 2005
White House Spokesman Scott McClellan reiterates the U.S. position that Washington will not have bilateral negotiations with North Korea outside of the Six-Party Talks framework.

9 March 2005
According to newly appointed South Korean ambassador to the United States, Hong Seok-hyon, U.S. President George W. Bush said in a meeting with Hong that Washington would like to see China take on a larger role in resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis because the PRC has "lots of leverage" with which to persuade North Korea. Hong says that Bush also indicated a willingness on the part of the United States to reach a "give and take" deal with North Korea.

9 March 2005
Newly appointed U.S Assistant Secretary of State and lead U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill says during a policy discussion at the National Strategy Institute in Seoul that North Korea will have to make a fundamental decision between giving up its nuclear weapons or facing international isolation. Hill states that the United States will not negotiate bilaterally with North Korea outside the Six-Party Talks framework, but should the DPRK return to the discussions that Washington will engage Pyongyang’s concerns with "passion and creativity." Hill also says that the Six-Party Talks could serve as the basis for a multilateral relationship between the Northeast Asian countries once the nuclear issue has been resolved.

10 March 2005
The European Union (EU) Parliament passes a resolution calling on the EU to be included as a seventh member in the Six-Party Talks.

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11 March 2005
In response to the European Union's 10 March resolution to join the Six-Party Framework, an unnamed government source tells the Yonhap News Agency that both the South Korean and U.S. governments have reservations about EU participation in the talks.

11 March 2005
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says in an interview with Reuters news service that North Korea is "throwing up smoke screens" in reference to North Korea's decision to stall returning to the Six-Party Talks until Washington gives up its "hostile policy" towards Pyongyang. Rice says in an interview with the Washington Times that the United States has to be careful about "front-loading incentives" with North Korea since Pyongyang "took the carrots... and started breaking their obligations," under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

11 March 2005
A spokesperson for the Russian Embassy in Seoul says that Russian Atomic Energy deputy head Sergei Antipov 10 March statements about North Korea not possessing nuclear weapons is Antipov's personal opinion and does not reflect Russia's official position. However the spokesperson did not go so far as to say that Russia believes that the DPRK possesses nuclear weapons.

15 March 2005
A spokesperson for the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that North Korea will bolster its nuclear arsenal in response to the "hostile" joint U.S.-ROK military exercises planned for the weekend.

17 March 2005
Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director, Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, tells a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that the DIA has assessed that the DPRK is not likely to surrender all of his nuclear weapon capabilities.

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18-21 March 2005

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice goes on a tour of Northeast Asia to coordinate efforts to resume the Six-Party Talks with Japan, South Korea and China. While in Tokyo, Rice meets with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura where the two top diplomats agree on the need for China to play a greater role in persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. While in Seoul Rice meets with ROK Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and Unification Minister Chung Dong-young. Ban praises Rice's description of North Korea as a "sovereign state" and her assurance that the United States has no intention to attack the DPRK, saying that he believes those statements are "good in creating an atmosphere for resuming the Six-Party Talks." In a joint news conference with Ban, Rice reiterates the U.S. position that North Korea can talk directly with the United States within the framework of the multilateral negotiations. In Beijing, Rice meets with Chinese President Hu Jintao. Hu emphasizes China's firm commitment to solving the nuclear issue. Rice expresses to Hu the importance of China's role for making progress on the negotiations. At a press conference in Beijing at the end of her Asia tour, Rice says that the U.S. will use "other means" for pressing North Korea to disarm its nuclear weapons should the Six-Party Talks fail.


20 March 2005

An article in the Washington Post rebuts the 2 February news story that cited U.S. intelligence officials claiming that North Korea had sold uranium hexafluoride to Libya. The news article says that it was Pakistan not North Korea who directly sold the uranium to Libya. The article further alleges that U.S. officials misled South Korea, Japan and China about North Korea's role in the transaction in an effort to get those countries to step up their pressure on the DPRK.

23 March 2005
Despite increasing domestic political pressure to impose sanctions on North Korea due to the DPRK's lack of cooperation on the abductee issue, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says he will hold off on imposing sanctions on Pyongyang because he believes North Korea will come back to the Six-Party Talks.

22-27 March 2005
North Korean Premier Pak Pong-ju travels to China for six days where he meets with top Chinese officials including President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Jia Qinglin, Politburo member and chairman of the People's Political Consultative Conference. On the first day of his visit Pak tells Wen that the DPRK has never opposed nor abandoned the Six-Party Talks and that North Korea will return when the conditions are right. Wen encourages North Korea to rejoin the talks, calling it "the realistic choice" for resolving the current standoff.

31 March 2005
An unnamed spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry tells the Korean Central News Agency says that the DPRK believes the Six-Party Talks should be converted to a forum for arms reduction.

1 April 2005
Top U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill calls North Korea's recent statement about making the multilateral negotiations into arms reduction talks "not serious."

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2 April 2005
An editorial in the North Korean government’s official paper, the Minju Joson restates the DPRK’s opposition to Japanese participation in the Six-Party Talks.

2-5 April 2005
According to anonymous sources North Korean Vice Minister Kang Sok-ju arrives in Beijing with four other DPRK officials on a secretive visit to discuss resuming the Six-Party Talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, vice foreign ministers Ning Fukui and Dai Bingguo, and senior Communist Party official Wang Jiarui. During the visit Kang reportedly asked for a face-saving gesture from the other five parties in order to return to the negotiations.

4 April 2005
An editorial in the Rodong Sinmun, the official publication of the Korean Workers Party, says that "the state of confrontation between the [DPRK] and the United States is becoming extremely volatile," and that North Korea also has "the right to choose a preemptive attack option."

5 April 2005
At the start of a seven day visit within the United States, South Korean Vice Minister for Unification Yi Pong-cho says that U.S. is at fault for creating Pyongyang’s anxiety that Washington is planning to overthrow the North Korean regime. Yi also says that American distrust of North Korea is not supported with specific evidence.

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6 April 2005
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian affairs and top U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks, Christopher Hill, says that the United States has evidence that uranium that ended up in Libya originated in North Korea. Hill explains that the uranium made its way to Libya through the A.Q. Khan nuclear black market.

9 April 2005
Selig Harrison, Director of the Asia Program at the Center for International Policy, tells a group of reporters in Beijing that during a recent visit to Pyongyang North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan told him that the DPRK cannot guarantee it will not transfer fissile material to terrorists if "the United States drives us into a corner."

14 April 2005
An editorial in the Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, says that comments made a few days earlier by the commander of the U.S. forces in South Korea, General Leon LaPorte, about expanding the role of the U.N. command reveal the U.S. intention to lead an international invasion of the DPRK. Pyongyang warns that it will use its nuclear weapons in such a contingency.

15 April 2005
Selig Harrison of the Center for International Policy says in an interview with the Yonhap News Agency that top-level North Korean officials, such as Chairman of the Presidium Kim Yong-nam and First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Seok-ju, told him during his visit to Pyongyang between April 5-9, 2005, that the DPRK will begin to remove an additional 8000 spent fuel rods from a nuclear reactor this month, potentially giving North Korea enough fissile material to double its nuclear arsenal.

17 April 2005
A commentary on the DPRK’s Korean Central News Agency website responds to a recent Washington Post article which alleged that U.S. government officials deliberately misled its Asian allies about North Korea selling uranium

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to Libya. The commentary says that such a "sheer lie" reveals U.S. intention to overthrow the DPRK government.


18 April 2005

The South Korean government officially announces that North Korea has stopped operations at one of its nuclear power reactors, which raises suspicions that the DPRK will begin reprocessing the spent fuel. Further, the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun cites unnamed sources who claim that U.S. satellite images of the North Korean nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and other intelligence have lead U.S. officials to believe the facility has been shut down.


18 April 2005

In light of speculation that North Korea may begin reprocessing spent fuel, Whitehouse spokesperson Scott McClellan says at a press briefing that the United States would talk with its regional allies and that referring North Korea to the U.N. Security Council is "certainly one possibility."


19 April 2005

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon responds to recent remarks from the Whitehouse about referring North Korea to the U.N. Security Council by saying that he felt that the comments were intended "to remind that there is such a procedure" not to imply "there is such a possibility."

21 April 2005
Responding to a growing perception that the U.S. is moving towards more coercive options to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis, Whitehouse spokesperson Scott McClellan reaffirms the U.S. "focus on getting North Korea back to the talks."

21 April 2005
Pyongyang's AP Television News quotes a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that if Washington refers North Korea to the U.N. Security Council and sanctions were imposed, the DPRK would regard this as a "declaration of war."

23 April 2005
At the Asia-Africa summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia, South Korean Prime Minister Lee Kang-jin meets with chairman of North Korea's Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yong-nam. During the meeting Kim is quoted as saying that North Korea will return to the multilateral negotiations over its nuclear weapons program "if the environment of the six-nation talks is fully mature."

26-29 April 2005
Amid speculation that North Korea may soon perform a nuclear test, the United States senior negotiator to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill meets with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and top nuclear envoy Song Min-soon, in order to discuss resuming the negotiations. After his visit to Seoul, Hill travels to Beijing and then to Tokyo. In China Hill meets with Chinese Vice foreign ministers Dai Bingguo, Yang Jiechi and Wu Daiwei and reiterates the U.S. commitment to the Six-Party Talks. In Japan Hill meets with Vice Foreign Minister Shoto Yachi and both officials agreed on the need to get North Korea back to the talks and invigorate the process. Hill also meets with Tokyo's top envoy to the Six-Party Talks, Kenichiro Sasae and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda. After traveling to Japan and China, Hill returns to South Korea where he meets with Unification Minister Chung Dong-young and later at a news conference warns that North Korea may be preparing for a nuclear test.

29-30 April 2005
At a press conference U.S. President George W. Bush labels North Korean leader Kim Jong-il "a dangerous person." Bush goes on to say that while the Six-Party Talks is the ideal venue for resolving the nuclear crisis he would not rule out pursuing U.N. sanctions or other options. In response, the North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement which labels Bush a "hooligan bereft of personality" and declares that "the DPRK does not expect any solution to the nuclear issue...during his term."


4 May 2005
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says at a weekly press briefing that the situation surrounding the currently stalled Six-Party Talks has "reached a level that is worthy of considerable concern" and that North Korea needs to resume the negotiations "without sticking to unreasonable arguments."


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4 May 2005

Kyodo World Service reports that unnamed sources say that U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill was told during his April trip to China, Japan and South Korea that North Korea would return to the talks if the United States referred to North Korea as a sovereign state and treat the DPRK as an equal negotiating partner.


4 May 2005

At a speech at the 2005 Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference South Korean deputy foreign minister for policy planning Chun Young-woo states that North Korea must make a "strategic decision to dismantle once and for all its entire nuclear weapons program" in order for there to be a "breakthrough in the Six-Party Talks."


6 May 2005

After meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing during a ministerial session of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says of resuming the Six-Party Talks that "it's important that China continues to exert efforts. China is aware of its role." The two foreign ministers said that they would work to quickly resume the currently stalled Six-Party Talks.


8 May 2005

International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei says that he estimates North Korea has developed as many as six nuclear weapons.


9 May 2005

During a trip to Moscow U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice repeats her earlier statement that the United States recognizes North Korea as a sovereign state.


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10 May 2005
Osaka University Professor of Economics and Law Yasuhiko Yoshida tells ROK newspaper JoongAng Ilbo that during a recent trip to North Korea that he was told by the DPRK deputy head of the Institute for Disarmament and Peace Pak Hyo'nam that a "plutonium-based nuclear test is unavoidable."

10 May 2005
The DPRK's Rodong Sinmun, the official publication of the Korean Worker's Party, issues a statement calling U.S. reports of a possible North Korean nuclear test "one-sided."

10 May 2005
U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks Christopher Hill says in an interview that the United States does not question North Korea's status as a sovereign state and has no intention of attacking North Korea.

11 May 2005
A spokesman for the North Korean Ministry of Foreign affairs announces that the DPRK has finished removing 8000 fuel rods from its 5 megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon. South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Kuhyang responds by saying that the DPRK announcement aggravates the current Korean Peninsula crisis. Whitehouse spokesperson Scott McClellan calls the DPRK claim "provocative statements" which "only further isolates North Korea." Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi calls North Korea's remarks "gamesmanship" and says the most important thing is to convince North Korea it is in its own best interest to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.
11 May 2005
In an interview, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice refers to North Korea as a "terrible regime" and says the U.S. administration is going to "shine a light" on the starvation of its people and the prison labor camps in the DPRK.

12 May 2005
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kong Quan responds to U.S. calls to exert greater pressure on North Korea to get Pyongyang to return to the Six-Party Talks by saying that Beijing "in principle...is not in favor of exerting pressure" or "resorting to sanctions to resolve international conflicts."

12 May 2005
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says in a telephone interview with ROK cable news channel YTN that "the government has grave concerns about the worsening situation," with respect to North Korea's recent announcement that it has removed 8000 fuel rods from its Yongbyon nuclear reactor.

13 May 2005
A U.S. government official (believed to be U.S. special envoy to the Six-Party Talks Joseph DeTrani) meets with a DPRK government official at North Korea's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York. According to White House National Security Council spokesperson Frederick Jones the purpose of the meeting was to tell Pyongyang "that it is time for [the North Koreans] to return to the Six-Party Talks."

16 May 2005
During talks between the ROK and the DPRK, chief South Korean delegate Yi Pong-cho says that Seoul told Pyongyang that South Korea will "make important proposals for practical gains in talks aimed at resolving the nuclear issue," if North Korea returns to the Six-Party Talks.
18 May 2005
An editorial on North Korea’s *Uriminjokkkiri* website states that because the DPRK has withdrawn from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) "it is nobody's concern but ours to decide on what to do with the spent fuel rods extracted from the experimental nuclear reactor."
—Ch'oe Ch'ang-il, "Dog's Tail Cannot Turn into a Weasel's Tail Even in Three Years," *Uriminjokkkiri* website, 18 May 2005, in OSC Document ID KPP20050518000047.

21 May 2005
According to Radio Free Asia, U.S. Republican congressman Curt Weldon says that North Korea "will come to the nuclear talks if the U.S. lowers its level of denunciation" against Kim Jong-il and "conveys a message ... that Washington will recognize the North's system and is willing to hold talks with the North." Weldon led a congressional delegation that visited North Korea in January 2005.

23 May 2005
South Korean Grand National Party (GNP) spokesperson Chun Yu-ok says that Wang Jiarui from the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee told GNP chairperson Pak Ku'n-hye the content of his January meetings with North Korean officials in Pyongyang over the DPRK’s nuclear weapons program. Wang told Pak that he attempted to persuade the North Koreans to return to the Six-Party Talks and told Pyongyang there would be rewards if it dismantled its nuclear weapons.

24 May 2005
An editorial in *Minju Joson*, North Korea's cabinet newspaper, argues that the DPRK's "possession of nuclear weapons is the best option to safeguard our dignity from the escalating U.S. nuclear maneuver to crush the Republic (North Korea) and realize a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula."

24 May 2005
According to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, a high level ROK Foreign Ministry official was told that China will
veto taking North Korea to the United Nations Security Council if the Six-Party Talks are unsuccessful. Meanwhile Japan’s Kyodo World Service reported that Chinese officials warned Pyongyang of "grave consequences" if the DPRK performs a nuclear test.


25 May 2005
South Korean Grand National Party Representative Pak Chin says that China has told the United States that South Korea’s appeasement policy is undermining attempts to bring North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks.


26 May 2005
During testimony to a House International Committee top U.S. envoy to the Six-Party Talks, Christopher Hill, says in reference to China's role in bringing North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks that Beijing "should be able to convince their very close friend to come to the table. And they haven't done it."


30 May 2005
In an interview on U.S. television, U.S. Vice-President Richard Cheney calls on China to exert greater leverage in bringing North Korea back to the negotiating table, saying that "the Chinese need to understand that it’s incumbent upon them to be major players here."


30 May 2005
Sources tell Japan’s Jiji Press that during his visit to Beijing in April 2005, North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju told Chinese officials that the DPRK had made a major decision with regards to its nuclear program.


1 June 2005
Kenichiro Sasae and Christopher Hill, top envoys to the Six-Party Talks for Japan and the United States, meet and agree to deal with North Korea flexibly if the DPRK returns to the multilateral negotiations.


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2 June 2005
Amidst much speculation that North Korea may perform a nuclear test, sources reveal to the Japan Economic Newswire that China has warned the DPRK it will consider stopping food aid if it goes through with the test.

2 June 2005
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry responds to U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's labeling of DPRK Leader Kim Jong-il "an irresponsible leader" in a television interview by saying that Cheney's remarks are "little short of telling (North Korea) not to come out for the talks." White House spokesperson Scott McClellan stands by Cheney's initial comments, stating "We are going to call it the way it is."

2 June 2005
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry tells the Korean Central News Agency that the DPRK takes note that U.S. President George W. Bush referred to Kim Jong-il as "Mr. Kim"—a more respectful term than used previously—and will "closely follow" to see if this is an indicator of the United States softening its stance towards Pyongyang. According to reports, President Bush made the remarks during a news conference at the White House on 31 May.

4 June 2005
Top DPRK Envoy to the U.N. Pak Gil-yon says at a closed-door seminar at the University of Toronto that Pyongyang "can never give up [its] nuclear weapons program unless the U.S. does."

5 June 2005
According to the Japanese newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun diplomatic sources stated that China has warned
North Korea that a DPRK nuclear test would cross a "red line in diplomacy."

5 June 2005
According to Japan's Asahi Shimbun, U.S. intelligences sources disclosed that North Korea purchased 150 tons of high-strength aluminum from Russian dealer, which is enough to make 2,600 uranium enrichment centrifuges. The sources further revealed that U.S. intelligence officials were aware of the acquisition by North Korea as early as June 2002.

6 June 2005
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says to reporters in Aichi prefecture that he believes that North Korea wants to resolve the nuclear issue through the Six-Party framework "by all means."

7 June 2005
An editorial in the Rodong Sinmun, the official publication of the Korean Workers' Party, says that now that North Korea has become a nuclear power the purpose of the Six-Party Talks should be changed to nuclear disarmament by all parties.

6-8 June 2005
On 6 June North Korean ambassador to the United Nations Pak Gil Yon and U.S. special envoy to the Six-Party Talks Joseph DeTrani meet in New York to discuss resuming the multilateral negotiations. U.S State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack says that Pak informed the DeTrani that the DPRK would come back to the Six-Party Talks but did not specify a particular date. The Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun cites anonymous U.S. and DPRK sources who disclosed that Pak told DeTrani that North Korea deserves "treatment as a nuclear nation" during their meeting. Meanwhile, on 8 June, top Chinese envoy to the Six-Party Talks Wang Guangya says that the negotiations could begin again within weeks.

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8 June 2005
North Korea's top envoy to the Six-Party Talks, Kim Kye-kwan, says in an interview with a U.S. television network that the DPRK has enough nuclear bombs to defend against a U.S. attack. Kim answered "yes" when he was asked if North Korea was building additional nuclear weapons.


9 June 2005
Speaking in regards to the North Korean nuclear weapons program, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao states that Beijing "is not aware of the situation." Liu also goes on to say China hopes that "all relevant parties will make constructive efforts at once to promote the resumption of the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible."


10 June 2005
U.S. President George W. Bush meets with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun at the White House. After their meeting Bush tells reporters that "South Korea and the United States share the same goal, and that is a Korean Peninsula with no nuclear weapons." Roh notes that "there are one or two minor issues, but I'm certain we will be able to work them out with dialogue." However, he goes on to say that the two presidents had "reconfirmed that we have no basic differences on the issue, and we completely agreed to the basic principles, and are continuously discussing various problems that occur in the process of negotiations."


14 June 2005
South Korean National Security Council senior official Yi Chong-so'k clarifies a statement that South Korean President made to reporters on 10 June 2005 after his summit meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush. At the time Roh said that there were minor issues between the U.S and the ROK. Yi explains to a parliamentary defense committee that the differences Roh was referring to were on U.S. plans for its troops stationed in South Korea, not differences over how to resolve the Korean peninsula nuclear crisis.

15 June 2005
The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds a hearing entitled "North Korea: An Update on the Six-Party Talks and Matters Related to the Resolution of the North Korean Nuclear Crisis." U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Christopher Hill and Special Envoy to the Six-Party Talks Joseph DeTrani both provide testimony. Hill testifies that diplomacy is the best way to resolve the current nuclear crisis but acknowledged that the United States is also considering other options. Hill and DeTrani say that Washington has received support from the other participant countries in bringing North Korea back to the negotiations. Hill, however, also says that China is not exerting all the leverage that it could on Pyongyang.

17 June 2005
North Korean leader Kim Jong-il meets with South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young and says that the DPRK will return to the Six-Party Talks if the United States recognizes and respects the North Korean government. According to Chung, Kim says that North Korea does need to possess nuclear weapons and that Kim "has a friendly feeling towards the United States." U.S State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli responds to Kim's announcement that the DPRK could return to the Six-Party Talks in July by saying that the United States is looking for is "actually getting back to the talks and engaging substantively."
18 June 2005
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is skeptical of Kim Jong-il's statements about returning to the Six-Party Talks in July noting that it could be a diplomatic strategy.

20 June 2005
In an interview on U.S. television, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice states that "the North Koreans love to make excuses for why they can't come back to the Six-Party Talks. The reason they don't want to come to the Six-Party Talks is they don't like facing China and Russia and Japan and South Korea and the United States telling them in a concerted fashion that it's time to get rid of their ... nuclear weapons."

21 June 2005
U.S Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky calls North Korea "an outpost of tyranny" during a forum speech arranged by the Hudson Institute. Meanwhile at an international conference in Brussels U.S Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice makes a similar comment about the DPRK. South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon responds to the Rice and Dobriansky's comments noting that they would not "help create an atmosphere of dialogue."

22 June 2005
According to a report by South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, on 3 November 2002 former Washington Post reporter Don Oberdorfer and former U.S. ambassador to Seoul Donald Gregg received a letter to give to U.S. President George W. Bush on behalf of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. An excerpt of the letter reads: "If the United States recognizes our sovereignty and assures non-aggression, it is our view that we should be able to find a way to resolve the nuclear issue in compliance with the demand of a new century." Oberdorfer and Gregg reportedly passed the letter onto National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley on 7 November who then replied that the Bush administration would not "reward bad behavior." On 13 November 2005 the Bush administration declared that it would suspend all of its shipments of heavy fuel oil to the DPRK.

29 June 2005
U.S. President George W. Bush issues an executive order that freezes assets of North Korean entities that have been implicated in developing or spreading weapons of mass destruction. DPRK firms Tanchon Bank, Korea Mining Development Trading Corp. and Korea Ryonbong are designated under the executive order.

30 June 2005
The Japanese newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun reports that North Korea has resumed construction on a 50-megawatt and a 200-megawatt reactor located in Taechon. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda says to reporters that Tokyo has not confirmed the newspaper’s report.

9-10 July 2005
North Korea agrees to return to the Six Party Talks to after, according to DPRK media, the United States agreed to recognize North Korea as a sovereign nation and not threaten North Korea. Washington also agreed to hold bilateral talks within the Six-Party framework. The fourth round of talks is set to begin on 26 July.

26-27 July 2005
North Korean delegate to the Six Party Talks rejected a U.S.-sponsored nuclear dismantlement proposal. North Korean delegate Kim Kye Gwan argued dismantling their nuclear weapons without assurances of regime security is unreasonable. North Korea calls on the other participants in the talks to lift economic sanctions and provide multilateral security assurances; after that DPRK would dismantle their nuclear program. The U.S. delegation persisted that North Korea must verifiably and irreversibly dismantle their nuclear program—both the plutonium and the uranium based programs. North Korea appears to be concerned about the sequencing of dismantlement—not wanting to lower their "deterrent" capability until they are assured that Washington does not plan to attack the North Korean regime. North Korea also wants normalization of relations between itself and the United States and Japan, and withdrawal of the nuclear umbrella over South Korea.

7 August 2005
The Six Party Talks will take a three week recess for the participating delegations to return to their capitals, assess

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positions, and formulate resolutions. The main challenge to a resolution is whether North Korea should be allowed to keep nuclear programs for peaceful civilian energy; namely, to develop light water reactors, which the United States and other talks participants opposed. Washington wants North Korea to cease all nuclear programs, and fears that a civilian nuclear energy program will be used to restart nuclear weapons. Other members were willing to accept their peaceful nuclear program on the condition that the DPRK rejoins the Nonproliferation Treaty.

14 August 2005
North Korea's Chief Nuclear Negotiator Kim Gye Kwan reiterated that North Korea was not willing to give up their pursuit of non-military nuclear energy. However, they would accept international supervision of their nuclear energy program and were willing to return to the NPT.

21 August 2005
North Korea restarted their nuclear reactor in Yongbyon in July before they re-entered the Six Party Talks. U.S. spy satellites detected steam rising from the boiler connected to the nuclear reactor building.

13 September 2005
The Six Party Talks resume but remain in stalemate, with the North Koreans continuing to uphold the right to peaceful nuclear energy. The DPRK delegation also requested the construction of light water reactors previously promised under the 1994 Agreed Framework. The U.S. delegation refuses to agree to this. The North Korean side states that they would dismantle their graphite moderated reactors in return for the construction of light water reactors and oil shipments.

15 September 2005
US Treasury Department designates Banco Delta SARL a money laundering pawn for North Korea. The bank has supported North Korea multimillion dollar cash deposits and withdrawals. The bank facilitated criminal activities of the DPRK government and front companies including circulating counterfeit currency and handling bank transactions for drug trafficking. The U.S. Treasury prohibited U.S. financial institutions from business transactions in the U.S. or for the Banco Delta bank.

19 September 2005
The six delegations agrees to the Statement of Principles. In this agreement, North Korea will abandon nuclear...
weapons and their existing nuclear programs. According to the agreement, "The DPRK stated that it has the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy." The DPRK also agrees to return to the Non Proliferation Treaty, abide by IAEA safeguards and inspections. In return North Korea will receive concessions including steps to normalize relations with Japan and the United States, and assurance that the United States will not attack North Korea conventionally or with nuclear weapons. North Korea will also receive economic aid and large amounts of energy assistance from South Korea. The six nations will meet again in November to discuss how they will reach the aims of the agreement. The terms of the agreement are to be carried out in a commitment for commitment, where all parties provide their concessions on a step by step basis.


20 September 2005

After North Korea agreed to the Six Party Talk's agreement, North Korea demands the construction of a civil nuclear power reactor before they begin dismantling their civil and military nuclear facilities.


4 October 2005

Chief negotiator at the Six Party Talks, Christopher Hill, met with North Korean officials at the UN Mission in New York. This is the first time since North Korea agreed to dismantle their nuclear arsenal that the two nations representatives have spoken. North Korea states it will dismantle its nuclear weapons program after it receives Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR) for their civilian energy programs. The U.S. Delegation maintains that a peaceful nuclear energy program will receive assistance only after North Korea dismantles their nuclear weapons arsenal. The issue of sequencing of various obligations was set on the agenda of issues to discuss at the upcoming fifth round of negotiations.


20 October 2005

Governor Bill Richardson visits North Korea and tours the Yongbyon nuclear facility. Richardson speaks with the plant director and learns that the reactor was refueled in April and had reprocessed 8000 spent fuel rods. The North Koreans tell Richardson that they were willing to rejoin the NPT. The governor states that the North Korean appeared to be promoting transparency and was hopeful for the next round of the Six Party Talks.


9 November 2005

The fifth round of the Six Party Talks begins. The fifth round of negotiations are held in two stages. The first stage held from Wednesday to Friday where the actors will outline their recommendations. Bilateral meeting will follow. Challenges that emerge during the first stage of the talks will be discussed at the informal APEC summit in Pusan, South Korea. DPRK emphasized simultaneous action and renunciation of nuclear weapons programs in exchange

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for light water nuclear reactor. The US would not supply light water reactors until the Korean Peninsula is
denuclearized, DPRK rejoins the NPT and accepts IAEA inspections.
— "Fifth Round of Nuclear Talks Opens In Beijing," News Bulletin, 9 November 2005, in LexisNexis,
www.lexisnexis.com; "Three-Point Plan Put Forward to Resolve North Korea Nuclear Dispute," Agence France

11 November 2005
The fifth round of Six Party Talks will recess for diplomats to attend the APEC summit in South Korea. No progress
has been made in negotiating on the denuclearization of North Korea. U.S. and North Korean negotiators agreed to
meet again but do not set another date to resume talks. Structural challenges emerged over U.S. sanctions on
North Korean firms accused of proliferating weapons of mass destruction, and counterfeiting U.S. dollars. North
Korea requested a removal of sanctions placed on these firms, while U.S. was pushing for North Korea to halt
plutonium production.
— "North Korea Nuclear Talks in Beijing With No Word of Progress Toward Settlement," Associated Press, 11

14 November 2005
North Korea proposed a five stage plan for dismantling their nuclear weapons. North Korea would suspend nuclear
testing, transfer of nuclear technology, and shut down the production of nuclear weapons. They would allow
outside inspections and dismantle nuclear weapons before returning to the NPT and accept IAEA safeguards. North
Korea agreed to end their nuclear program in exchange for energy assistance and other benefits. However, North
Korea has refused to dismantle their nuclear program until the US supplies a Light Water Reactor.
— "North Korea Offered Plan For Nuclear Dismantlement: Official," Agence France Presse, 14 November, 2005, in

29 November 2005
U.S. government decides to finally terminate the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO)
project to build two light water reactors as part of the 1994 Agreed Framework. After the U.S. government and
KEDO officially cancelled the project, North Korea demands compensation for the political and economic losses.
North Korea claims the United States is violating the Agreed Framework which promised to build the light water
reactors; the U.S. government countered that the North Koreans were covertly developing a uranium enrichment
program which was contrary to the Agreed Framework.
— "N. Korea Asks US to Compensate it For Cancelled Reactors," Yonhap News, 29 November 2005, in LexisNexis,

11 December 2005
North Korea suspends its participation in the Six Party Talks for an indefinite period of time due to U.S. financial
sanctions. The US blacklisted eight North Korean firms suspected of WMD proliferation.
"Nuclear Talks Suspended Indefinitely: Korea," Agence France Presse, 11 December 2005, in LexisNexis,

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12 December 2005
The North Korean government orders the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to withdraw all employees from the nuclear power reactor construction site by January 2006. KEDO is also told they are not allowed to repatriate the equipment and materials on the construction site.

21 December 2005
North Korea announces the intended construction of light water reactors. They were also increasing the production of two graphite moderated reactors meant to extract weapons grade plutonium.

2004
1 January 2004
North Korea's three major newspapers, Rodong Sinmun, Chosŏn Inmin'gun and Ch'ŏngnyŏn Chŏnwi, release a joint editorial that says North Korea is willing to hold six-nation talks early this new year. But the editorial also warns that "we will always react with the toughest policy to the US hard-line policy."

1 January 2004
South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun says in his New Year's message to the nation, "I will do my best to lay a new foundation for peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula by peacefully resolving the North Korean nuclear problem."

1 January 2004
US Secretary of State Colin Powell says in a New York Times op-ed that the Bush administration will continue to pursue diplomacy within the six-nation framework to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue. He also writes, "We seek peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula, but we will not reward threats from Pyongyang or provide

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incentive for blackmail."

6 January 2004
The Korean Central News Agency says the US should "de-list the DPRK as a sponsor of terrorism, lift political, economic and military sanctions," as well as "supply heavy oil, power and other energy resources to the DPRK" based on the principle of simultaneous actions. In return the DPRK "is set to refrain from testing and production of nuclear weapons and even stop operating the nuclear power industry used for peaceful purposes as first-phase measures in the package solution."

6 January 2004
US Secretary of State Colin Powell calls North Korea's offer to freeze its nuclear program a positive step for implying "that they would give up all aspects of their nuclear program, not just the weapons program."

6 January 2004
South Korea's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yoon Young-kwan [Yun Yŏng Gwan] says, "We positively evaluate the North Korean statement [released today to freeze nuclear activities] because it stated specifically what measure it would take, and confirmed once again its willingness to tackle the issue through dialogue."

6-10 January 2004
An unofficial delegation of five Americans visits North Korea. During the five-day trip, the group, which includes former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Siegfried S. Hecker and John W. Lewis of Stanford University, visits the nuclear complex in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, but they stress that their objective is not to inspect or negotiate on behalf of the US government. The North Koreans show Hecker a piece of metal that Hecker describes as having all the visible properties of plutonium, but Hecker does not have diagnostic equipment to completely verify that it is. The group also checks a few containers in the temporary storage pond containing 8,000 canned

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spent fuel rods, but the rods are empty.

7 January 2004
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher responds to a Washington Post report that Fu Ying, head of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, stated on 29 December 2003 that China did not believe North Korea has a clandestine uranium enrichment program by reiterating, "We certainly know North Korea has a highly enriched uranium program, and when confronted with that fact, North Korea admitted it."

9 January 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman dismisses Libya's decision to abandon nuclear program as having nothing to do with the DPRK, stating that "to expect any 'change' from the DPRK [would be] foolish." He adds the decisions to allow intrusive inspections in Libya and Iran "only reinforce the DPRK's firm belief in the validity and vitality of its Sŏngun [military first] policy."

10 January 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says the DPRK showed the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex to Professor John W. Lewis and the American delegation to "ensure transparency as speculative reports and ambiguous information about [North Korea's] nuclear activities are throwing hurdles in the way of settling the pending nuclear

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issue."

10 January 2004
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan tells reporters that Chairman of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo offered economic aid to North Korea during a visit to Pyongyang in October 2003. While Kong declines to give details of the economic package, Japan's Asahi Shimbun reports, "Beijing dangled the equivalent of $50 million in grant aid for North Korea to attend multilateral talks on its nuclear standoff [that took place in December 2003]."

12 January 2004
An unidentified US source says a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official expressed the DPRK's intentions to address its nuclear weapons development and the issue of abductions of Japanese nationals separately. The intentions were reportedly expressed to the two Senate foreign policy aides of Sen. Richard Lugar and Sen. Joseph Biden, two of the five members of the unofficial US delegation that visited North Korea during 6-10 January.

20-21 January 2004
South Korea's National Security Advisor Ra Jong Il meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi during a two-day visit to discuss the Six-Party Talks and bilateral issues. The two agree to continue seeking a peaceful solution under the six-way framework to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue.

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21 January 2004

Siegfried Hecker, former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, testifies before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and says that he spoke with several scientific, military and economic officials but did not see an actual weapon during his five-day visit to North Korea. He says he did observe a restarted 5MW(e) reactor [capable of yielding approximately 5.5 kg of plutonium per year], empty spent fuel canisters in pond for perhaps 8,000 fuel rods, and what appeared to be a plutonium metal sample.


21 January 2004

Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, attacks the US National Nuclear Security Administration’s decision to resume research into smaller nuclear weapons, saying, "The world is now on the verge of being embroiled in the second global arms race [due to the NNSA's decision]."


21-22 January 2004

Mitoji Yabunaka, the official daily of the Asian and Oceanic Affairs Bureau in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su Hyŏk, and US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly meet in Washington to discuss the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, North Korea’s proposal to freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for the resumption of heavy fuel oil supplies, and Japan’s desire to include the abductions issue in the multilateral talks.


29 January 2004

Pakistan’s Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat denies that Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan is suspected of transferring nuclear technology or know-how to North Korea, Iran, or Libya, saying, "Dr. Khan is neither a suspect, nor in custody." The statement comes following the interrogation of nuclear scientists and officials that have linked Khan to nuclear proliferation.

30 January 2004
Australia sends a delegation of government officials to Pyongyang to urge the DPRK to restart the Six-Party Talks. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says Australia is in a good position to persuade North Korean officials because it is one of the few countries that maintains diplomatic relations with North Korea even though Canberra is a close ally of Washington. Downer also says he believes the Six-Party Talks are "the most viable mechanism for finding a peaceful and a lasting solution to the nuclear issue."

31 January 2004
Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, referred to as "the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb," is removed from his position as advisor to the Pakistani government on nuclear affairs to "facilitate the ongoing investigations" into alleged nuclear proliferation to Iran, Libya and North Korea. The decision followed a meeting of Pakistan's Nuclear Command and Control Authority, headed by President Pervez Musharraf. Khan held his position as advisor since 2001.

1 February 2004
A Pakistani official says Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan admitted to having transferred nuclear technology to North Korea, as well as to Iran, Libya, and Malaysia. Between 1986 and 1997, Khan allegedly provided centrifuge machines and technical drawings to North Korea and allowed North Koreans to visit the Kahuta Research Laboratory where a uranium enrichment program exists.

2 February 2004
South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Sin Bong-kil says Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly agree to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. Kelly states that he is "mildly optimistic" for a future round of Six-Party Talks.
3 February 2004

The Korean Central News Agency reports that the second round of the Six-Party Talks will begin on 25 February 2004.


3 February 2004

After a meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, US Secretary of State Colin Powell confirms that the next round of Six-Party Talks will resume on 25 February 2004 in Beijing.


3 February 2004

An unidentified Japanese Foreign Ministry official says Japan will raise the issue of Japanese nationals abducted to North Korea at the next round of Six-Party Talks. However, Japan may not raise the issue if North Korea agrees to hold separate bilateral talks to address the issue before the Six-Party Talks.


4 February 2004

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon states that ROK officials "fully understand the Japanese government's position and concern regarding the abduction issue and support Japan's position." However, he adds Japan should exclude the issue from the next round of Six-Party Talks and address the issue in bilateral discussions between North Korea and Japan.

4 February 2004
Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong tells Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese Prime Minister and current honorary adviser to the Japan-China Friendship Association, that Japan should not address the issue of Japanese abductions by North Korean spies at the second round of Six-Party Talks.

8 February 2004
Hwang Chang-yŏp, a former Korean Workers Party secretary who defected to South Korea, says that North Korea has been working covertly to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons since 1996. Hwang says he learned of this directly from Chŏn Pyŏng-ho, a party secretary overseeing munitions industries and a member of the National Defense Committee. Hwang states Chŏn went on a month-long trip to Pakistan in 1996 and learned that North Korea no longer needed plutonium because uranium-235 can be enriched and used in nuclear weapons.

10 February 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says the DPRK did not receive nuclear technology from Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. The statement is in response to Pakistan’s announcement that Khan had admitted to proliferation of nuclear technology to North Korea, Iran, Libya and Malaysia. The spokesman instead accuses the US of attempting to derail the second round of Six-Party Talks scheduled for 25 February. He also says the announcement was made to give credibility to claims that North Korea had a covert weapons development program through "groundless propaganda."

14 February 2004
A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman states that a Japanese Foreign Ministry delegation, while visiting North Korea’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sŏk-chu during 11-14 February, was told that "if the Japanese side raises again the ‘abduction issue’ at the next round of the Six-Party Talks, the DPRK side will resolutely shut out Japan’s participation in the talks."
—"Chosŏnwoemusŏngdaepyŏn’in ilbonwoemusŏng taep’ŭdan’ŭi chosŏnbangmun’e ŏn’gŭp,” Korean Central

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19 February 2004
A US State Department official voices low expectations for the next round of Six-Party Talks and says the Bush administration does not expect a breakthrough but that "if the talks are less than completely successful, we'll continue to try to work along that line."

24 February 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, carries an editorial calling for South Korea to join North Korea’s fight against "US attempts to strangle and wage war against the North." The Six-Party Talks are scheduled to begin tomorrow.

24 February 2004
CIA Director George Tenet testifies during a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing that he believes the DPRK "is pursuing a production-scale uranium enrichment program based on technology provided by [Pakistan's] A. Q. Khan." Tenet adds, "[North Korea] is trying to leverage its nuclear programs into international legitimacy and bargaining power, announcing its withdrawal from the Nonproliferation Treaty and openly proclaiming that it has a nuclear deterrent."

24 February 2004
A Japanese delegate to the Six-Party Talks says Japan will raise the issue of abductions at the negotiations and all parties would be informed of Tokyo's position. However, North Korea’s chief delegate Kim Kye-gwan has stated he has no intention of discussing the issue in Beijing.

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25 February 2004

The second round of Six-Party Talks begin in Beijing six months after the conclusion of the first round in August 2003. The delegations are headed by James Kelly of the United States; Kim Kye-gwan of the DPRK; Lee Su-hyŏk of South Korea; Wang Li of China; Mitoji Yabunaka of Japan; and Alexander Losyukov of Russia.


25 February 2004

Delegates from the United States and North Korea meet in a bilateral "informal chat" on the sidelines during the first day of Six-Party Talks in Beijing.


25 February 2004

On the first day of Six-Party Talks, South Korea’s lead negotiator Lee Su-hyŏk proposes the creation of a working-group and calls for the six delegations to meet regularly every two months to address the North Korea nuclear issue.


25 February 2004

North Korean and Japanese delegates hold bilateral consultations on the sidelines of the Six-Party Talks to discuss the issue of Japanese abductions by North Korea. The two sides fail to achieve progress but agree to continue discussions. North Korea’s Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan has repeatedly insisted that the kidnapping issue should not be a part of the six-way negotiations.


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26 February 2004
The United States delegation to the Six-Party Talks reportedly rejects North Korea's offer to freeze its nuclear arms programs as part of a "package deal" presented at the previous round of talks in August 2003. The US side says the offer falls short of "complete dismantlement" and fails to mention Pyongyang's covert uranium enrichment program. North Korea's proposal, which is offered again during this round of talks, contains three stages, but the Bush administration the proposed deal could enable North Korea to resume nuclear activities in the future. The DPRK is still denying the existence of uranium enrichment facilities.


26 February 2004
Lee Su-hyŏk, South Korea's lead delegate to the Six-Party Talks, offers to provide energy aid to North Korea in exchange for freezing its nuclear weapons development. Russia and China offer to join South Korea in providing energy aid while US and Japanese delegations respond coolly and DPRK delegates offer no immediate official reaction.


26 February 2004
United States and Japanese officials say they will not accept the draft joint statement that China presented because it failed to mention "complete, verifiable and irreversible" dismantlement of all North Korean nuclear programs and not just "weapons programs." Russia's head delegate Alexander Lusyukov says North Korea is showing "readiness" to dismantle its nuclear weapons programs while "retaining a nuclear program for peaceful purposes." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, however, tells reporters that the Six-Party Talks did not discuss civilian and military uses of North Korea's nuclear programs.


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27 February 2004
Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan strongly rejects a report in the New York Times that Pakistan may have conducted joint nuclear tests with North Korea as being "wild, mischievous and irresponsible speculation."

28 February 2004
The second round of Six-Party Talks in Beijing ends with agreement to hold more talks by July 2004 and to form a working-group, but without achieving a significant breakthrough. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan insists, "We don't plan to include our civilian nuclear program for peaceful purposes in the freeze and dismantlement." Washington has demanded that North Korea admit and include uranium enrichment, which Pyongyang denies exists, in the nuclear negotiations.

29 February 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman blames the United States for failing to reach significant progress at the Six-Party Talks in Beijing saying, "The settlement of the nuclear issue will entirely depend on the change in the U.S. attitude." Concerning future talks, he says," It is difficult to expect that any further talks would help find a solution to the issue.

29 February 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, accuses US plans for redeployment of troops in
South Korea as being "intended to finally complete the military operational preparations for the second Korean war against the DPRK, pursuant to its 'strategy for preemptive attack' and 'new operation plan 5026'."


1 March 2004
South Korea President Roh Moo-hyun says in a holiday speech that he is confident the North Korean nuclear issue will be resolved peacefully through the Six-party Talks. Roh also reiterates his call for reducing dependence on the United States in foreign affairs and military support.


2 March 2004
U.S. President George W. Bush tells visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon that the second round of Six-party Talks was fruitful because the six nations have clearly demonstrated that North Korea should dismantle its nuclear program.


2 March 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says that the Six-party Talks last week produced "a good deal of progress" and that the United States will be patient in pursuing the current negotiations with diplomacy. Powell adds "whatever they [North Korea] are doing or not doing they will not force us or pressure us into any kind of a deal that is anything short of CVID [complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement]."


2 March 2004
UN Secretary General Kofi Annan praises the outcome of the latest Six-party Talks, citing "progress" and a "noticeable step forward" toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. Annan also promises to support the six nations "on ways to mobilize the support of the international community to [the denuclearization] end."

—"Annan Sees Progress at 6-Way Talks on N. Korea Nukes," Kyodo News Service, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis,
3 March 2004
South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun says his government will continue dialogue and exchanges with North Korea despite a request from U.S. officials to sever ties and press North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions.

4 March 2004
Russian Ambassador to Seoul Teymuraz O. Ramishvili says the six nations participating in the Six-party Talks need to utilize flexibility with the North Korea nuclear issue because the international community may not have the legal authority to stop North Korea's peaceful nuclear activities. He argues, "According to international law, it is impossible to stop such programs. But it could be considered in a diplomatic and political context."

4 March 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tells reporters that the United States is in no hurry to find a solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis, saying, "We will be patient in pursuing this policy. The president strongly believes that a diplomatic solution is possible and we are not in any urgency to achieve that solution. We want a good solution."

4 March 2004
South Korea's National Security Council (NSC) proposes new security policy initiatives to enhance security on the Korean Peninsula and allow Seoul to play a leading role in resolving the North Korea nuclear issue. Kwŏn Chin-ho, National Security Adviser to President Roh Moo-hyun, says at a press briefing that some of the proposed measures are replacing the Korean War armistice with a "peace regime," regaining wartime command and control of ROK troops from USFK, pursuing the "peace and prosperity policy" with North Korea, and restructuring the ROK army. The NSC publication, titled Peace, Prosperity and National Security, marks the first time Seoul has officially released a publication concerning the nation's overall national security.
4-5 March 2004
According to the New York Times, a new CIA classified intelligence report is presented to White House officials detailing for the first time how Pakistan's Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) was able to provide North Korea with equipment and technology necessary to develop uranium-based nuclear weapons, including nuclear fuel, centrifuges and warhead designs. The assessment, partly based on interrogations of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and his associates from KRL by the Pakistani officials, purportedly provides a history of KRL's dealings with North Korea that started in the early 1990s. According to the New York Times, intelligence officials also claim North Korea obtained some parts through the same suppliers and middlemen as Libya.

7 March 2004
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon meets with Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi in Tokyo, and the two parties agree "to communicate closely and cooperate" to settle North Korea's nuclear issue through the six-party framework.

8 March 2004
A commentary by North Korea's Rodong Sinmun criticizes South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon for his recent remarks made in Washington regarding inter-Korea economic exchanges. Ban said it would be difficult to conduct economic exchanges between the two Koreas unless the current nuclear issue is settled. The commentary argues that the North's desire to have a nuclear deterrent force to "defend its right to existence and sovereignty" is natural and the statement by Ban corresponds to "anti-national and anti-reunification criminal acts."

8 March 2004
A Rodong Sinmun commentary calls for a "verifiable and complete withdrawal" of U.S. forces stationed in South Korea as well as a "complete, verifiable and irreversible security assurance" guaranteed by the conclusion of a peace agreement and normalization of relations. It also demands that the United States stop its demand for "nuclear renouncement."

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9 March 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, warns that any U.S. economic sanctions as part of an effort to settle the North Korea nuclear crisis would amount to a "military operation aimed at staging a large-scale war" against North Korea.


10 March 2004
Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson visits South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, and the two leaders issue a joint statement that "a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue is essential for the maintenance of peace and stability not only in Northeast Asia but globally." Persson announced yesterday that he may visit Pyongyang to address North Korea's nuclear ambitions and issues concerning past abductions of Japanese citizens.


10 March 2004
A DPRK foreign ministry spokesperson says that the country's reluctance to abandon its nuclear program is a response to U.S. hostile policies against North Korea. The spokesperson adds, "If [the U.S.] persists in demanding a 'verifiable, irreversible and complete abandoning' of [North Korea's] nuclear program it should first promise a verifiable, irreversible and complete abandoning of its hostile policies against it."


12 March 2004
Mitchell Reiss, director of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department, says that the U.S. is willing to pursue a "normal relationship" with North Korea as long as the latter "accepts international demands for complete elimination of its nuclear weapons program."

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12 March 2004
South Korea's National Assembly passes an unprecedented impeachment bill that strips President Roh Moo-hyun of all executive powers until the Constitutional Court rules on the impeachment case. According to the ROK Constitution, Prime Minister Goh Kun assumes power as acting president.


12 March 2004
White House spokesman Scott McClellan tells reporters that impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will not adversely impact the Six-party Talks on North Korea's nuclear program. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says that Secretary Colin Powell spoke with South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon, and the two officials confirmed to continue "to work together on issues of mutual concern, including things like the Six-party Talks and the Korean forces that are going to Iraq."


14 March 2004
A spokesman for North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland says the impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has "pushed the political situation in south [sic] Korea to an unpredictable phase and brought an unbearable insult and disgrace to the south Korean people." The spokesman holds the United States responsible saying, "The U.S. had hatched such plot for 'impeachment' in south [sic] Korea since October last year."

—"Spokesman for CPRF on 'Motion on Impeachment against S. Korean President,'" Korean Central News Agency,

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

Mid March 2004
According to the Tokyo Shinbun, US special envoy Joseph DeTrani and North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yǒn secretly met in New York to discuss ways to resolve the nuclear crisis.


16 March 2004
North Korea's Korean Central News Agency states that Pyongyang was forced to cancel the 15 March meeting of the North-South Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation because the impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has created a "state of anarchy and is making it impossible for both sides to have safe contacts."


16 March 2004
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao says, "The Chinese side has completed a concept paper [on the creation of working groups for the Six-party Talks]. We have submitted the paper to the other five parties concerned for opinion." Concurrently, South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su-hyǒk arrives in Beijing to discuss the setup of working groups and the Six-party Talks.


17 March 2004
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei says he wants IAEA inspectors to return to North Korea "as early as possible" with "comprehensive" rights to examine nuclear facilities. Speaking after a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, he refers to the previous limits on IAEA inspectors prior to being expelled by Pyongyang at the end of 2002.


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19 March 2004
Referring to combined U.S.-South Korean military exercises, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson says that North Korea is forced to boost its nuclear arsenal in "quality and quantity" because the U.S. continues its "increased military threat."

19 March 2004
In a report to Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Japanese Foreign Ministry calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program "in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner." The report also expresses concerns about North Korea's ballistic missile program.

24 March 2004
North Korean leader Kim Jong Il meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to coordinate and discuss the prospects of a third round of Six-party Talks.

27 March 2004
Radio Pyongyang reiterates that the DPRK will never accept the demand for "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling" of its nuclear weapons programs first. The broadcast insists the United States must provide economic aid and written security guarantees first and that North Korea has the right to keep civilian nuclear programs.

29 March 2004
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon visits Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Assistant Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo in Beijing to discuss the creation of a working group for the Six-party Talks framework. Ban also asks Li, who visited Pyongyang to discuss the Six-party Talks 23-25 March, to work to grant asylum to North Korean defectors detained in China for humanitarian reasons.
5 April 2004

Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, argues in an editorial for North Korea's nuclear development as "a legitimate self-defense measure" against a possible "US preemptive nuclear attack." It cites the preemptive strike on Iraq and military exercises with South Korea as evidence of US intentions to "provoke a war against the North."

6 April 2004

A commentary by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency condemns the "1-4-2-1 defense strategy worked out" by the US Department of Defense. The 1-4-2-1 strategy refers to the US force-sizing construct that can "defend the homeland, deter forward in and from four regions, and conduct two, overlapping 'swift defeat' campaigns."

6 April 2004

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon confers by telephone with his Japanese counterpart Yoriko Kawaguchi to discuss the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program and other issues. They agree to discuss ways to convene a working group session of Six-Party Talks at their upcoming meeting in San Francisco.

7-8 April 2004

US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Yi Su-hyŏk and Japanese Foreign Ministry Director General Mitoji Yabunaka hold "information trilateral consultations" in San Francisco. They conclude that the six-party working group should be convened as soon as possible, ideally by the end of the month.

8 April 2004

Kim Il-ch'ŏl, North Korean Minister of the People's Armed Forces, argues that the US military threat will force North Korea to increase its "nuclear deterrent force." Kim spoke at a celebration to mark the 11th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's election as chairman of the National Defense Commission.
—"Kim Il-ch'ŏl, "Inminmuryŏkpujang migugi wihyŏphalsurok chosŏnŭi haekŏkheryŏkto kanghwa," Korean Central

10 April 2004
South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Yi Su-hyŏk reiterates that North Korea's nuclear program should be dismantled in accordance with CVID [complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement].

12 April 2004
The New York Times reports that Abdul Qadeer Khan told interrogators he made a trip to North Korea five years ago and was shown three nuclear devices in a secret underground nuclear facility.

15 April 2004
While visiting Fudan University in Shanghai, US Vice President Dick Cheney says he hopes the negotiations at the Six-Party Talks will result in a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. Cheney insists on complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of North Korea's nuclear development programs.

16 April 2004
US Vice President Dick Cheney tells South Korean officials that the Six-Party Talks need to reconvene at an early date and end the nuclear standoff. During his discussions with South Korea's Prime Minister Ko Kŏn, Cheney also voices concerns that North Korea could proliferate nuclear weapons technology to terrorist groups.

18 April 2004
A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry assails US Vice President Dick Cheney's remarks demanding that North Korea dismantle its nuclear programs completely. The spokesman adds that North Korea will not consider complete dismantlement (CVID) and will not tolerate economic sanctions.
—"Chosŏnwoemusŏngdaeb'yŏn'in konghwaguk'ul mohamhanun migukpudaet'ongnyŏng ch'eiiniŭi mangbal'ŭl

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19-21 April 2004
North Korean leader Kim Jong Il visits Beijing for three days and tells Chinese President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders that North Korea seeks to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully. Kim is accompanied by members of his cabinet and the National Defense Commission.

28 April 2004
The Washington Post reports that the United States is preparing to raise its estimate of the number of nuclear weapons held by North Korea from "possibly two" to at least eight.

29 April 2004
Chinese special envoy Ning Fukui arrives in Seoul and says that countries should be more flexible and take a realistic approach so progress can be made. He also urged for in-depth talks at the working group talks to be held in May.

29 April 2004
A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman demands that the US abandon its "hostile policy" in exchange for dismantlement of North Korea’s nuclear weapon program under the principle of "reward for freeze."

29 April 2004
Adam Ereli, deputy spokesman of the US Department of State, denies knowledge of a new US government estimate that raises North Korea’s nuclear devices to eight or more. Ereli confirms that six party working group meetings will begin in Beijing on May 12, 2004.

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30 April 2004
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says the United States will not "pay [North Korea] not to do things [nuclear development] it shouldn't have been doing in the first place."

2 May 2004
A North Korean radio broadcast accuses the United States of preparing for a preemptive nuclear attack, citing combined military exercises with South Korea as well as the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

3 May 2004
U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says China's special envoy to North Korea Ning Fukui met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to discuss how to proceed with the first working group meeting for the Six-Party Talks. Ning also met with U.S. special envoy to the Six-Party Talks Joseph DeTrani and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James Kelly.

4 May 2004
The Financial Times publishes Selig Harrison’s feature story based on his April 2004 two-hour discussion with North Korean leaders. North Korea’s Kim Yong-nam, president of the Supreme People’s Assembly, reportedly stated that Pyongyang "would never allow such transfers [of nuclear material] to al-Qaeda or anyone else."

4 May 2004
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, cites Israel’s nuclear weapons program and attacks the United States for what it views as an "unfair and unjustifiable double standard."

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4-7 May 2004
A South Korean delegation led by Minister of Unification Chŏng Se-hyon visits Pyongyang to discuss the upcoming Six-Party Talks working group meeting and inter-Korean exchanges. The DPRK abruptly ends the meeting without reaching an agreement, demanding instead a cessation of U.S.-ROK combined military exercises.

12-14 May 2004
The six-party talks working group meets in Beijing to discuss the North Korea nuclear issue. The stalemated meeting ends with the North Korean delegation vowing to never accept US' demands for complete dismantlement.

18-22 May 2004
United Nations Special Envoy Maurice F. Strong visits Pyongyang to discuss ways to resolve the North Korea nuclear issue, as well as other issues. Strong says North Korea will continue to develop its nuclear program.

19 May 2004
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, accuses the United States of preparing for a preemptive nuclear attack on North Korea and creating "a dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula in which a nuclear war may break out." The paper cites U.S. combined military exercises with South Korea and Japan as evidence that an attack is imminent.

19 May 2004
U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli tells reporters that the United States will not provide light-water reactors to North Korea in exchange for nuclear dismantlement.

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22 May 2004
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang to discuss the nuclear issue, as well as other security and bilateral issues. The summit ends without significant breakthroughs in resolving the nuclear stalemate.

22 May 2004
According to a New York Times report, the International Atomic Energy Agency found strong evidence that two tons of enriched uranium secretly delivered in 2001 to Libya for its covert nuclear program came from North Korea. The evidence is attributed to interviews with members of the secret supplier network set up by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan.

24 May 2004
An unidentified South Korean official says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is searching for other terminology to replace "complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement." The official believes the phrase commonly referred to as CVID, which North Korea has objected to in the past, is perceived as threatening by North Korea.

24 May 2004
The Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang accuses the United States of attempting to pressure North Korea on nuclear issues by launching a "human rights offensive" with false reports on North Korean human rights violations.

25 May 2004
Stephen Rademaker, acting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, refuses to confirm that North Korea supplied Libya with uranium in 2001 and whether it was enriched.

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25 May 2004
A commentary by the DPRK's Korean Central News Agency claims that the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and related U.S. efforts aimed at North Korea "compels the DPRK to maintain and increase its nuclear means."

29 May 2004
North Korea's Central News Agency denies the alleged illegal sale of uranium to Libya as a "false story" and "sheer fabrication."

29 May 2004
U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says the United States sees "absolutely no future" in the KEDO light-water reactor project. The project, part of the 1994 Agreed Framework, was suspended in November 2003.

1 June 2004
Wŏlgan Chosŏn, a South Korean monthly newsmagazine, quotes an unidentified U.S. intelligence source as saying that A. Q. Khan provided North Korea with key equipments related to uranium enrichment. The magazine also reports that A. Q. Khan allegedly offered a nuclear bomb design to North Korea.

1 June 2004
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Japan's Senior Vice Foreign Minister Ichiro Aisawa meet to coordinate their approaches to the Six-party Talks.

3 June 2004
South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon says he expects a new round of Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear program to take place by the end of this month.

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3 June 2004
William Perry, Former U.S. Defense Secretary, criticizes the Bush administration saying that they have taken no action to stop the North Korean nuclear program. He also warns South Korea of the misconception that a North Korean nuclear program does not threaten the South.

3 June 2004
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry blames the Bush administration for the halt of light water reactor (LWR) construction in North Korea. The spokesman says the U.S. administration "threw away the Agreed Framework, whose core issue is the provision of LWRs, like a pair of old shoes."

5 June 2004
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, publishes a commentary that says North Korea's self-defense capabilities are justified and the right choice. The article also accuses the U.S. Defense Department of increasing its budget for research and development of the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator [RNEP] to stifle North Korea.

5 June 2004
U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warns in his speech in Singapore that protracted diplomatic negotiation is giving North Korea time to develop their nuclear weapons, which raises the risk of the weapons falling into terrorist hands.

6 June 2004
Lee Soo-hyuck, South Korean Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, urges China to play a more substantive role in the next round of the Six-Party Talks to solve the long-running standoff over North Korea’s nuclear program.

7 June 2004
Rodong Shinmun, the official daily of the Korean Worker’s Party, criticizes a sub-critical nuclear experiment conducted in Nevada on May 25th as U.S. defiance and a threat to world peace. The commentary argues that the DPRK has the right to consolidate its nuclear deterrent in response to the U.S. nuclear preemptive strike against

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the DPRK.

7 June 2004
Junichiro Koizumi, Japanese Prime Minister says in a press conference that North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il is sincere about verifiably dismantling his country's nuclear program. Introducing his summit meeting with Kim on May 22, he adds that "I told him face to face that, if you compare what you gain from nuclear weapons with what you gain from dismantling them, it is like that difference between heaven and earth."

8 June 2004
Zhou Wenzhong, China’s Deputy Foreign Minister, says in an interview with the New York Times that he has doubts about the Bush administration’s claim that North Korea has a secret uranium enrichment program.

10-11 June 2004
At the G8 summit on Sea Island, Georgia reconfirms that member countries of the G8 support a comprehensive solution by diplomatic means to the DPRK nuclear issue. While G8 leaders conclude that North Korea’s weapons activities are a "serious concern," Japanese Prime Minister says that North Korea doesn't want nuclear weapons.

11 June 2004
The Japanese Trade Ministry announces it will ban a trading company in Nigata Prefecture from exporting goods for four months because the firm illegally exported to North Korea an inverter that could be used in nuclear weapons development.

11 June 2004
A South Korean official says that South Korea is considering the provision of extraordinary energy aid to North

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Korea if it commits to the "complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement [CVID]" of its nuclear program.

11 June 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to discuss the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

13-14 June 2004
Senior officials from the United States, South Korea, and Japan hold preparatory talks ahead of a multilateral meeting over ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

15 June 2004
In a speech marking the anniversary of the North-South summit meeting in 2000, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun offers to extend "comprehensive and concrete" economic aid to North Korea if it scraps its nuclear program.

15 June 2004
U.S. Department of States spokesman Richard Boucher renews the call for the "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement" (CVID) of North Korea's nuclear programs at a press briefing.

15 June 2004
A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry rejects the call for "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement." The [North] Korean Central News Agency repeats a similar argument in its commentary.

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15 June 2004
Kyodo News Service cites an unidentified Japanese source and reports that North Korea will be able to produce enough highly-enriched uranium in three years to make two to four nuclear devices.

16 June 2004
Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson calls for a shift of strategy against North Korea’s nuclear program.

16 June 2004
South Korea’s Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon downplays the principle of "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement" of North Korea’s nuclear program, saying that the terminology is not important.

17 June 2004
Senior South Korean officials review a plan to provide North Korea with energy and other economic assistance if it agrees to dismantle its nuclear program.

21 June 2004
Six-party Talks officials hold a second working-group meeting to prepare the third round of six-party talks.

22 June 2004
Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasizes that North Korea’s nuclear issue must be solved peacefully through dialogue.

23 June 2004
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the [North] Korean Workers’ Party, denounces the United States’ demand for North Korea to “scrap” its nuclear program first and without assurances and benefits.

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23-26 June 2004

At the third round of six-party talks, the U.S. delegation presents comprehensive proposals including energy provision and security guarantee in exchange for dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program. North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan warns his U.S. counterpart Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly that North Korea will test a nuclear weapon unless the United States accepts its proposal of reward for nuclear freeze.


28 June 2004

A spokesman for DPRK Foreign Ministry welcomes Washington's willingness to consider rewarding North Korea in exchange for freezing its nuclear program. However, he dismisses the proposed U.S. timetable of three months to shut down and seal its nuclear facilities, labeling the proposal as "unrealistic."


1 July 2004

North Korea’s ambassador to China Ch’oe Chin Su says that Pyongyang’s recent Six-Party Talks proposal to freeze plutonium reprocessing only applies to those reprocessed after 10 January 2003. Plutonium excluded from this freeze proposal would leave enough fissile material for one or two nuclear warheads.


2 July 2004

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell briefly talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun in Jakarta, Indonesia. Paek says that the only way to resolve the current standoff is through simultaneous actions by both the United States and North Korea. Powell tells Paek that North Korea must declare all of its nuclear activities and that if Pyongyang commits to disarming its nuclear weapons, the U.S. would make very quick progress on a comprehensive deal.

5 July 2004
James A. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and the chief U.S. negotiator to the Six-Party Talks, reconfirms the CVID principle in a U.S. Senate hearing, emphasizing that "the threat can be dealt with through multilateral diplomacy.

6 July 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, argues that the U.S. proposal for "a three-month preparation period for nuclear disarmament" is "unrealistic" because it requires that Pyongyang freeze and dismantlement its nuclear program first before it can get any rewards.

6 July 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says North Korea should not receive a reward for dismantling a nuclear weapons program that it should not have started in the first place.

9 July 2004
U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice tells South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon in Seoul that North Korea will be surprised at how much is possible if it gives up all of its nuclear weapons programs.

11 July 2004
A broadcast on North Korea's state radio accuses the United States of developing a new type of nuclear weapon and only pretending to be interested in resolving the nuclear issue. The reference to the new type of nuclear

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weapon is the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), commonly referred to as "bunker busters."

12 July 2004
Japan's Asahi Shimbun quotes an unnamed U.S. official as stating that the United States would insist on North Korea giving up its ballistic missiles as well as its nuclear weapons for the United States to provide the DPRK with security assurances under a deal to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

13 July 2004
The DPRK Deputy Ambassador to the UN Han Sŏng-yŏl replies to U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice's offer of a surprising reward in exchange for DPRK renunciation of its nuclear weapons programs by saying that North Korea is not interested in any deal that calls on the DPRK to give up its nuclear weapons now for the promise of an American reward later.

14 July 2004
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry says Pyongyang will verifiably give up its nuclear weapons programs and return to the NPT after the United States drops its "hostile policy" towards the DPRK. The spokesman also says that while the DPRK's ultimate goal is denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, North Korea will continue to retain the right to nuclear activities for peaceful purposes.

15 July 2004
An editorial on a North Korean website says that recent statements by a U.S. official saying that the DPRK will also have to give up its ballistic missiles as well as its nuclear weapons in order to receive security guarantees from the U.S. creates an artificial obstacle to progress within the Six-party Talks.

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20 July 2004
Park Kil-yŏn, North Korea’s ambassador to the United Nations, says that Pyongyang is prepared to freeze its nuclear weapons programs in exchange for Washington’s lifting of economic sanctions and providing two million kilowatts of electric power. Park also denies the existence of a uranium enrichment program and the admission of such a program to Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James A. Kelly.

21 July 2004
South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun says the time will not be right for an inter-Korean summit with North Korea until sufficient progress is made in the Six-Party Talks to resolve the nuclear crisis.

21 July 2004
U.S. Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton states that if Pyongyang makes the same "strategic decision" to give up its nuclear weapons that Libya did, then the North Korean regime will be able to stay in power.

21 July 2004
After meeting in South Korea, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun promise that they both will work to bring a quick end to the current North Korea nuclear standoff.

27 July 2004
Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhisa Takashima says Russia and Japan share the same goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and that Russia is in a good position to provide energy aid to North Korea following North Korea’s nuclear disarmament.

1-2 August 2004
The heads of the Chinese and South Korean delegations to the Six-Party Talks meet to discuss a working-level meeting for the next round of negotiations in September. Both Ning Fukui and Cho T’ae-yŏng say the dispute over North Korea’s uranium enrichment program is the key to resolving the nuclear crisis.

2 August 2004
An editorial in North Korea’s Minju Chosŏn, a publication of the DPRK cabinet, argues that recent U.S. threats to refer North Korea to the United Nations Security Council for economic sanctions are designed to suffocate the DPRK.

3 August 2004
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su-hyŏk meet to prepare for the next round of the Six-Party Talks.

4 August 2004
The Korean Central News Agency denies claims that top nuclear scientist Kim Kwang-bin has defected from North Korea and subsequently testified that Pyongyang has developed nuclear weapons using highly enriched uranium.

9 August 2004
Roddong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, says that U.S. statements about leaving "all options on the table" undermine efforts to resolve the nuclear crisis diplomatically. Meanwhile South Korean officials argue the U.S. statements do not represent a change by the United States.

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10 August 2004

According to an unidentified South Korean Uri Party member, President Roh Moo-hyun told U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice that South Korea should work closely with the United States, not China in resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis.


15 August 2004

Yang Xiyu, China’s Korean Peninsula Affairs Director within the Foreign Ministry, says the resolution of the Korean nuclear crisis depends on the United States and North Korea as China can only play a mediating role.


16 August 2004

An unidentified South Korean Foreign Ministry official accuses North Korea of "foot-dragging" on working group meetings. A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says the DPRK will not be able to continue Six-Party Talks if the U.S. continues its "hostile policy" towards North Korea, citing the North Korean Human Rights Act being passed by the U.S. House and Senate and U.S.-ROK joint military efforts as two examples.


17 August 2004

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says North Korea is a more "troublesome country to deal with" than Iran.


17 August 2004

The Korean Central News Agency, citing a report from the U.S. Congressional Research Service, argues that U.S. accusations of illegal drug trafficking by the DPRK reveal a lack of U.S. interest in resolving the nuclear crisis.


18 August 2004

North Korea’s Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, criticizes the U.S. position against providing aid in exchange for simply freezing North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. It also adds that the United States is fabricating or distorting the issues of human rights, defectors, and drug trafficking in order to undermine

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the DPRK regime.

24 August 2004
South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su-hyŏk meets with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei in Beijing to discuss how to break the current deadlock surrounding North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

23 August 2004
A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman criticizes U.S. President George W. Bush's call for South Korea, Japan, Russia and China to work together to unite and resolve the North Korea nuclear issue. He adds that the "U.S. hostile policy towards North Korea" makes it "quite impossible" for North Korea to negotiate with the United States.

26 August 2004
South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-ch'ăn argues a summit between North and South Korea could help ease the tensions surrounding the nuclear crisis.

2 September 2004
U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill says North Korea must make the decision to give up its nuclear weapons even before receiving compensation.

8 September 2004
Han Sŏng-ryŏl, North Korea's deputy chief of mission to the United Nations, says South Korea's secret nuclear experiment in 2000 is a threat that could trigger an arms race in Northeast Asia. Han also accuses the U.S. of applying a double standard by not expressing concerns while pressing the DPRK on a nonexistent HEU program.
9 September 2004

A "mushroom cloud" is observed in North Korea's Yanggang province by the monitoring network of the UN Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and regional governments. [Note: The cloud later is determined to have come from the use of conventional explosives on a large construction project].


11 September 2004

The 9 September explosion in North Korea is believed to be the result of a major accident or demolition project and not a nuclear device test by the ROK presidential office. U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher says the United States does not believe the explosion was created by a nuclear test. A CTBTO spokeswoman affirms the non-nuclear nature of the explosion to New Scientist magazine.


11 September 2004

A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman says North Korea suspects the ROK's nuclear experiments in 2000 were for military purposes and it will be impossible for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons as long as the United States continues to apply double standards in its treatment of nuclear issues.


11-14 September 2004

During British Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell's visit to Pyongyang, North Korea tells the British delegation it will not negotiate its nuclear issues until South Korea's past nuclear experiments are "fully probed" and the United States drops its "hostile policy" towards the DPRK.


12 September 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says on NBC's "Meet the Press" television program that he does not believe the explosion on 9 September in North Korea was a nuclear test.

12 September 2004
South Korean Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lee Kyu-hyŏng denies North Korea's accusation of Seoul's laboratory nuclear experiments having a military objective as "absolutely untrue." Lee also says that he hopes the experiments issue should not have any bearing on the upcoming round of the Six-Party Talks.

14 September 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says he doubts North Korea will return to the Six-Party Talks before the U.S. presidential election race concludes.

17 September 2004
Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Kong Quan says South Korea's nuclear experiments will be discussed at the upcoming round of the Six-Party Talks since the purpose of the negotiations is to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

21 September 2004
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tells the United Nations General Assembly that Japan will continue to work to "comprehensively" resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula in line with the 2002 Pyongyang Declaration.

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23 September 2004

Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, says Japan would be turned into a "nuclear sea of fire" if the United States strikes North Korea.

23 September 2004

Chŏng U-sŏng, the foreign policy advisor to South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, says the ROK's recently revealed secret nuclear experiments will not be on the agenda for the upcoming Six-Party Talks.

27 September 2004

North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choe Su-hŏn tells the United Nations General Assembly that North Korea has "weaponized" 8,000 spent fuel rods and already possesses a nuclear deterrent against the United States.

27 September 2004

North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choe Su-hŏn says the U.S. double standard on North and South Korean nuclear issues, as well as the U.S. hostile stance towards the DPRK, are holding up the resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

30 September 2004

China's Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang says the Six-Party Talks mechanism should be maintained even if the talks are not held in September.

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3 October 2004
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei visits South Korea and says the North Korean nuclear crisis needs to be resolved quickly and peacefully.


3 October 2004
The Chinese Six-Party Talks delegation reportedly confirms to other participants that North Korea "at least attempted to enrich" uranium, one of the key contentions of the ongoing negotiations.


4 October 2004
North Korea's Central Broadcasting Station reports that the DPRK will increase its nuclear arsenal "a thousand times" if the United States does not drop its hostile policy towards the DPRK.


5 October 2004
South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Yŏng-jin tells the ROK National Assembly that North Korea probably has enough plutonium to make two or three nuclear weapons.


6 October 2004
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei urges the United Nations Security Council to take action against North Korea saying the Council's lack of response concerning North Korean NPT violations "may be setting the worst precedent of all."


7 October 2004
According to White House spokesman Scott McClellan, U.S. President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao discuss the North Korea nuclear crisis over the telephone and renew their commitment to resolve the issue through the Six-Party Talks.


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13 October 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says Pyongyang is committed to resolving the nuclear issue through the Six-Party Talks but blames the U.S.'s hostile policy towards the DPRK for holding up negotiations.

13 October 2004
China special envoy for Korean affairs Ning Fukui visits Seoul to discuss the deadlock in the Six-Party Talks. Ambassador Fukui says it seems unlikely that the negotiations will be held before November.

14 October 2004
According to unidentified diplomatic sources, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Board decides to extend the suspension of the two light water reactor construction project in North Korea for another year. South Korea's Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon says KEDO should resume constructing the light water reactors if the Six-Party Talks "yield tangible results."

15 October 2004
Ning Fukui, head of the Chinese delegation to the Six-party Talks, meets with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James Kelly, and special envoy for negotiations with North Korea Joseph DeTrani in Washington to discuss how to move the Six-Party Talks forward.

17 October 2004
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda says North Korea has developed a plutonium-based nuclear weapon and is "close to developing" a uranium-based weapon. Hosoda also says Japan is considering referring the nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council in the absence of progress through the Six-Party Talks.

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18 October 2004
Kim Yŏng-nam, the DPRK's president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, travels to Beijing to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, and Chairman of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo to discuss the current deadlock in the Six-Party Talks.

18 October 2004
The DPRK's Korean Central News Agency criticizes IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei for his "biased attitude" towards the North Korea nuclear issue and "downplaying" South Korea's secret nuclear experiments.

22 October 2004
A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman says North Korea will return to the Six-Party Talks if the United States drops its "hostile policy" towards the DPRK, and that Pyongyang is ready to "freeze for a reward." The spokesman also says the talks should discuss "South Korea's nuclear issue before anything else."

23 October 2004
U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says North Korea's preconditions demanded on 22 October for resuming the Six-Party Talks should be raised at the negotiations and not before.

23-26 October 2004
To discuss and gather support for the resumption of Six-Party Talks, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell travels to East Asia and meets with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon.

25 October 2004
Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing reportedly tells U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell that China shares the U.S. objective of bringing North Korea back to the Six-Party Talks but feels the United States is not doing its utmost to adopt "a flexible and practical attitude on the issue."

26 October 2004
Following a talk with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon calls for members of the Six-Party Talks to make "more creative and realistic proposals" to bring North Korea back to the talks.

30 October 2004
North Korea's Uriminjokkkiri website says U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's visits to Japan, China and South Korea were part of attempts by the United States to blame North Korea for holding up the Six-Party Talks while ignoring South Korea's secret nuclear experiments.

1 November 2004
Japanese Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Shinichi Kitaoka tells the UN General Assembly that North Korea's nuclear weapons development threatens regional peace and stability, while North Korea's Deputy Ambassador to the UN Kim Ch'ang-guk accuses the United States of having deployed nuclear weapons in Japan. Kim asserts that U.S. nuclear weapons in Japan and South Korea's secret nuclear experiments pose greater threats to the DPRK.

3 November 2004
North Korea's Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Han Sŏng-ryŏl says the U.S. must repeal the recently

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passed North Korean Human Rights Act and cease its "hostile policy" towards North Korea to resume Six-Party Talks.


5 November 2004
South Korea's presidential office spokesman Kim Chŏng-min says President Roh Moo-hyun has spoken with re-elected U.S. President George W. Bush via telephone and agreed to resume the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible.


6 November 2004
Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura visits Seoul to meet with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue. Both parties agree to resume the Six-Party Talks as early as possible and to work to extend the suspension of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development project rather than abandoning the project entirely.


9 November 2004
Yomiuri Shimbun reports an unidentified high-level U.S. official as having stated that the United States would take immediate action if North Korea were to transfer any nuclear material to another country and that a military strike could not be ruled out.


9 November 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, says South Korea has no right to discuss North Korea's nuclear issue because Seoul conducted secret nuclear experiments in the past.

—Cho'n Chong-ho, "The Nuclear Criminal Has No Right to Talk About the Nuclear Issue," Rodong Sinmun via Uriminjokkkiri website, 9 November 2004, in "DPRK Daily Decries ROK Authorities as 'Nuclear Criminals', Have 'No Right' To Discuss Nuclear Issues," OSC Document KPP20041109000027.
12 November 2004

Responding to the 9 November report that the United States would not rule out military options in the case of North Korea passing nuclear material to another state, North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and the Uriminjokkkiri website criticize the "U.S. hostile policy" against North Korea and argue that the DPRK is justified in developing and strengthening its "nuclear deterrent."


12 November 2004

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun says during a speech in Los Angeles that a hard-line policy to resolve the nuclear crisis would endanger the lives of South Koreans and risk another war. Roh also argues that North Korea would give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees.


17 November 2004

United Nations General Assembly President Jean Ping visits DPRK Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun and President of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium Kim Yŏng-nam in Pyongyang to discuss ways to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis.


18 November 2004

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Chile, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions and return to the Six-Party Talks "unconditionally and promptly."


19 November 2004

General Leon J. LaPorte, Commander of Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, says the DPRK's need for hard currency could lead it to attempt to sell weapons grade plutonium to international terrorists.

—Kim Chŏng-gon, "Rap'otŭ: 'Puk, P'ŭllut'onyum P'anmae Kanŭngsŏng,'" Hankook ilbo, 20 November 2004, in
20 November 2004
South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun tells U.S. President George W. Bush that South Korea will make proposals in a "bolder and more leading" manner at the Six-Party Talks.

20-21 November 2004
U.S. President George W. Bush, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet on the sidelines of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Chile and reaffirm their commitment to resolve the North Korea nuclear crisis as soon as possible through the Six-Party Talks.

24 November 2004
Following his visit to Pyongyang, United Nations General Assembly President Jean Ping tells South Korean officials that North Korea "urgently" wants to return to the Six-Party Talks if certain countries drop what Pyongyang perceives as a hostile stance towards the DPRK regime.

29 November 2004
During a sideline meeting at the annual ASEAN Plus Three summit, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun all agree to increase cooperation in order to end the North Korean nuclear crisis peacefully.

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30 November 2004
Following a visit to Pyongyang by China's special envoy for Korean affairs Ning Fukui, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue says the DPRK is trying to gauge the reelection of U.S. President George W. Bush for any U.S. policy changes before agreeing to another round of Six-Party Talks in Beijing.

30 November 2004
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, reports that the reelection of President George W. Bush casts "dark clouds" on a peaceful resolution to the nuclear issue.

1 December 2004
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says the IAEA’s November investigation into South Korea’s secret nuclear experiments is not sufficient to assuage the DPRK’s concerns, and the issue must be discussed during the Six-Party Talks before discussing North Korea’s nuclear issue.

2 December 2004
According to the Japanese Sankei Shim bun, the DPRK insists on security guarantees, energy aid, partial lifting of U.S. sanctions and the complete resumption of the "New York channel" (bilateral communications via permanent missions to the United Nations) as preconditions before returning to the Six-Party Talks.

3 December 2004
South Korea’s Unification Minister Chŏng Dong-yŏng says the ROK is willing to address and explain its controversial 1982 and 2000 nuclear research experiments at the next round of the Six-Party Talks.

3 December 2004

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei tells the *New York Times* he believes North Korea has reprocessed all of the nuclear material once monitored by the IAEA during the 1990s. The stockpile of spent nuclear fuel is believed to be enough to yield four to six nuclear devices.


Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, says the United States' discussion of North Korea's "redline," or limit on North Korea's nuclear activities, is an attempt by Washington to escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula.


6 December 2004

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun says the "hard-line" postures of the United States and other countries arguing for the collapse of the DPRK regime make it difficult to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully. Roh also says Seoul should have the "strongest say" at the Six-Party Talks because of the direct implications for South Korea.


7 December 2004

U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli says special envoy Joseph DeTrani met in New York with a North Korean representative on 30 November and 3 December to urge the DPRK to return to the Six-Party Talks without preconditions and at an early date to resolve the nuclear issue diplomatically.


9 December 2004

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei tells the Spanish newspaper *El Pais* that North Korea is "the most serious" challenge facing the IAEA.
10 December 2004
U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli says the United States had known about North Korea’s secret uranium enrichment program before James Kelly’s October 2002 visit to Pyongyang.

10 December 2004
According to the Japan Economic Newswire, "sources with U.S.-North Korean matters" say that the United States has offered to settle the standoff over the DPRK’s uranium enrichment program if Pyongyang admits to the existence of a "peaceful-use" enrichment program and also agrees to abandon it.

14-15 December 2004
U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, and South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon caution Japanese officials about imposing sanctions against North Korea out of fear that they could undermine diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear crisis.

15 December 2004
A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry says that Pyongyang would consider Japanese economic sanctions a "declaration of war."

16 December 2004
Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura says there needs to be a timeframe for the Six-Party Talks so that negotiations do not "go on for years without reaching any conclusion."

16 December 2004
North Korea’s Councilor to the International Atomic Energy Agency Son Mun-san tells the Japanese daily Sekai Nippo that the five megawatt reactor in Yŏngbyŏn is in "full operation."

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21 December 2004
The U.S. State Department’s Performance and Accountability Report, Fiscal Year 2004 states that "continuing stalemate could call into question the utility of negotiations as a means to resolve the North Korea nuclear crisis."

21 December 2004
U.S. ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill says the United States’ patience concerning the stalled Six-Party Talks is "not limitless."

24 December 2004
A North Korean television broadcast reports that the DPRK will not attend the Six-Party Talks unless Japan is prohibited from participating. The announcement comes in response to a dispute over the returned remains of Japanese kidnapping victims.

28 December 2004
Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanaka says a breakthrough at the Six-Party Talks cannot occur unless North Korea makes a major policy shift.

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January 2003

According to US and Japanese government sources, North Korea begins preparing to reactivate the nuclear reprocessing facility located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex. US and Japanese intelligence reportedly detect shipments of coal arriving at the heat supply boiler facility that is adjacent to the reprocessing facility. The boiler, which is used to maintain the temperature of a nitric acid solution used in reprocessing, becomes active by early February as reconnaissance satellites detect smoke billowing from the facility.


1 January 2003
The last two members of the three-member IAEA inspection team leave North Korea.


2 January 2003
US President George W. Bush reaffirms his intention to address North Korea's decision to restart its previously frozen nuclear facilities diplomatically. Speaking to reporters on his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush says that the situation with North Korea is not a military problem but rather a diplomatic problem.


4 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi agree to continue using diplomatic means to pressure North Korea into reversing its decision to abandon the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.


6 January 2003
The IAEA Board of Governors adopts a resolution that "deplores in the strongest terms the DPRK's unilateral acts to remove and impede the functioning of containment and surveillance equipment at its nuclear facilities and the nuclear material contained therein, including the expulsion of IAEA inspectors, which renders the Agency unable to verify, pursuant to its safeguards agreement with the DPRK, that there has been no diversion of nuclear material in the DPRK." Addressing the Board of Governors, IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei states that the Agency is "regrettably at present unable...to verify that the DPRK is not diverting nuclear material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and it is also at present unable to verify that the DPRK has declared to the Agency all the nuclear material that is subject to the safeguards."

—Report by the Director General on the Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement Between the Agency

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6 January 2003
In an interview with Interfax News Agency, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov states that North Korea must readmit IAEA inspectors. However, Ivanov adds, "it is necessary to provide North Korea with security guarantees, otherwise the situation could become unpredictable."

6 January 2003
US President George Bush states that the United States has no intention of invading North Korea. Speaking at a cabinet meeting, Bush says, "We have no intention of invading North Korea. I believe this will be resolved peacefully and I believe it can be resolved diplomatically."

6-7 January 2003
Representatives from the United States, Japan and South Korea hold a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) in Washington to discuss North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. On 7 January, representatives from the three nations issue a joint statement urging North Korea to eliminate its nuclear program while reiterating their intention to "pursue a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issue."

7 January 2003
The Korean Central News Agency states that US claims of a missile threat from North Korea are merely attempts to justify the establishment of a missile defense system. According to a KCNA report, the United States' desire to deploy a missile defense system further illustrates its attempts at global supremacy. The report also claims that North Korea "has increased its self-defense military capability to cope with the US intensified policy to invade and stifle it with nukes." The report concludes, "If the US unleashes a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula, it will not escape its destruction."

7 January 2003
The Korean Central News Agency reports that any attempt US to impose economic sanctions on North Korea would mean war. The report states, that "the US should opt for dialogue with the DPRK, not for war, clearly aware that it will have to pay a very high price for such reckless acts." The report also includes a demand for an apology from the US for what it refers to as the "piracy" against the North Korean ship Sosan in December 2002.

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8 January 2003
KCNA accuses the United States of increasing the threat of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula. According to the news agency, the US has created the rumor of North Korea's clandestine nuclear weapons program in order to prevent reconciliation of North and South Korea and keep tensions on the peninsula high.

9-11 January 2003
Han Song Ryol and Mun Jong Chol, two representatives of North Korea's permanent mission to the UN, travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico and meet with New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, a former US ambassador to the UN. The two sides discuss ways in which to resolve the conflict between the US and North Korea over North Korea's nuclear program. According to Bush administration officials, the meetings are unofficial, and Richardson is only authorized to reiterate the message that the administration has already stated publicly. Speaking to reporters after the talks, Richardson announces that Han informed him that "North Korea has no intention of building nuclear weapons." Richardson adds that he believes the talks were successful in conveying to the North Korean representatives "the depth of international concern over this issue." Commenting on the high level of inflammatory rhetoric coming from North Korea, Richardson says that North Koreans "don't negotiate like we do. They don't have our same mentality. They believe in order to get something they have to lay out additional cards, step up the rhetoric, be more belligerent."

9 January 2003
Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan says that the best way to resolve the dispute between the US and North Korea is through direct dialogue. Speaking at a meeting with his French counterpart Dominique de Villepin, Jiaxuan also says, "The framework agreement reached by the two sides in 1994 should be maintained and continue to be carried out."

10 January 2003
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei meets with US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington to discuss North Korea's decision to resume its nuclear program. While in Washington, ElBaradei also meets with National

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10 January 2003

The North Korean government announces that the country no longer considers itself bound by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). North Korea reportedly decided to withdraw from the NPT because the United States persistently tries to suppress North Korea through force and the IAEA is nothing more than a tool of the United States to accomplish this goal. According to the government statement, while North Korea is no longer party to the NPT and is no longer bound by its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, "we have no intention to produce nuclear weapons and our nuclear activities at this stage will be confined only to peaceful purposes such as the production of electricity." [NOTE: North Korea's announcement elicits multiple condemnations from the international community, including China, North Korea's closest ally.]


10 January 2003

Responding to Pyongyang's announced decision to withdraw from the NPT, US Secretary of State Colin Powell states that in withdrawing from the treaty, "North Korea has thumbed its nose at the international community. It is a very serious situation," says Powell, adding, "We are not going to be intimidated."


10 January 2003

Yun Kuk Hui, deputy general director of North Korea's General Department of Atomic Energy states that the atomic energy industrial sector fully supports Pyongyang's decision to withdraw from the NPT and establish a "chuch'e-oriented nuclear power industry." Yun adds that North Korea's atomic energy sector will "thoroughly implement the policies of our party and the republic government" and continue "using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the future as we did in the past."


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11 January 2003
Lee Che Son, director general of North Korea’s General Department of Atomic Energy, sends a letter to IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei stating that North Korea’s withdrawal from the NPT is now in effect. In the letter, Lee states, "Under the prevailing situation where the United States seeks to destroy the DPRK by force, and the IAEA is incapable of observing the principle of impartiality, the DPRK government issued a statement on January 10, 2003 declaring an automatic, immediate and effectual withdrawal from the NPT on which it declared a moratorium."

11 January 2003
Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Yukio Takeuchi and Im Song Chun, South Korean presidential envoy, meet in Japan and agree that Japan, South Korea and the United States should work together to end the North Korean nuclear crisis. The two officials reportedly agree to use their respective diplomatic channels to urge Pyongyang to engage in dialogue. They also agree that tough economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council could do more harm than good.

12 January 2003
Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, prints a commentary accusing the United States of responding to North Korea’s "sincere proposal for concluding a nonaggression treaty" by threatening a blockade and military action. The commentary continues, "If the US evades its responsibility and recklessly challenges the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), the army and people of the DPRK will never miss the chance but certainly make them pay for the blood and turn the stronghold of the enemy into a sea of fire." The commentary continues, "It is the unshakeable revolutionary principle and stand of the DPRK to respond to a hard-line with a super hard-line. It has nothing to be afraid of even under the worst situation." The commentary also asserts that North Korea pulled out of the NPT because the US threatened it with nuclear war, thus openly violating the treaty. However, North Korea’s decision to restart its indigenous nuclear program, according to the Rodong Sinmun commentary, was based on the country’s energy needs, not security concerns.

13 January 2003
South Korean President-elect Roh Moo Hyun meets with US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and informs him that South Korea will play a "leading role" in resolving the North Korean nuclear standoff. Roh also reiterates his belief that the nuclear issue should be resolved through peaceful dialogue. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Kelly states that the US is willing to talk to North Korea. Kelly says, "Once we get beyond nuclear

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There may be opportunities with the US, with private investors, with other countries to help North Korea in the energy area.


13 January 2003
Pak Ui Ch'un, North Korean ambassador to Russia, dismisses as "hypothetical" the allegations made by US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly that North Korea has been developing nuclear weapons. Pak claims that Kelly is responsible for raising tension on the peninsula by making such an allegation. In addition, Pak calls any efforts by the US to adopt UN sanctions against North Korea a "declaration of war." Speaking to an ITAR-TASS reporter, Pak states that if the United States agrees to a nonaggression treaty, North Korea will consider allowing IAEA inspectors to return. However, Pak stresses, the IAEA "must stop working as a protégé of America and the United States must stop trying to use the IAEA as an instrument for pressuring North Korea." According to Pak, North Korea is willing and ready to prove that it has not developed nuclear weapons if the US drops its hostile policy.


13 January 2003
Andrew Natsios, head of the US Agency for International Development, says that the United States is withholding food aid until monitors can verify that it is not being diverted to the North Korean military. Natsios denies that the US is withholding food aid in order to pressure North Korea into giving up its nuclear weapons program, claiming that the demand to monitor aid distributions dates from 7 June 2002, before the most recent nuclear crisis.


14 January 2003
During US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly’s visit to Beijing, China offers to host talks between the United States and North Korea to resolve the growing tension over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.


14 January 2003
US President George W. Bush announces that the US would consider giving energy and food aid to North Korea if Pyongyang gives up its nuclear weapons program. But on 15 January, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman

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dismisses Bush's offer, calling it "a deceptive drama" that is meant "to mislead world public opinion." The spokesman says that Washington's "loudmouthed supply of energy and food aid is like a painted pie in the sky as they are possible only after the DPRK is totally disarmed."

14 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell says that the 1994 Agreed Framework cannot sufficiently prevent North Korea from pursuing a nuclear weapons program. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Powell says that the United States needs "a new arrangement" by which the United States may meet North Korea's energy needs by means other than building light-water nuclear reactors. [Note: Many critics of the 1994 Agreed Framework, including those in the Bush Administration, have suggested providing North Korea with coal burning power plants instead of light-water reactors.]

14 January 2003
The Korean Central News Agency reports that the nuclear crisis will only be resolved through bilateral talks between North Korea and the United States. Another KCNA report claims the United States is responsible for the current nuclear crisis by placing North Korea on a list of potential targets for a preemptive nuclear strike in the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review.

14 January 2003
A commentary in published in Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, warns the United States not to pursue a policy of stifling North Korea. The commentary warns that North Korea "has so far shown the utmost self-control and patience," but if US provocations continue, North Korea will exercise its secret "options."

14 January 2003
The Rodong Sinmun warns Japan not to support the US in provoking North Korea over the ensuing nuclear crisis. A Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
Rodong Sinmun commentary broadcasted on Pyongyang Radio states that North Korea has made clear its position on Japan: "For Japan to seek to crush us by following in the footsteps of the United States would lead to its own self-destruction."


14-18 January 2003
A delegation of Australian diplomats travels to Pyongyang to convey the international community's concerns over steps taken by North Korea to reactivate its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. The delegation led by Murray McLean, chief of the North Asia division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, reportedly delivers a letter from Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to his North Korean counterpart Paek Nam Sun. During the meetings, North Korean officials reportedly deny that Pyongyang is pursuing a uranium enrichment program. North Korean officials also reportedly tell the Australian delegation that they are concerned that the United States will push for regime change in North Korea after it has disarmed Iraq. Upon returning to Australia, members of the delegation inform the press that Pyongyang's concern of becoming a US target of counter-proliferation efforts has overshadowed concerns about economic aid and trade. Members of the delegation subsequently inform officials in Washington, Seoul and Tokyo about the results of the diplomatic trip.


15 January 2003
A commentary printed in the North Korean newspaper Minju Joson claims that North Korea withdrew from the NPT because of the hostile policies of the US. The commentary says that North Korea will not compromise on issues related to its "sovereignty and dignity." The commentary adds that in order to protect its sovereignty and dignity North Korea is prepared to take "self-defensive measures" stronger than withdrawing from the NPT.


15 January 2003
White House spokesman Ari Fleisher says that the United States will not agree to a nonaggression pact with North Korea until Pyongyang complies with earlier agreements and gives up its nuclear weapons program. "The issue is not: what is the United States going to do? The issue is: what is North Korea going to do?" Fleisher says. "North

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Korea needs to begin by dismantling its nuclear programs in a verifiable and irreversible way. That comes first."

16 January 2003
Pyongyang Radio broadcasts a bellicose commentary warning the United States not to underestimate North Korea's resolve and capability to fight and win a war. The commentary warns that "the US imperialists should not by any means listen absentmindedly to the warning of our army and people that there is no limit to our target range and that we would make the entire United States into a sea of fire." Claiming that these threats are not merely "empty words," the commentary states that if the United States forces a war on the Korean Peninsula, "we will blast the entirety of your land off the face of the earth with powerful attack capabilities beyond anything the world can imagine – a frightful attack beyond anything ever seen or heard."

16 January 2003
South Korean President-elect Roh Moo Hyun meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi and says that while he will not tolerate North Korea's attempts to develop a nuclear weapons program, "the issue should be resolved through dialogue." Roh says that "cooperation between South Korea and Japan is very important in solving the North Korean nuclear issue." Later in the day, Roh tells reporters that he believes once North Korea escapes its status as a rogue state, it should abandon its nuclear weapons program. Roh also says that he would not consider a military strike against North Korea even if it was found to be reprocessing nuclear fuel for use in a bomb.

16 January 2003
Speaking before the National Assembly's National Defense Committee, South Korea's Defense Minister Lee Jun says that a war between North and South Korea would be "unavoidable" if the United States carried out a preemptive attack on the North's suspected nuclear weapons facilities. Lee says that while South Korea is not certain that the North is developing uranium-based nuclear weapons, the probability is high. Lee also claims that US and South Korean forces are prepared for a "worst-case scenario." [Note: On 18 January, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense says that Lee's statements did not indicate that the security situation on the peninsula was becoming increasingly precarious, but rather the statements were meant to reiterate the readiness of South Korea's armed forces to handle any contingencies that might arise.]
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17 January 2003
US Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, and the two agree that the United States, Japan and South Korea should cooperate in finding a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis. According to Baker, the two discuss the nature of Pyongyang's intentions and try to anticipate what Pyongyang might do next.

17 January 2003
US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage tells reporters that President George Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell "have spoken out that we have no hostile intentions to North Korea." However, Armitage states that the United States has no intention of concluding a nonaggression pact with North Korea since Congress would certainly fail to pass such an agreement. Armitage also says that the United States has no intention of changing Kim Jong Il's regime in North Korea.

18 January 2003
North Korean Ambassador to China Ch'oi Chin Su tells reporters that the current nuclear standoff can be resolved through dialogue if the United States first pledges not to invade the North, recognizes North Korea's sovereignty, and does not impede the North's economic development.

18 January 2003
A commentary appearing in the North Korean publication Minju Joson warns Japan not to support the United States' hostile policy toward North Korea.

18 January 2003
Choson Sinbo, a newspaper published by the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, reports that North Korea's Ministry of Power and Coal Industries is taking actions to resume nuclear activities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and to build additional nuclear facilities.
—Yonhap News Agency, 20 January 2003, in "North Korea Could Build More Nuclear Plants after Initial Success at

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19 January 2003
US Ambassador to South Korea Thomas Hubbard says that if North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable way, the United States would consider economic cooperation with North Korea that goes beyond food aid.

19-20 January 2003
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang and presents a "package plan" for resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Losyukov also reportedly meets with Kim Jong Il for six hours to deliver a message from Russian President Vladimir Putin and discuss the proposed "package plan." The "package plan" reportedly calls for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, security guarantees for North Korea and the resumption of economic aid in exchange for North Korea’s abandoning its nuclear weapons program.
[Note: Before and after the trip to Pyongyang, Losyukov stops in Beijing to discuss the trip with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Wenchang.]

19 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell meets in New York with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, and the three agree that North Korea’s nuclear program is an international problem and should be resolved accordingly. Later in the day, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Chu issues a statement condemning the United States for attempting to "internationalize" the issue and trying to get the UN involved. Kang says, "The DPRK and the US should sit face-to-face to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula."

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19 January 2003
US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says that while the Bush administration is committed to resolving the nuclear standoff with North Korea peacefully, it has not ruled out the use of force if the crisis escalates.

19 January 2003
White House National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice says that the Bush administration has not ruled out any options in dealing with North Korea’s nuclear program but remains committed to resolving the issue diplomatically. Rice also says that the nuclear crisis is an international issue, not a bilateral issue between the US and North Korea.

19 January 2003
US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James Kelly meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi in Tokyo to discuss issues related to North Korea. During the meeting, Kelly describes US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage's proposal to offer a written non-aggression statement in exchange for a pledge from North Korea that it will end its nuclear weapons program. Kawaguchi expresses support for this new proposal and the two officials agree that Japan and the US will cooperate with South Korea, China and Russia to peacefully resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis.

20 January 2003
US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton meets with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Guangya in Beijing to discuss various issues related to strategic security, multilateral arms control and nonproliferation. The two reportedly discuss in depth how best to address North Korea’s decision to withdraw from the NPT and its decision to reactivate nuclear facilities in Yongbyon-kun. After the meeting, Bolton tells reporters that the two did not discuss the possibility of imposing economic sanctions against North Korea. However, Bolton adds that he did not detect any opposition to bringing the issue of North Korea’s nuclear program before the UN Security Council.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
20 January 2003
Speaking before the UN Security Council, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan says that China is committed to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and a peaceful resolution of the current crisis. He states that China does not rule out any option for resolving the issue diplomatically, but he adds that China has learned from past experiences that direct dialogue between North Korea and the United States is key to resolving any crisis on the peninsula.

20 January 2003
Pakistani Foreign Minister Khursheed Methood Kasuri denies that Pakistan has ever assisted North Korea in developing a nuclear program. Kasuri states that there has been no cooperation in the field of nuclear energy with North Korea either under current Pakistani President Musharraf or his predecessors.

20 January 2003
The Korean Central News Agency calls the Bush administration’s claim that it has no intention to invade North Korea "no more than a hypocritical farce to mislead the world public. The report warns that "the Bush administration is well advised to act with discretion, mindful that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula can be settled only when the US provides security to the DPRK by law through the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty."

20 January 2003
A commentary read over Pyongyang Radio claims that withdrawing from the NPT was in the best interest of North Korea. The commentary also states that the United States is fully responsible for bringing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war by designating North Korea as possible target for a preemptive nuclear strike.

20 January 2003
Lee To Sop, North Korean consul-general in Hong Kong, tells the Ming Pao Daily News that North Korea will view economic sanctions as a declaration of war by the United States, and North Korea will react accordingly. Lee also claims that the current standoff over North Korea’s nuclear program can only be resolved through bilateral US-North Korean negotiations, stating that "the role of mediators...is basically not important." He also adds that North Korea will not attack South Korea in order to fight against the United States.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
20-22 January 2003
Carl Ford, US Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, travels unannounced to Seoul. Ford reportedly meets with President-elect Roh Moo Hyun, opposition leaders and members of the National Intelligence Service to discuss ways in which to resolve the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear program.

20 January 2003
Georgiy Mamedov, Russian deputy foreign minister, meets with Alexander Vershbow, US ambassador to Moscow, to discuss various issues, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula. After the meeting, the Russian Foreign Ministry issues a statement confirming that "despite considerable nuances in the approaches, the mutual efforts towards solving these issues in the spirit of the new Russian-American partnership prevail."

21-23 January 2003
US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton meets with high ranking South Korean officials to discuss ways of resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Bolton meets with Foreign Minister Ch’oi Song Ho, Deputy Foreign Ministers Lee T’aek Shik and Defense Ministry officials in an attempt to coordinate US and South Korean policies concerning North Korea’s nuclear brinkmanship diplomacy. On 21 January, Bolton tells members of the press that even though the United States is aiming to bring the issue of North Korea’s nuclear program to the UN Security Council, "the issue of imposing sanctions against North Korea is a very different question." Following talks on 22 January, Bolton tells members of the press that the Agreed Framework had run its course and the United States was unlikely to attempt to re-implement it during the course of negotiations with North Korea.

21 January 2003
North Korea’s Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, runs a commentary accusing the United States of giving rise to the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. According to the commentary, the

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United States has infringed on North Korea's sovereignty by listing it as a possible target for a preemptive nuclear strike. The commentary also claims that Washington's stated intention to resolve the issue through dialogue is merely a "deceptive act" since Washington first requires North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program, an "unfair" precondition, according to the commentary, to which Pyongyang is not willing to agree. The commentary concludes that the only way of resolving the crisis is for the United States to first provide legally binding security assurances.


21 January 2003
UN Secretary General Kofi Annan "strongly urges" North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the NPT. Speaking before the Conference on Disarmament, Annan says, "Recent challenges to the existing nonproliferation regimes, in particular the announcement by the government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea of its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, raise serious concerns."


21 January 2003
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue says that China remains open to any suggestions for maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, but "at the present stage...dialogue is the only effective way."


22-24 January 2003
North and South Korea hold the ninth round of inter-Korean ministerial talks in Seoul. The five-member North Korean delegation is headed by senior cabinet member Kim Yong Song, and the South Korean delegation is headed by Unification Minister Chong Se Hyon. In his keynote speech at the opening of the talks, Kim states that North Korea’s nuclear program is only for generating electricity, and accuses the United States of politicizing the nuclear issue in an attempt to gain control over both North and South Korea. The South Korean delegation demands that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons program and retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT, but according to delegation spokesman Lee Bong Jo, the South Korean delegation is disappointed that North Korea refuses to make any concrete commitments during the meeting. The two sides agree to continue cooperating in order to resolve peacefully the conflict over North Korea’s nuclear program, and at the conclusion of the talks, they agree to meet again in April. [Note: The tenth round of talks is scheduled to take place from 7 to 10 April in Pyongyang, but since North Korea fails to confirm that it will participate in the talks and does not invite the South Korean delegation to Pyongyang, the talks are postponed until 27 April.]


22 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell tells reporters that while "negotiating with North Korea is a very difficult, arduous process," there has been some progress in talks aimed at bringing North Korea into compliance with multilateral and bilateral nonproliferation agreements.

22 January 2003
In an interview published in Choson Sinbo, North Korean Minister of Power and Coal Industries Shin Yong Son claims that North Korea is just a few weeks away from reactivating its graphite moderated nuclear reactors. However, Sin reiterates that the reactors will only be used to generate electricity.

22 January 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, denounces the IAEA, claiming that it "has been totally reduced to a shock brigade and a henchman executing the U.S. policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK."

23 January 2003
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says that North Korea's nuclear program is a matter "of concern to the entire international community," and thus should be referred to the UN Security Council. Boucher says, "We do think the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors needs to report the issue to the Security Council. That's one of their responsibilities under their charter, and certainly the issue, as it affects international peace and security, is something the Security Council needs to have on its plate."

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23 January 2003
Russian President Vladimir Putin calls US President George W. Bush to brief him on Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Losyulov's recent diplomatic trip to Pyongyang. Putin tells Bush that based on Losyulov's visit he believes there is a good chance to resolve the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula peacefully.

24 January 2003
Former US Secretary of Defense William Perry claims that North Korea has begun reprocessing 8,000 nuclear fuel rods that had been sealed and monitored under the 1994 Agreed Framework. Perry, speaking at the Brookings Institute, states that by reprocessing the fuel rods and pursuing a uranium enrichment program, North Korea poses an imminent threat to the United States. [Note: Other sources state that North Korea has made preparations for reprocessing the fuel rods but has not actually begun reprocessing.]

25 January 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry official says that North Korea will not address its nuclear program in any multilateral forum, insisting that the issue can only be resolved through bilateral talks with the United States.

25 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell announces that talks with North Korea will come "eventually," but he adds, "We will work out what the proper manner and form is." Speaking in Zurich, on his way to the World Economic Forum, Powell says, "There is a strong desire on the part of the North Koreans to talk directly to us." However, Powell adds, "We believe that the problem that exists in North Korea is not a US-DPRK problem. Other nations are involved."

26 January 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell criticizes North Korea for violating the Agreed Framework pursuing a clandestine uranium enrichment program. However, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Powell says that the United States has "no intention of attacking North Korea."

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27-29 January 2003

Im Tong Won [Lim Dong Won], special envoy of South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, travels to Pyongyang in an attempt to diffuse mounting tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korean officials reportedly tell Im that North Korea does not possess a uranium-enrichment program. [Note: North and South Korea had reportedly agreed that Im would meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, but after waiting for three days, North Korean officials inform Im that Kim will not be able to meet with him.]


27 January 2003

The New Yorker publishes a story by investigative journalist Seymour Hersh detailing the nuclear cooperation between Pakistan and North Korea. Citing a former high level Pakistani official, Hersh reports that by 1997 Pakistan had "no more money" to pay for North Korean missile imports. The former Pakistani official tells Hersh that in 1997 Pakistan began paying for North Korean missiles by providing "some of the know-how and the specifics" of a nuclear weapons program based on uranium enrichment. In addition to actual uranium enrichment technology, Pakistan reportedly helped North Korea conduct several "cold tests," simulated nuclear tests using natural uranium used to test the effectiveness of warhead designs. According to the former Pakistani official, Pakistan also provided North Korea with information on how to hide a uranium enrichment facility from international inspectors and foreign intelligence services. Hersh also quotes a US intelligence official who, referring to the 2002 National Intelligence Estimate's assessment of the source of North Korea's uranium enrichment program, says, "It points a clear finger at the Pakistanis. The technical stuff is crystal clear – not hedged and not ambivalent."


27 January 2003

Delegates of the North and South Korean militaries meet in Panmunjom for working level talks. The two sides agree to provide military assurances to each other while making preparations for the construction of a temporary road which would traverse the demilitarized zone and connect North and South Korea.


28 January 2003

The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying, "We oppose all attempts to internationalize the
nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula and are authorized to state that we shall not take part in any 'multilateral talks,' whatever the format." The Foreign Ministry adds, "The only way to reach a peaceful and fair settlement of the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula is direct and equitable talks between North Korea and the US. No other options are possible."

28 January 2003
US President George W. Bush delivers the annual State of the Union address, in which he claims that the United States will not be blackmailed by North Korea into giving concessions based upon the threat of developing nuclear weapons. President Bush says, "America is working with the countries of the region—South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia—to find a peaceful solution, and to show the North Korean government that nuclear weapons will bring only isolation, economic stagnation, and continued hardship." President Bush also labels the ruling regime in North Korea an "oppressive regime" that "rules a people living in fear and starvation." "The gravest danger in the war on terror, the gravest danger facing America and the world," President Bush continues, "is outlaw regimes that seek to possess nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons."

28 January 2003
The Korean Central News Agency reports that contrary to the wishes of the North Korean government, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has reached a level at which war may be inevitable. The KCNA report claims that the United States has begun making preparations for a preemptive attack.

29 January 2003
A commentary broadcasted on Pyongyang Radio condemns the Bush administration's recent calls for a peaceful resolution to the nuclear crisis as "a mere deceptive trick aimed at covering up its sinister war plot to invade our Republic and mislead the world's public opinion."

29 January 2003
A Korean Central News Agency commentary denounces the United States for adopting a policy of "tailored containment" toward North Korea, by which the United States hopes to "escalate the economic and political pressure to the extremes and push North Korea to collapse."

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29 January 2003
Pakistani Minister of for Information and Media Development Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed claims that Pakistan has never assisted North Korea in developing its nuclear program. Speaking to reporters in Qatar, Ahmed says, "We have our own scientists and technology and there are no relations whatsoever with North Korea in this regard."

30 January 2003
Chang Jun Shik, North Korea's ambassador to the UN Conference on Disarmament, says that North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) because of the United States' "hostile policy," and the 6 January "impartial and unilateral resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which encroached upon our sovereignty and dignity." Jang also reiterates that North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT became effective on 11 January, one day after it was announced.

30 January 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement condemning US President George W. Bush's State of the Union address as "an undisguised declaration of aggression to topple the DPRK system."

30 January 2003
The EU Parliament adopts a resolution condemning North Korea for withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The resolution also condemns Pakistan for helping North Korea with uranium enrichment technology.

31 January 2003
The New York Times, citing US intelligence officials, reports that US spy satellites have observed trucks transporting material from a nuclear storage facility, part of the Yongbyon nuclear complex. Intelligence officials suspect that the trucks, which have been observed for the past month, are transporting 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods to a reprocessing facility where they will be converted into weapons-grade plutonium. In this case, according to intelligence officials, North Korea could begin producing weapons-grade plutonium by March. In addition to the increased truck traffic around the storage facility, one defense official, without elaborating, says that the United States has detected other activities "you'd associate with an active weapons facility." Some US officials remain skeptical about the interpretation of the satellite imagery. "There's still a debate about exactly what we are seeing and how provocative it is," one senior official is quoted as saying. "The North Koreans made no real effort to hide this from us."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

31 January 2003
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei says that North Korea could have a "significant" amount of weapons-grade nuclear material within six months. He also calls the recent discovery of increased activity around a storage facility in Yongbyon-kun "a matter of grave concern."

31 January 2003
Ch’oi Chin Su, North Korea’s ambassador to China, announces that the only way to resolve the growing nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula is through bilateral negotiations between the US and North Korea. Ch’oi says, "If the United States will sign a nonaggression treaty that will have binding force after being ratified by Congress, North Korea has a willingness to prove that it is not producing nuclear weapons." Ch’oi disregards the assertion by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly that during his October 2002 visit to Pyongyang North Korean officials admitted to pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on enriched uranium. According to Ch’oi, the assertion is merely "a sinister plot invented by the extreme warmongers in the United States." The ambassador adds that Kelly had taken "an arrogant attitude during his visit to our country, groundlessly urging us to admit" to the clandestine program. Thus, according to Ch’oi, "we took the attitude of neither denying it nor confirming it."

February 2003
A former North Korean spy, Kinki Aoyama (pseudonym), tells the Japanese government that North Korea has nuclear weapons and has an "information sharing alliance" with Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. Aoyama claims that he learned of the nuclear weapons program and the cooperation with Pakistan, Iran and Iraq while he was an industrial spy in China during the 1990’s.

Early February 2003
According to South Korean and Japanese government officials, KEDO executive board members unofficially agree to slow down the project to construct two light-water reactors in North Korea by postponing the purchase of equipment necessary in order to proceed with the construction. The executive board, consisting of the United States, Japan, South Korea and the European Union, also reportedly agreed to halt air services between South Korea and the construction site in North Korea, and freeze a training program for North Korean engineers in South Korea.
—Kyodo News Service, 28 February 2003, in "KEDO to Delay Nuclear Reactor Project in N. Korea," FBIS Document

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

1 February 2003
The Washington Post reports that in November 2001 intelligence analysts at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory sent a classified report to President George W. Bush in which they determined that North Korea had begun constructing a uranium enrichment facility. The Washington Post also quotes a "senior US official" as saying that Pakistan provided some of the new intelligence on North Korea after the United States dropped economic sanctions against Pakistan.


2-9 February 2003
Chung Tae Chol, South Korean President-elect Roh Moo Hyun's special envoy, travels to the United States and Japan to meet with top government officials and convey President-Elect Roh's intention to resolve the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula peacefully, as well as strengthen the US-South Korean alliance and South Korean-Japanese relationship. During 3-5 February, Chung is in Washington D.C. and meets with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. While meeting with Rumsfeld, Chung reportedly conveys President-elect Roh's desire to make the South Korean-US alliance a "true partnership." While meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney, Chung and Cheney agreed to establish a bilateral forum in which the United States and South Korea could discuss important issues of mutual concern such as North Korean nuclear program. While in Tokyo, Chung meets with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and the two agree to remain committed to resolving issues related to North Korea's nuclear program peacefully.


3 February 2003
US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld orders twelve B-52 and twelve B-1 bombers on alert for possible deployment from bases in the United States to Guam. [Note: A few days earlier, Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of US forces in the Pacific, reportedly requested additional air and naval forces as a deterrent against North Korea as the crisis over North Korea's nuclear program escalates. The bombers are deployed in early March and arrive in Guam on 6 March.]


3 February 2003
The Korean Central News Agency claims that the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula cannot be settled unless the United States accepts North Korea's demands for "direct and equal negotiations and the conclusion of a nonaggression treaty."

3 February 2003
The US State Department releases its proposed budget for fiscal year 2004 and does not earmark any funds for the administrative costs of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) or heavy-fuel oil shipments to North Korea. [Note: The State Department earmarked $3.5 million for KEDO administrative costs in fiscal year 2003.]

4 February 2003
US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage tells the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Bush administration is committed to resolving the nuclear standoff with North Korea peacefully. Armitage also says that even though the administration will consider all options in dealing with matters of national security, the situation with North Korea dictates that diplomacy is the best option "at this time." When committee chairman Richard Lugar urges the administration to begin direct talks with North Korea, Armitage replies, "Of course we are going to have direct talks with the North Koreans—there is no question about that."

5 February 2003
Following a hearing of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tells reporters that the United States has assessed that North Korea possesses one or two nuclear weapons, and, given the rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea might soon declare itself a nuclear power.

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5 February 2003

The Korean Central News Agency quotes a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying, "The DPRK is now putting the operation of its nuclear facilities for the production of electricity on a normal footing after their restart." The spokesman adds that the nuclear program would be limited to peaceful uses "at the present stage." [Note: The North Korean Foreign Ministry later denies that North Korea has restarted its nuclear facilities, claiming that the Western media misinterpreted its 5 February statement.]


5 February 2003

Lee Pyong Gap, a deputy director in the North Korean Foreign Ministry, tells the British daily Guardian that North Korea reserves the right to launch a preemptive attack on US forces stationed in South Korea. However, Lee also urges the British to encourage the US to hold direct talks with North Korea.


6 February 2003

The Rodong Sinmun, official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, claims that a US preemptive attack on its nuclear facilities would trigger "all-out war." A commentary published in the paper and broadcasted on Pyongyang Radio states, "It is foolish for the US to think that we sit idle with folded arms to wait until it gives orders for a forestalling attack to be started. We will answer a forestalling attack with a powerful counterattack and all-out war with all-out war."


6 February 2003

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says that while the United States is committed to resolving the issue of North Korea's nuclear program peacefully, the US is "still looking for the right formula" to provide North Korea with the security guarantees they are demanding. However, Powell says that the United States is "not going to just say you've got these guarantees and then hope they will satisfy our concerns and the world's concerns about what they have been doing with respect to plutonium activities and uranium enrichment." Powell reiterates that the best way to resolve the issue is through a multilateral framework that consists of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as Australia, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and North Korea. Powell also tells the committee that the Bush
administration has not taken any options off the table in dealing with North Korea.

7 February 2003
US President George W. Bush claims that the United States is committed to resolving the nuclear crisis with North Korea diplomatically, but adds that "all options are on the table," inferring that the United States has not ruled out military force or economic sanctions.

7 February 2003
The Korean Central News Agency claims that the United States is attempting to avoid its responsibility of resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula by insisting on multilateral talks. KCNA also claims that the current nuclear crisis on the peninsula is a result of the United States' hostile policy toward North Korea.

7 February 2003
A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun, official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, claims that the US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's decision to place 24 bombers on standby for redeployment to Guam proves that the United States is not interested in resolving the nuclear crisis peacefully. The commentary says, "This situation compels the DPRK to take due precaution and a counter-measure."

7 February 2003
The Joongang Ilbo reports that US reconnaissance satellites have detected steam billowing from North Korea's 5MW(e) reactor in Yongbyon-kun, indicating that the reactor has been reactivated on what US and South Korean officials believe to be a test basis. Another Seoul official, who said he was not familiar with the imagery, said the reactor could have been put into operation because the loading of the 8,000 fuel rods is probably complete. He added, however, that because the plant has been idle since 1994, it is probably not operating at full capacity.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
8 February 2003
A Rodong Sinmun commentary states that North Korea will never participate in multilateral talks to resolve issues related to its nuclear program.

8-11 February 2003
Indonesian presidential envoy Nana Sutresna travels to Pyongyang in order to convey to North Korean officials that Indonesia is opposed to North Korea's nuclear weapons program and wants to help resolve the issue peacefully. North Korean officials reportedly reply that its nuclear program is an issue to be discussed only between the United States and North Korea.

10 February 2003
South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sok Su says that he does not believe that North Korea has nuclear weapons.

10-12 February 2003
Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, travels to Seoul and meets with high ranking South Korean government officials, including President Kim Dae Jung and President-elect Roh Moo Hyun, to discuss ways to resolve issues related to North Korea's nuclear program peacefully. Solana says that the EU remains committed to resolving the crisis through dialogue and plans to send a high level delegation to Pyongyang to help defuse the growing tension on the Korean Peninsula. Speaking at a press conference in Seoul following the meetings, Solana says that economic sanctions against North Korea would be counterproductive and serve only to inflame the already high tensions.

11 February 2003
In testimony before the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, CIA Director George Tenet says, "Kim Jong Il's attempts this past year to parlay the North's nuclear weapons program into political leverage suggest he is trying to negotiate a fundamentally different relationship with Washington—one that implicitly tolerates the North's nuclear weapons program." Tenet also states that profits from missile exports are necessary for North Korea to continue funding its missile, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs.
—"The Worldwide Threat in 2003: Evolving Dangers in a Complex World," Prepared Statement by Director of

11 February 2003
Chung Tae Chol, a South Korean politician and recently returned envoy to the United Stated of President Kim Dae Jung, says that intelligence authorities believe North Korea possesses three plutonium based nuclear weapons.

11-14 February 2003
Representatives from North and South Korea meet for the fourth round of inter-Korean economic talks. During the talks the South Korean delegation stresses that economic cooperation between the two countries is hindered mainly by suspicions of a North Korean nuclear weapons program. The North Korean delegation refuses to comment on its nuclear program, stating only that it is a matter to be resolved through direct talks with the United States.

12 February 2003
Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, CIA Director George Tenet states that North Korea "probably" has one or two plutonium-based nuclear warhead. When asked by Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) if North Korea currently possesses the capability of striking the West Coast of the United States with a ballistic missile, Tenet replies, "I think the declassified answer is yes, they can do that." When asked to clarify whether or not North Korea currently has the capability to couple a nuclear warhead to an ICBM, Tenet says that he will address the issue in the closed session.

12 February 2003
The IAEA Board of Governors adopts a resolution finding North Korea "in further non-compliance with its obligations under its Safeguards Agreement." Noting North Korea’s continuing non-compliance and the IAEA’s inability to verify that North Korea has not diverted nuclear material to a nuclear weapons program, the Board of Governors decides to report the issue to the UN Security Council.
13 February 2003
US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs James Kelly tells the House International Relations Committee that North Korea’s nuclear weapons program may prompt Japan to pursue a nuclear weapons program.

13 February 2003
US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, says that North Korea poses a larger threat as a proliferator of nuclear weapons than as an aggressor in Northeast Asia. Rumsfeld also says that the United States is working with South Korea to redeploy US forces further south on the peninsula away from Seoul and the demilitarized zone. Rumsfeld says that he would like to see US forces "more oriented toward an air hub and a sea hub with the ability to reinforce so that there is still a strong deterrent, and possibly with our improved capabilities of moving people, some of those forces come back home."

13 February 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the House Budget Committee that US-North Korean bilateral talks are not an acceptable way to address issues related to North Korea’s nuclear program, saying that North Korea poses such a threat to neighboring countries, such as China, Japan, Russia and South Korea, that a multilateral talks, incorporating all concerned states, is the only option.

13 February 2003
South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sok Su tells the National Assembly that North Korea has extracted enough plutonium to make two nuclear weapons, but Kim adds that the South Korean National Intelligence Service cannot confirm whether or not North Korea has actually succeeded in construction nuclear weapons.

13 February 2003
North Korean ambassador to the UN Pak Kil Yon says the only way to resolve the current standoff over North Korea’s nuclear program is for the United States to sign a nonaggression pact. Claiming that North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT was a self-defense maneuver, Pak says, "It is a big mistake if the United States thinks North Korea will sit idle while the United States is recklessly moving to overthrow the North Korean regime."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
13 February 2003
Delegates from the United States and North Korea hold unofficial talks in Berlin on ways to resolve the standoff over North Korea’s suspected nuclear weapons program. Official representatives from the United States and North Korea do not participate in the talks, but the experts on each side reportedly have close ties to their respective governments. At the 10 hour meeting, the North Korean delegation reportedly asked the US experts about the specifics of how the US government planned to verify the dismantlement of North Korea’s suspected nuclear weapons program.

14 February 2003
The Korean Central News Agency condemns the IAEA for referring the issue of North Korea’s nuclear program to the UN Security Council. KCNA states that since North Korea officially withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on 11 January, the IAEA, which it denounces as merely a tool of the United States, has no authority to discuss North Korea’s nuclear program.

Mid February 2003
Kim Tae Ho, a North Korean defector who reportedly worked at North Korean nuclear facilities from 1985 to 1992, tells Japanese media that, in preparation for a special IAEA inspection in 1992, North Korea concealed the full amount of nuclear activities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex by using lead boards to eliminate radiation traces emanating from secret underground levels dedicated to a nuclear weapons program. Kim also reports second hand that missile base located in Musudan-ri was constructed at that location to launch nuclear missiles at US forces stationed in Japan in the event of a war with the United States. [Note: In early 2003, Kim, who reportedly worked at the April Enterprise in the Yongbyon nuclear complex and the Namch’on Chemical Complex in North Hwanghae Province, published a book in Japan entitled, *The Truth about the North Korea Nuclear Plants That I Saw*, in which he details his eight years working for North Korea’s nuclear industry.]

16 February 2003
White House National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice says that the United States will not hold bilateral negotiations with North Korea over its suspected nuclear weapons program. Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Rice says, "I know that the North Koreans would like nothing better than this to become a bilateral problem between the United States and North Korea." However, Rice says, "We cannot allow the North Koreans to step back into a
bilateral discussion with the United States."

16 February 2003
In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Kim Chae Rok, North Korean government official, says that North Korea is planning to construct four new nuclear power plants to meet the energy needs of the country. Kim says that the new nuclear power plants will be able to produce up to 200MW of power.

17 February 2003
The New York Times, citing senior US government officials, reports that the United States is developing a plan to impose sanctions on North Korea aimed at encouraging North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program and halt its export of weapons of mass destruction, including ballistic missiles.

17 February 2003
A spokesman for the Korean People’s Army (KPA) declares that North Korea will abandon the 1953 Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean War if the United States imposes economic sanctions or sets up a naval blockade, actions which North Korea would view as acts of war.[Note: On 26 March, the KPA sends a message to the United Nations Command (UNC) stating that North Korea would no longer send delegates to meet with US and UN officers for routine meetings at the liaisons office in the truce village of Panmunjom. In the official message delivered to UNC Deputy Chief of Staff Major General James Soligan, the KPA reiterates its claim that economic sanctions or a naval blockade would be viewed as an act of war and North Korea would react accordingly.]

19 February 2003
The UN Security Council considers the issue of North Korea's nuclear program for ten minutes and then decides to refer the issue to a group of experts before discussing it further.

19 February 2003
Shin Kon, chief of South Korea’s National Intelligence Service, tells the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee that although North Korea has prepared to reactivate its 5MW(e) reactor located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex, the reactor has not yet been reactivated.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

19 February 2003
A Rodong Sinmun commentary claims that the United States' talk about resolving the dispute over North Korea's nuclear program peacefully is "nothing but a deceptive trick to mentally disarm us and guarantee a pre-emptive strike." The commentary warns the United States that if it continues on its current path of aggravating North Korea, it will lead to a "disastrous explosion."

20 February 2003
A North Korean MiG-19 fighter jet crosses the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea and temporarily flies about 13km into South Korean airspace. The incursion lasted only two minutes, as the North Korean jet retreated to North Korean airspace after several South Korean jets were scrambled to intercept it. South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Hwang Yong Su states that the incursion, the first North Korean penetration of South Korean airspace since 1983, could have resulted in "very serious consequences in the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. [Note: North Korea has repeatedly stated that it does not recognize the NLL, thus instigating several naval clashes in South Korean waters, including a confrontation in June 2002 that resulted in the deaths of six South Korean sailors and an unknown number of North Korean sailors.]

20 February 2003
The Korean Central News Agency warns that "the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia is so alarming that a nuclear war may break out any moment."

20 February 2003
Ra Jong Il, Senior Advisor for National Security to South Korean President-Elect Roh Moo Hyun, meets with Chon Kum Ch'ol, vice chairman of North Korea's Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee. Ra reportedly initiated the contact in Beijing to propose an inter-Korean summit soon after Roh takes office.

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22 to 25 February 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell travels to Japan, China and South Korea on a diplomatic mission to coordinate policies with the East Asian nations regarding Iraq and North Korea. After meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi on 22 February, Powell says that both agreed that talks to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue should be held in a "multilateral forum." On 23 February, Powell meets with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his successor Hu Jintao in Beijing, and according to Powell, the two Chinese leaders insist that the North Korean issue should be resolved through bilateral talks between Washington and Pyongyang. Powell then travels to South Korea on 24 February to attend the inauguration of President Roh Moo Hyun, who reportedly tells Powell that Seoul supports resolving the issue of North Korea's nuclear program in a multilateral setting.

25 February 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell announces that the United States will send 100,000 metric tons of food aid to North Korea in 2003 beginning with an initial delivery of 40,000 metric tons. [Note: The United States did not send any food aid to North Korea for the first two months of 2003, but Secretary of State Colin Powell claims that the suspension was merely due to congressional delays, not in order to exert pressure on North Korea.]

25 February 2003
Addressing the 13th Conference of Heads of State of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, says that North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was a self defensive measure and North Korea's "nuclear activities at this stage would be confined only to peaceful purposes such as the production of electricity."

25 February 2003
US reconnaissance satellites detect suspicious plumes of smoke emitting from North Korea's 5MW(e) reactor located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex, prompting US intelligence officials on 26 February to announce that

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North Korea has reactivated the nuclear reactor. [Note: Pursuant to the 1994 Agreed Framework, North Korea agreed to freeze operations at several nuclear facilities, including the 5MW(e) reactor in Yongbyon-kun. Therefore, by reactivating the reactor, North Korea directly violated the agreement.]


Late February 2003

The Chinese government closes an oil pipeline to North Korea for three days, reportedly as a warning to Pyongyang not to provoke the United States and escalate the crisis over North Korea's nuclear program.


28 February 2003

A South Korean government official tells the Yonhap News Agency that the South Korean government, after studying intelligence provided by the United States, has confirmed that North Korea has reactivated the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex. In 1994, North Korea agreed to freeze operations at the reactor as part of the Agreed Framework. Yet despite North Korea's latest violation of the agreement, the government officials says, South Korea will not halt construction of two light-water nuclear reactors being constructed in Kumho-chigu [Shinp'o], North Korea as part of the Agreed Framework.


28 February 2003

South Korea’s Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry issues a statement expressing "deep concern and regret" that North Korea decided to reactivate the reactor. In the statement, the ministry also "urge(s) North Korea to comply with our efforts, as well as those of the international community to find a peaceful resolution to the nuclear problem."


28 February 2003

The Los Angeles Times quotes a US government source as saying that North Korea has been conducting activities at a plutonium reprocessing plant located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex. [Note: The "activities" referred to by the anonymous source could be a reference to the deliveries of coal and plumes of smoke emitting from the boiler detected by US and Japanese intelligence in January. The boiler, adjacent to the reprocessing facility, is used to

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maintain the temperature of the nitric acid solution used in plutonium reprocessing.]

March to May 2003
According to an 11 June Sankei Shimbun report that cites "an informed source on Korean Peninsula issues," Iranian nuclear specialists visit North Korea three times from March to May. According to the "informed source," a delegation of Iranian officials from the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran visit North Korea on 1 March for several days, and subsequently return to North Korea in April and May. The Iranian delegations reportedly seek advice from North Korean officials on how to manage IAEA inspections of a suspected nuclear weapons program.

Early March 2003
According to Japanese government sources, North Korean and Japanese government officials hold several informal telephone conversations during which the North Korean officials indicate that Pyongyang would be willing to participate in multilateral talks to resolve issues related to its nuclear program, backing off from its earlier demand that only bilateral talks with the United States would resolve the crisis.

2 March 2003
North Korean radio broadcasts a commentary stating, "Should war break out on the Korean Peninsula due to the US imperialists, it will escalate into a nuclear war." The commentary continues, "Then, not only the Korean people in the North and South but the people in Asia and many countries around the world will suffer from a frightful nuclear catastrophe."

2 March 2003
Four North Korean MiG-29s intercept a US reconnaissance plane over international waters 150 miles from the North Korean coast. The MiGs, one of which flew within 50 feet of the RC-135S reconnaissance plane, reportedly attempt to force the US plane to land in North Korea. Following the incident, the United States suspends reconnaissance flights over the Sea of Japan, but flights resume ten days later. [Note: Due to heightening tension on the Korean Peninsula and North Korea's test-launch of anti-ship missiles into the Sea of Japan on 24 February, the United States had been conducting routine reconnaissance flights in anticipation of a ballistic missile launch by North Korea.]

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3 March 2003
In an interview with *Sankei Shimbun*, North Korean defector Kim Tae Ho says that North Korea's nuclear industry relies heavily on machinery and equipment imported from Japan via an unnamed Southeast Asian country. Kim says that materials and equipment used in the Yongbyon nuclear complex, from high acid resistant stainless steel liquid waste tanks and pipes, drainage pumps, hydraulic boring machines, to transportation trucks, were all of Japanese origin.

4 March to 2 April 2003
US and South Korean forces conduct the annual Foal Eagle combined military exercises simulating a repelled invasion from North Korea. On 19 March, US and South Korean forces begin the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI) combined military exercises integrating it with the second half of the Foal Eagle exercises. The United States deploys the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and six F-117 stealth bombers to participate in the RSOI exercises. [Note: North Korea repeatedly condemns the military exercises as a rehearsal for a preemptive nuclear attack and subsequent invasion of North Korea.]

5 March 2003
The *Washington Post*, quoting a Senate source familiar with the Bush administration’s evolving North Korea policy, reports that the United States is resigned to North Korea becoming a nuclear power and is now focusing on preventing North Korea from exporting nuclear material. However, Ari Fleisher, White House press secretary, denies the report, claiming, "It is important to make certain that there is a denuclearized peninsula. And that's why we're working so hard on this and why we have called directly and publicly for North Korea to dismantle its nuclear programs."

6 March 2003
In a televised news conference, US President George W. Bush says that the only way to resolve the nuclear issue with North Korea is through multilateral talks, and thus the United States must convince nations with vested interests that "they must stand up to their responsibility."

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6 March 2003
US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says that the United States is currently considering moving US forces stationed in South Korea away from the DMZ. Speaking at a Pentagon town hall meeting, Rumsfeld says, "We still have a lot of forces in Korea arranged very far forward, where it's intrusive in their lives, and where they really aren't very flexible or usable for other things." Rumsfeld adds that while the United States remains committed to maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula, South Korea "has all the capability in the world of providing the kind of up-front deterrent that is needed."

7 March 2003
South Korea's Prime Minister Ko Kun tells US ambassador to South Korea Thomas Hubbard that "the role of the US troops as a tripwire must be maintained." Responding to US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's statements on 6 March that US forces should be redeployed away from the demilitarized zone, Ko tells Hubbard that it would be "inappropriate to talks about redeploying US troops at this time, given the tension surrounding the nuclear issue."

7 March 2003
The Korean Central News Agency says that the nuclear standoff between the United States and North Korea "can surely be solved if the US has a will to settle it through dialogues and negotiations with the DPRK."

8 March 2003
Kim Myong Ch'ol, executive director of the Tokyo-based Center for Korean-American Peace, a group with ties to the North Korean government, says that North Korea will test-fire a missile capable of "splashing down off Los Angeles or New York" if the Bush administration refuses to participate in bilateral talks. Kim also warns that if the United States carries out a preemptive strike on the Yongbyon nuclear complex, North Korea will retaliate with missile attacks that will "leave Washington, New York and Chicago aflame."

9 March 2003
A Minju Joson commentary claims that the United States is currently planning a preemptive attack on North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear complex. The commentary says that the US Department of Defense has developed plans to use not only air raids and cruise missile attacks, but also tactical nuclear weapons. The piece concludes that North Korea's "army and people will take every possible self-defensive measure to cope with the US forces' new war moves."

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10 March 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, says that the combined military exercises currently being conducted by US and South Korean forces are merely preparations for a preemptive nuclear strike on North Korea in the summer. The commentary also claims that North Korea will not sit by idly while it is just a matter of time before a nuclear war erupts on the Korean Peninsula.

11 March 2003
The Rodong Sinmun calls on the United States to participate in bilateral talks to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program, saying "negotiations are neither a sort of reward to be given by one party to the other party nor a business dealing in which one party makes a profit while the other party suffers a loss."

11 March 2003
The US Department of Defense announces that the United States is deploying six F-117 stealth bombers to South Korea to participate in joint military exercises. [Note: The bombers arrive at Kunsan Air Base on 14 March.]

12 March 2003
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James Kelly, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says that North Korea's uranium enrichment program is becoming a serious threat to international security, claiming it is "only probably a matter of months and not years behind the plutonium [program]."

12 March 2003
Speaking before the US House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, General Leon LaPorte, commander of US Forces Korea, says, "According to estimates by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency, North Korea has an untested ballistic missile capable of delivering a payload the size of a nuclear weapon to parts of the continental United States." General LaPorte also states that according to US military assessments, "the Kim regime believes possession of nuclear weapons will guarantee survival."
12 March 2003
North Korean radio quotes Kim Jong Il as saying that the United States is solely to blame for the current nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula since it has continuously threatened North Korea with nuclear weapons located in South Korea.

13 March 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, quotes Kim Jong Il as saying that the United States' recent deployment of two dozen bombers to Guam is "none other than a part of their military adventure maneuvers aimed at suddenly launching a preemptive strike against our republic with nuclear weapons." Kim is also quoted as saying, "The US imperialists are trying to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula by all means and expand it into a global thermonuclear war."

13 March 2003
US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton claims in an article published in the Far Eastern Economic Review that the United States was surprised that when it confronted North Korea with evidence of a clandestine uranium enrichment program in October 2002, North Korean officials broke with tradition and "brazenly admitted to developing a uranium-enrichment program (sic)."

14-15 March 2003
Representatives from over forty nations participate in track-two talks in Berkeley, California aimed at resolving the standoff over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. While the talks are unofficial, many of the delegates, including three North Koreans, have close ties to their respective governments. The three participating North Koreans are Han Song Ryol, North Korean ambassador to the UN, Cho Kil Hong and Kim Sam Ch'ong, respectively deputy director and senior researcher at North Korea's Institute for Disarmament and Peace. During the talks, Kim reportedly says that North Korea's nuclear program is not intended to threaten anyone but is only intended to defend North Korea from the United States.

15 March 2003
A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun, official newspaper of the Korean Workers Party, claims that the current combined military exercises being conducted by the United States and South Korea—Foal Eagle and Reception, Staging Onward Movement and Integration—are aimed a preparing for an invasion of North Korea

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using nuclear weapons. The commentary states that by integrating the two military exercises, the United States is 
"trying to once and for all complete preparations for a nuclear war for northward aggression and launch a nuclear 
preemptive strike against [North Korea] at any given moment."
—"Challenge to Peace and Reunification," Rodong Sinmun, broadcast by Pyongyang Broadcasting Station, 15

16 March 2003
Japan's Yomiuri Weekly, citing an anonymous military authority, reports that North Korea successfully developed a 
nuclear warhead triggering device in 1990.
Document ID JPP20030304000056.

17 March 2003
Ra Jong Il, Senior Advisor for National Security to South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun, says that North Korea 
has not made any apparent preparations to begin reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods.
—"N. Korea Shows No Sign of Reactivating Reprocessing Plant," Japan Economic Newswire, 17 March 2003, in 

18 March 2003
South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun calls for multilateral talks to resolve the current standoff over North 
Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. Speaking at the commencement ceremony of the Korea Air Force 
Academy, Roh says, "Not only dialogue with the North and cooperation with the United States and Japan, but also 
a cooperative framework involving China, Russia and the European Union should be activated. [Note: This is the 
first time that President Roh has explicitly called for multilateral talks to resolve issues related to North Korea's 
nuclear program.]
—"Roh Urges Multilateral End to NK Nuclear Standoff," Korea Herald, 19 March 2003, in Lexis-Nexis, 

19 March 2003
Robert Gallucci, special envoy to the Korean Peninsula during the Clinton administration, says that the Clinton 
administration knew of North Korea's uranium enrichment program. Speaking at Korea University, Gallucci says 
that the Clinton administration had planned to bring up the matter with North Korea but never had the 
opportunity.
—Yonhap News Agency, 19 March 2003, in "Former US Envoy Says Clinton Administration 'Knew' of N Korean 
nexis.com; Seo Hyun Jin, "After Iraq, U.S. Seen to Focus on N.K.,” Korea Herald, 21 March 2003, in Lexis-Nexis, 

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21 March 2003

24 March 2003
The United States imposes economic sanctions on Pakistan's Khan Research Laboratories and North Korea's Ch'anggwang Shinyong Corporation for "engaging in proliferation activities." The sanctions, imposed pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 12938, prevent the US governmental or private sector from conducting business with either of the named entities for two years. Since the United States did not conduct business with either entity in Pakistan or North Korea, the sanctions are mainly a symbolic protest of missile technology transfers from North Korea to Pakistan. [Note: Khan Research Laboratories is primarily responsible for Pakistan's nuclear weapons program and Ch'anggwang Shinyong Corporation is the financial institution that processes payments for North Korean missile-related exports. While Pakistan is suspected of transferring uranium enrichment technology to North Korea through the Khan Laboratories, a US State Department spokesman claims that the sanctions "were for a specific missile-related transfer." The US embassy in Islamabad issued a statement following the implementation of the sanctions, claiming that the Khan Laboratory is charged with "material contribution to the efforts of a foreign country, person or entity of proliferation concern, to use, acquire, design, develop and or secure weapons of mass destruction." However, in the purposefully vague statement the embassy does not mention whether the Khan Laboratory is being sanctioned because of transfers of nuclear technology or receipt of missile technology.]

Late March 2003
Cho Myong Rok, first vice chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission, travels to China to receive treatment for chronic kidney problems. [Note: In 2002, Cho, the highest ranking military official after Kim Jong Il, reportedly received a kidney transplant at the same Beijing hospital.]

Late March 2003
According to South Korean Defense Ministry officials, Washington informs Seoul of its intention to relocate the Army's 2nd Infantry Division south of the Han River in the latter half of 2003. This move would put the 2nd Infantry

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Division out of range of North Korean long-range artillery.

26 March 2003
The Korean People's Army sends a message to the United Nations Command (UNC) stating that North Korea would no longer send delegates to meet with US and UN officers for routine meetings at the liaisons office in the truce village of P'anmunjom. The message is reportedly delivered by Lee Chan Bok to UNC Deputy Chief of Staff Major General James Soligan by telephone. The Korean Central News Agency reports that Lee informed Soligan that any economic sanctions imposed on North Korea would be viewed as a breach of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, and if sanctions were imposed, North Korea would respond by abandoning all commitments made under the Armistice Agreement.

26 March 2003
Speaking before the US House Appropriations Committee, Secretary of State Colin Powell says that the United States has no intention of launching a preemptive military strike against North Korea. Powell also claims that while the administration does not want to withdraw all US forces stationed in South Korea, officials from Washington and Seoul have been discussing the possible redeployment of US troops in South Korea.

27 March 2003
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly allocates 15.4 percent of the annual budget for defense expenditures, an increase from 14.9 percent for 2002. The increase in defense expenditures is part of a 14.4 percent increase in the overall expenditures. In order to fund the budgetary increases, the Supreme People's Assembly announces that it will sell government bonds for the first time since the Korean War. The Supreme People's Assembly also adopts a new military service law by which government officials who have not previously served in the military must join the Korean People's Army for at least three years. [Note: North Korean military budget figures are opaque, but the announced figures can be interpreted as a trend.]

28 March 2003
US Secretary of State Colin Powell informs South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Yong Kwan that China has proposed three-way talks between the United States, China and North Korea in order to discuss the ways of resolving to

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rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Yun, considering the "seriousness of the situation," accepts the three-party talks that exclude South Korea with the understanding that South Korea would participate in subsequent rounds of talks. [Note: The three-party talks are held in Beijing 23-24 April.]


29 March 2003
A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, states that North Korea "would have already met the same miserable fate as Iraq's had it compromised its revolutionary principle and accepted the demand raised by the imperialists and its followers for 'nuclear inspection' and disarmament."


31 March 2003
During talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Thomas Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, says that a strong deterrent is necessary in dealing with North Korea. Fargo adds that while North Korea should not be provoked, the international community must demonstrate that North Korea's nuclear weapons program is intolerable.


1 April 2003
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov says that the US-led war against Iraq is pushing North Korea to improve its defenses. Losyukov claims that it "is absolutely clear" that North Korea will pursue nuclear weapons more vigorously as a result of perceived threat of a US-led war against Iraq.


1 April 2003
Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid, responding to recent US sanctions on Pakistan's Khan Research Laboratories, claims that Pakistan has never imported nor exported nuclear weapons technology. [Note: The United States imposed the sanctions on 24 March pursuant to Executive Order 12938. While Pakistan is suspected of transferring uranium enrichment technology to North Korea through the Khan Laboratories, a US State Department spokesman claims that the sanctions "were for a specific missile-related transfer."]

—Hong Kong AFP, 1 April 2003, in "AFP: Pakistan Wants Proof from Washington of Alleged Nuclear Trade with DPRK," FBIS Document ID JPP20030401000152.

6 April 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that US military actions against Iraq "suggest that even the signing of a nonaggression treaty with the US would not help avert a war." The Foreign Ministry says that

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the only way to avert war is for North Korea to develop a "tremendous military deterrent force."

**Early to Mid April 2003**

North Korea attempts to import three direct-currency stabilizers from Japan. The stabilizers are seized before they are unloaded in Thailand, where they were reportedly to be diverted to North Korea. On 8 May, Tokyo police raid Meishin, the Japanese company that exported the stabilizers. [Note: Direct-currency stabilizers, also called frequency converters, can be used for gas centrifuges.]


**9 April 2003**

The UN Security Council meets to discuss ways to resolve the growing nuclear crisis in North Korea but is unable to reach agreement reportedly due to China's refusal to support even a non-binding statement by the Security Council president condemning North Korea's recent moves to reactivate its nuclear weapons program. [Note: The five permanent members of the UN Security Council had met many times leading up to the 9 April meeting, but on 8 April, the Chinese representative expressed strong opposition to any statement or resolution condemning North Korea. Speaking at an 8 April press conference in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said, "We think intervention by the UN Security Council now cannot help resolve the North Korean nuclear issue." Russia also did not support the resolution and reportedly informed the United States of its belief that if the Security Council adopted a resolution denouncing North Korea, Pyongyang would retaliate by officially declaring itself a nuclear power.]


**10 April 2003**

South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Yong Kwan meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Beijing. The two agree to work together to persuade North Korea to participate in a multilateral dialogue in order to resolve issues related to its nuclear weapons program in a multilateral forum.


**10 April 2003**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officially recognizes that North Korea has withdrawn from the
Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). [Note: On 10 January, Pyongyang issued a statement announcing its withdrawal from the NPT, but the IAEA claimed that North Korea had to wait 90 days from the time of notification before the withdrawal would be official. North Korea is the first country to withdraw from the NPT since it came into force in 1970.]

12 April 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that since North Korea is no longer a signatory to the NPT, there is no reason to resolve issues related to its nuclear program in a multilateral forum. The spokesman adds that North Korea seeks direct bilateral talks with the United States in order to confirm whether or not Washington has the political willingness to abandon its hostile policy toward North Korea. However, the spokesman states that North Korea is prepared to resolve the crisis without sticking "to any particular dialogue format."

12 April 2003
The Korean Central News Agency reports that at the 9 April UN Security Council meeting addressing North Korea's nuclear program, only the United States and one other country supported a resolution calling on North Korea to retract its withdrawal from the NPT.

12 April 2003
French and German authorities board the French ship Ville de Virgo and seize 214 aluminum tubes bound for North Korea. The aluminum tubes, made of a special alloy called 6061-T6, could have been used in the construction of up to 3,500 gas centrifuges for uranium enrichment.

15 April 2003
US President George W. Bush meets with Secretary of State Colin Powell and reportedly approves a negotiating strategy for the upcoming trilateral talks with China and North Korea by which the United States will not settle for a freeze on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Instead, the United States will demand that North Korea completely dismantle its nuclear weapons program. Senior administration officials announce the negotiating position on 16 April, adding that they had low expectations for the first round of talks scheduled to begin on 23 April.
15 April 2003
Speaking at a meeting of Japanese and Iranian lawmakers, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh says that Iran will not export nuclear or missile-related technology to North Korea.

16 April 2003
Japanese government officials announce that Japan and South Korea will participate in the second round of multilateral talks aimed at reducing tension on the Korean Peninsula and resolving issues related to North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The first round of talks, scheduled to begin on 23 April, will only involve delegations from the United States, North Korea and China.

18 April 2003
The Korean Central News Agency quotes a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying, "as we have already declared, we are successfully reprocessing more than 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods at the final phase as we sent interim information to the US and other countries." [Note: Many observers believed the statement to be an admission by the North Korean Foreign Ministry that North Korea had not only begun reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods but had also informed other nations when it did so. However, officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan deny having been informed by North Korea that it had commenced reprocessing the fuel rods. On 19 April, the US government Foreign Broadcast Information Services (FBIS) determined that the Foreign Ministry spokesman had not stated that North Korea had begun reprocessing spent fuel rods, but instead, KCNA had mistranslated an ambiguous statement. The FBIS translation is as follows: "We are successfully completing the final phase to the point of the reprocessing operation for some 8,000 spent fuel rods." On 21 April, KCNA posts a revised version of the English translation which states that North Korea has progressed "to the point of reprocessing fuel rods."

19 April 2003
The Weekend Australian reports that in late 2002, American and New Zealanders, working at arms length from their respective governments, helped Kyong Won Ha, a reported North Korean nuclear scientist, and other high ranking North Korean officials and scientists defect from North Korea. Operation Weasel, as it was called,

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incorporated the help of the Pacific Island nation of Nauru to help transport the defectors from China to the United States or US allies. The US State Department denies that the United States offered any incentives to Nauru to help high-ranking North Koreans defect. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher calls the Weekend Australian report "great reading but untrue." However, the State Department neither confirms nor denies that the defections reported in the article actually occurred. [Note: On 3 June 2003, the director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS), tells that National Assembly that NIS has learned that Kyong is still in North Korea.]


19 April 2003
Kim Ryong Song, chief North Korean delegate to the inter-Korean ministerial talks, sends a message to South Korean Unification Minister Chong Sae Hyon proposing that the next round of talks be held on 27-29 April in Pyongyang. On 21 April, South Korea agrees to participate in the delayed talks. [Note: The tenth round of ministerial talks were originally scheduled for 7-10 April, but North Korea failed to respond to South Korea’s requests for preliminary talks and never invited the South Korean delegation to Pyongyang, the scheduled venue.]


22 April 2003
The Australian Report, citing "well-informed sources close to US thinking," reports that the US Department of Defense has developed a detailed plan to carry out precision strikes against North Korea’s nuclear facilities and selected artillery units located near the demilitarized zone if North Korea begins reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods.


22 April 2003
South Korean Defense Minister Cho Yong Kil tells the National Assembly that he believes that even though North Korea has completed preparations to reprocess 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods, it has not actually started reprocessing.

22 April 2003

Thomas Hubbard, US ambassador to South Korea, tells the South Korean press that the United States will not compensate North Korea for merely placing a freeze on its nuclear activities. However, Hubbard says the United States is prepared to implement a new "bold approach" in dealing with North Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable and irreversible manner."


23-24 April 2003

China, the United States and North Korea hold trilateral talks in Beijing aimed at resolving the standoff over North Korea’s nuclear program. The Chinese, US and North Korean delegations are headed respectively by Fu Ying, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, James Kelly, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, and Li Gun, deputy director general of the American Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry. During the first day of talks, Li reportedly claims that North Korea has almost completed reprocessing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. Li also reportedly tells Kelly on the sidelines of the talks that North Korea already possesses nuclear weapons and threatens to conduct a nuclear test or export nuclear material. According to the Washington Times, Li tells Kelly, "We can't dismantle them. It's up to you whether we do a physical demonstration or transfer them." However, according to other accounts of Li’s statement, Li did not explicitly threaten that North Korea would conduct a nuclear test or sell nuclear material, stating vaguely that North Korea might take "physical actions." At the talks, the North Korean delegation also presents a proposal for resolving the nuclear standoff by which the United States would offer diplomatic recognition and provide security assurances and economic assistance in return for North Korea’s pledge to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. The North Korean proposal also reportedly calls for US-North Korean bilateral talks to be followed shortly by multilateral talks including China, Japan and South Korea. The talks, originally scheduled for 23-25 April end a day early. [Note: The exact meaning of Li’s claim that North Korea has almost completed reprocessing 8,000 nuclear fuel rods is not clear since sources present at the talks contend that Li used the same ambiguous language as the 18 April Foreign Ministry statement which sparked diplomatic tension due to an apparent mistranslation by KCNA.]

24 April 2003
Kim Il Chol, minister of the North Korea People's Armed Forces, claims that the North Korean army is "equipped with powerful offensive and defensive means capable of defeating any formidable enemy at one swoop."

24 April 2003
US President George W. Bush, commenting on the recently concluded Beijing talks, tells NBC News that North Korea is "back to the old blackmail game." On the same day, Secretary of State Colin Powell says that North Korea should not walk away from the Beijing talks "with the slightest impression that the United States and its partners will be intimidated by bellicose statements or by threats."

25 April 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry releases a statement saying that at the recently concluded Beijing talks the North Korean delegation offered a "new bold proposal" to settle the nuclear standoff. However, the Ministry claims the US delegation replied only be saying that it would not continue dialogue until North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable manner.

27-30 April 2003
North and South Korea hold the tenth round of ministerial-level talks in Pyongyang. The North and South Korean delegations are respectively headed by North Korean Senior Cabinet Councilor Kim Ryong Song and South Korean Unification Minister Ch'ong Sae Hyon. During the talks, the South Korean delegation demands that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons program, but the North Korean delegation reportedly dismisses the demand, refusing to clarify the reported admission at talks with the United States and China in Beijing, and claiming that its nuclear program is an issue to be discussed only in bilateral US-North Korean talks. In a joint statement released at the conclusion of the talks, the two sides agree to "cooperate in resolving the nuclear standoff peacefully through dialogue."

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28 April 2003
In a daily press briefing, US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher confirms that at talks held in Beijing on 23-24 April the head of the North Korean delegation stated that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons.

29 April 2003
White House spokesman Ari Fleisher says that the United States "will not reward North Korea for bad behavior." Commenting on the proposal presented by North Korea to the United States at trilateral talks held in Beijing on 23-24 April, Fleisher says, "We will not provide them (North Korea) with inducements for doing what they always said they were going to do anyway."

30 April 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman states that even though North Korea supported denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, "the reality requires the DPRK to deter the escalating US moves to strike the DPRK with a physical force, compels it to opt for possessing a necessary deterrent force and put it into practice."

Late April to Early May 2003
US reconnaissance satellites reportedly discover increased human activity at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and plumes of smoke coming from the Radiochemistry Laboratory, which indicates that North Korea has likely begun reprocessing its 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. However, commenting on the reports, White House spokesman Ari Fleisher says that intelligence analysts have come to "no hard conclusions" on whether or not North Korea has begun reprocessing the fuel rods.

3 May 2003
According to the New York Times, US President George W. Bush informs visiting Australian Prime Minister John Howard that the United States may refocus its strategy from trying to prevent North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons to preventing North Korea from transferring nuclear material to other states or non-state actors. The New York Times quotes an anonymous official present at the talks as saying, "The president said that the central
worry is not what they've got, but where it goes. He's very pragmatic about it, and the reality is that we probably won't know the extent of what they are producing. So the whole focus is to keep the plutonium from going further." However, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking to reporters on 5 May following the New York Times report, denies that the US has shifted its North Korea policy, stating that the US is still committed to impressing upon North Korea that it should eliminate its nuclear weapons program.


7 May 2003
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yun Yong Kwan says, "Only the verifiable and irreversible scrapping of North Korea's nuclear programs can lead to security guarantees and economic aid for the North." Yun adds, "The United States and the international community will not reward North Korea for its bad behavior."


8 May 2003
Tokyo police raid Meishin, a Japanese company run by pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan, for reportedly attempting to export to North Korea frequency converters that could be used in a uranium enrichment program. Hong Kong authorities reportedly seize the devices after being alerted by Japanese officials. [Note: In mid-1999, the US Department of Energy issued a report stating that North Korea's Taesong Yushin Trading Company had recently ordered two frequency converters from a Japanese company, but the transfer was not confirmed.]


11 May 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, claims that the United States' hostile policy has forced North Korea to arm itself with "the necessary deterrent and translate it into action."


12 May 2002
The Korean Central News Agency reports that the 1992 North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula has been reduced to a "dead document" because of the hostile US attitude against North Korea. The report also states that North Korea will arm itself with a "physical means of deterrence" in order to cope with hostile US intentions.

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13 May 2003
Germany's Interior Minister Otto Schily presents a report of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution stating that North Korean diplomats in Germany are involved in "intelligence service activities," and have been attempting to procure "sensitive goods" for North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

14 May 2003
South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Chong No says that despite Pyongyang's admission that it possesses nuclear weapons and has begun reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods, construction of the two KEDO light-water nuclear reactors continues. According to Kim, 605 South Koreans, 353 Uzbeks and 99 North Koreans are currently working on the reactors. Kim also announces that as of April 2003, South Korea has spent $850 million on the project.

14 May 2003
US President George W. Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun meet in Washington. After the meeting the two leaders issue a joint statement in which they state that they "will not tolerate" nuclear weapons in North Korea and will continue to work toward "the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program through peaceful means based on international cooperation."

20 May 2003
At inter-Korean economic cooperation talks held in Pyongyang, South Korean Vice Finance and Economy Minister Kim Kwang Lim tells the North Korean delegation that if North Korea continues to raise tension on the peninsula with its nuclear weapons program, South Korea will not be able to promote inter-Korean business projects. In response, Pak Ch'ang Ryon, head of the North Korean delegation, warns that South Korea will suffer an "unspeakable catastrophe" if it continues to support US efforts to force North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

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20 May 2003
Testifying before the US Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee, North Korean defector Lee Bok Koo (pseudonym) says that ninety percent of the equipment used in North Korea’s nuclear weapons program has been imported from Japan. [Note: This figure is not credible or reliable.]

23 May 2003
US President George W. Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi meet at the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas. Immediately following the meeting, Bush says at a joint press conference that the two leaders remain confident that the standoff over North Korea’s nuclear weapons program can be resolved diplomatically, but "further escalation of the situation by North Korea will require tougher measures from the international community."

30 May to 1 June 2003
Curt Weldon, vice chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee, leads a group of six US congressmen to Pyongyang to meet with North Korean officials including Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun, and Ch’oi Tae Bok, chairman of the Supreme People’s Assembly. After the trip, Weldon tells reporters in Seoul that senior North Korean officials confirmed that North Korea currently possesses nuclear weapons and is in the final stages of reprocessing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. Despite the admission, Weldon claims that the "extensive and lengthy meetings" with senior North Korean officials were amicable, leading him to believe that there is "a window of opportunity" to resolve the crisis peacefully before it erupts into military conflict.

31 May 2003
US President George W. Bush announces a plan to interdict ships and planes suspected of transferring weapons of mass destruction. Bush announces the plan, called the Proliferation Security Initiative, at a speech in Krakow,

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
June 2003

In an interview with *Gendai*, a Japanese monthly, An Yong Chol (pseudonym), a former general in the Korean People's Army, claims that North Korea imported four intercontinental ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads from the Soviet Union in 1983. According to An, the nuclear missiles, which have a range of 8,000km and are targeted at the US mainland, are located at an underground facility in P’odae-ri, Samjiyon-kun, Yanggang Province. In addition to the four Soviet origin nuclear missiles, An claims North Korea has indigenously developed dozens of nuclear missiles with a range of 4,000km. These missiles are reportedly targeted at US military bases in Okinawa. An also states that North Korea, under the guidance of the Soviet Union, built a secret nuclear base in Cuba in the 1970s. [Note: An’s claims are highly suspect. Many North Korean defectors exaggerate claims and distort information in order to inflate their personal value to the countries to which they defect. Hideshi Takesada, a professor at Japan’s National Institute for Defense Studies, tells Agence France Presse that An "may possibly be a defector who has been sent by the North or wants to whip up fear as a gift for the North."]


2 June 2003

*Time* reports that in May the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruited a foreign nuclear scientist who had worked on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. Citing two anonymous US officials and a "foreign government source," *Time* reports that the scientist has provided information on the "location, degree of development in capabilities, where they are, how far along they are in developing multiple-weapons capabilities." The scientist reportedly tells the CIA that North Korea’s nuclear weapons program is much further along than it had thought.


4 June 2003

Speaking before the House International Relations Committee, John Bolton, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, says that because many rogue states seeking weapons of mass destruction "are nearly immune to conventional diplomatic dialogue," the United States is considering other "robust techniques" to combat WMD proliferation such as economic sanctions, interdiction and preemptive attacks. With regard to North Korea, Bolton says, "While all options remain on the table, the United States has made clear repeatedly and at the highest levels that we seek a peaceful, diplomatic end to North Korea's nuclear weapons program."


7 June 2003

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun meet in Tokyo to discuss various bilateral issues including how to deal with North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. The two leaders agree

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that North Korea must dismantle its nuclear weapons program in a "verifiable and irreversible manner," and they also agree that the issue should be resolved in a "peaceful and diplomatic manner."

9 June 2003
The Korean Central News Agency reports that if the United States does eliminate its hostile policy toward North Korea, Pyongyang "will have no option but to build up a nuclear deterrent force." According to KCNA, North Korea's intention to build up a nuclear deterrent is based on a desire to reduce the size of conventional forces while maintaining the same level of military deterrence. The report also claims that since North Korea is no longer a party to the NPT, it is as entitled under international as the United States to possess nuclear weapons.

12 June 2003
Delegates from eleven countries meet in Madrid to discuss a program of interdicting vessels from "rogue states" suspected of shipping weapons of mass destruction technology or missile technology. The eleven countries that participated in the meeting are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Australia and the United States. [Note: The meeting is part of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which was first introduced by US President George W. Bush during a 31 May speech in Poland.]

12-13 June 2003
Representatives from the United Stated, Japan and South Korea meet in Hawaii for a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group aimed at coordinating policies on North Korea. In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the talks, the delegations state that while North Korea's nuclear weapons program will not be tolerated, the conflict should be resolved peacefully and diplomatically through five-party talks that include Japan, South Korea and China. At the talks, the US delegation reportedly suggests halting the project to build two light water nuclear reactors in August and beginning talks to dissolve KEDO, the consortium in charge of the light water reactor project.

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13 June 2003
South Korean Unification Minister Chong Se Hyon says that if North Korea "worsens the nuclear situation, it will inevitably affect exchanges and cooperation between South and North Korea."

18 June 2003
A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, claims that the United States' insistence that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons program before commencing negotiations is merely "intended to contain (North Korea) with ease after forcing it to disarm itself."

18 June 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that North Korea "will put further spurs to increasing its nuclear deterrent force for self-defense as a just self-defense measure to cope with the US strategy to isolate and stifle (North Korea)."

19 June 2003
At the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, US Secretary of State Colin Powell and North Korean Ambassador Ho Jong meet informally for three minutes. Powell reportedly reiterates the United States desire to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program through multilateral talks that include China, Japan and South Korea.

24 June 2003
Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf tells US President George W. Bush that Pakistan will have no military cooperation with North Korea in the future. Speaking to reporters the following day, Musharraf says, "It is an issue of the past, there is no linkage whatsoever between Pakistan and North Korea."

24 June 2003
Minju Choson, a North Korean publication, reports that aggressive moves by the United States compel North Korea "to increase its nuclear deterrent."

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**Late June 2003**

Charles Kartman, executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), travels to Japan and South Korea to discuss the future of KEDO. On 27 June, Kartman meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi and Katsunari Suzuki, the Japanese official in charge of KEDO issues. Kawaguchi reportedly warns Kartman that suspension of the KEDO project at this time could seriously hinder the proposed upcoming multilateral talks. On 30 June, Kartman meets with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Yong Kwan and warns that the future of KEDO depends on the amount of progress made in talks with North Korea regarding its nuclear weapons program. [Note: During a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group held in Hawaii from 12 to 13 June, the United States representative suggested abandoning the KEDO project in August if no progress had been made in urging North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program.]


**27 June 2003**

US Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker warns North Korea that the international community could easily grow impatient "in the face of serial provocations" by North Korea, adding that the United States has not taken any option off the table.


**Early July 2003**

Park Kap Tong, a North Korean defector currently living in Japan, meets with the US National Security Council and advises high ranking Bush administration officials that Kim Jong Il has made the decision to develop nuclear weapons and will not stop even if a the United States tries to implement a system of verifiable inspections. Warning that North Korea will use nuclear weapons against South Korea, Japan and the United States if given the time to develop a miniaturized nuclear warhead, Park advises the administration officials to carry out preemptive strikes against "selected targets" in North Korea in order to destroy Kim Jong Il’s regime. [Note: Park is the head of the National Salvation Front, a group of high ranking military and civilian defectors from North Korea.]


**1 July 2003**

The *New York Times* reports that in recent weeks the US Central Intelligence Agency has discovered a new high-explosive test site in Yongdok-dong, Kusong, North P’yon’nan Province, North Korea. According to US intelligence officials cited in the report, the test site is could be used to develop high-explosive triggering devices necessary for miniaturizing nuclear warheads. [Note: The site is not new.]


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1 July 2003
The chief of the P'anmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army (KPA) warns the United States that any type of economic sanctions or blockades will be met with "merciless retaliatory measures" as the KPA will no longer be bound by the Armistice Agreement.

2-3 July 2003
Representatives from the United States, Japan and South Korea meet in Washington to discuss how to diplomatically resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. All three delegations agree to call on North Korea to resolve the nuclear standoff through five-party talks that would include representatives from the United States and North Korea as well as China, Japan and South Korea. According to sources close to the talks, the three sides agree to discuss suspending the KEDO light water reactor project if negotiations with North Korea do not produce any results by the end of August. [Note: US officials reportedly want to make a decision on the suspension or cancellation of the KEDO project before Congress begins debate in early September on the budget for fiscal year 2004.]

3 July 2003
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yun Yong Kwan says that there is no evidence that North Korea has begun reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods.

4 July 2003
Hwang Chang Yop, the highest ranking North Korean ever to defect to the South, tells the South Korean National Assembly that in 1996 Kim Jong Il and Chon Pyong Ho, one of Kim’s top aides on national security, told him personally that North Korea had developed nuclear weapons. Hwang also says that by the time he defected in 1997, North Korea had concluded a deal to obtain uranium enrichment technology from Pakistan. In addition, Hwang claims, North Korea had plans to conduct an underground nuclear explosion in 1991 or 1992.

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5 July 2003
A South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade official says that North Korea has not begun full-scale reprocessing of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel cells in its possession. Instead, the official claims, North Korea conducted limited tests of its reprocessing facilities between late April and Early May.

6 July 2003
Colonel Shin Chae Kon of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) says that following the 1994 Agreed Framework, North Korea diverted all of its top scientists from working on its plutonium-based nuclear weapons program to a uranium-based nuclear weapons program. In an article published in the JCS magazine, Shin also claims that North Korea is most likely developing a "gun-type" uranium bomb instead of a more technologically complicated implosion device.

8 July 2003
During an unannounced meeting at the UN in New York, North Korean representatives to the UN reportedly tell Charles "Jack" Pritchard, a State Department official, that on 30 June North Korea completed reprocessing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods and is currently using the plutonium to make additional nuclear weapons.

9 July 2003
South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) reports to the National Assembly Intelligence Committee that according to NIS estimates, "North Korea has recently reprocessed a small number of the 8,000 fuel rods it was keeping in Yongbyon-kun." The NIS also reports that North Korea has conducted over 70 tests of suspected nuclear triggering devices in Yongdok-dong, Kusong, North P'yon'an Province.

9-10 July 2003
Representatives of eleven nations meet in Brisbane, Australia to support a US plan to intercept North Korean shipments of weapons of mass destruction and missiles. The eleven nations involved in the plan, called the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), are Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Britain and the United States. In a statement adopted on 10 July, the participant nations of the PSI voice support for the initiative and also agree to increase the level of intelligence sharing regarding suspect shipments. [Note: North Korea has stated on numerous occasions that it would consider any interdiction an act of war.]

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10-12 July 2003
Representatives of North and South Korea meet in Seoul for the eleventh Inter-Korean Ministerial Meeting. The North and South Korean delegations are headed by Kim Ryong Song and Chong Se Hyon respectively. In his opening speech, Kim blames the United States for the current nuclear standoff and says that North Korea is prepared for both dialogue and war. The South Korean delegation urges North Korea to accept a multilateral forum for discussing the issue with the United States, but the North Korean delegation remains recalcitrant, insisting that bilateral US-North Korean talks are the only way of resolving the standoff and thus must precede any multilateral talks.

11 July 2003
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yun Yong Kwan, referring to North Korea's refusal to participate in multilateral talks on resolving the current nuclear standoff, tells that National Assembly that "if the North continues to refuse to abandon its existing policy and does not agree to negotiations, it will affect the way the (South Korean) government pursues the 'peace and prosperity policy' or the contents of the policy itself."

Mid July 2003
US and South Korean intelligence sources discover evidence suggesting that North Korea might possess a second plutonium reprocessing plant. According to US officials, sensors set up on North Korean borders have detected elevated levels of krypton-85, a signature emission released when the cladding of spent fuel rods is cut. While the levels of krypton-85 do not indicate that North Korea has reprocessed all 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods as North Korean officials have claimed, computer analysis of wind direction and the path of the krypton-85 gas indicates that it did not originate from the known reprocessing facility in Yongbyon-kun. In addition, a South Korea intelligence agent reports the existence of a second reprocessing plant northeast of the Yongbyon nuclear complex. [Note: Several scholars and South Korean officials dispute the conclusion that elevated levels of krypton-85 indicates that North Korea has a second reprocessing plant or has even begun reprocessing plutonium at the Radiochemistry Laboratory in Yongbyon-kun. These skeptics contend that the krypton gas could have originated from Russia, China or Japan, or North Korea could have deliberately released krypton gas that had been stored from earlier reprocessing in an attempt to exaggerate its nuclear progress. However, it might not be possible to "store" krypton-85 emissions for later release.]

15 July 2003
In an interview with the Washington Post, former US Secretary of Defense William Perry says that the nuclear

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standoff on the Korean Peninsula is spiraling out of control. Perry says, "The nuclear program now underway in North Korea poses an imminent danger of nuclear weapons being detonated in American cities."


18 July 2003
Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the IAEA, calls North Korea "the most serious threat to the nuclear nonproliferation regime."

18 July 2003
China's Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo meets with high ranking US officials in Washington to discuss ways to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea diplomatically. Bush administration officials reportedly tell Dai that the United States will participate in another round of trilateral talks with North Korea and China if the talks are immediately followed by multilateral talks that incorporate South Korea, Japan and possibly Russia. The officials also reportedly claimed that at the latter of the two meetings, the United States will present a plan for resolving the nuclear standoff.

21 July 2003
U.S. News and World Report, citing anonymous Bush administration officials, reports that senior officials in the Department of Defense are drafting a new war plan for a possible future military conflict with North Korea. The new plan, called Operation Plan 5030, reportedly calls for provocative pre-war maneuvers by US forces in Korea in order to deplete North Korean military resources before an actual confrontation. Such pre-war maneuvers would include flying RC-135 reconnaissance planes closer to the North Korean border in order to encourage North Korea to send fighter jets to intercept the plane and thus deplete limited supplies of jet fuel. Operation Plan 5030 has not been approved yet.

23 July 2003
Reuters, citing a source with close ties to the North Korean government, reports that North Korea is prepared to declare itself a nuclear power on 9 September if the nuclear standoff is not resolved by then.

31 July 2003
North Korean ambassador to Russia reportedly tells Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov that North
Korea supports resolving the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula through multilateral talks that would involve delegates from North Korea and the United States as well as China, Japan, Russia and South Korea.


31 July 2003
Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in New York to discuss the format of future high-level talks aimed at resolving North Korea’s nuclear weapons crisis. According to the North Korean Foreign Ministry, the North Korean representative proposes a six-party format at which the United States and North Korea will hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of talks that incorporate representatives from China, Japan, Russia and South Korea.


4 August 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement that says six-party talks aimed at resolving the standoff over North Korea’s nuclear program will soon be held in Beijing.


4 August 2003
The Los Angeles Times reports that North Korean "military scientists were recently monitored entering Iranian nuclear facilities." The report cites "people inside Iran and foreign intelligence officials" as having asserted that the North Koreans are assisting Iran develop a nuclear warhead. According to the report, so many North Koreans are residing in Iran working on its missile and nuclear weapons programs that a resort on the Caspian Sea has been set aside for their personal use.


11 August 2003
During a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing announces that China will host six-party talks in Beijing aimed at resolving the standoff over North Korea’s nuclear crisis. The talks will take place over three days in late August.


13 August 2003
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement that says the upcoming six-party talks will amount to nothing if the United States insists upon North Korea abandoning its nuclear weapons program before first signing a nonaggression treaty, normalizing diplomatic relations, and removing all economic sanctions. Until the United

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States takes these steps, the Foreign Ministry says, North Korea "will not abandon its nuclear deterrent force."


13 August 2003

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov tells reporters that "it would be fair to provide some security guarantees for North Korea." He questions whether the United States is ready to provide them, adding that the main goal of the six-party talks is to overcome the differences between the US and North Korea.


14 August 2003

China's Foreign Ministry announces that it will host six-party talks in Beijing 27-29 August in an effort to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff. The participants will include representatives from the US, China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Russia.


22 August 2003

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi states that her South Korean counterpart, Yun Yong Kwan, supports Japan's plans to raise the issue of North Korea's past abductions at the upcoming six-party talks. North Korea admitted in September 2002 that it abducted 13 Japanese nationals decades earlier.


22 August 2003

Mitoji Yabunaka, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, requests that the United States not withdraw its extended nuclear deterrence for Japan, regardless of the outcome of the six-party talks. Reflecting fears that Japan may lose the protection of the US nuclear umbrella after North Korea obtains security guarantees from the US, Yabunaka states that such guarantees should not ban the use of nuclear weapons in return for North Korea's nuclear disarmament.


22 August 2003

North and South Korea agree on details to reconnect railways that have been severed since 1950. South Korea,
which will provide all of the equipment, materials, and construction expertise, will be sending several teams of engineers to the North.


23 August 2003

A senior official of the US State Department, speaking on condition of anonymity, says the US would consider establishing diplomatic relations with North Korea but would not concede to North Korea’s demand for a nonaggression pact at the six-party talks.


24 August 2003

North Korea discloses details of a four-phase solution to the nuclear problem. The four phases are: 1) North Korea would announce its intention to abandon its nuclear program; 2) the United States would resume supplying fuel oil to North Korea; 3) the US and North Korea would sign a nonaggression treaty; and 4) North Korea would dismantle its nuclear facilities in exchange for the completion of a light-water power reactor. The proposal, which fails to address nuclear weapons, extracted plutonium, ballistic missiles, and Japanese abductions, is expected to be rejected by the US, Japan, and South Korea. [NOTE: The proposal was verbally presented during the US-DPRK-PRC trilateral talks in April 2003.]


27 August 2003


27-29 August 2003

A North Korean delegate tells diplomats at the Six-Party Talks that the DPRK has "no choice but to declare its possession of nuclear weapons" and "conduct a nuclear weapons test." North Korean diplomats, however, reiterated that the DPRK would be willing to dismantle its nuclear programs if the United States "changed its hostile policies, stopped obstructing North Korea's economic growth, and aided the energy needs of North Korea."

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The US voiced optimism and called the Beijing meeting a "positive session." The six delegations maintained their respective positions and failed to make progress but agreed to continue talks and meet again in Beijing within two months.

30 August 2003
A North Korea Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on the Six-Party Talks that concluded yesterday in Beijing, says that the North Korean delegation "made clear its consistent stand on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and set out reasonable and comprehensive ways to realize it." However, the spokesman also accuses the US delegation as having "raised undisguised brigandish demands." He says the US rejected "a package solution and the order of simultaneous actions," and that according to the US side, a wide range of issues could only be discussed after North Korea dismantles its nuclear program in a verifiable and irreversible manner. He concludes that "there is no other option for us but to further increase the nuclear deterrent force as a self-defensive measure to protect our sovereignty."

3 September 2003
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, during its first session of the 11th term, reelects Kim Jong Il as the chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC). This position is considered to be the highest post in North Korea. Kim is also the general secretary of the Korean Workers Party and commander of the Korean People's Army. Other elected members of the NDC are: Cho Myong Rok, First Vice-Chairman; Yon Hyong Muk and Ri Yong Mu, Chairmen; Kim Yong Ch'un, Kim Il Ch'ol, Chon Pyong Ho, Ch'oe Ryong Su, and Paek Se Bong, Members.

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3 September 2003
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly passes a resolution supporting the Foreign Ministry's handling of the nuclear standoff with the US. The resolution blames Washington's "hostile policy" for the current nuclear crisis, and criticizes the Bush administration for having "termed the DPRK 'part of an axis of evil' and 'a target of preemptive nuclear attacks'." The resolution also supports the Foreign Ministry's view that North Korea "would have no other option but to keep and increase its nuclear deterrent force."

4 September 2003
Chong Ha Ch'ol, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Korea Workers Party, says the DPRK will continue to increase its military deterrent force because the US has not abandoned its "hostile policy" towards the DPRK. Chong made the remarks in a speech delivered to congratulate Kim Jong Il on his reelection as the chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC).

8 September 2003
Mohamed ElBaradei of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says North Korea's nuclear buildup poses a "serious and immediate challenge" to the nuclear nonproliferation regime. In his introductory statement to the IAEA Board of Governors, ElBaradei says that "the Agency has been unable to implement fully its comprehensive NPT safeguards agreement with the DPRK."

9 September 2003
Vice Marshal Kim Yong Ch'un, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA), says the DPRK will continue to increase its nuclear deterrent force. Kim makes the remark in a speech to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.
10 September 2003
"A US official" says North Korea has halted activities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex. According to the Los Angeles Times, the official says, "various sensors and imagery and other things we have don't show activity." The official also says that North Korea easily start and stop activities at the site and that it would be very hard to conceal activities there.

12 September 2003
North Korea agrees in principle to hold a second round of the six-nation talks in early November. The first round was held on 27-29 August 2003 in Beijing.

23 September 2003
The Korean central News Agency dismisses the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution to rejoin the NPT, citing that the "hostile" US government is using the IAEA and that the DPRK is not bound to the NPT.

30 September 2003
A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry says the DPRK is "taking practical measures to steadily beef up the nuclear deterrent force as a just self-defensive means to repel the US nuclear preemptive attack." The spokesman says the measures are necessary because of the US "hostile policy."

30 September 2003
North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Ch'oe Su Hon tells the UN General Assembly in New York that his government may not participate in the next six-party talks. Ch'oe says the DPRK is driven to lose "interest in or expectations on such talks" due to Washington's "hostile policies."
1 October 2003
North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Ch’oe Su Hon tells reporters that while North Korea is committed to a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue, Washington’s "hostile policy" and the lessons from the Iraq war force the DPRK to defend itself with a "nuclear deterrence force.” Ch’oe also says that North Korea will only use its "nuclear force" for deterrence and will not proliferate.

2 October 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman declares North Korea has successfully completed the reprocessing of 8,000 spent fuel rods that can be used to produce nuclear weapons, and more spent fuel rods may be reprocessed in the future. He also states that, contrary to rumors, the DPRK has not made any commitments to resume the six-party talks in Beijing.

7 October 2003
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun release a joint statement while attending the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bali, Indonesia. Among several issues, the statement addresses the North Korean nuclear issue, stating, "The three countries [China, Japan, and South Korea] reaffirm their commitment to a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue facing the Korean peninsula through dialogue and to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, while addressing all the concerns of the parties and working together to maintain peace and stability on the peninsula." The statement marks the first time that China, Japan, and South Korea have joined together to make a declaration of policy.

7 October 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry statement says that Japan should not take part "in any form of negotiations" for resolving the nuclear weapons issue. According to the statement, Japan is only an obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue due to their "black-hearted" intentions. Subsequently, US State Department
spokesman Richard Boucher rejects North Korea's demand stating, "Japan clearly must and will continue to be a participant in the six-party talks in order to achieve a diplomatic solution to North Korea's nuclear arms program."

7 October 2003
An unidentified senior Bush administration official criticizes North Korea for attempting to drive a wedge between the five other members of the six-party talks and adds, "We can talk about this in the [United Nations] Security Council if North Korea doesn't want to cooperate."

9 October 2003
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher states during a press briefing that the US will continue to pursue the six-party talks. Referring to a comment about raising the issue with the UN Security Council, Boucher says, "We're not headed off in another direction at this point."

9 October 2003
Chinese President Hu Jintao and Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue say the six-party talks should continue.

9 October 2003
In an apparent rejection of North Korean demands, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov says the six-party talks should continue to include Japan because it is "a successful format which may provide a solution."
—"Russian Minister Insists Six-Sided Talks on North Korea Must Continue," BBC, 9 October 2003, in Lexis-Nexis, http://web.lexis-nexis.com; "Russia Favors Continuation of Six-Nation Talks on N. Korea," Financial Times, 10...

10 October 2003
Wang Guangya, China's ambassador to the UN, reiterates the need to continue the six-party talks and speculates that December may be ideal for the next round of talks.

10 October 2003
Konstantin Pulikovsky, presidential envoy in the Far Eastern Federal District of Russia, while visiting Beijing says that efforts are being made to continue the six-party talks.

10 October 2003
Yun T'ae Yong, spokesman for South Korea's presidential Blue House, tells reporters that South Korea will urge North Korea to continue the six-party talks when the two Koreas hold an inter-ministerial meeting in Pyongyang 14-17 October.

16 October 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman blames the Bush administration's "hostile policies" for the current nuclear issue and, in order to dispel doubts concerning its nuclear force, he says that North Korea will display "its nuclear deterrent to the public" at the "appropriate time." Subsequently, US Secretary of State Colin Powell and State Department spokesman Adam Ereli dismiss the North Korean statement as unclear and nothing new. South Korea's National Security Advisor Na Chong Il [Ra Jong Il] also discounts the threat as "another bargaining chip for negotiations to get the upper hand at the next round of six-party talks."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

16 October 2003
Gen. Leon LaPorte, Commander of US Forces Korea, says North Korea is "a very, very credible threat" with its 800 mid-range missiles. He also indicates support for the six-party talks by saying, "We need to have all the nations with vested interests involved."

19 October 2003
US President George W. Bush says he is willing to commit to a multilateral written security guarantee not to attack North Korea in exchange for steps by Pyongyang toward abandoning its nuclear weapons program. However, he has ruled out a formal bilateral treaty of nonaggression that North Korea has demanded.

20 October 2003
Members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit, which is being held in Thailand, welcome the United States' policy shift on the North Korea nuclear issue. Although President George W. Bush has rejected North Korea's demand for a formal nonaggression treaty, he wants to offer a multilateral written security assurance.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
21 October 2003
North Korea dismisses a US offer of a multilateral written security guarantee in exchange for an end to its nuclear weapons program, and renews its demand for a bilateral nonaggression pact.

26 October 2003
US House member Curt Weldon (Republican from Pennsylvania) says opposition from the White House caused him to abandon plans to lead a group of US lawmakers to the nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun, the site of North Korea's main nuclear complex.

29 October 2003
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the international consortium financing the construction of light-water reactors in North Korea, discusses suspending the project due to the deepening of the nuclear standoff. Members of KEDO, which includes South Korea, Japan, the United States, and the European Union, add that the decision would be tentative and can be retracted if North Korea abandons its nuclear weapons program.

4 November 2003
The North Korean delegation votes against the non-binding UN resolution backing the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). North Korea's Deputy Ambassador Kim Chang Guk refers to the IAEA as "a tool of the United States" and walks out of the General Assembly chambers immediately following the vote of 129-1 that approved the resolution.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
6 November 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman comments on the impending decision by the United States and the
Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to halt the construction of light water reactors in
North Korea. He states that if construction is suspended, the U.S. and KEDO would be obliged to pay compensation
and the DPRK will "never allow them to take out" the equipment and documents from the construction areas.
—"Chosonwoemusong taebyon'in migug'ui kyongsuro'gonsolchungjimunje'e ongub," Korean Central News Agency,
Central News Agency, 6 November 2003, www.kcna.co.jp; Glenn Kessler, "N. Korea Reactor Project May End,"
nexis.com; Jun Kwanwoo, "N Korea Threatens to Seize US-led Consortium's Assets," Agence France Presse, 6
November 2003, in Lexis-Nexis, http://web.lexis-nexis.com; Sang-hun Choe, "North Korea to Seize Key Data,
Equipment from Nuclear Reactors after U.S., Allies Stop Building," Associated Press, 6 November 2003, in Lexis-

6 November 2003
President Pervez Musharraf tells a news conference that Pakistan had not transferred nuclear technology to North
Korea although it had bought short-range missiles and related technology from North Korea. He says the visits to
North Korea by Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan were related to purchases of missiles only, and Pakistan now produces
missiles on its own and no longer conducts defense-related business with North Korea.
—"Musharraf Denies Role in NK Nuke Program," Pakistan Press International, 6 November 2003, in Lexis-Nexis,

11 November 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, argues that American efforts to develop nuclear
weapons may be reasons for other nations and North Korea to develop similar weapons, and that US moves "may
spark a new arms race."
—"Migug'ui sohyonghaengmug'igaebal chungiirul yogyu," Korean Central News Agency, 11 November 2003,
www.kcna.co.jp; "U.S. Moves to Develop Smaller Nukes Under Fire," Korean Central News Agency, 11 November

14 November 2003
A Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) editorial condemns the announcement by South Korea to purchase and
deploy US-made surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 300 kilometers. KCNA warns the move as being "a very
dangerous development" and threatens that "both the north and the south will fall victim to a nuclear war if it
breaks out on the peninsula."
—"Chosonjungangt'ongshin ronp'yong namchosondanggug'ui sajong 300km missail olhaean silchonbaech'i,"
Korean Central News Agency, 14 November 2003, www.kcna.co.jp; "KCNA Blasts New Type Missile Deployment in

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

16 November 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says North Korea may consider accepting a multilateral written security guarantee in place of the nonaggression treaty with the United States at the next round of talks if Washington ceases to maintain a hostile policy toward and threaten North Korea.

17 November 2003
US Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld visits and meets with South Korean Minister of Defense Cho Young-kil [Cho Yong Kil] as part of the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM). They issue a joint statement following SCM that, among other things, expresses concerns over the nuclear issue with North Korea and urges Pyongyang to "completely, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle it nuclear weapons programs."

17 November 2003
Visiting US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly discusses the North Korean nuclear issue with Mitoji Yabunaka of the Foreign Ministry’s Asian and Oceanic Affairs Bureau and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda. Kelly says he expects the next round of six-party talks to occur in mid-December.

18 November 2003
China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao says Beijing welcomes the 'positive message' from the DPRK referring to a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman’s statement made on 16 November that the DPRK continues to seek a negotiated peaceful solution to the ongoing nuclear issue.
—"Spokesman Says China Welcomes Recent 'Positive Message' from North Korea," Financial Times, 28 November

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

19 November 2003

An editorial in the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, states that the redeployment of US forces in South Korea farther south and away from the Demilitarized Zone is intended for the launching of a preemptive nuclear attack against North Korea.


19 November 2003

Chinese Vice Foreign Ministers Wang Yi and Dai Bingguo meet with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly to prepare for the second round of the Six-party Talks. A Foreign Ministry spokesman says both sides want the next round of discussions to take place as soon as possible.


21 November 2003

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) decides to suspend the construction of two light-water reactors in North Korea. The United States, South Korea, Japan, and European Union make up the KEDO consortium, which has committed $4.6 billion for the project. The one-year suspension, which is to begin on 1 December, is a reaction to North Korea’s alleged violation of the 1994 Agreed Framework.


25 November 2003

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao says that North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Yong Il met with Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Vice Foreign Ministers Dai Bingguo and Wang Yi in Beijing to discuss and prepare for the second round of Six-party Talks. The DPRK representative to the

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six-way negotiations reassured Chinese officials of North Korea's final goal of a denuclearized peninsula and willingness to scrap its nuclear weapons program under the right conditions.


29 November 2003
The Korean Central News Agency states that "Japan should not be allowed to participate in the [six-party] talks as it is persistently trying to bring up" abduction grievances during the negotiations.


29 November 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, demands financial compensation from the United States and KEDO for the losses to be incurred by the suspension of the light water reactor projects.


1 December 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, urges the United States to accept Pyongyang's proposal based on "the principle of simultaneous actions" to resolve the nuclear issue. The actions would be "the US switchover in its hostile policy toward the DPRK, the DPRK's renunciation of its nuclear program followed by the opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries."


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3 December 2003
Officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan reject a draft of a Chinese proposal for a joint statement on the Six-party Talks. The officials sense the China-sponsored draft is too favorable to North Korea because it calls for security guarantees in exchange for Pyongyang's declaration of its intention to dismantle its nuclear programs. However, the draft does not contain details of the implementation of the dismantlement.

3 December 2003
South Korea's Unification Minister Chong Se Hyon says the dispatch of ROK troops to Iraq is linked to "U.S. cooperation for peace on the Korea peninsula." The statement reveals the view of many in South Korea that the United States is too firm regarding the North Korea nuclear issue.

7 December 2003
Officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan draft a joint statement of principles for resolving the North Korea nuclear crisis. The proposal, which does not call for North Korea's return to the NPT, proposes coordinated steps where the other five nations of the Six-party Talks offer incentives to North Korea as it verifiably dismantles its nuclear facilities. South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su Hyok says, "For the parts on which the countries have some disagreements, we used indirect and implicative words." The joint statement is to be sent to Beijing to be passed on to Pyongyang.

9 December 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says the DPRK would freeze its nuclear activities in exchange for political and economic concessions. The statement also declares that "the resumption of the Six-party Talks in the future entirely depends on whether an agreement will be reached on the DPRK-proposed first-phase step or not."

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9 December 2003
US President George W. Bush rejects North Korea's offer to freeze its nuclear program, insisting, "The goal of the United States is not for a freeze of the nuclear program; the goal is to dismantle a nuclear weapons program in a verifiable and irreversible way." White House spokesman Scott McClellan responds to the preconditions for continued talks by stating, "We, along with the rest of the members of the six-party talks, are ready for a new round of talks at an early date, and without any preconditions whatsoever."

11 December 2003
South Korea's Unification Minister Chong Se Hyon says he has confirmed the delivery of the joint statement draft to resolve the nuclear issue from Beijing to Pyongyang. Representatives from the United States, South Korea and Japan drafted the proposal earlier in the week, and Chinese officials, the host of the Six-party Talks, were to relay the draft to North Korean officials.

11 December 2003
A statement released by the North Korean embassy in Moscow says that Pyongyang desires a nuclear-free Korean peninsula but will not abandon its nuclear programs without concessions. The statement directly refers to a perceived US nuclear threat by declaring "the United States legitimized and appropriated large amounts of money for the development of miniature nuclear weapons in order to keep us under constant threat."

12 December 2003
A nine-member European Union delegation led by Guido Martini of Italy meets with North Korea's Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun and Vice Foreign Minister Kung Sok Ung and other North Korean officials to urge the DPRK

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to return to the Six-party Talks.

15 December 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, rejects the US-backed blueprint proposal for ending the nuclear issue for its failure to mention North Korea's proposed "simultaneous package solution." The newspaper also demands "complete, verifiable and irreversible security assurances" in exchange for complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID).

15 December 2003
US President George W. Bush tells reporters that he wants to settle the North Korean nuclear issue diplomatically. Bush offers his comments following the capture of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

18 December 2003
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, vows that North Korea will "keep and steadily increase its nuclear deterrent force" to deter a preemptive attack by the United States.

24 December 2003
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher announces the United States will donate 60,000 metric tons of food to North Korea through the UN World Food Program despite North Korea's persistence in developing nuclear weapons. The decision brings US food aid donations for North Korea to a total of 100,000 metric tons for the year 2003.
—Stephen Collinson, "US to Give 60,000 Tonnes of Food to North Korea," Agence France Presse, 24 December

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
25-27 December 2003
Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi visits Pyongyang for three days to prepare for a tentative second round of Six-party Talks. Wang meets with North Korea's Vice Foreign Ministers Kim Kye Kwan, Kang Sok Chu, and Kim Yong Il.

27 December 2003
North Korean First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok Chu expresses willingness to hold the next round of Six-party Talks early next year to Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

27 December 2003
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman tells Korean Central News Agency that the United States' continued efforts to increase its military presence in South Korea is "casting a darker shadow on the prospect of solving the nuclear issue." The spokesman cites the recent decision by Washington to spend $11 billion to reinforce military hardware in South Korea.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
29 December 2003
Fu Ying, head of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, states that Beijing does not believe North Korea has a clandestine uranium enrichment program. Fu makes the statement during his meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan [Yun Yong Kwan] and Japanese director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanic Affairs Bureau Motoji Yabunaka while in Seoul to discuss North Korea's nuclear program.

30 January 2004
Australia sends a delegation of government officials to Pyongyang to urge the DPRK to restart the Six-Party Talks. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says Australia is in a good position to persuade North Korean officials because it is one of the few countries that maintains diplomatic relations with North Korea even though Canberra is a close ally of Washington. Downer also says he believes the Six-Party Talks are "the most viable mechanism for finding a peaceful and a lasting solution to the nuclear issue."

31 January 2004
Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, referred to as "the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb," is removed from his position as advisor to the Pakistani government on nuclear affairs to "facilitate the ongoing investigations" into alleged nuclear proliferation to Iran, Libya and North Korea. The decision followed a meeting of Pakistan's Nuclear Command and Control Authority, headed by President Pervez Musharraf. Khan held his position as advisor since 2001.

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2002
Early 2002
The US and South Korea have working-level discussions to develop a "roadmap" for a "package deal" to resolve
North Korea's ballistic missile and WMD programs. The roadmap is said to be a "step-by-step package deal involving strict reciprocity."


### Early January 2002

The South Korean government learns from Chinese sources that Kim Jong Il might visit China during mid February 2002. Speculation is that Kim is concerned the United States will expand the war on terrorism to North Korea. Other analysts believe Kim might visit China to address North Korea's severe foreign exchange shortage, which according to the *Chosun Ilbo*, is due in part to North Korea's declining missile exports.


### 6 January 2002

A South Korean government source says that IAEA officials will enter North Korea on 12 January 2002 to visit Isotope Production Laboratory in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.


### 7 January 2002

The IAEA announces that three inspectors will visit the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex in North Korea 15-19 January 2002. The inspectors will visit the Isotope Production Laboratory, but the IAEA emphasizes the visit will not constitute an "inspection." This will be the first IAEA visit to the lab, which is used to produce nuclear materials for medical and industrial uses.


### 7 January 2002

The *Sankei Shimbun* reports that Russia plans to build a nuclear power plant near its border with China and North Korea, and that energy would be provided to North Korea and China. The report says that Russia plans to complete the construction of the plant by 2010.


**Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.**
13 January 2002

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage says on Radio Free Asia that North Korea must decide soon whether to accept IAEA inspections. Unless North Korea accepts inspections, Armitage says the Agreed Framework will collapse.


24 January 2002

US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control John Bolton says, "The fact that governments which sponsor terrorist groups are also pursuing chemical, biological, nuclear and missile programs is alarming and cannot be ignored. Countries such as North Korea and Iraq must cease their violations of NPT and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to do its work. Further, I caution those who think that they can pursue nuclear weapons without detection: the United States and its allies will prove you wrong." Bolton makes his comments during the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. In response, North Korea's delegate says that North Korea was permitting international inspections of its nuclear facilities.


25 January 2002

The Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) conclude a one-day meeting in Seoul. The TCOG consists of government officials from the United States, South Korea, and Japan that meet to coordinate policy towards North Korea. The participants say North Korea will be an important topic during George W. Bush's trip to Asia in February, and that Bush's visits would "positively contribute to peace and stability on and around the Korean peninsula." A South Korean government official later reveals that the US delegation informs the Japanese and South Korean participants that the Bush administration will now require "step-by-step reciprocity from North Korea, and will spell out how North Korea will be punished or rewarded for future conduct."


28 January 2002

Cho Myŏng Rok, First Vice Chairman of the National Defense Committee, meets with China's new ambassador to North Korea. [Note: Cho has reportedly been suffering from kidney disease.]


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
During his State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush says North Korea is part of an "axis of evil."

The Joongang Ilbo reports that North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu is rumored to be seriously ill. Kang, 63 and last seen in public on 6 December 2001, has been in charge of relations with the United States and other Western countries. Kang was the senior North Korean delegate during the negotiations in 1994 for the Agreed Framework.

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry denounces the remarks of US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control John Bolton made on 24 January in Geneva. The spokesman says Bolton's suggestion that North Korea's nuclear program poses a threat to international security is "nothing but a provocative remark by a person totally ignorant of the contents of the Agreed Framework, to say nothing of the core of the nuclear issue." The spokesman also says the United States "has not properly discharged its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

Bush administration officials say that although George W. Bush labeled North Korea as part of an "axis of evil" in his 29 January State of the Union Address, the United States is not planning imminent military action against North Korea, Iran, nor Iraq.

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement in response to George W. Bush's State of the Union Address. The spokesman says the United States "has not properly discharged its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
the Union Address on 29 January. The spokesman blames the US economic recession, terrorist attacks, and other US problems on the "unilateral and self opinionated foreign policy, political immaturity and moral leprosy of the Bush administration." He says, "There has been no precedent in the modern history of DPRK-US relations that in his policy speech the US President made undisguised threatening remarks on aggression and threat against the DPRK, an independent and sovereign state. This is, in fact, little short of declaring war against the DPRK." He also says, "The option to 'strike' imprudently advocated by the United States is not a monopoly."


31 January 2002

US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice tells the Conservative Political Action Conference that North Korea is "the world’s number one merchant for ballistic missiles. Rice says the United States has offered a "road map to for reciprocal steps that would enable North Korea to take a better course." However, she adds, "We've had no serious response from Pyongyang."


4 February 2002

North Korean print and broadcast media criticize the US policy towards North Korea, saying the "US is using the nuclear issue as a pretext to escalate its hard line policy and ignite a second Korean war." A North Korean television broadcast says that George W. Bush's "axis of evil" remark in the State of the Union Address is an "unbearable insult to a sovereign nation."


4 February 2002

The Chosun Ilbo reports that intelligence officials believe about 50-60 percent of North Korea's ballistic missile
warheads are armed with chemical weapons. [Note: The report is ambiguous about the "intelligence officials," but they are almost certainly South Korea.]


5 February 2002
Former South Korean Minister if Foreign Affairs and Trade, Han Sŭng Su, who was dismissed yesterday, says that the United States has informed South Korea that North Korea has continued to develop and export missiles. Han says that before 11 September 2001, North Korea's WMD were not such a problem, but now the US basic strategy is that North Korea's WMD programs must be stopped. Han also says that the United States is not likely to extend the next stage of the "war on terrorism" to North Korea.


5 February 2002
Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Secretary of State Colin Powell says that George W. Bush's reference to Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an "axis of evil" was "not a rhetorical flourish—he meant it." Powell also says, "it does not mean that we are ready to invade anyone or that we are not willing to engage in dialogue. Quite the contrary." Committee Chairman Joseph Biden says, "I agree with the president that each nation poses a security threat to the United States and to the civilized world, but they are hardly identical or allied with each other, and our policies toward them have up to now involved very different strategies."


5 February 2002
Yang Sŏng Ch'ŏl, South Korean ambassador to the United States, says that recent harsh comments from US officials towards North Korea indicates that must have significant evidence that North Korea is selling weapons of mass destruction. Yang says relations between the United States and North Korea could turn around if North Korea clarifies its position on WMD and allays fears that it possesses nuclear weapons.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
5 February 2002
The *Rodong Sinmun* criticizes George W. Bush's State of the Union Address as being "little short of declaring war." The official daily of the Korean Workers' Party says the "options to 'strike' on the lips of the US is not its monopoly."

5 February 2002
Three US House members, Benjamin Gilman, Christopher Cox, and Edward Markey, send a letter to President Bush asking him to reconsider the implementation of the Agreed Framework.

6 February 2002
In testimony before the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, CIA Director George Tenet says North Korea is exporting ballistic missiles and missile components to countries like Iran, Libya, Syria, and Egypt. Tenet says North Korea could have a ballistic missile that could reach the United States by 2015, and that North Korea has enough plutonium for one or two nuclear bombs. According to Tenet, North Korea is using the profits from its missile exports to further develop its missiles, and probably to covertly develop WMD.

6 February 2002
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung says that nuclear and missile problems must be resolved peacefully. Kim says that recently North Korea has been harshly criticizing the United States because of the US attitude towards North Korea. Kim also says that there can be policy differences among allies, but that anti-Americanism is not in Korea's interest.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
6 February 2002
Im Dong Wŏn, national security and unification advisor to the South Korean president, says that North Korea poses a threat to security on the Korean peninsula, but the threat must be reduced through peaceful dialogue. Im says that the use of military force will only result in the danger of igniting another Korean war.

7 February 2002
North Korean UN Ambassador Pak Kil Yŏn says that North Korea is prepared to renew dialogue with the United States even though President George W. Bush labeled North Korea as a member of the "axis of evil." Park says that Bush's speech amounts to a declaration of war, which surprised North Korea and caused confusion in governments around the world. Park says that if the United States has a hostile or confrontational approach to North Korea, then North Korea will respond in similar ways. On the other hand, Park says, "Nice words will be answered by nice words."

7 February 2002
South Korean Unification Minister Chŏn Se Hyŏn tells the National Assembly that the South Korean government will seek the opening of a direct air route between North Korea and South Korea to facilitate the construction of the LWRs in North Korea under the Agreed Framework.

8 February 2002
The Korean Central News Agency criticizes President Bush's defense budget, saying "Though it has the largest number of weapons of mass destruction in the world, the US is sharply increasing military expenditure. This clearly proves that the US, 'empire of devil,' is posing a grave threat to the world peace and stability."

8 February 2002
North Korea cancels the proposed visits of four former US ambassadors to South Korea. The US delegation was to include William Gleysteen, Richard Walker, Donald Gregg, Stephen Bosworth, and University of California Professor Emeritus Robert Scalapino. North Korea proposed the visit in recent months as a way to maintain a channel of communication with the United States. Park Kil Yŏn, North Korean Ambassador to the UN, says he received instruction from Pyongyang to cancel the trip, but he does not link the move to George W. Bush's State of

8 February 2002
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ch'oe Sŏng Hong tells the National Assembly that South Korea will take issue with North Korea's WMD programs when inter-ministerial talks resume. Ch’oe says that South Korea has told North Korea to address the suspicions surrounding its missile and WMD programs during the June 2000 summit and other occasions.

11 February 2002
In response to CIA Director George Tenet’s testimony before the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Korean Central News Agency says North Korea’s development of weapons of mass destruction is "non-existent." KCNA says the information provided by the CIA has "always been nothing but sophism designed to slander and do harm to other countries."

11 February 2002
According to a South Korean government source, snowfall this winter has been below normal, which will have a negative effect on North Korea's hydroelectric power generation later this year.

11 February 2002
The Mainichi Shimbum reports that the LWRs under construction in North Korea will be delayed beyond the target date of 2003, and will only be completed by 2008 if the project progresses well from now on. According to the report, the delay in construction might increase costs.

12 February 2002
In testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, Secretary of State Colin Powell says the United States has no plans to start a war with North Korea. Powell says, "We want to see a dialogue. We want to contain North Korea's activities with respect to proliferation, and we are going to keep the pressure on them." Powell adds that George W. Bush will offer to restart dialogue with North Korea without conditions.

13 February 2002
During a hearing held by a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Secretary of State Colin Powell says the Agreed Framework will come to a halt unless North Korea allows safeguards inspections. Representatives Christopher Cox, Benjamin Gilman, and Edward Markey say they have introduced legislation to deny funding for KEDO.


15 February 2002
North Korean radio reports "there is no reason for our nuclear and missile policies to attract suspicion." The broadcast says these programs are "transparent, clear and are intended for self-defense." The report also calls George W. Bush the "most ferocious war fanatic among previous US presidents and an ignorant political hooligan."


16 February 2002
AFI Research reports that North Korea and Iraq have cooperated in the "area of nuclear weapons technology." [Note: This report is unsubstantiated.]


20 February 2002
During his visit to South Korea, George W. Bush says the United States has no intention of invading North Korea. Bush also says that he supports Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of engagement with North Korea, and that Washington is prepared to renew dialogue with Pyongyang.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
21 February 2002

*Nucleonics Week* reports that North Korea "will now concede there are apparent discrepancies requiring explanation between its 1992 declared nuclear inventory and other evidence from the US and the IAEA." The report says that according to North Korea, the discrepancies "could at least be partially reconciled by the past operation history of the Isotope Production Laboratory in Yŏngbyŏn-kun." North Korea admits it separated a few hundred grams of plutonium at the lab in 1975, but denies any was separated after that.


21 February 2002

During a press conference in Beijing, President George W. Bush says that he has asked Chinese President Jiang Zemin to help the United States renew bilateral talks with North Korea.


22 February 2002

North Korea’s Foreign Ministry releases a statement that rejects George W. Bush’s call for dialogue with the United States. The English version reads, "We are not willing to have contact with his clan which is trying to change by force of arms the system chosen by the Korean people." However, the Korean version of the statement is slightly different, "While the US has no intention of recognizing our system, we do not need any proposals for a dialogue that is looking for a pretext to invade [North Korea]."


27 February 2002

The US and South Korea complete the first of a joint study on confidence-building measures (CBMs) with North Korea to address Pyongyang’s ballistic missiles, WMD programs and conventional forces. The initial part of the study is said to have 32 items to be proposed for CBMs with North Korea. The joint study team reportedly began the study in June 2001.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
5 March 2002
General Thomas Schwartz, Commander in Chief US Forces, Korea, tells the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Agreed Framework is "the roadmap to the future in my opinion. It is serving us well at this time. It stopped their nuke development, there is no doubt about it." However, Schwartz also says that North Korea "still refuses to comply with nuclear nonproliferation protocols."

3 April 2002
North Korea and Russia sign an agreement for scientific exchanges during 2002-2004.

3 April 2002
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says that North Korea has decided to resume suspended negotiations with KEDO. According to the spokesman, US and North Korean officials met in New York on 13 and 20 March to discuss bilateral relations and the resumption of dialogue.

26 April 2002
In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Lt. General Leon J. LaPorte says that the Agreed Framework has proven successful in freezing North Korea’s nuclear program. In absence of the Agreed Framework, North Korea could have produced weapons-grade plutonium for dozens of nuclear weapons."

2 June 2002
National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong Il, Kim Il Ch’ŏl, Minister of the People’s Armed Forces, and Vice Marshal Kim Yong Ch’un, chief of the general staff of the Korean People’s Army, and other high-ranking officials meet with a Russian military delegation from the Far Eastern Military District. The Russian delegation is led by Colonel General Yuri Yakubov, the commander of the district. Andrei Karlov, the Russian ambassador to North Korea, and Vladislav Prokopenko, the Russian military attaché from the embassy also attend the meetings. The delegation arrived in Pyongyang on 31 May, and was preceded by a "Red-Flag Ensemble" that arrived on 27 May.

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14 June 2002

Ambassador Jack Pritchard, Special Envoy for Negotiations with the DPRK, meets with Ambassador Pak Kil Yŏn at North Korea's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. Pritchard asks the Mission if there are any convenient dates for a US delegation to visit North Korea. On 25 June, the United States informs the Mission that a delegation could be prepared to visit Pyongyang on 10 July. On 27 June, the US side asks for a confirmation of the date, and for a timely response in consideration of time needed for travel arrangements. Following the naval clash between North and South Korea on 29 June, and the lack of a response from Pyongyang, the United States cancels the proposed visit on 1 July 2002.


17 June 2002

Government delegations from the United States, Japan, and South Korea hold a Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting in San Francisco. The three sides agree about the importance of holding "comprehensive and flexible talks with North Korea." The US and Japanese delegations reaffirmed support for Kim Dae Jung's policy of engagement with Pyongyang, and for the implementation of the Agreed Framework.


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18 June 2002
An anonymous South Korean government official says that an IAEA delegation will visit Pyongyang 26-29 June for working-level talks. The discussions are to cover the implementation of nuclear safety regulations and safeguards inspections among other issues.

24 June 2002
The Korean Central news Agency reports that North Korea will host the "2002 Pyongyang International Technology and Infrastructure Exhibition" 17-20 September 2002. The event will be co-sponsored by the DPRK International Exhibition Company and the Munich International Exhibition Corporation. The exhibition will display "equipment for developing the latest technology and machines and equipment to be used in building, building materials, metal, mining, transport, communications and chemical industry." [Note: Transfers of mining machines and technologies could be applied to uranium mining in North Korea. Furthermore, metallurgy technologies could possibly be applied to other aspects of nuclear bomb development.]

29 June 2002
North and South Korean naval forces clash in coastal waters off the west coast. One South Korean vessel is sunk and four sailors are killed. North Korean casualties are estimated to be about 30. During the skirmish, South Korean elint indicates that North Korean radars have been turned on for ship-borne anti-ship Styx missiles and for Silkworm missiles based onshore. The South Korean vessels disperse chaff as a countermeasure and reportedly break off their aggressive pursuit of the North Korean vessels in fear that a North Korea could respond with a missile attack, which would potentially result in a serious escalation of the conflict.

July 2002
A Pakistani C-130 transport plane lands in North Korea and is loaded with missile parts for export back to Pakistan. According to Outlook India.com, the shipment includes 47 tons of special aluminum that Kahn Laboratory acquired from a British firm in Blackburn, U.K. The shipment is reportedly delivered on a Shaheen Airlines flight. [Note: The shipment is part of a suspected nuclear-for-missile barter deal between Islamabad and Pyongyang. It is not clear if Pakistan delivered nuclear materials or technologies on this flight. If the Outlook India.com report is correct, the aluminum could have come from the TTI Group, Ltd., which is the U.K. subsidiary of the Materials Technology Division of Aalberts Industries NV, which is headquartered in the Netherlands.]

1 July 2002
The United States cancels a proposed visit by a US delegation to Pyongyang. On 14 June, Ambassador Jack Pritchard, Special Envoy for Negotiations with the DPRK, met with Ambassador Pak Kil Yŏn at North Korea’s Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, and proposed the visit. The US State Department says the trip, which was proposed for 10 July, is no longer possible because of the Pyongyang’s "failure to respond in a timely manner," and because the clash between North and South Korean naval vessels on 29 June "had created an unacceptable atmosphere in which to conduct the talks.

1 July 2002
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman accuses the United States of being responsible for the 29 June naval clash between North and South Korea because the "Northern Limit Line" was set unilaterally by the United States

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2 July 2002
A 25-member North Korean delegation arrives in South Korea to participate in a training program as part of the LWR construction project under the Agreed Framework. The delegation is led by Kim Yong Il, a director in North Korea's Nuclear Safety Regulatory Committee (核安全監督委員會), and the group will receive training at the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (韓國原子力安全技術院) in Taejon. The group is scheduled to stay in South Korea until 27 July.

7 July 2002
US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard says that the naval clash on 29 June appears to be a deliberate attack from North Korea, but that he expects no significant changes in bilateral relations between Washington and Pyongyang, and between Seoul and Pyongyang. Hubbard says the United States continues to support Kim Dae Jung's policy of engagement with North Korea, and he believes it is impossible to know whether Kim Jong Il was involved in the command decisions related to the sea battle.

20 July 2002
The North Korean airline Air Koryo conducts the first direct inter-Korean flight to transport South Koreans working on the KEDO light water reactor project from Yangyang, Kang'won Province, South Korea to Sŏndŏk-ri, Chŏngp'yŏng-kun, South Hamgyŏng Province, North Korea.

23 July 2002
In a statement before the Senate Foreign relations Committee, Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy, says, "It is no coincidence the regimes that are currently working hardest to attain and proliferate weapons of mass destruction are the same regimes that are the most tyrannical." Gaffney includes North Korea with Iran,

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Iraq, Syria, Libya, Cuba, Sudan, Algeria, and China. [Note: The statement elicits a response from the North Korean media on 14 August.]


29 July 2002
During a visit to Pyongyang, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov says that North Korea "is ready for a constructive dialogue with the United States and Japan, without any preconditions." Ivanov held several hours of talks with Kim Jong Il during his two-day visit.


31 July 2002
US Secretary of State Colin Powell and North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun have a 15-minute talk over coffee at the ARF meeting in Brunei. Paek later says that North Korea has agreed to resume dialogue with the United States. Paek also holds a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, and both parties agree to work towards the normalization of ties between Tokyo and Pyongyang.


August 2002
According to the Segye Ilbo, a South Korean daily, US satellite imagery reveals a secret underground nuclear reactor in Pyongyang. According to the report, North Korea has been operating the reactor for about 20 years, and it was built with Soviet technology. The reactor is said to be cooled with water from the Imwŏn Reservoir (林源貯水地). [Note: This report has not been substantiated, and the credibility of this report is dubious.]


August 2002
According to evidence acquired by the Bush administration, Pakistan has been assisting North Korea with its nuclear weapons program as late as August 2002. The administration believes Pakistan has been providing "nuclear technical knowledge, designs and possibly materials in exchange for missile parts up until this summer."

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7 August 2002

KEDO holds a ceremony in Kŭmho-chigu, Shinp'o to mark the pouring of concrete for the construction of the first light water reactor under the Agreed Framework. Charles Pritchard, US Representative to KEDO, attends the ceremony and says, "The United States will continue to abide by the terms of this accord [the Agreed Framework] so long as North Korea does the same." Pritchard says that under the construction schedule, KEDO will deliver key components to the first reactor in mid 2005, and therefore, North Korea and the IAEA need to begin the safeguards inspection process now.


8 August 2002

The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement regarding the visit of a special US envoy to Pyongyang. The spokesman says North Korea is willing to receive the envoy, but that results from the restart of bilateral dialogue would depend upon the "US dropping it hostile policy towards North Korea."


13 August 2002

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry says that North Korea has abided by the Agreed Framework "100 percent," including the freezing of its nuclear facilities and the storage of spent fuel rods. However, the spokesman claims that the United States has not upheld its commitment to provide light water reactors by 2003, and that it is uncertain whether the reactors will be delivered by 2008. The spokesman says the most urgent issue in implementing the agreement is not safeguards inspections in North Korea, but compensation for the "loss of electricity" due to the delay in the reactor construction. An official from South Korea's Foreign Ministry downplays Pyongyang's threat to withdraw from the Agreed Framework, saying, "It is nothing but a tactic ahead of the forthcoming negotiations with the United States and will have no influence on future talks."


13 August 2002

Philip Reeker, Deputy Spokesman for the US State Department, says, "We have stated many times that the United States will continue to abide by the terms of the accord [Agreed Framework] as long as North Korea does the same. We have emphasized that it's critical for North Korea to begin cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to meet all of its other obligations, as stipulated in the Agreed Framework."

14 August 2002

In response to the Senate testimony on 23 July by Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy, the Rodong Sinmun says that North Korean missiles are "not for threatening anyone."

19 August 2002

The Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang says in an editorial that the United States should compensate North Korea for construction delays under the Agreed Framework. Under the agreement, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) is to supply two light water reactors by a target date of 2003. Since the target date will be missed, North Korea believes it should be compensated for the "lost electricity due to the unilateral noncompliance with the Agreed Framework." The commentary cites "international law and the moral point of view" as reasons the United States should provide compensation, and says that US requests for North Korea to accept IAEA inspections now are unreasonable.

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24 August 2002
A KEDO delegation arrives in Pyongyang to discuss the ongoing storage of the spent fuel rods that were canned as part of the Agreed Framework. The delegation includes officials from the US State Department and Department of Energy. The spent fuel rods were discharged from the nuclear reactor core in Yŏngbyŏn-kun in 1994.

26 August 2002
In an interview with a South Korean Internet news provider, US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard says that the United States is not ruling out the possibility of seizing North Korean missile exports on the high seas. However, Hubbard says that the United States wants to resolve its dispute with North Korea over its missile and WMD programs through dialogue.

26 August 2002
While in Tokyo, John Bolton, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, says the United States has evidence that North Korea is producing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and long-range ballistic missiles. Bolton also says that North Korea is exporting missiles and missile components.

29 August 2002
In Seoul, John Bolton, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, says that "in addition to its disturbing weapons of mass destruction activities, North Korea also is the world's foremost peddler of ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials and technical expertise." Bolton also says that George W. Bush's reference to North Korea as being part of an "axis of evil" was "more than a rhetorical flourish—it was factually correct." Bolton says the Agreed Framework is "in serious doubt" unless safeguards inspections begin soon, and there is "little doubt that North Korea has a chemical weapons program and "one of the most robust offensive bioweapons programs on earth."

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7 September 2002
The Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting is held in Seoul. The delegations from the United States, Japan and South Korea were led by Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James A. Kelly, Director General of Asian and Oceania Affairs Hitoshi Tanaka, and Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Tae Shik. The three sides reconfirm their goal of resolving the issue of North Korea's WMD and missile programs through dialogue, and "highlight the importance of improved implementation of the Agreed Framework." [Note: Later reports indicate that while in Seoul, James Kelly briefs the South Korean government on US intelligence regarding North Korea's uranium enrichment program.]


10 September 2002
The Rodong Sinmun carries a commentary criticizing US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton's recent remarks in Seoul regarding North Korea's suspected WMD activities. The daily says Bolton's charges are "sheer lies" with the "sinister intention to justify the US hostile policy towards North Korea." The commentary claims Bolton's remarks are designed to "mislead public opinion through false propaganda to brand North Korea as a 'criminal' and to impose 'nuclear inspections'."


12 September 2002
US President Bush presents visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi with intelligence indicating that North Korea has been pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons program based on uranium enrichment. The two leaders are meeting in New York to coordinate policies on North Korea prior to Koizumi's historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il scheduled for 17 September. [NOTE: Koizumi reportedly does not press the issue of the secret uranium enrichment program during his talks with Kim, instead focusing on the issue on North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals.]


13 September 2002
In New York, US Secretary of State Colin Powell briefs Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi about North Korea's program to develop nuclear weapons using highly enriched uranium.


16 September 2002
US Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker meets with a close aid to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to provide documents and information regarding North Korea's program to produce highly enriched uranium.


17 September 2002
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pays a one-day visit to Pyongyang for a summit with North Korea's National Defense Chairman and Korean Workers' Party general Secretary Kim Jong Il. The two sides discuss a number of issues including North Korea's WMD and missile development programs. During the talks, Kim Jong Il admits that North Korea had abducted Japanese citizens in the past, but he apologizes and pledges to investigate past cases and prevent it from happening again. Kim also promises to extend Pyongyang's missile flight-test moratorium indefinitely, and to resolve the concerns over North Korea's nuclear program through international agreements. Later reports speculate that Kim indirectly admitted to Koizumi that North Korea has nuclear weapons when he said, "no one knows what will happen if we fight a nuclear war against the United States."


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US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tells the House Armed Services Committee that he is "almost certain" North Korea has nuclear weapons and is developing long-range missiles that can strike the US mainland.


According to a high-level official in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, IAEA officials say they are confirming North Korean plans to resume nuclear inspections.


"A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official" says that North Korea and the IAEA have begun detailed talks regarding the resumption of nuclear inspections.


An IAEA spokesperson says that North Korea and the agency had begun negotiations on the return of IAEA inspectors to North Korea.


The Independent on Sunday (London) reports that the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq has been accused "of having bargained with North Korea over stocks of plutonium." [Note: The article does not mention the origin or credibility of the accusation.]

**Early October 2002**

According to *Defense & Foreign Affairs Daily*, Saudi Arabia is now actively seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. "Highly-reliable sources" say that the kingdom is trying to acquire weapons, but is not seeking a production capability. According to the report, Saudi officials have approached one or two countries, possibly North Korea and/or China to purchase nuclear weapons.


**3-5 October 2002**

US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs James Kelly leads a delegation to Pyongyang to discuss various bilateral issues. While in Pyongyang Kelly meets with First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. On the first day of the talks, Kelly offers no specific evidence, but says the United States has evidence that North Korea has been pursuing a program to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. The North Korean delegation initially denies the allegations, but on the second day of the talks, the North Korean delegation admits to having such a program. North Korean media describe Kelly's attitude as "arrogant" during the talks. Later, a "high-ranking South Korean government official" says that Kang proposed to link US nuclear suspicions and a reduction in conventional forces with the United States lifting economic sanctions and changing its hostile policy towards North Korea. [Note: US press reports suggest that the evidence regarding North Korea's uranium enrichment program is based on the discovery that North Korea has been attempting to acquire large amounts of high-strength aluminum for gas-centrifuges.]


**4 October 2002**

The *Asahi Shimbun* reports that about three months ago North Korea disbanded the "727 Liaison Office for Japan (對日 727 連絡所)" under the Operations Department (作戰部) of the Korean Workers’ Party Central Committee (朝鮮勞動黨中央委員會). The office, based in Chŏngjin, North Hamgyŏng Province, was staffed with about 1,500 personnel and was responsible for spy ship operations in Japanese territorial waters. Kim Jong Il reportedly issued the order to disband the office in order to reduce the possibility of conflicts with Japan. The name of the office comes from the date of 27 July when Kim Il Sung is said to have issued instructions to encourage a revolution in

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South Korea.

7 October 2002
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that during his 3-5 October trip to Pyongyang, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs James Kelly took a "high-handed and arrogant attitude" in raising "issues of concern." According to the ministry, Kelly said that North Korea's relations with the United States, Japan and South Korea would be normalized only when North Korea meets the unilateral US demands regarding North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. The message conveyed by Kelly, according to the statement, indicates that the Bush administration is not pursuing a policy of dialogue, but rather "a hardline policy of hostility to bring North Korea to its knees by force." The ministry concludes that "such unchanged policy of the US compels North Korea to take all necessary countermeasures, pursuant to the army-based policy whose validity has been proven."

14 October 2002
The Tokyo Shimbun reports that North Korea has proposed a "technical consultation" with the IAEA to resolve suspicions over Pyongyang's nuclear program. The paper quotes a senior official in the Japanese Foreign Ministry as having said that North Korea made the proposal by fax several days after Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Pyongyang on 17 September 2002.

16 October 2002
Richard Boucher, spokesman for the US State Department, announces that during high-level talks in Pyongyang held from 3-5 October, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs James Kelly presented his North Korean hosts with recently acquired US evidence that indicates North Korea has been pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on uranium enrichment. According to Boucher, North Korean officials acknowledged the existence of a uranium enrichment program when meeting with Kelly. This program, Boucher claims, is a serious violation of North Korea's commitments under the Agreed Framework, the NPT, its IAEA safeguards agreement and the Joint North-South Declaration on the Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. "Over the summer," Boucher says, "President Bush—in consultations with our allies and friends—had developed a bold approach to improve relations with North Korea." Boucher continues, "In light of our concern about the North's nuclear

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weapons program, however, we are unable to pursue this approach." [Note: US press reports suggest that the evidence regarding North Korea's uranium enrichment program is based on the discovery that North Korea has been attempting to acquire large amounts of high-strength aluminum for gas-centrifuges.]


17 October 2002

IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei expresses "deep regret" over North Korea's admission that it has been clandestinely pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on uranium enrichment. ElBaradei says that the IAEA is "urgently seeking information from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in response to this report, as well as information form the United States that will allow us to follow up on this very serious allegation."


17 October 2002

South Korea, Japan, and China stress the importance of continued engagement with North Korea following the revelation that North Korea has been pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons program based on uranium enrichment technology. Tokyo pledges to continue normalization talks with North Korea scheduled to resume 29 October, but Japanese officials claim that they will suspend the talks if North Korea fails to comply with the Agreed Framework. Im Sŏng Jun, South Korean national security adviser, says that Seoul regards the admission "as a sign North Korea is willing to resolve this problem through dialogue." In addition, according to a Blue House statement, Seoul will continue with its plan to send an aid package consisting of 400,000 tons of rice and 100,000 tons of fertilizer. However, "if public sentiment worsens here," a Seoul official says, "it will be difficult to give any additional aid." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue says that China continues to oppose the introduction of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula but believes the issue "should be settled through dialogue and negotiations."


17 October 2002

US intelligence officials claim that North Korea obtained the technology for its recently revealed uranium enrichment program from Pakistan. According to the officials, North Korea obtained gas centrifuges from Pakistan in the late 1990's in exchange for missile technology. One intelligence official describes the relationship as "a perfect meeting of interests—the North has what the Pakistanis needed, and the Pakistanis had a way for Kim Jong Il to restart a nuclear program we had stopped." The cooperation between North Korea and Pakistan reportedly began around 1997, but the officials are uncertain as to when, or if, the relationship ended. The White House has refused to comment on Pakistan's role in helping North Korea acquire uranium enrichment technology, but Asad Hayauddin, a spokesman for Pakistan's Embassy in Washington, calls the allegations "absolutely incorrect."

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Hayauddin says, "We have never had an accident or leak or any export of fissile material or nuclear technology or knowledge."


17 October 2002
US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says he believes North Korea already has a small number of nuclear weapons and a program to produce more. He also says Pyongyang is now in violation of four separate agreements.

17 October 2002
The Blue House (Ch'ŏng'wadae), the South Korean presidential residence, issues a statement regarding North Korea's admission to having a uranium enrichment program to US envoy James Kelly. Im Sŏng Jun, Senior Secretary to the President for Foreign Affairs and National Security, says President Kim Dae Jung considers the issue very serious and that Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. However, the government considers the candid admission a sign that North Korea is prepared to resolve the issue through dialogue. The South Korean government's position is that the issue should be resolved peacefully through dialogue. The spokesman calls on North Korea fulfill its commitments under the NPT, Agreed Framework, and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

17 October 2002
The IAEA sends a letter to Pyongyang asking for North Korea's cooperation "in seeking clarification of reported information about a program to enrich uranium."

18 October 2002
In testimony before the National Assembly's National Defense Committee, South Korea's Minister of National Defense Lee Jun says it is still uncertain whether North Korea has completed or is operating an HEU production facility. He also says that North Korea should be able to use a uranium bomb without testing it.

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18 October 2002

In testimony before the National Assembly's Unification, Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee, Minister of Unification Ch'oe Sŏng Hong says that the South Korean government had some information regarding North Korea's uranium enrichment program before James Kelly's visit to Pyongyang the first week of October. However, Ch'oe says the government was only able to grasp the details of the intelligence in August 2002.


18 October 2002

South Korea's National Assembly adopts a resolution calling for North Korea to immediately abandon all programs to develop weapons of mass destruction. However, rival political parties differ on the details for addressing North Korea's nuclear program.


18 October 2002

During a press conference in Moscow, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman denies press reports that Russia and China have assisted North Korea with its nuclear weapons program.


18 October 2002

The IAEA sends another letter to Pyongyang asking for North Korea's cooperation "in seeking clarification of reported information about a program to enrich uranium."


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19-22 October 2002

North and South Korea hold their Eight Inter-Ministerial Talks in Pyongyang. The two sides discuss a number of economic issues, and issue a joint statement that includes, "The North and the South agreed to make common efforts to guarantee peace and security on the Korean peninsula, consistent with the spirit of the June 15 Joint Declaration, and to actively cooperate to resolve all problems through dialogue, including the nuclear issue." North Korean officials tell South Korean Minister of Unification Chŏng Se Hyŏn that Pyongyang is willing to resolve the nuclear issue if the United States first changes its hostile policy towards North Korea.


25 October 2002

North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says that James Kelly produced no evidence of a North Korean uranium program when he visited Pyongyang earlier this month. The statement says Pyongyang is willing to resolve the current impasse if the United States does three things: recognize the sovereignty of North Korea, assures North Korea of non-aggression, and not hinder North Korea's economic development. The spokesman says North Korea will address all US security concerns if Washington will stop its nuclear threats and sign a non-aggression pact with Pyongyang.


29-30 October 2002

Delegations from North Korea and Japan meet in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the normalization of diplomatic

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relations. Talks end in dispute when North Korea refuses to accept Japanese demands that immediate relatives of kidnap victims be allowed to visit Japan. North Korean delegates become dissatisfied when Japan refuses to discuss or provide economic assistance without resolving the issues of past kidnappings, and North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs. In response, the North Korean delegates say that the nuclear and missile issues must be resolved in negotiations with the United States. The two sides agree to establish working groups to discuss security issues the following month.


31 October 2002
The Nihon Keizai, a Japanese business daily, reports the United States has concluded that North Korea might be preparing to conduct an underground nuclear test in the near future. However, Yasuo Fukuda, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary, says that the Japanese government has received no such information.


1 November 2002
According to a "diplomatic source," the United States will soon consult with South Korea and Japan before deciding whether to impose economic sanctions against North Korea in response to Pyongyang's admission that it has a program to enrich uranium. According to the source, this issue will be discussed at the next Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting that will being in Tokyo on 8 November. Furthermore, US Secretary of State Colin Powell will visit Seoul on 11 November.


2-5 November 2002
Donald Gregg, former US ambassador to South Korea, visits Pyongyang. Gregg holds 10 hours of talks with three senior North Korean officials, and Gregg says they have adopted a "neither confirm nor deny" position on the issue of North Korea's HEU program. The Korean hosts tell Gregg that Pyongyang wants a non-aggression pact with the United States, and that it does not have to be a formal peace treaty. The former ambassador says that North Korea seems willing to take simultaneous steps with the United States to resolve the issue over Pyongyang's HEU program, and that the officials consider the Agreed Framework to still be in force, but "hanging by a thread." Gregg

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is accompanied by journalist Don Oberdorfer. [Note: Since North Korea admitted to having an HEU program in early October 2002, both Washington and Pyongyang sides have been saying that the other side must make the first move to resolve the current impasse.]


3 November 2002

Three National Assembly members from the Grand National Party (한나라당) say the United States is considering ways to pressure North Korea into abandoning its nuclear weapons program. The lawmakers are part of a six-member Grand National Party team investigating North Korea's nuclear program, and the team returned from a six-day trip to the United States on 1 November. The lawmakers say the Bush administration is unlikely to obtain funding for heavy fuel oil (HFO) shipments to North Korea next year. The HFO deliveries are part of US obligations under the Agreed Framework.


4 November 2002

The Korean Central News Agency says that the United States has failed to implement the four articles of the Agreed Framework over the last eight years, and that US actions have been intended to kill the agreement. The news agency accuses the United States using nuclear threats, so therefore Pyongyang feels rightfully entitled to possessing nuclear weapons and other weapons "even more powerful." The editorial also says the hostile policy of the United States is an impediment to positive developments in Northeast Asia, and that a frank discussion to implement the Agreed Framework and to conclude a non-aggression pact is the most appropriate way to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue. Furthermore, Pyongyang believes that US refusal to negotiate indicates an intention to invade North Korea.


4 November 2002

During a series of summit meetings in Phnom Penh organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chinese Premier Zhu Rong Ji, and South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sŏk

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Su agree that North Korean should abandon its nuclear weapons program. The three sides say they will pressure Pyongyang into resolving the issue in a peaceful manner.


5 November 2002
A "South Korean government source" says the United States has informed the South Korean government that US analysts believe North Korean officials meant "biochemical weapons" when recently claiming Pyongyang has something "more powerful than nuclear weapons."


7 November 2002
The European Union Parliament adopts a non-binding resolution to review the KEDO project to build two light water nuclear reactors in North Korea. The resolution is adopted following North Korea's admission that it has a program to produce highly enriched uranium.


8 November 2002
The Segye Ilbo, a South Korean daily, reports that North Korea has been acquiring plutonium, uranium, other metals and equipment from Kazakhstan and other central Asian countries since 1994. According to the report, North Korea has procured uranium-235, plutonium-239, as well as osmium-187, cesium-137 and strontium, which the report claims are used for reducing the size of nuclear warheads. The Segye Ilbo claims the information came in the form of a four-page Russian document acquired by the South Korean Embassy in Uzbekistan. The report also claims that North Korea acquired 70-80 documents that contain information regarding nuclear technologies, and that North Korea smuggled 32kg of HEU from Kazakhstan in August 2001. [Note: CNS sources indicate the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade received no such document, and there is no apparent use for osmium-187, cesium-137, and strontium in reducing the size of nuclear weapons; therefore, this report does not seem credible.]


11 November 2002
Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov says Russia has no concrete evidence that North Korea possesses or is

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developing nuclear weapons. Ivanov makes the remarks at a press conference following a meeting with South Korean Defense Minister Lee Chun. The two sides conclude an agreement to cooperate on security issues, including nonproliferation, terrorism, and the maintenance of peace and security on the Korean peninsula.


13 November 2002
The US National Security Council decides in favor of ending heavy fuel oil (HFO) shipments to North Korea under the Agreed Framework. The decision is in response to Pyongyang's admission in early October 2002 to having a program for highly enriched uranium. A "senior US government official" tells Reuters that a current shipment of HFO in route to North Korea will continue, but that shipments contracted for in December and January will be cancelled. The official also says that the United States expects South Korea, Japan and the European Union to concur with the US decision.


13 November 2002
South Korea's Yonhap News Agency publishes the results of a telephone interview with a "high level North Korean." According to the official, Pyongyang will definitely consider the Agreed Framework null and void if heavy fuel oil shipments are terminated. The official said the United States has already violated three of its obligations under the agreement by failing to normalize relations, failing to cease its threats against North Korea, and failing to complete the LWR construction project by 2003. [Note: The official is probably assigned to North Korea's Permanent Mission since the article was written by a Yonhap News correspondent in New York, and officials at the mission have been granting interviews to the press.]


14 November 2002
KEDO's executive board meets in New York and decides to suspend shipments of heavy fuel oil to North Korea beginning with the shipment of December 2002. [Note: The oil shipment now in route from Singapore will be allowed to continue.]


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
17 November 2002
A *Rodong Sinmun* commentary says that the United States has violated the Agreed Framework, and that US actions have destroyed the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula signed by Pyongyang and Seoul. The official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party claims that "US warmongers are calling for preemptive strikes against North Korea," and that this amounts to a declaration of nuclear war. The commentary concludes that the United States, as a nuclear weapons state, has a legal and moral obligation to conclude a non-aggression treaty with North Korea.


21 November 2002
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement in response to the decision by KEDO on 14 November to suspend the delivery of heavy fuel oil (HFO) to North Korea. The spokesman describes the action as a "wanton violation of Article One of the Agreed Framework, which had a guarantee message from the US president." The statement says "the provision of HFO was the only one of four articles in the agreement that the US observed." Pyongyang also blames Washington for the delay in LWR construction, and for "working out a plan for a preemptive nuclear attack against North Korea, and for listing it as part of an 'axis of evil'."


25 November 2002
US Secretary of State Colin Powell says he has told Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf that Pakistan will face "consequences" if the US feels there is any "inappropriate contact" between Pakistan and North Korea.


25 November 2002
A *Rodong Sinmun* commentary says that North Korea has faithfully implemented the Agreed Framework while the United States has "wantonly violated the agreement and persistently neglected to fulfill its commitments." The daily says the key to resolving the current situation in Korea is to conclude a non-aggression pact between Washington and Pyongyang.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
26 November 2002
A South Korean Ministry of Unification official says that contacts between the LWR reactor project office in Seoul and its counterpart in Pyongyang have been cut off, and that training for North Korean engineers originally scheduled for this month are now in doubt. The training on the safe operation of reactors was to be held in South Korea.

27 November 2002
US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow says that North Korea could produce nuclear warheads in one or two years, and that the United States now believes Pyongyang’s HEU program is progressing from "the development to the manufacturing stage." According to Vershbow, the United States has information about cooperation between Pakistani and North Korean technical personnel, but no evidence about Pakistani government involvement in the North Korean HEU program.

29 November 2002
The IAEA Board of Governors adopts a resolution reiterating it previous calls for North Korea to cooperate with the IAEA in order to fulfill all its safeguards commitments. The resolution also requests that Pyongyang clarify recent reports of a uranium enrichment program in North Korea.

Early December 2002
According to intelligence sources cited by the Washington Times, North Korea receives 20 tons of tributyl phosphate (TBP) from a Chinese company in Dalian. TBP has commercial uses, such as making paint, ink and plastics, but the compound can also be used in reprocessing plutonium and enriching uranium. [Note: On 9 December, the Washington Times reported that US intelligence has discovered that North Korean government agents had approached several Chinese companies to acquire TBP, but subsequent reports on 17 and 20 December started that North Korea had actually received 20 tons of TBT.]
In Beijing, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin sign a joint declaration which states, "The two sides maintain that it is crucial to peace and security in Northeast Asia to maintain a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and the system for nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction." The declaration also calls on North Korea and the United States to abide by the Agreed Framework and to normalize relations.


North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun sends a letter to the IAEA in response to the IAEA Board of Governors resolution adopted on 29 November. Paek says that Pyongyang cannot accept the terms of the resolution because North Korea is under a nuclear threat from the United States. Paek accuses the agency "of acting under the manipulation of the United States," and says, "Our principal stance over the nuclear issue remains unchanged."


A Korean Central News Agency editorial critics the United States for "being keen on developing nuclear weapons capable of destroying underground plants and facilities." The commentary also says the United States "is practically increasing the nuclear threat to the DPRK after listing it as part of an 'axis of evil' and a target of its preemptive nuclear attack in wanton violation of the DPRK-U.S. Agreed Framework and the basic spirit of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement. It is, therefore, a legitimate sovereign right for the DPRK to keep itself fully ready to
cope with the enemy's threat."

3 December 2002
USA Today reports that the Verification and Compliance Bureau of the US State Department is preparing verification measures in case an agreement is reached with North Korea to curb its HEU program.

3 December 2002
During a televised debate in South Korea, Grand National Party presidential candidate Lee Hoe Ch’ang says that North Korea has nuclear weapons. The statement is controversial as the rival Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) calls for Lee to provide proof of the accusation or retract it because the MDP says it creates anxiety for the South Korean people and increases tensions between the two Koreas.

3 December 2002
At a Department of Defense press briefing, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says, "North Korea has weapons of mass destruction and is denying freedom and food and every kind of opportunity that is available to the South Korean people to the people of North Korea. It's a tragedy that it happens." Rumsfeld also says that the ruling regime in North Korea is "vicious," and that "what it is doing to the people of North Korea is criminal."

9 December 2002
After a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage tells the press that the United States has "patience for diplomacy to work" in dealing with North Korea. Armitage also says that US policy towards North Korea is in line with allies in the region.

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10 December 2002
Yukio Takasu, Japan’s ambassador to the IAEA, says that an IAEA expert is now in Pyongyang meeting with North Korean government officials. The IAEA official was reportedly sent to Pyongyang last week.


10 December 2002
In response to the IAEA resolution of 29 November, the Korean Central News Agency accuses the IAEA of being biased and speaking on behalf of the United States. KCNA calls the resolution unreasonable and says the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula is a result of the Washington's hostile policy towards Pyongyang, and the United States having deployed nuclear weapons to South Korea.


12 December 2002
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement that says Pyongyang will "immediately resume the operation and construction of its nuclear facilities to generate electricity."


12 December 2002
Lee Che Sŏn (Ri Je Son), director general of North Korea’s General Department of Atomic Energy, sends a letter to IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei with a request to remove all seals and monitoring cameras that the Agency is using to monitor North Korea’s nuclear freeze.


14 December 2002
Lee Che Sŏn (Ri Je Son), director general of North Korea’s General Department of Atomic Energy, sends another letter to IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei reiterating Pyongyang’s request that the IAEA remove all seals and monitoring cameras at the Yŏgbyŏn nuclear complex.

—"IAEA Urged to Remove Monitoring Cameras," Korean Central News Agency, 14 December 2002,
19 December 2002
Roh Moo Hyun (No Mu Hyŏn; 魯武鉉), a former human rights lawyer, and candidate of the Millennium Democratic Party (새千年民主黨), wins South Korea's presidential election. [Note: Roh has said he would like continue engagement with North Korea, but cannot accept North Korea developing nuclear weapons.]

19 December 2002
The Chinese Foreign Ministry dismisses as "groundless," reports by the Washington Times that Chinese firms have sold 20 tons of tributyl phosphate to North Korea. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao states that the Washington Times "often publishes ill-intentioned and irresponsible reports and these reports are also groundless. We think this report is not worth comment." [Note: Tributyl phosphate has commercial uses, but it can also be used to make weapons-grade plutonium and weapons-grade uranium.]

20 December 2002
A Rodong Sinmun commentary says that if the United States "has a right to use nuclear weapons, then North Korea is entitled to counter it." The daily says, "The Bush administration has not implemented the DPRK-US Agreed Framework deliberately but breached it systematically. The Bush bellicose forces have led nuclear pressure upon the DPRK to a high pitch." The commentary also adds that Pyongyang has proposed a non-aggression be signed by the two sides, and that Washington should accept the proposal.

21 December 2002
North Korean technicians begin removing seals and disabling monitoring cameras at the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyŏn-kun.

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an end our ability to monitor [the] DPRK's nuclear program or assess its nature."

31 December 2002
Pak Ui Chun, North Korea's ambassador to Russia, suggests that North Korea will pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, Pak says, "North Korea is not currently able to meet its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—this is the fault of the United States." Pak claims that North Korea can no longer fulfill its treaty obligations because the United States has stopped heavy fuel oil deliveries and continues to threaten North Korea with a preventive nuclear strike.

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2001

2001
KEDO delivers 559,613 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea.

2001-2005
The EU pledges to contribute €150 million ($130 million) for the construction of the two light water reactors in North Korea under the Agreed Framework. The EU will provide 30 million euro per year for five years.

5 January 2001
The Chosun Ilbo reports that at the two Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meetings held on 30 March and 26 June 2000 respectively, the US delegation reportedly proposed to build six standard power plants instead of one of two light water nuclear reactors, under the 1994 US-North Korea Agreed Framework. According to the documents produced from the TCOG meeting, the US delegation suggested that the said proposal will help ease North Korean power shortage in a shorter time frame and at a much less cost. However, according to the Chosun Ilbo, the South Korean government disagreed with the proposal saying that even though electricity supply to North Korea is a key issue of ongoing North-South dialogue, it cannot be mixed with the conditions of the 1994

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US-North Korea Agreed Framework. The United States stated its dissatisfaction with South Korea's attempt to support North Korea's electricity generating capacity on its own, disregarding the 1994 Agreed Framework. The US contention is that such a move will aggravate the US position at the negotiation table with North Korea.


10 January 2001
A South Korean official announces that construction of two nuclear power plants under the 1994 US-North Korea Agreed Framework is likely to be further delayed due to contractual and funding problems. The first reactor is to be built by 2003 and the second by 2004. The US company General Electric Co. backed out of a deal to supply turbine generators for the project because the supply contract did not contain financial liabilities and compensation guarantees in case of plant accidents. KEDO has now decided to award the contract to a Japan's Hitachi-Toshiba consortium for supply of power turbines. According to the official, the contract worth $100 million will be signed within six months. The official also says that work on site preparation has almost been completed and reactor construction work is expected to begin in the later half of the year 2001. The contract with Japanese consortium would increase the pace of planning and constructing the nuclear power plants. However, according to the official, some South Korean lawmakers have opposed the Japanese firms' participation, saying it will only benefit Japan's economy, while turning the North Korean power stations into a Japanese model instead of Korean. Other South Korean lawmakers refute the contention, stressing that Japanese earnings from the contract will only be $250 million as compared to $1 billion contribution to the project by Japan.


13 January 2001
KEDO officials say that North Koreans have been demanding an almost six-fold pay rise since February 2000, with some 100 workers taking leave everyday to pressure KEDO. According to the officials, bargaining talks have been continuing off and on without any early conclusion in sight. The officials also say that the consortium is considering employing construction workers from Uzbekistan for the light water nuclear reactor project in North Korea.


13 January 2001
Song Min Sun, director general of North American Affairs Bureau in South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, says the idea of replacing a nuclear power plant, currently under construction in North Korea, with a thermal plant is unworkable "politically, economically and technologically." Song says, "Once, we reviewed the idea, but reached the conclusion that it is unworkable because of underlying problems regarding the

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replacement." Noting that Seoul is set to provide 70 percent of the total construction cost reaching $4.6 billion, Song said that it should have the key voice in any possible change in the agreement.


17 January 2001
US Secretary of State-designate Colin Powell tells the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Bush administration will adhere to the Agreed Framework, "provided North Korea does the same."


1 February 2001
KEDO issues an Authorization to Proceed, allowing KEPCO to commence negotiations with Doosan to begin preliminary work on the turbine generators for the KEDO light water reactor project. [Note: General Electric (GE) was to be the supplier of the turbine generators, but after failing to receive liability guarantees from the US Congress, GE pulled out of the KEDO project.]


3 February 2001
Desaix Anderson, Director General of KEDO, says that construction of the two light water nuclear reactors in North Korea would be continued even though the Bush administration has pursued the replacement of the light water reactors with conventional power plants. He dismisses media reports of replacing one LWR with a thermal plant.


15 February 2001
According to the *Wolgan Chosun*, Kim Jong Il is shot in the side by one of his bodyguards. According to the report, Pak Song Pong, first vice director of the Munitions Industry Department under the Korean Workers' Party, was also shot and died on 20 February. [Note: Pak's sudden death on 20 February has been confirmed, but he shooting has not.]


15 February 2001
KEPCO and the government of Uzbekistan sign a contract by which 250 Uzbeks will be employed to work on the KEDO light water reactor project beginning in March 2001.

—"250 Uzbek Workers to Toll on KEDO Project in N. Korea," Japan Economic Newswire, 16 February 2001, in Lexis-

19-21 February 2001
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with South Korean officials in Seoul to discuss various issues. While in Seoul, Kartman meets with Chan Sun Sup, head of South Korea’s Office of Planning for the Light Water Reactor Project. The two reportedly discuss recent developments in the KEDO project, including the employment of 250 Uzbeks to work on the project beginning in March.

21 February 2001
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement criticizing the hard-line policies of the Bush administration. The spokesman says that the United States and North Korea agreed to improve bilateral relations and remove distrust in the Agreed Framework, but that US calls for "conditional reciprocity" mean the United States wants North Korea to "disarm itself." The spokesman says that the United States has not sincerely implemented its commitments under the Agreed Framework, which has "caused huge losses to North Korea." Furthermore, the spokesman says the KEDO light water reactors (LWR) are unlikely to be completed by 2003, and that the United States "is obliged to compensate for North Korea’s loss of electricity caused by the delayed LWR project."

21 February 2001
US government sources state that the Bush administration plans to emphasize a reduction in North Korean conventional forces, including a withdrawal of forward-deployed North Korean troops. Other US officials state that reaching an agreement with North Korea on conventional forces will be relatively easy compared to nuclear and missile issues. The Bush administration is also considering the replacement of one or both light water reactors under the Agreed Framework with conventional power plants as part of its ongoing policy review.

2 March 2001
Senior lawmakers, including Henry Hyde (R-Illinois) chairman of the House International Relations Committee; Christopher Cox (R-California), chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, and Edward Markey, (D-Massachusetts), deliver a letter to the Bush administration urging the United States to reconsider its commitments under the Agreed Framework to provide North Korea with light water reactors.

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2 March 2001
State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says that the Bush administration plans to fulfill its Agreed Framework commitments "completely and fully."

7 March 2001
President George Bush states that he is not certain North Korea can be trusted to adhere to its commitments under the Agreed Framework. Speaking in Washington at a joint press conference with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, Bush says, "I do have some skepticism about the leader of North Korea. We're not certain as to whether or not they're keeping all terms of all agreements."

8 March 2001
US Secretary of State Colin Powell announces that the United States may modify the Agreed Framework. Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Powell says, "For the moment we are in accord with the 1994 agreement, but that doesn't prevent us from looking at aspects of it that we might wish to revisit or change." Powell says the 1994 Agreed Framework had many promising elements, but "what was not there was a monitoring and verification regime of the kind that we would need to have in order to move forward in negotiations with such a regime."

9 March 2001
Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, sends a letter to George W. Bush urging him to renegotiate the Agreed Framework with North Korea and substitute conventional power plants for the two light water reactors. Helms accuses North Korea of not upholding its commitments under the agreement.

9 March 2001
KEPCO, the main contractor for the KEDO light water reactor project, announce that Donga Construction will no longer participate in the project, thus leaving its 20 percent share of the construction project to be divided amongst the other three companies subcontracted for the project.
10-13 March 2001
A KEDO delegation travels to Pyongyang "to participate in high-level negotiations" with North Korea officials regarding the light water reactor project.

11 March 2001
North Korean radio says, "The people of the earth all know that there are approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons still in existence in South Korea." The report quotes a publication of the "National Democratic Front," which North Korea claims is an underground resistance organization operating in South Korea.

13 March 2001
The head of the North Korean delegation for inter-ministerial talks, which are scheduled to begin today in Seoul, calls his counterpart in Seoul to inform him that North Korea will have to postpone the talks. Chŏn Kŭm Chin, the North Korean representative gives no reason for the sudden postponement, but some speculate the reason may be health problems for Chŏn, the recent summit between Kim Dae Jung and George W. Bush, or the perceived US hard-line policy towards North Korea.

23 March 2001
The Education Center of Unification, a South Korean think tank, issues a report stating that over 3,000 nuclear scientists are currently working in North Korea.

25 March 2001
The Washington Post reports that the North Korean nuclear project under the Agreed Framework is unlikely to be completed until 2010. According to the report, the Bush administration is looking skeptically at the project, and some key Republican senators are demanding changes. North Korea has been threatening war if the project is not carried forward. Yet, the report quotes officials involved with the project as saying that they are confident that the project will not be abandoned. Chang Sŏn Sŏp, head of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water

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Reactor Project, has said that there is no alternative to the project.

28 March 2001
Chang Sŏn Sŏp, head of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, says that replacing the light-water nuclear reactors with thermoelectric power plants would be impractical. He says, "There would be difficulties in revising the Agreed Framework and the replacement would not be of help in reducing the construction period or curtailing of costs."

9 April 2001
The US State Department announces that the United States has earmarked $95 million for fiscal year 2002 to be used on the KEDO light water reactor project. This amount marks a 73 percent increase in US contributions to KEDO from fiscal year 2001.

Mid-April 2001
The US National Security Council decides to permit a renewed authorization of certain nuclear technology transfers to North Korea under the Agreed Framework. [Note: Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham signed the authorization on 3 May 2001.]

17 April 2001
The Nihon Keizai Shimbun reports that the United States is planning to urge North Korea to accept a nuclear inspection team to "confirm the existence of a storage place for plutonium." The report also says the new US administration is seeking to replace one of the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework with a conventional power plant. [Note: The reference to "the storage place" is likely referring to the two suspect waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.]

17 April 2001
Speaking in Washington, D.C., John McLaughlin, deputy director of the CIA, says that North Korea "probably has one or two nuclear bombs—and it may also have biological ones alongside its chemical ones."

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26 April 2001
Charles Kartman, a former US State Department official, is appointed new director of KEDO. Kartman will replace Desaix Anderson on 1 May 2001.

May 2001
The United States renews for five years an authorization for the transfer of certain nuclear technology to North Korea. The authorization is issued under the Department of Energy's regulations in 10 CFR Part 810, and it allows limited technology transfers only to what is "necessary for the licensing and safe operation of the reactors and not technology enabling the design or manufacture of nuclear reactor components or fuel." [Note: According to Department of Energy documents released in March 2003, Westinghouse Co. transfers approximately 300 nuclear related documents to North Korea from May 2001 to March 2003. The 300 documents, including safety analysis reports, training documents, quality assurance documents, and construction documents, are among 3,100 nuclear related documents from Westinghouse Co. that have been approved by the Department of Energy. 100 Westinhouse documents have been blocked by the Department's export control office.]

1 May 2001
KEDO's Executive Board names Charles Kartman as the new executive director of KEDO.

1-5 May 2001
A KEDO delegation visits Pyongyang to participate in "high-level expert negotiation" with North Korea. The talks are in regard to the provision of two LWRs under the Agreed Framework. It is later revealed that quality guarantee protocols are covered in the talks, and that North Korea agrees it will be the responsible party for operating the reactors, and that it will accept responsibility for any accidents at the site.

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Early May 2001

In a US Senate confirmation hearing, James Kelly, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, says he does not expect the Bush administration to scrap the Agreed Framework after the policy review on North Korea is completed.


2 May 2001

Moscow TV 6 says there have been reports in the Moscow press that 20 Russian have gone to North Korea and assumed aliases. The scientists are said to be working on the North Korean nuclear program.


3 May 2001

US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham signs a new authorization for Westinghouse to transfer certain nuclear technology to North Korea. The new five-year authorization replaces one that was issued in 1996 and was due to expire on 6 May 2001. The earlier authorization was for Combustion Engineering, which has now merged with Westinghouse. Only technology that is necessary for the implementation of the Agreed Framework can be transferred to North Korea under this authorization. Technology for "the design or manufacture of nuclear reactor components or fuel" is still banned.


7 May 2001

South Korean media report that the United States has decided to replace the two light-water nuclear reactors being constructed in North Korea by KEDO with thermal power stations. According to reports, President Bush has instructed Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to inform South Korea and Japan of the decision during his upcoming diplomatic trip to South Korea and Japan. However, a spokesman for the South Korean government says that the United States does not have the final decision over the replacement of the light-water reactors with conventional power plants.


8 May 2001

The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, condemns CIA Deputy Director John McLaughlin for suggesting that North Korea might have one or two nuclear weapons. According to the report, Pyongyang is shocked that the "CIA dared find fault with us groundlessly on an official occasion." The report continues, "It is a known fact that we do not have nuclear problems. The transparency of our peaceful nuclear energy program has already been confirmed."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
15 May 2001

The *Rodong Sinmun* criticizes IAEA Director ElBaradei for trying "to shift responsibility for the delayed construction of the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework onto North Korea." The commentary says that the United States is "chiefly responsible for the noncompliance with the Agreed Framework," and that North Korea has an urgent need to be compensated for the loss of electricity "due to the intentional delaying tactics of the US." However, the *Rodong Sinmun* also says, "There is no change in North Korea's stand to sincerely implement the Agreed Framework."

16 May 2001

The Korean Central News Agency releases a report on the Agreed Framework that says the light water reactors (LWR) may not be completed until 2010. The report says North Korea should be compensated for the shortfall in electricity, and that the 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil (HFO) delivered per year under the Agreed Framework will not be sufficient. The HFO is supposed to compensate for the closure of North Korea's two graphite-moderated nuclear plants of 50MW(e) and 200MW(e), while each of the LWRs is to generate 1,000MW(e). North Korea says other countries may contribute to this shortfall besides the United States, but that North Korea may pull out of the Agreed Framework and reopen the graphite-moderated reactors if it does not receive compensation.

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21 May 2001

The Korean Central News Agency publishes another report stating that the United States is responsible for the delay in the KEDO light water reactor project, and must compensate North Korea for the electricity loss. The report also complains about "cock-and-bull stories about the 'revision' of the AF [Agreed Framework] and the 'provision of thermal power plants' [that] are heard from among officials of the Bush administration."


22-29 May 2001

An IAEA delegation travels to North Korea. The delegation meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang on 23 to 25 May for the 16th round of negotiations on the implementation of the Agreed Framework. Olli Heinonen, director of safeguards for the IAEA in Asia, asks North Korea for a detailed program guaranteeing scrutiny of the two suspect waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun and other facilities. The negotiations end without agreement to resume inspections, but another meeting is scheduled for October.


23 May 2001

Yonhap News Agency reports that the United States will try to accelerate safeguards inspections in North Korea so that they may begin no later than next year. The Joongang Ilbo quotes a diplomatic source in Seoul as saying, "It seems like the US Bush administration has made up its mind to resolve the North's nuclear suspicion first among all the other matters and launch early verification process (sic)." The administration is likely taking this stand because of the delay in the LWR construction that was originally targeted for completion by 2003.


25 May 2001

James Kelly, US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, tells South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Im Sŏng Jun that talks between the United States and North Korea are likely to resume in June. Kelly makes the remarks in Honolulu during the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting. Kelly says

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the North Korean missile program will likely be the first item on the agenda.


26 May 2001

James Kelly, US representative to the Trilateral Consultation and Oversight Group (TCOG), briefs his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on the US policy review of North Korea. He says, "We are in the final stage in the comprehensive review of US policy toward North Korea." All three delegations agree that consultation and coordinated policy is needed towards several issues regarding North Korea, including missiles, WMD, and humanitarian issues. The delegations reaffirm their commitment to the Agreed Framework, and express strong support for South Korea's engagement policy towards North Korea.


29 May 2001

After the Trilateral consultation and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting in Honolulu, senior officials from South Korea, the United States and Japan hold an unofficial meeting to discuss North Korea policy. During the meeting, South Korean Unification Minister Im Tong Wŏn, former US Deputy Secretary of Defense William Perry William Perry, and Ryozo Kato, who is later named the new Deputy Vice Foreign Minister of Japan, review the Bush administration’s policy toward North Korea.


Late May 2001

North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun tells Selig Harrison, an American scholar, that Pyongyang is reconsidering its missile flight-test moratorium. Harrison quotes Foreign Minister Paek as saying, "As to whether we will maintain the moratorium until 2003, that is yet to be decided. It depends entirely on the policy of the new administration." During his five-day visit to Pyongyang, Harrison also meets with Colonel General Lee Ch’an Pok, the North Korean representative at Panmunjom. Harrison quotes Colonel General Lee as saying, "Right now our government has not decided that we need nuclear weapons, but everybody is thinking in that direction in view of the hostile attitude of the Bush administration." Harrison concludes that the Bush administration's stance is playing into the hands of hard-liners in Pyongyang.


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31 May 2001
Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says that Australia will invite North Korean officials to a nuclear safeguards training course to be held in Australia later this year. Downer says the invitation is being extended so that North Korean officials can "join regional counterparts in developing their expertise in the management and accounting of nuclear materials, to assist North Korea to meet its NPT and IAEA obligations." Downer also says that Australia "supports efforts to achieve comprehensive and verifiable cuts in the DPRK missile program."

June 2001
The United States and South Korea begin a joint study on confidence-building measures (CBMs) with North Korea to address Pyongyang's ballistic missiles, WMD programs and conventional forces. The joint study team reportedly completes the first part of the study in late February 2002, with 32 items to be proposed for CBMs with North Korea.

1 June 2001
The Financial Times reports that US officials are concerned about contacts between North Korean officials and senior figures in the Pakistani nuclear program. There is also evidence that North Koreans have visited a nuclear weapons site in Pakistan. Some speculate that North Korea might obtain nuclear weapons technology in exchange for ballistic missile technology.

4 June 2001
Charles Kartman, executive director of KEDO, says the United States will not provide any compensation for delays in the construction of two light water reactors in North Korea. However, Kartman denies reports that the reactors will be replaced with conventional power plants.

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5 June 2001
Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Satter categorically denies that Pakistan has ever exported nuclear technology to North Korea. Speaking at a press conference, Satter stresses that Pakistan has never and will never export nuclear technology or material to any country.

6 June 2001
The Bush administration announces that its North Korea policy review is complete. The administration says it wants to restart talks with Pyongyang to seek "improved implementation of the Agreed Framework, verifiable constraints on North Korea's missile program, a ban on missile exports, and a less threatening North Korean conventional military posture." The administration offers incentives, such as "greater humanitarian aid, easing of economic sanctions, and unspecified political steps."

6 June 2001
North Korea criticizes the United States for suggesting in the TCOG meeting on 27 May that North Korea should submit to early IAEA safeguards inspections. Instead, North Korea feels it should be compensated for the loss in electricity due to the delay in the light water reactor (LWR) construction under the Agreed Framework. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang says, "The inspection is unthinkable before a great deal of the LWR project has been carried out." Furthermore, KCNA says, "It is the deserved right and option for the DPRK to restart the construction of graphite-moderated reactors for its right to existence unless compensation is made for the electricity loss resulting from the heavy delay in the LWR project..."

7 June 2001
US Secretary of State Colin Powell states that the United States is placing no preconditions on the proposed talks with North Korea. However, Powell adds that the Bush administration wants to expand the dialogue with North Korea by "putting conventional forces on the agenda and by making it clear to the North Koreans that we want to talk about missiles and missile technology and missile sales and nuclear weapons programs, but we also want to talk about humanitarian issues."

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9 June 2001
South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Han Sŭng Su says he is confident that the Bush administration will abide by the Agreed Framework. Han met with White House and State Department officials last week in Washington. Han quotes officials as saying that the new target date for transferring the two light water reactors is 2008.

11 June 2001
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei urges North Korea to comply with IAEA requests for safeguards inspections. ElBaradei makes the request during the opening statement of the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna.

13 June 2001
Jack Pritchard, US special envoy for Korean peace talks, meets with Lee Hyŏng Ch'ŏl, North Korean ambassador to the UN, in New York. Pritchard explains the outline of the Bush administration's policy towards North Korea, and requests a meeting with Kim Kye Kwan, North Korean vice foreign minister. Lee responds that he will reply in one or two weeks after delivering the message to Pyongyang.

14 June 2001
South Korean Unification Minister Im Dong Wŏn says that South Korea has no intention of linking the supply of electricity to North Korea with the issues of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile proliferation.

18 June 2001
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement in response to the Bush administration's announcement on 6 June 2001 of its intention to resume dialogue with North Korea. A ministry spokesman says that the United States is attempting to "disarm North Korea through negotiations" because the administration has proposed the topics of discussion to include North Korea's nuclear weapons program, missile program and conventional military forces. North Korea claims there should be no preconditions for resuming the dialogue that has been suspended for four months. Furthermore, the spokesman says North Korea will never discuss its conventional forces as long as

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US military forces remain in South Korea, and that the first item on the agenda should be "compensation for the loss in electricity due to the delay in construction of the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework."


18 June 2001
The IAEA issues a statement that says North Korea remains in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement.


19 June 2001
NBC News, quoting anonymous US intelligence sources, reports that the United States believes North Korea has built one or two nuclear bombs, but "there is no evidence it has built missile warheads."


19 June 2001
Glyn Ford, a member of the European Parliament, says that the EU will contribute $87.5 million to the KEDO light water reactor project. Thus far the EU has contributed $75 million to the KEDO project.


20 June 2001
North Korean television and radio criticize the United States for unilaterally setting the agenda for bilateral talks. The Bush administration announced on 6 June 2001 bilateral talks should resume, but the administration proposed that conventional weapons should be included on the agenda. The broadcast accuses the United States of not implementing the Agreed Framework, and reiterates the North Korean demand for compensation due to the delay in the construction of the two light water reactors.

—Korean Central Television (Pyongyang), 20 June 2001, in "DPRK TV Commentary Reiterates Need To Compensate for Electricity Loss," FBIS Document ID KPP20010620000115; Korean Central Broadcasting Station (Pyongyang), 20

20 June 2001
At a luncheon hosted by the Korea Society in New York, Charles Kartman, executive director of KEDO, says that there will be no more delays in the construction of the two light water reactors in North Korea.

20 June 2001
The Korean Central News Agency carries a commentary that criticizes the IAEA for joining the "hostile forces in the US attempting to suffocate North Korea to death" by calling for special inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities. The commentary emphasizes that the completeness and correctness of North Korea's initial declaration must wait until a considerable portion of the light water reactors (LWRs) is completed, and before any critical nuclear components are delivered, as stipulated under the Agreed Framework. KCNA says that IAEA Director now admits the LWR project will be delayed until 2008, and that inspections will take 3-4 years. The commentary also says that North Korea has faithfully guaranteed the IAEA's ability to "observe" (maintain the continuity of safeguards) the nuclear freeze, and that North Korea will faithfully carry out its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

21 June 2001
South Korean Defense Minister Kim Dong Shin meets with US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in Washington, D.C. The two agree on a number of issues, including: the United States should maintain a long-term military presence in Korea to ensure regional stability; the United States and South Korea should strengthen military readiness against North Korea and develop an allied defense posture for the 21st century; and North Korea poses a threat with its nuclear and missile programs, and must submit to IAEA inspections. Secretary Rumsfeld also expresses US support for Kim Dae Jung's engagement policy towards North Korea. The two sides also agree that South Korea should take the lead in negotiating conventional arms control issues with North Korea, which seems contradictory to the results of the Bush review of policy towards North Korea announced on 6 June 2001.

21 June 2001
Korean Central Television in Pyongyang repeats North Korean news reports from yesterday saying compensation for the delay in the construction of the two light water reactors under the Agreed Framework should top the agenda of bilateral talks between the United States and North Korea.

23 June 2001
North Korea's Minju Joson carries a commentary criticizing the Bush administration's agenda for renewing dialogue with North Korea, saying that North Korea can never accept the US demands. The piece claims that the "top priority in the bilateral relations for the present is for the United States to deal with the issue of the delayed delivery of the light water reactors in a responsible manner."

25 June 2001
NuclearFuel says that reports in early June 2001 about possible cooperation in the nuclear field between North Korea and Pakistan are erroneous. US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage was cited as the source of the earlier reports, but a "US nonproliferation official" said a week earlier that the evidence points to cooperation in the area of solid-fuel missiles. Apparently, there is no indication of Pakistan assisting North Korea with uranium enrichment.

25 June 2001
KEDO officials say that 21 North Korean policymakers will be invited to a briefing on 28 June at the light water reactor construction site in [Kŭmho-chigu], Shinp'o, North Korea. North Korean officials requested the briefing so that they could inform their superiors on the progress of the project. Cho Kyu Hyŏng, deputy executive director of KEDO, will give the briefing.

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A US State Department official states that substituting conventional power plants for the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework is "not something that we are looking at right now."


Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld tells the US House Armed Services Committee that North Korea is very close to developing an ICBM, and has nuclear material needed to develop nuclear weapons.


In a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, President Bush says that Kim Jong Il is not trustworthy because "he makes his own people go hungry."


In an issue of Han'guksa, a South Korean Defense Ministry magazine published by the Han'gukkunsamunjeoyŏnguso twice a year, General Thomas Schwartz, commander of the United Nations Command in South Korea, calls North Korea "the major security threat in Northeast Asia." Schwartz also says "their dogged adherence to a 'military first' policy when viewed against the backdrop of a nation on the brink of complete economic and social collapse is problematic." Schwartz says, "North Korea also possesses weapons of mass destruction and continues to develop asymmetric threats."


According to the CIA, North Korea "continues its attempts to procure technology worldwide that could have applications in its nuclear program."


North and South Korea hold the first direct meetings on export control issues regarding the supply of the light
water reactors under the Agreed Framework. The meeting is held in Hyangsan, North Korea, and it addresses the export controls of the United States, South Korea and Japan.


5 July 2001
President Bush authorizes the release of $20 million for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea under the Agreed Framework.


6 July 2001
During a State Department briefing session, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage says that North Korea is abiding by the Agreed Framework. Armitage also urges North Korea to resume bilateral talks with the United States.


9 July 2001
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, states, "The DPRK has never allowed 'verification' and 'inspection' as its national defense industry and military forces are vital to it [sic]. It will neither permit 'verification' and 'inspection' nor accept the demand for the reduction of armed forces in the future, too, but further strengthen them."


10 July 2001
Joe Bermudez, in an interview with USA Today, claims that North Korea may have mastered a new "electromagnetic isotope separation" technique to enrich uranium, and may already have enough fissile material for 12 nuclear bombs. The report also says North Korea intends to acquire enough fissile material for 30 bombs by 2015. The speculation is from a new book edited by Henry Sokoloski, Planning for a Peaceful Korea. However, Bermudez admits, "It's not that I firmly believe what I wrote. I was just trying to think outside the box."


11 July 2001
Korean Central Television in Pyongyang denounces the Bush administration's proposal for renewing bilateral dialogue. The broadcast says that if the United States truly intends to reopen dialogue, "the agenda items should

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be practical issues about implementing the articles in the DPRK-US Framework Agreement [sic] and the DPRK-US Joint Communiqué as agreed upon."


15 July 2001
The Chosun Ilbo reports that between 1 January 2001 and 20 June 2001, the South Korean government borrowed W172.5 billion with an interest of W17.1 billion in order to finance its share of the LWR project in North Korea. The National Assembly has delayed legislation to levy a 3.0 percent tax on South Korean utility costs to finance the South Korean share of the project.

16 July 2001
In response to a June 2001 report from the IAEA board of governors report, the Korean Central News Agency says the report is "once again a partial behavior and criminal attempt of the IAEA to shift the responsibility for the non-compliance with the DPRK-US Agreed Framework onto the DPRK at any cost as their remarks were timed to coincide with Bush's announcement of the US unilateral and conditional 'policy toward the DPRK'." The IAEA report suggested North Korea's refusal to allow full safeguards inspections would adversely affect the provision of light water reactors under the Agreed Framework.

16 July 2001
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung issues an amended presidential decree to implement and enforce the South Korean Atomic Energy Act. The changes will include the establishment of a review committee for export controls, which could affect the delivery of nuclear components and technology for the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework.

17 July 2001
Vice Marshall Cho Myŏng Rok, First Vice Chairman of the National Defense Commission, enters Hospital 301 in Beijing with kidney disease, and receives a kidney transplant. Cho is later reported to be in critical condition.
20 July 2001
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement in response to the 14 July 2001 missile interceptor test by the United States stating that North Korea must take countermeasures for self-defense, and that North Korea "will have nothing to lose even if all the points agreed upon between the DPRK and the US are scrapped."

24 July 2001
According to an official at South Korea's Unification Ministry, North Korea and KEDO initial a quality assurance and warranties protocol in New York following a fifth round of negotiations held 16-24 July. The protocol is the eighth between KEDO and North Korea, and the document took four years to negotiate. The official says the formal signing of the protocol will take place in about one month.

26 July 2001
Charles Pritchard, US special envoy for Korean peace talks, says that lack of cooperation from Pyongyang is responsible for the delays in the KEDO light water reactor project. Speaking at a hearing of the Asia and Pacific subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, Pritchard says that North Korea "must begin active cooperation soon to avoid serious delays in the KEDO project."

Late July 2001
Diplomatic sources tell NuclearFuel that Russia has offered to provide enriched uranium and fabricated fuel assemblies for the light water reactors being constructed by KEDO in North Korea. However, KEDO and US officials say they have not been informed of any Russian plans to renew nuclear cooperation with North Korea.

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August 2001

According to the Segye Ilbo, a South Korean daily, North Korea smuggles 32kg of HEU from Kazakhstan. According to the 8 November 2002 report, North Korea has been acquiring plutonium, uranium, other metals and equipment from Kazakhstan and other central Asian countries since 1994. North Korea has reportedly been procuring uranium-235, plutonium-239, as well as osmium-187, cesium-137, and strontium, which the report claims are used for reducing the size of nuclear warheads. The Segye Ilbo claims the information comes from a four-page Russian document later acquired by the South Korean Embassy in Uzbekistan. [Note: CNS sources indicate the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade received no such document, and there is no apparent use for osmium-187, cesium-137, and strontium in reducing the size of nuclear weapons; therefore, this report does not seem credible.]


1 August 2001

A broadcast in Pyongyang says that North Korea will not resume dialogue with the United States unless the United States drops its stance that "the verification of North Korea's missile and nuclear programs" be included on the agenda. Furthermore, the broadcast says that the US proposal to include conventional weapons in bilateral talks is part of a US effort to "completely disarm" North Korea.


Early August 2001

According to an interview with the Joongang Ilbo, Senator Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meets with President George Bush, and Bush recognizes the problems he created with his remarks during President Kim Dae Jung’s visit to Washington in March 2001. Biden says Bush’s remarks are unintentional, and that Bush "displayed enthusiasm for reopening talks with Pyongyang." [Note: On 7 March, President Bush, speaking in Washington at a joint press conference with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, says, "I do have some skepticism about the leader of North Korea. We're not certain as to whether or not they are keeping all terms of all agreements.”]


2 August 2001

A senior Russian official confirms the NuclearFuel report of late July that Russia is prepared to supply enriched uranium and fuel for the KEDO light water reactor project.


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2 August 2001
According to ITAR-TASS, an official from Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry says that Russia is interested in building nuclear reactor for North Korea, and that the issue will be discussed in summit talks between President Putin and National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong Il on 4 August 2001. The official says Russia will suggest that the reactor be financed with funds from KEDO.

3 August 2001
Interfax reports that Yevgeniy Reshetnikov, deputy atomic energy minister, has said Russia is not planning to increase cooperation with North Korea in the area of power generation. According to Reshetnikov, the United States pressured Russia to abandon its plan to join KEDO. The deputy minister says that North Korea had a debt of $5 million with the ministry, but that it had been reduced to $1.5 million, and that he expects North Korea to pay of the debt by the end of this year.

4 August 2001
Kim Jong Il holds a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, where they discuss the planned construction of two light water reactors (LWRs) under the Agreed Framework. The details of the discussion are unknown, but there is speculation that Russia possibly proposes the sale of Russian-made LWRs to North Korea. North Korea is believed to have expressed its dissatisfaction with the project's delay, as well as its desire for compensation from the loss in electricity.

8 August 2001
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that North Korea "can never accept the agenda items of the talks raised unilaterally by the United States out of its intention to disarm the DPRK and stifle it and will not respond to the talks with the United States before it withdraws the items." The statement is similar to several responses that have followed the 6 June 2001 proposal to resume talks with North Korea.

13 August 2001
At a press conference in Moscow, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says, "By the year 2003, North Korea will have completed the development of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and currently possesses...

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enough plutonium to develop five nuclear warheads." Rumsfeld also says, "I have already presented the view in 1998 that North Korea would establish its ICBM capability within five years. Considering the fact that North Korea has already tested a three-stage long-range missile, the completion of its ICBM development by 2003 is certain."

13-24 August 2001
Six North Korean nuclear specialists participate in a 12-day "Training Course on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material" in Canberra and Sydney, Australia. The program also includes participants from Australia, China, South Korea, and New Zealand.

16 August 2001
First Vice Chairman of the National Defense Commission Marshall Cho Myŏng Rok returns from China after having received a kidney transplant at the 301 Hospital in Beijing.

21-25 August 2001
A high-level KEDO delegation meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss the supply of the two light water reactors under the Agreed Framework.

28 August 2001
KEDO Executive Director Charles Kartman reveals that excavation work will begin in September 2001 to prepare the foundations for the light water reactors to be constructed in North Korea under the Agreed Framework.

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29-30 August 2001
Government officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan meet in New York for a KEDO meeting to discuss nuclear exports. The meeting is held to coordinate policy on the transfer of nuclear facilities, equipment material and technology to North Korea under the Agreed Framework.

31 August 2001
Site preparation work for the KEDO light water reactor project is completed in [Kŭmho-chigu], Shinp’o, North Korea.

1 September 2001
North Korea’s State Nuclear Safety Regulatory Commission issues the construction permit for the light water reactors to be built under the Agreed Framework. The permit is issued after the review of a Preliminary Safety Analysis Report and an Environmental Report submitted by the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) earlier this year.

3 September 2001
First Vice Chairman of the National Defense Commission Marshall Cho Myŏng Rok greets Chinese President Jiang Zemin during his arrival at Sunan Airport for an official state visit to North Korea. Cho was hospitalized in mid July 2001 at the 301 Hospital in Beijing to receive a kidney transplant.

4 September 2001
During talks with visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Kim Jong Il reaffirms that North Korea will maintain its flight-test moratorium for its ballistic missiles until at least 2003. The newly appointed Chinese ambassador to South Korea later reveals that Kim Jong Il says "both sides (North and South Korea) must strive to create the conditions for his trip to Seoul by the end of the year."
10 September 2001
In hearings before the South Korean National Assembly's Unification, Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee, the Ministry of Unification says that $638 million was spent on the KEDO light water reactor project between February 2000 and 31 August 2001. South Korea provided $447 million (70 percent) and Japan provided $191 million (30 percent) of the total. South Korea’s expenditures on the project have resulted in a national debt of W150 billion in 1999, W255 billion in 2000, and W262.5 billion for the period between January 2001 and 31 August 2001. The total deficit from the project over this period is W667.5 billion. The operating expenses for KEDO during 2001 are $18.36 million, with the United States, South Korea and Japan each contributing $4.56 million. US expenses for heavy fuel oil for the year are $70.32 million, and the United States has supplied North Korea with 308,000 tons of heavy fuel oil from January 2001 to 31 August 2001. The Ministry of Unification also reveals that KEDO plans to begin training North Korean technicians to operate the light water reactors under construction in North Korea. According to the Ministry, the training is to begin in February 2002, and will be divided into two steps for 529 personnel in all.


10 September 2001
Jack Pritchard, US special envoy for Korean peace talks, says that bilateral talks between the United States and North Korea should resume soon. While visiting Seoul for meetings with South Korean officials, Pritchard says that we should expect talks to begin soon now that Kim Jong Il has had recent summit meetings with Vladimir Putin and Jiang Zemin. Pritchard is in Seoul after participating in the TCOG meeting in Tokyo on 6 September.


11 September 2001
KEDO Executive Director Charles Kartman postpones his trip to North Korea because of a typhoon. Kartman plans to depart for North Korea on the 13th to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the two light water reactors in [Kŭmho-chigu], Shinp'o on 14 September, but cancels his travel plans after terrorists hijack four aircraft and crash two into New York's World Trade Center and another into the Pentagon.


11 September 2001
Korean Central Broadcasting in Pyongyang says that the Bush administration must learn from the Clinton administration’s North Korea policy, and abandon its policy of “crushing North Korea to death.”
12 September 2001
A South Korean Foreign Ministry official says that the groundbreaking work for the KEDO light water reactor project will begin as scheduled on 13 September 2001, but there will be no ceremonies. [Note: This report is erroneous; the groundbreaking ceremony is held on 14 September.]

12 September-21 December 2001
Throughout the 56th UN General Assembly, the North Korean delegation repeatedly demands that the United States carry out its commitments under the Agreed Framework.

14 September 2001
A 61-member delegation from KEDO and South Korea attends the groundbreaking ceremony for the light water reactors in North Korea.

15-18 September 2001
North and South Korea hold the fifth round of ministerial talks in Seoul. The delegations are headed by North Korean Senior Cabinet Councilor Kim Ryŏng Sŏng and South Korean Unification Minister Hong Sun Yŏng. The two sides agree to resume construction of a railway connecting Seoul to Kaesŏng, North Korea, where the South pledged to finance the development of an industrial zone.

17 September 2001
The IAEA opens its annual conference in Vienna, and IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei delivers a

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speech that includes a request for North Korea to cooperate with onsite safeguards inspections at its nuclear facilities. ElBaradei says the IAEA is monitoring the nuclear freeze under the Agreed Framework, and the conference is expected to adopt a resolution encouraging North Korea to accept inspections. ElBaradei also raises concerns about nuclear safety in North Korea.


17-21 September 2001
During its 45th General Conference in Vienna, the IAEA adopts a resolution requesting North Korea to abide by its NPT commitments and submit to safeguards inspections.


18 September 2001
Forbes.com, citing a North Korean researcher who has fled to China, reports that North Korea has moved its entire nuclear development program to "new underground bunkers before U.S. inspections of its old facilities begin." According to the report, the underground facilities now look like a rural village through satellite imagery.


25 September 2001
The IAEA reveals that it plans a three step approach to address suspicions about North Korea's nuclear past. The first step will include an inspection of the 5MW(e) research reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun and its approximately 8,000 spent fuel rods that have been canned under the Agreed Framework. The IAEA has requested that the inspections begin no later than next year. In May 2001, IAEA officials asked for North Korean compliance during a visit to Pyongyang, but North Korea has yet to respond affirmatively.


25-29 September 2001

A KEDO delegation meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to conduct "high-level negotiations" regarding the construction of the light water reactors in North Korea under the Agreed Framework. [Note: These negotiations have been conducted about two or three times over the last few years.]


26 September-6 October 2001


29 September 2001

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) criticizes IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei for his stating on 19 September 2001 that "the agency is unable to verify the accuracy of North Korea's nuclear program." KCNA reports that, "this can not be construed otherwise than reckless acts of the riffraff to shift the responsibility for the non-compliance with the Agreed Framework on to the DPRK, defying international justice and impartiality." The report continues, "If the US had remained sincere in implementing the Agreed Framework, it would have been implemented to such a level as to enable the DPRK and the IAEA to start negotiations on verifying the accuracy and perfectness [sic] of the initial report on nuclear substance [sic]."


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3 October 2001
An unnamed "South Korean government official" or "diplomatic source" reports that KEDO will be able to begin negotiations with North Korea by the end of the year on the delivery of the core reactor parts for the light water reactors under construction as part of the Agreed Framework. The agreement will have to comply with the export controls of the United States, South Korea and Japan. South Korea and Japan have already presented their draft agreements, and the United States is to present its draft agreement soon. The United States has reportedly been reluctant to establishing a protocol for the transfers of critical technology and materials since North Korea has yet to submit to full safeguards inspections.

5 October 2001
Korean Central Broadcasting in Pyongyang criticizes the IAEA for "emphasizing the need for North Korea to cooperate with the IAEA to verify and guarantee transparency of North Korea's nuclear past through on-site inspections." The commentary also criticized the Agency for ignoring the 14th sub-critical nuclear test carried out by the United States at the Nevada test site.

6 October 2001
North Korea's Minju Joson says that the IAEA has "thrown away its impartiality by following US demands to inspect and verify North Korea's nuclear past, while ignoring the need to inspect and verify the United States for continuing to carry out sub-critical nuclear tests in Nevada."

7 October 2001
A Rodong Sinmun commentary criticizes Japan for violating the "three noes" on nuclear policy established in 1967 by allowing the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Japanese territory. The commentary also accuses Japan of having a plan to become a nuclear power and to stockpile 100 tons of plutonium by 2010.

8 October 2001
A Rodong Sinmun commentary says that the IAEA, at the request of the United States, is trying to uncover North Korea's military bases and defense industries under the pretext of carrying out nuclear safeguards inspections.

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Furthermore, the commentary says that the United States has helped Israel acquire nuclear weapons, and that "nothing is being done to inspect and verify Japan’s plutonium stockpile, which is beyond Japan's needs." The Korean Central Broadcasting Station in Pyongyang carries similar criticism during a broadcast, but adds the accusation that the United States is "violently violating the NPT spirit and demands" with a sub-critical nuclear test in Nevada on 26 September 2001.


11 October 2001
Korean Central Television in Pyongyang criticizes the IAEA for "fanning (encouraging) the US hard-line policy towards North Korea." The broadcast says the IAEA has a double standard because while it is requesting inspections and verification of North Korea's nuclear program, it is not recognizing the fact that the United States conducted its 14th sub-critical nuclear test last month in at the Nevada test site.


16 October 2001
In an interview at the White House with Asian journalists before departing to attend the APEC summit in Shanghai, President Bush warns North Korea "not to think that because we happen to be engaged in Afghanistan we will not be prepared and ready to fulfill our end of our agreement with the South Korean government." Bush also says that he would like to renew dialogue with North Korea but that, "I must tell you that I've been disappointed in Kim Jong Il not rising to the occasion, being so suspicious, so secretive."


19 October 2001
During a news conference in Shanghai, President Bush says his administration would like to begin a dialogue with the government of North Korea, and that he supports South Korea's sunshine policy.


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21 October 2001

The *Rodong Sinmun*, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, criticizes the United States for deploying aircraft from the USS Kitty Hawk to South Korean airbases. The aircraft carrier is usually based in Yokosuko, Japan, but it was deployed to the Indian Ocean in support of military operations in Afghanistan against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda network. The commentary says the deployment "complicates the situation" and "compels the DPRK to increase its military power with heightened vigilance."


23 October 2001

The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement criticizing President George Bush for comments "unbecoming for the president of a superpower." The criticism is in response to Bush’s remarks on 16 October about his suspicion of Kim Jong Il. A ministry spokesman praises the thaw in US-North Korea relations at the end of the Clinton presidency, and says North Korea was prepared to abandon its missile program but that the Bush administration "attaches priority to the establishment of a missile defense system intended for world supremacy, and it felt a more urgent need to make an enemy called 'rogue state'." The spokesman says that the Bush administration’s policy toward North Korea has "cooled" relations between North and South Korea, and that it has made it impossible to implement agreements between the two Koreas. Furthermore, he says that the only "normal and rational" way to reopen dialogue between the United States and North Korea is to begin with a discussion of the "practical problems related to the implementation of the Agreed Framework and the Joint Communiqué between the US and North Korea."


30 October-3 November 2001

A KEDO delegation meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to hold "high-level expert" negotiations on the implementation of the Agreed Framework.


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Early November 2001
According to a South Korean government official, North Korea has agreed to allow IAEA inspections of its Isotope Production Laboratory in Yŏngbyŏn-kun at the 17th working-level meeting with the IAEA in Vienna. The facility is not subject to safeguards inspections, but IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei says, "This is a step in the right direction towards the normalization of the DPRK's relations with the IAEA." However, North Korea has still not responded to an IAEA request made in May 2001 during meetings in Pyongyang to begin the process of accounting for North Korea's past nuclear activities.


13 November 2001
In a speech at the UN General Assembly, North Korean Ambassador to the UN Lee Hyŏng Ch'ŏl says that the United States must return to the position of the former Clinton administration before North Korea will resume bilateral dialogue. Lee also says, "It is totally irrational to say the United States deploys huge armed forces around the Korean Peninsula and conducts large-scale military exercises against us to advance peace, whereas it is a 'threat to peace' that we take self-defense measures to cope with the US military threat." Furthermore, Lee says that any accusations of North Korea posing a "missile threat" are groundless.


26 November 2001
During an appearance at the White House rose garden, George W. Bush says, "I made it very clear to North Korea that in order for us to have relations with them, that we want to know: Are they developing weapons of mass destruction? And they ought to stop proliferating."


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27 November 2001
Following a meeting in San Francisco, the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) issues a statement reiterating the commitment of the three member countries: Japan, South Korea, and the United States—to implement the Agreed Framework.

28 November 2001
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry says US demands for inspections are unreasonable and that the Agreed Framework is being indefinitely delayed. He also says that North Korea has no option but to "take necessary counter-measures."

29 November 2001
Korean Central Television in Pyongyang says that the North Korean missile program and its conventional forces are matters of national sovereignty and the right to self-defense. The broadcast also says that North Korea will not reduce its conventional forces until US forces are withdrawn from South Korea.

30 November 2001
US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says that safeguards inspections will have to begin now to prevent further delays in the construction of the LWRs in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o.

December 2001
According to a South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade source, the United States offers to hold deputy minister-level talks with North Korea, but North Korea declines. The United States suggests that Jack Pritchard, special envoy for the four-party talks, and Kim Kye Kwan, North Korean vice foreign minister, participate in the talks.

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1-4 December 2001

KEDO Executive Director Charles Kartman leads a delegation to Pyongyang. Kartman meets with Kim Sŏng Su, North Korea’s director of the light water reactor project. North Korea and KEDO sign the Quality Assurance and Warranties Protocol. The protocol lays the groundwork for the participation of North Korean safety personnel in the light water reactor project. The protocol also covers the electricity supply, core parts, and the initial supply of nuclear fuel. During Kartman’s stay in Pyongyang, he and North Korean officials also discuss labor issues and the need to establish a separate communication network to increase construction efficiency.


3 December 2001

In an interview with the BBC, South Korean Unification Minister Hong Sun Yŏng says, "Several North Korean hard-liners are trying to enfeeble or reverse the reconciliation process [with South Korea]." He also says that North Korean hard-liners are using South Korean enhanced security measures in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 as a pretext to exert their influence. Hong says there is "friction or tension between militarists and economists."


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4 December 2001
The US Department of Defense (DOD) labels North Korea the third greatest threat among countries that proliferate weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In a report submitted to Congress, the DOD ranks the proliferation threat posed by 19 states. The DOD names Russia and China as posing the highest WMD proliferation threat. North Korea ties with Iraq and Iran as posing the third greatest threat.


5 December 2001
Charles Kartman, executive director of KEDO, says that the United States and North Korea may resume dialogue soon. Kartman says Kim Kye Kwan, North Korean vice foreign minister, and Jack Pritchard, special envoy to the Korean peace talks, will likely be the participants if dialogue is to resume. He adds that North Korea’s requests for compensation due to the delay in the construction of the light water reactors is not a matter for KEDO. In regard to North Korea permitting IAEA inspections of its Isotope Production Laboratory in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, Kartman says it is not a breakthrough in resolving the North Korean nuclear problem, but it is just a hopeful sign. Kartman makes his comments in Seoul following his visit to Pyongyang.


6-7 December 2001
KEDO holds an executive board meeting in Seoul to discuss the light water reactor project under way in North Korea. The meeting covers the KEDO budget for 2002, and the extension of the EU’s executive membership in KEDO for another five years. The EU is expected to increase its financial contribution to 20 mission ECUs per year from 15 million ECUs. KEDO expenditures for 2001 are $90.56 million.


7 December 2001
Japanese officials participating in the KEDO executive board meeting in Seoul says that Hitachi Limited and Toshiba Corporation are expected to provide the turbines for the light water reactors under construction in North Korea. The firms are expected to replace General Electric of the United States, which pulled out of the deal after failing to receive indemnification for any possible future accidents at the site.

9 December 2001
North Korean radio and print media criticize the United States for delaying the construction of the light water reactors under the Agreed Framework. The broadcast says the United States is "pressuring North Korea to accept inspections, but under such circumstances, North Korea can no longer expect to settle issues with the US through dialogue."

10 December 2001
The South Korean Ministry of National Defense issues a report on weapons of mass destruction, estimating that North Korea extracted 10-12kg of weapon-grade plutonium from its graphite-moderated reactors before shutting them down in 1994. The report also claims that North Korea conducted about 70 high-yield explosive tests between 1983 and 1998. However, the report states that despite the extensive testing, North Korea still lacks necessary components to construct a functional high-explosive triggering device. Furthermore, North Korea does not have the sophisticated machinery required to proceed with nuclear-related tests. Therefore, the report concludes, North Korea would need several years to weaponize a nuclear bomb.

16-29 December 2001
Kim Hŭi Mun, director general of North Korea's Light-Water Reactor Bureau, leads a 20-member delegation to South Korea to tour nuclear power facilities. The visit is a result of the training protocol signed by North Korea and KEDO on 20 October 2000. While in South Korea, the delegation travels to Ulchin, North Kyŏngsang Province to visit South Korea's No. 3 and No. 4 nuclear reactors.

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21 December 2001
Korean Central Television in Pyongyang reports that on 12 August 1945, Japan tested an atomic bomb off the coast of Hŭngnam, South Hamgyŏng Province, in present-day North Korea. [Note: The North Korean media often cite a nuclear threat from Japan, which could be used as a pretext for North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.]

26 December 2001
The Jammu Daily Excelsior of India reports that Pakistan's AQ Khan Research Laboratories, which handle Pakistan’s nuclear program, have used North Korean technology to develop a missile with a "capacity far beyond the Ghauri." [Note: There is the possibility that Pakistan could have exchanged nuclear technology for North Korean missile technology.]

28 December 2001
According to the Tokyo Shimbun, a Japanese government source connected with KEDO reveals that KEDO has officially notified North Korea that the light water reactors would not be completed until 2009.

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bringing the holocaust of a nuclear war upon our fellow countrymen." The paper claims that North and South Korea 'will get nothing but national ruin from confrontation.'


11 January 2000
Japan and the EU reconfirm continued cooperation on their policies toward North Korea. At ministerial-level talks held in Brussels, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono tells the EU delegation that the stability of North Korea is vital to nuclear nonproliferation efforts.


16 January 2000
The Sunday Telegraph reports that North Korea is trying to obtain uranium from the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Shinkolobwe uranium mine, leading to increased suspicion that North Korea is still trying to develop nuclear weapons. According to the report, the director of a British mining company claims that several of his workers have observed North Koreans in Shinkolobwe. The report also quotes Richard Cornwall, a researcher at the South African Institute for Security Studies, as saying, 'We know that there have been North Koreans in that area and they are definitely training government forces, but whether they are soldiers or miners we do not know, and we can only speculate what they are getting in exchange.'


20 January 2000
Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian tells South Korean Defense Minister Cho Song T'ae that Beijing fully supports efforts to make the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, and that China is actively working towards that end. Chi, meeting with his South Korean counterpart in Seoul, is the first Chinese Defense Minister to visit South Korea since its founding in 1948. Chi is in Seoul from the 19 to the 23 January.


20 January 2000
The Swiss firm Asea Brown Boveri AG (ABB) announces that it recently signed contracts with Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co., Ltd. and Korea Power Engineering Corporation to deliver $200 million worth of equipment and services for the KEDO light water reactor project.

—'ABB Wins 200 Mln USD Nuclear Power Plant Contracts in North Korea," AFX Europe, 20 January 2000, in Lexis-
22 January 2000
North Korea says that the Washington’s claim that North Korea poses a nuclear and missile threat to the United States is merely an attempt to justify a missile defense program. A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun says that the real nuclear and missile threat is from the United States. The paper says that US ‘nuclear weapons and missiles, wherever they are deployed, will be targeted at (North Korea).”

22-28 January 2000
The United States and North Korea meet in Berlin to discuss a proposed visit by a high-ranking North Korean official to Washington. The delegations are headed by US special envoy for Korean affairs, Charles Kartman, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. According to sources close to the talks, the two sides reach an agreement on the proposed visit of a high-ranking North Korean official to Washington and a further easing of economic sanctions against North Korea. The two sides agree to meet at a later date to finalize preparations for the proposed high-level meeting in Washington. [Note: The visit of a high-ranking North Korean official to Washington is one of the recommendations laid out by William Perry in his report assessing the US policy on North Korea. Perry’s report was presented to Congress on 14 September 1999.]

30 January 2000
The Rodong Sinmun cites ‘an official US document" to report that Japan is ‘allowing the US to use its entire territory as the latter’s nuclear base." The article says the Japanese government approved the deployment of US nuclear weapons on Japanese territory in 1960. The paper also says that Tokyo’s intention of pursuing this policy is to take part in any US aggression in Northeast Asia so that it might regain its former colonial empire, with North Korea being the first target of combined US-Japanese aggression. The paper concludes that should Japan attack North Korea, it would be 'wholly responsible for the ensuing consequences."

31 January 2000
The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) signs a loan agreement with KEDO extending up to ¥116.5 billion in loans for the light water reactors to be constructed in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o, North Korea. [Note: The loans were originally to be provided by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, but on 1 October 1999 the Export-Import
Bank of Japan merged with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund to form the JBIC.]

**February 2000**
KEDO dispatches a 20-member 'peace maintenance corps" to protect the light water reactor construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o and South Koreans working on the project. [Note: In July 1996, KEDO and North Korea signed the 'protocol governing privileges, immunities and consular protection" granting KEDO the responsibility of preserving public order at the light water reactor site and related facilities.]

1 February 2000
The US, South Korea and Japan hold a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) in Seoul. The three countries discuss the results of the US-North Korea talks held in Berlin 22-28 January 2000 and agree to provide additional aid to North Korea if it takes further steps to allay international concerns over its suspected nuclear weapons program.

1 February 2000
Japanese State Foreign Secretary Ichita Yamamoto meets with KEDO Executive-Director Desaix Anderson in Tokyo to discuss current issues facing KEDO. Yamamoto tells Anderson, 'It is important that North Korea comply with safeguard inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as delivery of key nuclear components begins." Desaix agrees to press Pyongyang to accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities. The two also reaffirm the need to implement the KEDO project without delay, calling it 'the most realistic and effective framework" to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons.

1 February 2000
Desaix Anderson, executive-director of KEDO, says that the timeframe for construction of the two light water reactors has been extended by at least four years.

2 February 2000
The EU’s Executive Commission recommends renewing EU support for KEDO after the current agreement expires at the end of 2000. The EU’s External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, calling KEDO a vital to international nuclear nonproliferation efforts, says, 'It is only right that the EU should stand alongside the United States, Japan

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and Korea in a project as important to regional stability as KEDO." [Note: EURATOM, the EU's nuclear agency, originally signed a contract with KEDO to supply €75 million over a five-year period.]


3 February 2000
The turnkey contract between KEDO and KEPCO becomes effective, and KEPCO begins construction on the two light water reactors in [Kumho-chigui], Shinp'o, North Korea. [Note: On 15 December 1999, KEPCO signed the turnkey contract with KEDO authorizing the commencement of construction on the actual reactors. Site preparation work began in August 1997.]


3 February 2000
In an interview published by the Korean Central News Agency, North Korean Vice Premier Cho Ch'ang Dok accuses the United States of blatantly violating the Agreed Framework, and hints that North Korea might reopen its frozen nuclear reactors if it does not receive compensation for the delays in the KEDO light water reactor (LWR) project. Cho blames North Korea's recent electricity shortage on the US failure to honor its commitments under the Agreed Framework. Cho says, "Due to the unreasonable US delaying tactics the LWR construction is not likely to be completed even in 2010, to say nothing of 2003, the (original) deadline." Cho claims that the US failure to honor its commitments has already caused a loss of 'tens of billions of KWH of electricity, bringing immeasurable adverse effect on the national economy and the people's living." Cho concludes that 'if the US does not fulfill its commitments but persistently pursues the policy of stifling the DPRK, the DPRK will be left with no option but to go its own way.'


7 February 2000
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York. The board members discuss ways to speed up construction on the two light water reactors following the 3 February threat by North Korean Vice Premier Cho Ch'ang Dok that North Korea might resume its frozen graphite moderated nuclear program if delays continue.

7 February 2000
The *Rodong Sinmun*, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, says that North Korea's 'energy situation is strained since the nuclear freeze.' The commentary criticizes the United States for blaming rising oil prices for its difficulty in delivery the heavy fuel oil under the Agreed Framework, and says that the light water reactors will probably not be completed by 2010. The article says that North Korea 'has a choice and cannot just sit around.'

7 February 2000
North Korea criticizes Western press reports that North Korea has been acquiring uranium for nuclear weapons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in return for military aid. The Korean Central News Agency dismisses the reports as 'sheer fabrication" and 'a charade intended to slander and hurt the DPRK." [Note: Beginning in August 1999, various press agencies have reported on the presence of North Korean military personnel near the Shinkolobwe uranium mine, leading to speculation that North Korea is providing military training for Congolese troops in exchange for uranium.]

15 February 2000
US President Bill Clinton sends a presidential determination to Congress stating that he could not confirm that North Korea has abandoned its pursuit of a nuclear weapons program. Under the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999, President Clinton must confirm that North Korea is not pursuing uranium enrichment or reprocessing spent nuclear fuel before any funds in fiscal year 2000 may be used for supplying North Korea with heavy fuel oil. Clinton does, however, certify that North Korea is complying with all its commitments under the Agreed Framework. In the presidential determination, Clinton informs Congress that while evidence of North Korea's nuclear intentions is inconclusive, he is exercising his authority to waive the confirmation requirement and proceeding with the annual deliveries of heavy fuel oil.

22-25 February 2000
KEDO and North Korea hold a high-level meeting in Hyangsan, North Korea to discuss various problems that might arise during the construction of the two light water reactors being constructed in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o. The two sides agree to open a direct passenger boat service from Sokch’o, South Korea to Yanghwa-ri, Shinp’o, North Korea for South Koreans working on the light water reactor project. [Note: The meeting is the first between KEDO and North Korea since construction of the reactors began.]

23 February 2000
Pyongyang accuses the United States of being responsible for North Korean power shortage. The Korean Central News Agency claims that the freeze of North Korea's nuclear program had resulted in billions of dollars in lost production, and the United States has not sufficiently compensated North Korea with heavy fuel oil promised under the 1994 US-North Korea Agreed Framework.

24 February 2000
US President Bill Clinton announces that the United States will soon release $15 million earmarked for heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea.

7 March 2000
Japan names Kojiro Takano as ambassador to KEDO and Tokyo's representative to normalization talks with North Korea.

8-15 March 2000
The United States and North Korea hold high-level talks in New York to discuss various bilateral issues. The delegations, headed by Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean Affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan, address a wide range of sensitive issues such as North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, delays in implementing the Agreed Framework, North Korea's designation by the State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism, and the proposed visit to the United States by a top-level North Korean official. The talks end on 15 March without any agreement between the two sides. Although the talks fail to produce an agreement, the two sides agree to resume the dialogue in the future. [Note: On 18 March, North Korea's Foreign Ministry announces that at the talks the United States acknowledged the legitimacy of North Korea's demand for compensation for electricity shortages caused by delays in the light water reactor construction. According to a ministry spokesman, discussions on the issue progressed to ways the United States could compensate North Korea for the lost electricity.]

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9 March 2000
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung delivers his 'Berlin Declaration,' which proposes governmental talks between the two Koreas, and aims to increase inter-Korean exchanges.

16 March 2000
At a hearing of the House International Relations Committee, Ambassador Wendy Sherman of the State Department, states that the Agreed Framework 'continues to be our best means of capping and eventually eliminating the threat of North Korean nuclear weapons." She also announces that on 15 March, Pyongyang confirmed its agreement to allow a second inspection of the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri in May.

18 March 2000
US Secretary of Defense William Cohen meets with South Korean officials in Seoul to discuss various issues including the continuing military threat from North Korea. Cohen and his South Korean counterpart Cho Song T'ae vow to respond 'immediately and sternly' if North Korea attempts a military provocation ahead of the South Korean presidential elections scheduled for April.

21 March 2000
The Rodong Sinmun accuses the United States of raising suspicions about its nuclear program merely as a 'mean maneuver to try to evade its responsibility for having delayed the construction of the light water reactors in accordance with the DPRK-US Agreed Framework...and for even having failed to observe the schedule for the supply of heavy oil.'

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21 March 2000
In testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs, Wendy Sherman, a State Department counselor, announces that North Korea has agreed to 'recommence talks related to our concern about its missile program and to begin a new negotiation on implementation of the Agreed Framework.' Sherman does not mention whether or not the two sides have decided on a date and venue for the talks.

29 March 2000
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, condemns the United States for intentionally delaying the implementation of the Agreed Framework and causing widespread electricity outages in North Korea. The paper warns that if the United States does not resolve the issue of compensation for the lost electricity, the DPRK will have no option but to revive its graphite moderated nuclear program.

30-31 March 2000
The US, Japan and South Korea hold a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) in Tokyo to coordinate their policies on North Korea. According to reports, the US side suggests that one of the LWRs being supplied to North Korea under the Agreed Framework should be replaced with six conventional power plants. However, the South Korean delegation disagrees with the proposal.

April 2000
US and IAEA technicians complete the process of cann ing over 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in North Korea. A US State Department official announces on 13 June that the cann ing of the spent fuel rods was completed in April and that the IAEA has confirmed that the remaining rod fragments 'do not represent a proliferation concern.' [Note: North Korea removed the spent fuel rods from its 5MW(e) reactor in Yongbyon-kun.]

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1-4 April 2000
KEDO and North Korean officials meet in Hyangsan, North Korea to discuss a protocol on the training of North Korean engineers who will operate the two light water reactors once they are completed. KEDO reportedly wants the engineers trained in South Korea, but North Korea insists the training take place in any country other than South Korea. According to a KEDO official, North Korea agrees to comply with KEDO's decision to conduct the training at a South Korean nuclear plant.

3 April 2000
North Korea denounces what it refers to as an attempt by 'US conservative hardliners" to amend the Agreed Framework to include a 'verification devices" in order to monitor North Korea's compliance with the agreement. A report by the Korean Central News Agency states that 'if the US tries to 'amend' the agreed framework, skeptical over the DPRK measure of nuclear freezing and the Agreed Framework itself, instead of sincerely implementing it, the Agreed Framework will be bound to be abrogated.'

4-7 April 2000
North Korea and Japan hold high-level rapprochement talks for the first time in eight years. At the talks, held in Pyongyang, the Japanese delegation expresses concern over North Korea's missile program and suspected nuclear weapons program.

9 April 2000
Diplomatic sources in Seoul announce that ongoing negotiations with North Korea on implementation of the Agreed Framework are failing to make significant progress due to Pyongyang's continuing refusal to disclose the amount of plutonium it reprocessed prior to the 1994 agreement.

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11 April 2000
Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Edward Markey, ranking member of the House Commerce Committee, send a letter to President Bill Clinton expressing their concern over his 15 February decision to authorize the release of funds to be used for the delivery of heavy fuel oil to North Korea despite his stated inability to certify that North Korea is not pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons program, as required by the North Korean Threat Reduction Act of 1999. In the letter, Gilman and Markey tell Clinton, 'You did not hesitate to certify the third requirement, that 'North Korea is complying with all provisions of the Agreed Framework,' If, as you explain, the 'the evidence is inconclusive whether North Korea is seeking to develop the ability to enrich uranium,' then how can you certify that North Korea is complying with all aspects of the Agreed Framework?' [Note: The White House reportedly sends a reply to the House International Relations Committee stating that in order to release the funds for the second 2000 delivery of oil, Clinton will not waive the requirement that he certify that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program.]

11 April 2000
Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announces that Australia will donate an additional A$1 million to KEDO, bringing Australia's total donations since 1995 to A$15.8 million.

17 April 2000
The Joongang Ilbo, quoting nuclear experts, reports that North Korea possesses a superior plutonium extraction technology that South Korea never possessed. North Korea is believed to possess a know how in the area of radioactive chemicals and other sectors of the nuclear technology.

18 April 2000
The Korea Non-Life Insurance Association announces that LG Insurance will be the main insurance provider for the KEDO light water reactor project. The insurance association also announces that LG Insurance will soon conclude negotiations with KEPCO over the scope of the coverage.

20 April 2000
Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono claims that North Korea will be fully responsible if an accident occurs at one of the two light water reactors being constructed by KEDO. Speaking before the House of Councilors Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, Kono says, 'North Korea cannot avoid taking responsibility because it is an

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internationally established principle that the operator of a nuclear reactor assumes full responsibility (in the event of an accident)."


20 April 2000
North Korea's Foreign Ministry calls on the United States to remove all weapons of mass destruction from South Korea. A ministry spokesman claims that despite Washington's 1992 pledge that it had removed all nuclear weapons that were deployed outside its territory, it continues to 'massively deploy nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction...in and around South Korea.' Calling the continued deployment of nuclear weapons clear evidence of the aggressive US ambitions toward North Korea, the spokesman warns that 'the Korean people and the people's army are fully prepared for any confrontation.'


24 April 2000
Director General of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, says that the IAEA has been unable to verify the state of North Korea's nuclear program because of its refusal to comply with the safeguards agreement it signed with the agency. Speaking at the opening session of the NPT Review Conference, ElBaradei say, "the agency remains unable to verify the correctness and completeness of North Korea's initial declaration of its nuclear material subject to safeguard and cannot, therefore, provide any assurance about non- diversion from non-military to military uses."


26 April 2000
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York to assess the implementation of the light water reactor project. At the meeting, Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, announces that he will soon travel to Beijing to request that the Chinese government assist in supplying heavy-fuel oil to North Korea.


10-12 May 2000
A four member IAEA delegation led by Olly Heinonen, director general of IAEA safeguards, travels to Pyongyang to attend the 14th nuclear technology meeting between the IAEA and North Korea. The IAEA delegation reportedly calls on North Korea to submit details on its past nuclear facilities according to the 1994 Agreed Framework between the United States and North Korea.


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12 May 2000
Officials from the United States, Japan, and South Korea meet in Tokyo for a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG). The delegations are headed by Wendy Sherman, counselor of the US State Department, Chang Chae Ryong, South Korean deputy foreign minister, and Yukio Takeuchi, Japanese deputy vice foreign minister for foreign policy. In a joint statement the participants of the TCOG meeting praised Pyongyang’s decision to hold separate talks with each of the three nations. The delegations also reiterated their continuing commitment to consult closely and the coordinate their respective policies toward North Korea."—Shin Yong-bae, 'Seoul, Washington, Tokyo Dovetail Positions Ahead of Their Respective Talks with N.K.," Korea Herald, 13 May 2000, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Kim Sung Il, 'Hanmiil 'Chongsanghoedam Hanbando P'yonghwa Kiyo,'" Hankook Ilbo, 13 May 2000, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.co.kr.

15 May 2000
An official from KEPCO, the primary contractor for the KEDO light water reactor project, announces that the current consortium of South Korean subcontractors for the project will be disbanded unless an agreement on how to divide the project is reached by the end of June. The statement is in response to complaint filed by Daewoo Construction on the same day to the Fair Trade Commission claiming that Hyundai Engineering and Construction is attempting to monopolize the third stage of construction. [Note: In 1996, Hyundai, Donga, Daewoo, and Korea Heavy Industries agreed to divide the light water reactor project 35%, 25%, 20%, and 20% respectively.]

16 May 2000
The US House of Representatives passes an amendment to the North Korean Threat Reduction Act of 1999, entitled the 'Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act of 2000," requiring House and Senate approval of the president’s certification that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program before funds will be released for heavy fuel oil deliveries for North Korea. [Note: Under the North Korean Threat Reduction Act of 1999, the president is required to certify to Congress that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program. However, the president has the option to waive the requirement, as President Clinton did on 15 February.]

18 May 2000
The US House of Representatives passes an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act prohibiting the US

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government from indemnifying from liability any US company participating in the KEDO light water reactor project. The amendment is in response to General Electric’s request that the White House indemnify it from any future liability before it exports $30 million in steam turbines for the KEDO reactors. Following the House legislation, General Electric announces that it will not provide the turbines for the reactors, thus propagating further delays in the KEDO project since the reactor designs are based on using General Electric’s turbines.

—Amendment No. 3, Section 1205, Prohibition on Assumption by United States Government of Liability for Nuclear Accidents in North Korea, offered by Mr. Cox, Mr. Markey, Mr. Spenser, Mr. Gilman, Mr. Knollenberg, Mr. Bereuter, reprinted along with the floor debate in U.S. Congressional Record, 19 May 2000, pp. H3358-H3362.

24-30 May 2000
The US and North Korea resume talks in Rome to discuss various bilateral issues as well as finalizing arrangements for a high-level visit to Washington by a North Korean official. The delegations are once again headed by Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. At the talks, Kim claims that delays in heavy fuel oil deliveries have caused severe economic harm to North Korea, and Kartman reportedly says that Washington will consider compensating North Korea for the economic losses.


25-27 May 2000
A 12-member team of US nuclear experts conducts a second inspection of the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch’ang-ri. [Note: The first inspection, conducted 20-24 May 1999 revealed ‘an unfinished site, the underground portion of which was an extensive, empty tunnel complex.’ While the inspectors did not find any evidence of nuclear activity at the Kumch’ang-ri facility, US officials, speaking after the first inspection, said that the facility could still be used to store nuclear equipment in the future, and that North Korea had plenty of time during the course of negotiations to remove any incriminating evidence.]


26 May 2000
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, accuses conservatives in the US Congress of purposefully delaying the implementation of the Agreed Framework. The paper says that recent legislation demanding ‘compulsory House and Senate approval’ of any transfer of nuclear technology to North Korea is proof that Washington is only paying lip service to the agreement. [Note: The legislation to which the article refers is an amendment to the North Korean Threat Reduction Act of 1999, entitled the 'Congressional Oversight of Nuclear

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Transfers to North Korea Act of 2000." The amendment passed the House of Representatives on 16 May."

27 May 2000
South Korean Minister of Unification Im Dong Won pays a secret visit to Pyongyang to hold talks with Kim Jong Il. The talks last for four hours, and Im notes that Kim has a sense of humor and is respectful towards his elders. He also believes that Kim Jong Il is a much stronger leader than his father, and that he is a very good listener. According to Im, Kim directly took notes during the meeting, as if he were a student in class. [Note: Im's observations are part of a report submitted to President Kim Dae Jung upon Im's return to Seoul, which are cited in Don Oberdorfer's revised edition of The Two Koreas. The revised edition is scheduled for release in December 2001.]

31 May 2000
State Department spokesman Philip Reeker says, 'The team [that inspected Kum'chang-ri] found conditions unchanged since the first visit a year ago...It remains an unfinished site, the underground portion of which is an extensive empty tunnel complex.' Reeker also reports that North Korea informed the inspection team that the complex was originally intended as an unspecified 'national security-related facility," but they would consider other uses for the site.

June 2000
During a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG), the US delegation repeats the suggestion made in March 2000 about replacing one LWR under the Agreed Framework with six conventional power plants. The South Korean government disagrees with this proposal.

4 June 2000
Tsugio Uchinishi, a scrap yard owner from Tokyo's Nakano Ward, mails envelopes containing small amounts of monazite powder to 9 Japanese government offices and Prime Minister Mori's personal residence. Uchinshi explains in memos accompanying the radioactive material that 'seventy tons of a radioactive substance is being smuggled from Niigata Port into North Korea to produce nuclear missiles." Uchinshi claims that an associate of Hiroshi Ikeda, director of Nihon Bosei Bunka Kyokai, sold monazite to a broker who in turn transferred the radioactive material to North Korea. However, the unnamed associate told police that he refused to sell the

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substance after learning that the prospective buyer had ties to North Korea. [Note: Ikeda later admits in interviews with police that he had imported the monazite from Thailand over twenty years ago because ‘it can be used in hot spas.’]


7 June 2000
Robert Einhorn, US Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation, says that North Korea’s nuclear weapons program continues to threaten the United States and its allies in the Asia-Pacific region. However, according to Einhorn, Pyongyang’s recent efforts to normalize relations with various countries shows that a diplomatic approach to dealing with North Korea’s nuclear weapon program, embodied in the Agreed Framework, is beginning to pay off.


9 June 2000
A Korean Central News Agency commentary says that due to the delays in heavy fuel oil deliveries and the resulting negative economic impact on North Korea, several officials within the North Korean leadership are calling for the nullification of the Agreed Framework and restarting North Korea’s indigenous nuclear program.


10 June 2000
An editorial in North Korea’s Pyongyang Times says the US attempt to establish a nuclear verification system over all North Korean territory is not part of the Agreed Framework. Citing the remarks of James Lilly, a former US ambassador to South Korea, the editorial says the Agreed Framework is likely to collapse due to the US failure to honor its commitments, including its failure to deliver heavy fuel oil and the indefinite delay in the completion of the LWR project.

—‘Option is Not US Monopoly,’ Pyongyang Times, 10 June 2000 in FBIS Document ID KPP200000712000096.

13 June 2000
KEDO asks the US Nuclear Regulation Commission to allow North Korean nuclear inspectors to receive technical training in the United States. After the completion of the two KEDO light water reactors, North Korean inspectors will be tasked with conducting safety checks and regulatory audits of the reactors. However, the would-be inspectors have no experience with light water nuclear reactors.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
13-15 June 2000

North Korea’s National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong Il and South Korean President Kim Dae Jung meet in Pyongyang to discuss various bilateral issues. On 14 June, the two leaders sign an agreement, the 'Joint North-South Declaration," by which they pledge to work for reconciliation and eventual reunification of the two countries. The agreement contains a clause by which the two Koreas agree not to engage in offensive military operations against each other. Upon returning to Seoul following the historic talks, Kim Dae Jung announces that he raised the issue of international concerns over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. According to South Korean government spokesman Park Chun Yong, President Kim Dae Jung, in a 16 June telephone conversation with US President Bill Clinton says that he comprehensively discussed the North Korean weapons development program with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il during their summit in Pyongyang. Park says, "President Kim told President Clinton that he strongly urged the North Korean leader to successfully conclude negotiations with the United States on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and that leaving these weapon issues unsettled could impede regional peace and cooperation."


19 June 2000

The US eases economic sanctions against North Korea. The measures are said to be 'the final phase of what President Clinton announced last September 17." The end of sanctions will allow North Korea to export raw materials to the United States and allow US companies to invest in agriculture, mining, roads, ports travel and tourism in North Korea. However, since North Korea remains on the State Department’s list of states sponsoring terrorism, prohibitions on the sales of high technology and dual-use goods remain intact.


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Late June 2000

The fifteen member nations of the EU agree to give the European Commission, the executive body of the EU, the authority to negotiate additional funding for KEDO with the other executive board member nations.


23 June 2000

US Secretary of State Madeline Albright meets with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and Foreign Minister Lee Chong Bin in Seoul. Albright reafirms the South Korean leaders that US troops will remain in South Korea indefinitely in order to maintain stability in East Asia.


26 June 2000

KEDO holds an executive board meeting in New York. At the meeting, Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, remarks that due to current high crude oil prices, it would be difficult to provide fuel oil to North Korea by 22 October 2000, as provided by the Agreed Framework. Kartman says the United States will call for financial contributions from the international community to cover the cost of fuel oil for North Korea. In addition, KEDO sources report that financial compensation demanded by North Korea for the delay of the LWRs was not discussed in the board meeting since it is unacceptable.


29 June 2000

US President Bill Clinton certifies to Congress that North Korea appears to be living up to its commitment under the Agreed Framework to freeze its nuclear weapons program. The presidential certification, required by Congress, authorized the release of $20 million to be used for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea.


1 July 2000

The North Korean Foreign Ministry announces that if the United States does not compensate North Korea for the losses incurred due to delays constructing two light water reactors, North Korea will have no choice but to revert to producing electricity using its graphite moderated reactors.


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3-4 July 2000
KEDO and North Korea hold talks but fail to make progress on quality assurances and warrant protocol for the construction of light water reactors. According to a KEDO source close to the talks, "since the negotiations are related to technical matters, the breakdown is not due to KEDO's delay of construction of the light water reactors."

11 July 2000
A Korean Central News Agency commentary says that if the United States fails to compensate North Korea for the loss of electricity incurred from delays in implementing the Agreed Framework, North Korea "will be left with no option but to restart its independent nuclear power industry."

19 July 2000
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan meet in Berlin to discuss various bilateral issues. While the talks were originally scheduled to deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, Kartman and Kim use the meeting to prepare for the upcoming meeting between US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun.

18 July 2000
An anonymous EU source says that the EU plans to provide at least €75 million over the next five years to KEDO to help finance the light water reactor project. According to the source, the EU will soon meet with the other KEDO executive board member nations to discuss the issue of additional funding.

28 July 2000
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright meets with her North Korean counterpart Paek Nam Sun in a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Bangkok. Albright and Paek address a variety of bilateral issues including North Korea's suspected efforts to produce nuclear weapons. Albright says her meeting with Paek, "constitutes a substantively modest but symbolically historic step away from the sterility and hostility of the past and toward a more direct and promising approach to resolving differences and establishing common ground." The meeting between Albright and Paek represents the highest level talks between the United States and North Korea since the Korean War.

29 July 2000
Representatives from the EU and KEDO meet in Seoul prior to the KEDO executive board meeting to discuss additional contributions by the EU to the international consortium.

30-31 July 2000
North and South Korea hold ministerial-level talks in Seoul. At the talks, the two sides agree to reopen the South-North liaison office in the truce village of Panmunjom by 14 August 2000. They also agree to hold a new round of talks from 29-30 August.

31 July 2000
KEDO holds an executive board meeting in Seoul. At the meeting, the EU reportedly asks for one of the deputy executive director positions in exchange for a larger contribution to the consortium. [Note: The United States currently holds the executive director's seat, while Japan and South Korea, the other two founding members of KEDO, hold the deputy executive director seats.]

August 2000
According to the Joongang Ilbo, US intelligence later believes that North Korea completes the final high-explosives tests for a uranium bomb.

6 August 2000
Bulat Nigmatulin, Russian vice minister for atomic energy, announces that Russia is interested in joining KEDO. Nigmatulin adds that due to the inability of KEDO to gain sufficient funding for the timely construction of the two light water reactors, Russia is proposing that KEDO instead use two, less expensive Russian model reactors.

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9 August 2000
Chen Kuo Yuan, deputy chief head of Commission of National Cooperation in Taiwan's Economics Ministry, announces that Taiwan has given permission to the Taiwan Power Company to renew a 1997 contract with North Korea by which it would ship up to 200,000 barrels of low grade radioactive material to North Korea for storage. [Note: Taiwan backed out of the original agreement in 1998 citing North Korea's lack of proper facilities to dispose of the waste.]


14 August 2000
North and South Korea reopen the inter-Korean liaison office in truce village of Panmunjom. The liaison office, the only direct channel of communication between the two Koreas, had been closed since 1996.


29 August-2 September 2000
Desaix Anderson, executive director of KEDO, travels to North Korea accompanied by his two deputies, Cho Kyu Yong of South Korea and Masaaki Uno of Japan. While in North Korea, the KEDO delegation travels to Shinp'o to inspect the progress of the light water reactor construction.


September 2000
According to Yonhap News Agency, 80 percent of land-leveling work for the light water reactor project under the Agreed Framework has been completed in Kumho-chigu, Shinp'o. The news agency later says that the construction work might face snags due to management of a crisis facing the subcontractors, and also due to financing problems.


8 September 2000
Terusuke Terada, Japan's ambassador to KEDO, warns that the light water reactor project will continue to experience delays until North Korea allows the IAEA full access to its frozen graphite moderate nuclear facilities. Terada adds that Japan will not normalize relations with North Korea until it resolves suspicions about its nuclear program.


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11 September 2000
IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, addressing the IAEA Board of Governors, says, ‘The Agency is still unable to verify that the DPRK has declared all nuclear material which should be subject to safeguards.” ”We want access to all sites,” ElBaradei states, ‘and at the moment we are just being given documents.” ElBaradei stresses that North Korea must come into full compliance with its safeguards agreement before any key nuclear components for the KEDO light water reactors will be delivered.

12 September 2000
The US Defense Department issues a report to Congress stating, ‘While North Korea denies possession of nuclear weapons and has frozen its nuclear program at Yongbyon, we remain concerned the North could revive a weapons production program.”

13 September 2000
Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono meets with Chris Patten, EU external affairs commissioner, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session to convey Japan’s disappointment that the EU decided not to increase financial contributions to KEDO.

22 September 2000
At the IAEA’s 44th General Conference in Vienna, the IAEA passes a resolution calling on North Korea to ‘come into full compliance with it safeguards agreement with the IAEA, to cooperate fully and promptly with the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards agreement and to take all steps the Agency may deem necessary to preserve all information relevant to verifying the accuracy and completeness of the DPRK’s initial report on the inventory of nuclear material subject to safeguards.”

23 September 2000
Pyongyang Radio carries a report threatening that North Korea will restart its graphite moderated nuclear program unless the United States promptly fulfills its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

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26 September 2000
KEDO holds its fifth annual meeting in New York. At the meeting, Charles Kartman, US representative to KEDO, asks the other member states to assist the United States in financing the annual heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea. At the executive board meeting held a day before the general meeting, Chang Son Sop, head of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, is named the new director general.


27 September-2 October 2000
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan meet in New York to discuss various bilateral issues including North Korea's missile and nuclear programs and North Korea's alleged support for terrorism. Following the talks, both Kartman and Kim report progress on a number of issues.


28 September 2000
The Korean Central News Agency criticizes the IAEA resolution on North Korea that was passed on 22 September. The news agency calls the resolution 'a grave challenge to the sovereignty of the DPRK and a very unreasonable action which endangers the Agreed Framework.'


October 2000
The US State Department begins 'seriously looking at what provisions might be necessary to include in a formal nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and North Korea.'


October 2000
South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials acknowledge that the US government has been proposing the provision of fossil fuel plants instead of one or both of the LWRs to be built under the Agreed Framework. The officials also say that the US government has considered alleviating North Korea's energy problems by supplying electricity from South Korea's Korea Electric Power Company, but thus far this option has

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been politically unacceptable to Pyongyang.

9-12 October 2000
Cho Myong Rok, first vice chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission, travels to the United States to meet with various high ranking officials. Cho, considered third in North Korea's hierarchy of power, is the highest ranking North Korean ever to visit the United States. On 9 October, Cho meets with President Bill Clinton to discuss various global and bilateral issues including North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. During the meeting, Cho reportedly delivers a letter to Clinton from Kim Jong Il putting forth a series of proposals by which the two countries can further ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. While in Washington, Cho also meets with Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Defense Secretary William Cohen. Following Cho's historic trip, the United States and North Korea issue a joint statement noting the benefits of normalized relations and stating the intention to arrange a formal peace treaty to replace the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement.

20 October 2000
Desaix Anderson, executive director of KEDO, and Kim Hui Mun of North Korea, sign a protocol in Pyongyang on training 529 North Korean workers for the LWR project under the Agreed Framework. According to a South Korean government official, the training site is undecided and is likely to be finalized in April 2001.

23-24 October 2000
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright travels to North Korea and meets with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il. Albright is the highest ranking US official ever to visit North Korea and the first US official to meet with Kim Jong Il. Albright presents Kim with a letter from President Bill Clinton addressing various bilateral issues. Following her visit to North Korea, Albright informs the foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea that her talks with Kim focused on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

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Early November 2000
The South Korean National Assembly holds hearings on the KEDO light water reactor project amid concerns about the project’s obstacles. The main problems appear to be a strike by North Korean workers at the site, potential financial shortfalls, the North Korean power grid, and the refusal of General Electric to provide technology for the reactor turbines. Many South Koreans are also concerned that the South Korean government may have to assume loan guarantees for the project.

Early November 2000
Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the IAEA, says that North Korea’s compliance with the IAEA safeguards would help to further facilitate its rapprochement with South Korea. He makes these remarks at the 12th meeting of the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference (PBNC), which is held in Seoul from 29 October to 2 November 2000. Welcoming the recent diplomatic normalization talks between North Korea and the United States, ElBaradei says he hopes that the US-North Korea discussions will amicably resolve the issues related to North Korea’s nuclear and missile program. Later, while speaking to the UN General Assembly on 6 November 2000, ElBaradei says that nuclear inspectors would like to start work immediately to verify and assess North Korean claims made in September 2000 that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. ElBaradei adds that since verification may take two to three years, work should begin immediately so that the light water nuclear (LWR) project under the Agreed Framework may proceed as scheduled.

8 November 2000
Glyn Ford, a member of the European Union Parliament and the British Labor Party, says the light water reactors to be built under the Agreed Framework are unlikely to be completed before 2010. Ford visited North Korea from 31 October to 4 November, and met with Kim Yong Nam, president of the Supreme People’s Assembly, and with Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun. Ford says, 'If you are going to have a seven-year delay, it would lead to a doubling of the cost.'

14-15 November 2000
Australian Foreign Minster Alexander Downer meets with North Korean Foreign Minster Paek Nam Sun in Pyongyang. During the talks, Downer indicates that Australia would be willing to provide training and technical assistance on nuclear safeguards to North Korea.
—'Australia Wants to Train North Korea in Nuclear Safety,' Agence France Presse, 17 November 2000, in Lexis-

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19 November 2000
A South Korea government official announces that the EU has pledged €150 million ($130 million) over the coming five years for the KEDO light water reactor project. The official says that an EU delegation visiting Pyongyang from 25-28 November 2000 is likely to inform North Korean officials of the increase in the EU’s annual contribution to KEDO from €15 million to €30 million for the next five years.

26 November 2000
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers Party, condemns the United States for delaying the KEDO light water reactor project. According to the paper, the United States is purposefully delaying the project in an attempt to ‘weaken (North Korea’s) economic and military potentials and watch for a chance to stifle (North Korea) by force of arms.’ The paper adds that if the delays continue, North Korea will have to take a ‘corresponding measure.’

30 November 2000
Nucleonics Week reports that General Electric (GE) might refuse to provide the turbines for the LWRs to be built in North Korea under the Agreed Framework. If GE pulls out of the project, the entire balance of plant (BOP) will have to be redesigned, and the extra work will cost several million dollars according to some analysts. The Agreed Framework requires North Korea to obtain liability insurance, but Pyongyang is not yet a member of the Vienna International Nuclear Liability Convention, and there is still no insurance for the LWR project. GE is concerned about liability in North Korea because of the weak power grid.

4 December 2000
Nine senior experts from KEDO meet with a three-man delegation from North Korea’s Department of Nuclear Safety in the State Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the first time. The North Korean delegation is led by Kim Yong Il, director of the department. The meeting is held to introduce KEDO to North Korea’s nuclear regulatory
environment. KEDO will have to submit plans for the light water reactors to the regulatory agency to receive a construction permit. KEDO invites the North Koreans to another round of talks in April 2001.


6 December 2000
During an ambassador-level KEDO executive board meeting in Tokyo, the United States, Japan, and South Korea ask the EU to increase its contribution to the light water reactor project. The EU's current share is 75 million Euros ($68 million) over five years through 2000. At the meeting, the executive board members also discuss several pending issues, such as the increasing price of heavy fuel oil and contracting a firm to supply materials and equipment for the reactors. According to a Japanese Foreign Ministry statement released on 7 December, the executive board decided that Hitachi Ltd. and Toshiba Corp. will most likely receive contracts to provide the turbines for the reactors following General Electric Co.'s decision to back out of the KEDO project.


7 December 2000
Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the IAEA, announces at an IAEA board meeting that North Korea is not cooperating with the Agency on inspecting its nuclear facilities and material. However, ElBaradei adds, the Agency will soon reach an agreement with KEDO on safety inspections of the light water reactors currently under construction in North Korea.


11 December 2000
Uzbekistan becomes a member of KEDO.


18 December 2000
Nucleonics Week, quoting Republican Party sources, reports that the new US administration headed by the President-elect George W. Bush is expected to reconsider the 1994 US-North Korea Agreed Framework. Republican Party sources state that several key administration figures question the efficacy of the Agreed Framework. Included in this group are Secretary of State-designate Colin Powell; National Security Advisor-designate Condoleezza Rice; former ambassador to China James Lilley, who is likely director-designate of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); and Paul Wolfowitz, who may be appointed head of CIA or the Department of Defense. The official sources said that Wolfowitz and Rice are highly critical of providing two nuclear energy power projects to North Korea under the 1994 agreement. They would prefer to 'get into a transition to provide non-nuclear energy sources," which would require renegotiation of the deal with North Korea. At the same time, the sources said that Powell, Wolfowitz and Rice would take action solely regarding US policy towards Agreed

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Framework and Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). They would not attempt to force South Korea to abandon its Sunshine Policy of developing a relationship with North Korea.


16 December 2000
Percy Westerlund, a senior official in charge of Korean affairs at the European Commission, reportedly meets with Desaix Andreason, KEDO executive director, in New York and informs him that the EU will increase its donations to KEDO to €100 million ($90 million) over the next five years.


22 December 2000
KEPCO signs a contract with Hyundai Engineering and Construction, Donga Construction, Daewoo Corp. and Korea Heavy Industries for the secondary stages of construction of the two KEDO light water reactors. The four firms are contracted to complete construction of the reactors, turbines, generators and other related facilities January 2009.


22 December 2000
Japan and China agree to work together to have North Korea sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Chinese arms control experts agree to a proposal from their Japanese counterparts for considering ways to persuade North Korea to sign the CTBT.


1999

1999
The South Korean government issues W150 billion ($125 million) in treasury bonds to help finance the LWR project under the Agreed Framework.

1 January 1999
An official from the South Korea Ministry of Unification announces that North Korea has replaced the director of its Light-Water Reactor Bureau. According to the official, Pyongyang has recently replaced Kim Pyong Ki with Kim Song Su.

4 January 1999
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung urges a diplomatic solution to problems arising from North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. Presiding over a National Security Council meeting, Kim says, "We need to solve the pending problems, including the North's nuclear and missile issues, through dialogue and negotiation."

4 January 1999
A US government official announces that Washington is considering easing economic sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang allows unconditional access to a suspected nuclear weapons facility in Kumch’ang-ri. According to the official, Washington is considering such measures as unfreezing North Korean assets in the United States and allowing US companies to participate in mining operations in North Korea.

5 January 1999
The US, China and the two Koreas hold working level consultations at the UN in New York to prepare for the upcoming fourth round of four-party talks to be held in Geneva on 18-22 January.

5 January 1999
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, condemns the United States, South Korea and Japan for postponing until June 1999 the commencement of construction on the two light water reactors in Kumho-chigu, Shinp’o, and for delaying deliveries of heavy fuel oil. In a veiled threat that North Korea might restart its nuclear program, the Rodong Sinmun warns, "The United States must know that if it fails to do what it should do, while continuing to insult the dialogue partner and resort to pressure on the DPRK, the DPRK, too, will do what it should do."
6 January 1999
US government officials announce that the United States has recently allocated an additional $12 million necessary to fund the remaining 110,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to be sent to North Korea for 1998. [Note: Under the 1994 Agreed Framework, the United States agreed to supply North Korea with 500,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil annually to meet North Korea’s energy needs until the completion of two light water reactors. However, in 1998, the US Congress failed to allocate the funds necessary to meet the US commitment.]


7 January 1999
South Korean Defense Minister Ch’on Yong T’aek and his Japanese counterpart Housei Norota meet in Seoul to expand military cooperation to prepare for possible aggression from North Korea. The two defense ministers agree that stability in Northeast Asia requires greater transparency in North Korea’s nuclear program. At the meeting, Norota also reiterates Tokyo’s threat to suspend all financial contributions to the KEDO light water reactor project if North Korea test launches another long-range missile. [Note: On 31 August 1998, Tokyo suspended all financial support to KEDO after North Korea test fired a rocket over Japanese territory. Tokyo did not lift the freeze on financial contributions until late-October 1998.]


7 January 1999
The North Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Committee issues a statement saying that the United States owes North Korea "tens of billions of dollars" in damages incurred from delays in oil shipments and construction of two light water reactors. The statement adds, "If the US, approaching the Geneva agreement with insincerity, continues to delay implementing it although it promised before the world, the DPRK also has no intention of observing it, suffering only losses."


9 January 1999
North Korea’s Minju Joson says that "the DPRK-US Agreed Framework has been reduced to an empty paper" due to the US failure to live up to its commitments. The paper alleges that the true US intention behind delays in implementing the Agreed Framework and demands to inspect a suspected underground nuclear facility is to weaken North Korea prior to a declaration of war.
11 January 1999
North Korea’s Foreign Ministry states that US suspicion of an "underground nuclear facility" is based in "groundless information," and thus, is an insult to North Korea. A ministry spokesman reiterates the demand that if the United States wants to inspect the site, it must pay $300 million in cash. However, if the United States cannot pay in cash, the spokesman says, "it may grant the DPRK economic benefits tantamount to the amount even in any appropriate form." The spokesman adds that if the United States continues to link the issue of the suspected nuclear facility with implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, North Korea "will no longer have any interest in the agreement."

11 January 1999
Gary Samore, Senior Director for Nonproliferation and Export Controls for the National Security Council, warns that the United States might end food aid to North Korea if it does not allow inspections of a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumchang-ri. Speaking at a seminar on nonproliferation in Washington, Samore says, "We have made it clear to the North it cannot expect to continue to receive the direct and indirect benefits of the Agreed Framework and improve relations with the United States" while denying access to a suspected nuclear facility.

11-14 January 1999
US Secretary of Defense William Cohen meets with senior Japanese officials in Tokyo to coordinate policies on North Korea. Cohen tells the Japanese officials and press that the United States has significant evidence that a suspected facility in Kumchang-ri is related to a nuclear program and a one-time inspection would not be sufficient. However, according to Cohen, the United States is committed to resolving the issue diplomatically. On 13 January, Cohen meets with Defense Minister Housei Norota, and the two reaffirm their support for the 1994 Agreed Framework and the KEDO light water reactor project. While in Japan, Cohen comments on the 11 January statement by the North Korean Foreign Ministry that reiterated the demand for $300 million in exchange for access to the Kumchang-ri facility. Cohen rejects the demand, saying, "We are not in the business of giving compensation. What we need to have is some verification."

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12 January 1999
A Rodong Sinmun commentary calls on the United States to clarify "its stand about whether it will implement or break the Agreed Framework." The commentary claims that because the United States "has not faithfully implemented any of its commitments...(and) has intentionally delayed or evaded its implementation," North Korea "expects nothing any longer from the Agreed Framework."

12 January 1999
Chang Son Sop, director of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, announces that it would be physically impossible to complete the light water reactors by the original target date of 2003. Chang says that due to several events, including the September 1996 incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korea and North Korea's firing of a rocket over Japan in August 1998, the two light water reactors will not be completed for several years beyond the original target date.

13 January 1999
A US State Department official announces that the United States is seeking "multiple inspections" of the suspected nuclear weapons facility under construction in Kumch'ang-ri. The official says that the United States is offering North Korea the opportunity to prove that the facility is not related to a nuclear weapons program, but, the official adds, "we are not going to pay for it." [Note: North Korea has repeatedly offered to allow a one-time inspection of the facility in exchange for $300,000 in cash.]

14 January 1999
A KEDO official announces that due to difficulty in collecting funds, full-scale construction of the two light water reactors will not begin on 15 January as scheduled. Instead, construction is scheduled to begin five months later on 15 June.

14 January 1999
A source close to the US-North Korean bilateral negotiations on a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri, says that the 1994 Agreed Framework contains a secret supplementary memorandum by which North Korea agrees to forgo any future construction of additional graphite-moderated nuclear reactors. However, according to the source, the supplementary memorandum contains no language on inspections to resolve suspicions should they arise.

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14 January 1999
The Korean Central News Agency reports that the Agreed Framework "has already reached such an extent as it may break up of its own accord due to the US hypocritical and double-dealing attitude." The report also condemns as "impudent utterances" Gary Samore's 11 January statement that the United States may suspend food aid to North Korea if it does not allow access to the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. Samore's statement, the report says, creates "serious threats to the peace and security of the Korean Peninsula in wanton violation of the DPRK-US Agreed Framework."


14-16 January 1999
US Secretary of Defense William Cohen meets with South Korean officials in Seoul to coordinate policies on North Korea. Cohen and Defense Minister Ch'on Yong T'aek issue a joint statement in which they state that "combined defense readiness should be steadfastly maintained against a wide range of possible threats" from North Korea. The two defense ministers also demanded full access to a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. At a joint press conference with Chun, Cohen says that while there is no conclusive evidence that the site is related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program, "we believe there is sufficient evidence for us to be suspicious, and the suspicions must be addressed." Chun adds that Seoul and Washington will take joint action if conclusive evidence is found that the Kumch'ang-ri facility is nuclear related.


16-17 January 1999
The US and North Korea hold closed-door negotiations in Geneva on a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The delegations are headed by Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minster Kim Kye Kwan. Following the first day of talks, Kim tells reporters that neither side had budged from its original position. After the second day of talks, neither delegation comments on details of the negotiations, but a spokesman for the North Korean mission to the UN announces that the two sides will meet again on 23 January. [Note: North Korea, insisting that the site is a civilian facility, has repeatedly offered to grant a one-time inspection in exchange for $300,000, but the United States has demanded unconditional multiple inspections of the facility. After the talks, reports surface saying that North Korea offered access to the site in exchange for 1 million tons of food aid.]


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18 January 1999

19 January 1999
North Korea denounces the statements by US Secretary of Defense William Cohen, on a recent visit to Seoul, that the United States would provide a nuclear umbrella to South Korea in the case of war with the North. A commentary carried on the Korean Central News Agency, says that if Cohen's comments were meant as a threat, "the US hawks should know that if they think they can survive a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula kindled by them, it would be a serious mistake."

19-22 January 1999
Representatives from the United States, China and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the fourth round of four-party peace talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. For the first time the four parties meet in two earlier established subcommittees, one to address facilitating a lasting peace between the two Koreas, and the other to address reducing tension on the peninsula. The talks make little progress as North Korea reportedly renews its demand for the withdrawal of all US forces from South Korea. The four parties agree to resume talks in mid-April.

19-23 January 1999
Representatives from North Korea and KEDO meet in Hyangsan, North Korea for talks on a protocol detailing the procedure for training North Korean technicians on light water reactor operations.

22 January 1999
A North Korean Foreign Ministry official says that "the second Korean war will be a nuclear war," and, the official

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add, North Korea, "which has been living under a nuclear threat from the United States for decades, is completely ready for nuclear war." The ministry official stresses that "if there is no avoiding hostilities, and North Korea is forced to take reply measures against America's aggression, the North Korean republic is bound to win."

23 January 1999
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, warns of "nuclear holocaust" if the United States attacks North Korea with nuclear weapons. The paper says, "The United States, which dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has not yet been hit by a single shell over the past five decades or so." "But the situation is different now," the commentary adds, "If the United States attempts to inflict a nuclear holocaust on the DPRK, its mainland will never be left unharmed, either."

23-24 January 1999
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minster Kim Kye Kwan resume talks in Geneva on a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. While both Kartman and Kim refuse to comment on the substance of the talks, sources close to the negotiations report that North Korea has withdrawn its earlier demand of $300 million in exchange for a one-time inspection, instead demanding that the United States provide one million tons in food aid. However, while the United States has reportedly expressed a willingness to provide additional food aid and ease economic sanctions if North Korea allows access to the suspected facility, it continues to insist that any agreement must guarantee multiple inspections. The two sides fail to reach an agreement on inspecting the site, but they agree to continue talks at a later date. [Note: Various unverified reports, commenting on details of the negotiations, surface in early February. According to a 4 February Asahi Shimbun report, North Korea offers to allow two "visits" to the site; however, the "visits" reportedly would not entail close inspections. Another 4 February report from Kyodo News Service quotes an anonymous source close to the negotiations as saying that the North Korean delegation suggests that the United States and North Korea establish a joint company at the disputed Kumch'ang-ri site. In such a case, the North Korean delegation reportedly says, the United States would be free to inspect the site whenever it wanted.]
25 January 1999
Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi calls on North Korea to allow international inspections of a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

27 January 1999
Representatives from the United States, Japan, South Korea, and the EU hold a KEDO executive board meeting in New York.

28 January 1999
Commenting on a recent meeting between American and North Korean officials to discuss US access to Kumch'ang-ri, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says, "The US...hinted that it affirmatively (is) taking into account the DPRK's demand for compensation." [Note: Sources close to the 23-24 January negotiations reported that North Korea withdrew its earlier demand of $300 million in exchange for a one-time inspection, instead demanding that the United States provide one million tons in food aid. However, while the United States reportedly expressed a willingness to provide additional food aid and ease economic sanctions if North Korea allows access to the suspected facility, it continues to insist that any agreement must guarantee multiple inspections.]

28 January 1999
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, accuses the United States of having no intention to fulfill its obligation under the 1994 Agreed Framework. According to the paper, the United States "had no intention to implement the Agreed Framework when it adopted it with the DPRK. It foolishly thought that the DPRK might collapse before parts of the light water reactors are provided to the DPRK." The daily continues to say that "if the US wants to break the Agreed Framework, we will not be confined only to it but will freely develop the independent power industry."

1 February 1999
Washington reiterates its demand that North Korea allow multiple inspections of a suspected nuclear weapons facility in Kumch'ang-ri. Commenting on the stalled bilateral talks to address the issue, State Department
spokesman James Rubin says, "We've made clear that we need multiple site access to the Kumch'ang-ri facility in order to resolve our concerns."

2 February 1999
US Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet tells the Senate Armed Services Committee that the North Korean military "has become more volatile and unpredictable." He adds that the current situation "will encourage the North to rely more heavily on risky brinkmanship in its dealings with the United States."

4 February 1999
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka announces that Japan will halt all financial contributions to KEDO if North Korea test fires another long-range missile. [Note: On 31 August 1998, Japan temporarily froze contributions to KEDO after North Korea fired a rocket over its territory. Tokyo did not resume contributions to KEDO until late October.]

6-10 February 1999
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with senior South Korean officials in Seoul to discuss progress in the four-party peace talks and US desire to gain access to North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. On 9 February, Kartman meets with Kwon Chong Rak, director general for the North American Affairs Bureau of the South Korean Foreign Ministry, and Terusuke Terada, Japanese special envoy for Korean affairs, to coordinate US, South Korean and Japanese policies on various North Korean issues including the suspect Kumch'ang-ri facility, implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, and the possibility of another North Korean missile test. According to a government official in Seoul, Kartman informs Kwon and Terada that the United States will not ease economic sanctions against North Korea until Pyongyang allows inspection of the Kumch'ang-ri site. Terada also reportedly says that Japan will not send additional food aid to North Korea until suspicions about the site are erased.

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8 February 1999
US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott meets with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai in Washington and urges Japan to pay its pledged $1 billion to KEDO as soon as possible.

9 February 1999
The Czech Republic becomes a member of KEDO.

9 February 1999
The Korea Times, quoting a South Korean government official, reports that the United States is prepared to offer North Korea up to 500,000 tons in additional food aid in exchange for access to a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The report claims that Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, revealed the offer in a three-way meeting with senior South Korean and Japanese officials in Seoul earlier in the day. Later in the day, a US State Department spokesman James Rubin denies the report, saying, "Our policy is to provide food on a humanitarian basis and we do not link it to other issues...We are not prepared to pay for access to the site."

9-13 February 1999
Representatives from KEDO and North Korea meet in Hyangsan, North Korea to discuss various issues related to the implementation of the KEDO light water reactor project.

10-11 February 1999
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura visits South Korea to discuss North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. While in Seoul, Komura meets with President Kim Dae Jung and Foreign Minister Hong Sun Yong. Speaking to reporters after his two-day visit, Komura reiterates that Japan will not resume food aid to North Korea until Pyongyang resolves suspicions about the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. Komura also states that Japan will once again freeze financial contributions to KEDO if North Korea tests another long-range missile. [Note: On 31 August 1998, Japan temporarily froze contributions to KEDO after North Korea fired a rocket over its territory. Tokyo resumed contributions to KEDO in late-October.]
10-11 February 1999
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, consults with Chinese officials in Beijing on the progress of the four-party peace talks and North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

13 February 1999
Kyodo News Service, quoting US government sources, reports that Japan's Finance Ministry has insisted on loan guarantees for the $1 billion Japan has pledged to KEDO. The ministry's insistence on loan guarantees has reportedly slowed down negotiations between KEDO executive board members on financing the light water reactor project.

21 February 1999
The Tokyo Shimbun, quoting a KEDO source, reports that the KEDO light water reactor project will not be completed until at least 2007. According to the source, delays are mainly due to stalled negotiations between KEDO executive board members on financing the project.

24-25 February 1999
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright tells the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 24 February and the House International Relations Committee on 25 February that US-North Korean relations will not improve until Pyongyang resolves suspicions over a suspected underground nuclear weapons facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

25 February 1999
The North Korean Foreign Ministry, responding to recent reports that the KEDO light water reactor project will not be completed until at least 2007, says that if such reports are true, "it means the US side's violation of the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework and...accordingly, it cannot but give rise to serious matters." In this regard the ministry calls on the US to clarify its stand on the light water reactor project, so that North Korea can "make relevant decisions according to it."

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27 February 1999
According to a 28 February report in the Daily Yomiuri, US government sources say that the United States is prepared to extend direct food aid to North Korea in exchange for multiple inspections of a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The government source reportedly says that the 100,000 tons of grain would be sent in April and an additional 100,000 would be sent again in July. These proposed food shipments would be sent directly to Pyongyang without going through the usual channel of the UN World Food Program.

27 February - 15 March 1999
The United States and North Korea meet in New York for the fourth round of talks on a suspected North Korean nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The US and North Korean delegations are once again respectively headed by Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. According to sources close to the talks, the main point under negotiation is the amount of food aid to be provided by the United States in exchange for access to the suspected site. On 6 March, the two sides hit a stalemate, because, according to Kim, "the US side is making excessive demands which go far beyond the scope of clarifying suspicions (over the Kumch'ang-ri site)." The two sides resume negotiation on 8 March after consultations with their capitals. On 10 March, the two sides break again for consultations with their capitals. On 11 March the two delegations resume negotiations, and US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that "there has been some progress, some headway." Despite the early setbacks, on 15 March the two sides reach an agreement, and on the following day issue a joint statement in which North Korea agrees to provide the United States with "satisfactory access to the site at Kumch'ang-ri," including multiple "visits to remove US concerns about the site's future use. The US agrees "to take a step to improve political and economic relations between the two countries." While the joint statement does not mention the specifics of the agreement, on 16 March US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that the United States has agreed to take part in a bilateral agricultural project to improve North Korea's potato production. However, Rubin stresses that any agricultural assistance or increased food aid is for humanitarian reasons and should not be viewed as compensation for access to the Kumch'ang-ri site.

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1 March 1999

US officials announce that Washington has agreed to Tokyo's demand that KEDO provide loan guarantees for the $1 billion it has pledged to the consortium. [Note: In mid-February, Japan's Finance Ministry, fearing that North Korea would default on the loan, insisted on guarantees for the $1 billion. The ministry's insistence on loan guarantees slowed down negotiations between KEDO executive board members on financing the light water reactor project.]


Early March 1999

According to a 10 March report by the Yonhap News Agency, US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Director Patrick Hughes meets with South Korean intelligence officials in Seoul. Yonhap quotes an intelligence source as saying, "(Hughes') trip this time was very meaningful." [Note: The DIA has reportedly conducted intensive reconnaissance work on North Korea's suspected nuclear and missile facilities.]


4 March 1999

US President Bill Clinton issues a presidential determination, which is subsequently submitted to Congress on 5 March, verifying that "North Korea is complying with all provisions of the Agreed Framework and with the confidential minute between North Korea and the United States." Clinton also states that "North Korea is cooperating fully in the canning and safe storage of all spent nuclear fuel from its graphite-modernated nuclear reactors." [Note: On 20 October 1998, Congress passed a budget for fiscal year 1999 allocating $35 million for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea. However, the budget stipulated the funds would not be allocated until 1 March 1999, and no more than $15 million would be allocatated before 1 June 1999. Thirty days prior to each date, President Clinton must certify that North Korea is taking steps to implement the 1994 Agreed Framework and is no longer exporting ballistic missiles. Congress also specifies that "30 days before the June deadline, the White House must certify that it has reached an agreement with North Korea on the means for satisfying US concerns regarding suspect underground construction."]


8 March 1999

William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, travels to Seoul and meets with President Kim Dae Jung, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Yong and Im Dong Won, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security. Perry, who for the past few months has been writing a review of Washington's policy on North Korea, discusses the differences between Washington's and Seoul's approach to addressing concerns arising from North Korea. After meeting Perry, Hong announces that the two sides agreed to "solve North Korea's

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nuclear and missile issues within the framework of Seoul's engagement policy."

9-13 March 1999

10 March 1999
William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, meets with senior Japanese officials in Tokyo to coordinate US and Japanese policies on North Korea. Speaking to reporters after meetings with Prime Minster Keizo Obuchi, Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka and Defense Agency Director General Hosei Norota, Perry says that "any successful policy toward North Korea must be a closely coordinated joint effort of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea."

11 March 1999
The Washington Times, citing a Department of Energy (DOE) intelligence report, reports that North Korea is currently pursuing uranium enrichment technology to be used in a nuclear weapons program. According to the DOE report, North Korea's Taesong Yushin Trading Company recently ordered two frequency converters from a Japanese company. Frequency converters provide a special electric current for gas centrifuges used for uranium enrichment. The intelligence report adds, "On the basis of Pakistan's progress with a similar technology, we estimate that North Korea is at least six years from the production of highly enriched uranium, even if it has a viable centrifuge design." "On the other hand," the report notes, "with significant technical support from other countries, such as Pakistan, the time frame would be decreased by several years." Given North Korea's support of Pakistan's missile program, the report claims that Pakistan, which obtained uranium enrichment technology from China in 1996, could very well assist North Korea in its pursuit of uranium enrichment technology. US State Department spokesman James Rubin, speaking to reporters later in the day, says that while he cannot comment on specifics of the report, Washington remains concerned about North Korea's "intentions regarding nuclear weapons, including the possibility that North Korea may be seeking uranium enrichment technology." [Note: While the transfer of the frequency converters is not confirmed, on 8 May 2003, Tokyo police raid Meishin, a Japanese company run by pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan, for reportedly exporting frequency converters to North Korea.]

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**11 March 1999**

Former US Secretary of Defense William Perry, speaking to reporters at the Brookings Institute, says that North Korea's suspected nuclear facility in Kunch'ang-ri does not pose an immediate threat since it would take three to five year to produce a nuclear weapon there. However, Perry adds, North Korea "seem(s) the have other programs under way which are part of the nuclear weapons program." [Note: Perry is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the US policy toward North Korea.]


**12 March 1999**

Pakistan categorically denies that it has assisted North Korea in obtaining uranium enrichment technology. Tariq Altaf, acting spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Office, denounces as "false and tendentious" a *Washington Times* report on 11 March that suggests Pakistan might be assisting North Korea with uranium enrichment in return for North Korea's past support of Pakistan's missile program. The spokesman reiterates Pakistan's policy not to export sensitive nuclear technology to any other country.


**12 March 1999**

The *Joongang Ilbo*, quoting a South Korean government official, reports that North Korea is removing evidence from the suspected nuclear facility in Kunch'ang-ri in anticipation of a US inspection. The Seoul official says, "The USA, which has been watching the Kunch'ang-ri site, confirmed that trucks carrying construction equipment are frequently coming in and going out of this facility. This is judged as the North carrying out engineering works to remove evidence from the suspected nuclear facility in Kunch'ang-ri, which has been under construction for several years." The official adds, "The US government recently informed our government of such movements. These movements seem to be a measure to prepare for the possible opening of the Kunch'ang-ri facility on case an agreement is reached at the New York talks."


**13 March 1999**

An official in South Korea's Planning Office for the North Korean Light-Water Reactor Project says that the canning
of the spent-fuel rods from the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun will be complete sometime in May or June 1999.


18 March 1999

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi tells the Diet that Japan should be allowed to inspect the suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri in North Korea since it has pledged $1 billion to the KEDO light water reactor project. "If Japan can check (the suspected site) for itself, it will find it easier to solicit cooperation from the Japanese people," Obuchi says, "Japan should check how plutonium development is under way (in North Korea) before it pays for the light water reactors."


18 March 1999

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says that while North Korea will allow the United States access to a suspected site in Kumch'ang-ri for an "inspection fee," North Korea "will take a determined countermeasure if the US raises suspicion of any other [facility]."


18 March 1999

The Yomiuri Shimbun, quoting a source familiar with US intelligence on North Korea's nuclear developments, reports that the Kumch'ang-ri facility is not the only underground facility under construction in North Korea with suspected ties to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. The source claims that US intelligence has confirmed the construction of two large underground facilities in Chagang Province. According to the source, US intelligence has monitored many scientific and technical experts traveling to and from one of the Chagang Province facilities, leading them to believe the facility is to be used for nuclear tests. The other facility has reportedly been repeatedly visited by many North Korean military experts. The other two suspected underground facilities are located in an area known as "Ha'gap" and a location between T'aech'on-kun and Kusong in North P'yong'An Province. [Note: The second location is probably located in Kump'ung-ri (?), Kusong (?), North P'yon'an Province.]


18 March 1999

South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Sun Yong calls on Japan and the United States to extend diplomatic

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recognition to North Korea. Hong says that the agreement is "just the beginning of the process of confirming whether or not North Korea has a nuclear program."


19 March 1999

The Korean Central News Agency denounces recent allegations that North Korea is seeking uranium enrichment technology from Japan and Pakistan. The news agency calls the reports "a whopping lie which was invented out of an ulterior intention to charge the DPRK with violating the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework of 1994 at any cost and put pressure upon it." [Note: According to a classified DOE report quoted in the 11 March issue of the Washington Times, North Korea’s Taesong Yushin Trading Company recently ordered two frequency converters for a Japanese company. Frequency converters have applications in gas centrifuges for uranium enrichment.]


19-21 March 1999

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi meets with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung in Seoul to coordinate policy on North Korea. Obuchi and Kim state that they intend to fully cooperate with the United States in their future dealings with North Korea.


22 March 1999

US State Department spokesman James Foley announces that the United States will send an additional 100,000 metric tons of corn and corn-soy blend to North Korea through the UN World Food Program. Foley denies any link to the increased food aid to North Korea’s recent agreement to allow the United States to inspect a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. [Note: In 1998, the United States sent 500,000 tons of food aid to North Korea, and the recent addition brings the 1999 total to 200,000 tons.]


24 March 1999

An IAEA official reports that critical parts of the North Korean 50MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun have been missing since 1994 when IAEA inspectors first arrived at the site. The parts, vital for controlling nuclear reactions in the reactor's graphite core, could be used to construct another nuclear reactor. According to the official, the IAEA has repeatedly asked North Korea to clear up the issue in multiple bilateral meetings. Originally,
North Korea denied it had ever built the critical reactor parts, but in subsequent meetings, according to the IAEA official, North Korea said, "it was checking into the missing parts."

25 March 1999
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka says that the recent incursion of a North Korean spy vessel into Japanese territorial waters will not affect Japan's commitment to the KEDO light water reactor project. Nonaka says that Japan "must separate this matter, since the assistance to KEDO is the scheme that includes the IAEA's inspection of a suspected North Korean nuclear facility."

26 March 1999
US North Korean Policy Coordinator William Perry confirms that his upcoming report to the Clinton administration will not include "time limits" for when the United States should consider alternatives to diplomatic engagement with North Korea. He says, "I believe military confrontation is so serious, we should exhaust every diplomatic measure." [Note: Since December 1998, Perry has been writing a comprehensive review of the US policy on North Korea.]

30 March 1999
The *Rodong Sinmun*, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, rebukes Japan's request to inspect a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. A commentary printed in the paper claims that the issue of the Kumch'ang-ri site is between only the United States and North Korea. The commentary adds that Japan's request to participate in the "inspections" illustrates an ignorance of the agreement since the United States will not conduct an "inspection." Rather, the commentary points out, North Korea has granted the United States permission to "visit" the facility. The commentary also claims that North Korea will not care if the agreement is abandoned, adding that implementation "wholly depends on the US side." [Note: On 18 March, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said that Japan should be allowed to inspect the Kumch'ang-ri site for itself since it is funding $1 billion of the KEDO light water reactor project.]

30 March-3 April 1999
A team of seven US officials and nuclear experts, headed by Joel Wit of the US State Department Korea Desk, travels to Pyongyang to negotiate the itinerary and scope of agreed upon access to a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The experts fail to resolve the scope of US access to the site and agree to meet

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again soon to conclude negotiations.

7-18 April 1999
Representatives from North Korea and KEDO meet in New York for the second round of talks on the training of North Korean engineers to operate the two light water reactors to be built in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o.

3 April 1999
A Rodong Sinmun commentary says that nuclear war with the United States is imminent. The editorial says that "belligerent relations between the DPRK and USA cannot be avoided because the USA is getting frantic in their moves to stifle the DPRK through a nuclear war." The commentary adds that if the United States chooses to use nuclear weapons, North Korea "will have no alternative but to take a countermeasure against it. In that case, the United States will be held wholly responsible for all consequences."

7 April 1999
Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka reiterates Japan’s pledge to support the KEDO light water reactor project despite the incursion of two North Korea spy vessels into its territorial waters in March.

Early April 1999
The KEDO Executive Board meets in New York to discuss loan guarantees for the $4.6 billion project. The United States, EU, South Korea, and Japan reportedly agree that contracts with KEDO should include the consortium’s guarantee to pay back the loans if North Korea defaults. However, the United States reportedly demands assurance that it would not assume responsibility for paying back the loans even though it is a KEDO board member.

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12 April 1999
Chang Yong Shik, president of KEPCO, the primary contractor of the KEDO light water reactor project, tells reporters in Japan that the reactors to be constructed in North Korea should never use mixed oxide fuel (MOX), a mixture of uranium and plutonium.

14 April 1999
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura and IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei meet in Tokyo and reaffirm their support for the KEDO light water reactor project. Komura says that Japan intends to continue its support of KEDO because "the KEDO framework is the most realistic and effective way now to stop the North from developing nuclear weapons."

15 April 1999
Japan ruling Liberal Democratic Party agrees to support Tokyo's plan to provide $1 billion to KEDO.

23-28 April 1999
Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in Geneva to finalize the terms of US access to a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch’ang-ri. The US and North Korean delegations, headed respectively by Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan, meet before the scheduled four-party peace talks, but after failing to reach an agreement, the two sides continue to meet on the sidelines for the duration of the talks. On 28 April, a source close to the talks reports that the two sides agree that a US delegation, comprising approximately 15 experts from the Departments of Defense, State and Energy, will visit the Kumch’ang-ri facility from 15 to 20 May. However, the source notes, "the period can be readjusted according to the circumstances, as the visit needs at least five to seven days."

24-25 April 1999
The US, South Korea, and Japan meet in Hawaii to coordinate their policies on North Korea. The three nations, taking note of the threat North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose to regional security, agree to establish the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) to institutionalize the process of coordinating policies on North Korea.

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24-28 April 1999
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the fifth round of peace talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. The four parties fail to make any progress in the talks as North Korea reportedly continues to refuse to agree on any confidence-building measures as long as the issue of US troop withdrawal from South Korea is not on the agenda. Speaking to reporters after the talks, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan, head of the North Korean delegation, says that North Korea will continue to insist on US troop withdrawal from South Korea, and if future talks do not address that issue, North Korea would have no interest in participating. Regardless, the four parties agree to meet again in August.

Late April 1999
South Korea’s Defense Ministry submits a report to the National Assembly Defense Committee stating that “Team Spirit was never completely terminated,” and the United States and South Korea could agree at any time to resume the joint military exercise. [Note: Team Spirit was suspended in 1994 as part of a deal to encourage North Korea to give up its graphite-moderated nuclear program and ease tension on the Korean Peninsula.]

3 May 1999
Japan signs a contract with KEDO to provide $1 billion to the light water reactor project. The loan, to be provided by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, must still be accepted by the Diet. [Note: The Diet approves the funding on 30 June.]

4 May 1999
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, in a CNN interview, calls on the United States and North Korea to improve relations by reducing mutual threats and faithfully implementing the 1994 Agreed Framework.

7 May 1999
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, warns the United States that any preemptive...

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attack would trigger "a total war between the DPRK and the US." In such a case, the paper says, North Korea "will mercilessly strike and annihilate" the United States.


13-14 May 1999
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, travels to Pyongyang to make final arrangements for the 15 member team of US experts that is schedule to visit a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri later in the month. Kartman's visit is also reportedly to arrange a meeting between Kim Jong Il and William Perry, coordinator for US policy on North Korea, during his upcoming visit to North Korea. [Note: After his visit to North Korea, Kartman travels to Seoul to brief South Korean officials about his trip. During the briefing, Kartman reportedly says that he is satisfied with North Korea's preparations for the upcoming visit of US inspectors to the Kumch'ang-ri facility.]

13-17 May 1999
South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Sun Yong meets with US officials in Washington to encourage the United States to support a comprehensive approach to North Korea based on South Korean President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy." At a 17 March joint press conference with US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Hong says that William Perry, in his upcoming trip to North Korea, will deliver a package of "attractions and incentives" to Pyongyang. Hong adds, "North Korea is well-advised to seize this opportunity."

17 May 1999
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright announces that the United States will send an additional 400,000 tons of emergency food aid to North Korea, bringing the total food donations in 1999 to 600,000 tons. Albright, speaking at a joint press conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Sun Yong, says the food aid is in response to an April request from the UN World Food Program and not related to nuclear talks with North Korea.

20-24 May 1999
A 14-member US team, comprising nuclear scientists and officials from the departments of state, defense, and

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energy, inspects a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch’ang-ri. The team, headed by Joel Wit, deputy director of the State Department's office of Korean affairs, is allowed to measure the dimensions of all underground areas at the main complex, and videotape and photograph agreed above-ground facilities. They are also allowed to take soil and water samples to be analyzed for radioactive substances. Upon the completion of the inspection, State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that the team "received good cooperation from North Korean officials." On 27 May, Rubin announces that "the team found an unfinished site, the underground portion of which was an extensive, empty tunnel complex...A careful technical analysis of the team's work will now take place before further judgments can be made and reported." On 25 June, Rubin gives a more detailed account of the visit and concludes that the Kumch'ang-ri site does not violate the 1994 Agreed Framework. [Note: While the inspectors do not find any evidence of nuclear activity at the Kumch’ang-ri facility, US officials say that the facility could still be used to store nuclear equipment in the future, and that North Korea had plenty of time during the course of negotiations to remove any incriminating evidence.]


21 May 1999

The Korean Central News Agency says that, "The US decision to offer food to the DPRK is linked to the on-going discussions on outstanding issues between the two countries."


24 May 1999

William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, Im Dong Won, South Korea's Minister of Unification, and Ryozo Kato, Japanese director general for foreign policy, meet in Tokyo to fine-tune their respective policies on North Korea. The three also discuss Perry's upcoming trip to Pyongyang and the package deal he is to present to high-ranking North Korean officials. The three say in a joint statement that they hope Perry's meetings in Pyongyang "will produce useful insights as the review of a joint approach toward North Korea moves toward a conclusion."


25-28 May 1999

William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, meets with senior North Korean officials in Pyongyang to present a package deal aimed at halting North Korea's nuclear and missile programs as well as reducing tension on the Korean Peninsula. Perry reportedly urges Pyongyang to halt its nuclear and missile programs in exchange for an easing of economic sanctions, increased food aid, and normalization of diplomatic relations with Washington and Tokyo. On 26 May, Perry gives Kim Yong Nam, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's

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Assembly, a letter from President Bill Clinton to be passed on to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. The letter reportedly contains a personal proposal to end the 50-year-old economic sanctions on North Korea in return for North Korea's halting its nuclear and missile programs. Perry also delivers messages to Kim Jong Il from Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and South Korean President Kim Dae Jung.


29 May 1999
William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, meets with South Korea's Unification Minister Im Dong Won and Ryozo Kato, Japanese director general for foreign policy, in Seoul to discuss his recently concluded trip to North Korea during which he proposed a package deal to Pyongyang by which it would halt its nuclear and missile programs in exchange for an easing of economic sanctions, increases food aid, and diplomatic recognition from Washington and Tokyo. At a press conference later in the day, Perry says that he "clearly and firmly" expressed the combined concerns of the United States, South Korea and Japan over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. However, Perry adds, "It will take some time for (North Korea) to further reflect upon the views I have expressed and for us to reflect on our visit."


31 May 1999
North Korea threatens to pull out of the 1994 Agreed Framework. The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, accuses the United States of trying to "backpedal on the Agreed Framework, crying for a new framework agreement." The newspaper adds that North Korea "can no longer pin hope on the Agreed Framework, even while sacrificing its self-reliant nuclear energy industry."


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3 June 1999
Japan's lower house of the Diet unanimously passes a bill allocating $1 billion for the KEDO light water reactor project. The bill is passed on to the upper house of the Diet.

7-8 June 1999
Senior US and South Korean officials meet in Hawaii to discuss recent developments in North Korea including the recent US inspection of a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

7-11 June 1999
The IAEA Board of Governors meets in Vienna. IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei tells the board that North Korea has made no progress in implementing its nuclear safeguards agreement since the last meeting in March. However, ElBaradei adds that two IAEA official remain in North Korea. On the final day of the meeting, the board of governors issues a report stating that while the safeguards agreement North Korea signed with the agency remains "binding and in force," the agency has been unable to "verify the correctness and completeness of the initial declaration of nuclear material" due to lack of cooperation from Pyongyang. The report adds that "there was still no progress in technical discussions with the DPRK regarding the preservation by the DPRK of information that the agency deems necessary for verification of the correctness and completeness of the DPRK's initial declaration."

8-15 June 1999
North Korean vessels cross the Northern Limit Line in the Yellow Sea on 8 Junr, apparently to fish in the crab-rich waters. South Korean Navy vessels respond by bumping the ships back across the line that separates the two countries. The tense standoff continues and comes to a head on 15 June, when the two nations, still technically at war, exchange heavy gun fire for ten minutes. The ten-minute naval clash, the largest since the 1953 Armistice Agreement, results in casualties on both sides and the sinking of a North Korean gunship. In response to the rising tension on the peninsula, the United States sends air and naval reinforcements to South Korea. [Note: North Korea does not recognize the Northern Limit Line because it was not part of the 1953 Armistice and was established unilaterally by the UN Command in Seoul following the war. On 29 June 2002, a South Korean naval vessel is sunk in a similar clash.]

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9 June 1999
North Korea's Foreign Ministry announces that US inspectors found only empty tunnels at the Kumch'ang-ri site, thus proving that North Korea is faithfully implementing the 1994 Agreed Framework. However, in a veiled threat, the Foreign Ministry says that while the Kumch'ang-ri site is empty for the time being, what the tunnels will be used for in the future "depends entirely upon the attitude of the US side concerning the implementation of the DPRK-US agreement."

9 June 1999
William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, briefs Congress on his recent trip to Pyongyang during which he met with senior North Korean officials. Perry, who since December 1998 has been authoring a comprehensive review of the US policy toward North Korea, indicates that he will present his review to the president and Congress as early as July. [Note: Perry submits his report to Congress on 14 September.]

23-24 June 1999
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan in Beijing to discuss the recent visit of US inspectors to a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri, progress of the four-party peace talks, and other issues related to the 1994 Agreed Framework. The talks also address recent reports that North Korea is preparing for another test-launch of a long-range ballistic missile.

25 June 1999
Japan and South Korea hold working-level talks in Sapporo to discuss implementation of the KEDO light water reactor project. The talks focus on the contract between KEDO and KEPCO, the primary contractor for the light water reactor project.
25-26 June 1999
The US, Japan, and South Korea hold a meeting of the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) in Washington to coordinate their policies on North Korea amid rising tension on the Korean Peninsula following a naval clash on 15 June. The delegations are headed by Wendy Sherman, councilor for the US State Department, Ryozo Kato, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, and Chang Chae Ryong, deputy minister of foreign affairs and trade.


25 June 1999
US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces the US inspection team witnessed no effort by North Korea to conceal the site at Kumch’ang-ri during the May 1999 visit. He says that the site was incomplete and that there was no equipment present during the inspectors’ visit. Furthermore, additional work remained to be completed, as almost all of the tunnels were still bare rock. Rubin dismisses allegations that nuclear equipment could have been removed prior to the inspectors’ arrival. Rather, he says that Kumch’ang-ri was at a stage of construction at which no other equipment other than construction equipment would be expected to be present. Rubin concludes that the site does not contain a plutonium-production reactor or reprocessing plant, either completed or under construction. Given the size and configuration of Kumch’ang-ri and the type of graphite-moderated reactor North Korea previously built in Yongbyon-kun, the site is not suitable for a reprocessing plant. "Nevertheless," Rubin adds, "Since the site is a large underground area, it could support a facility in the future with substantial modifications." At present, however, Kumch’ang-ri does not violate the Agreed Framework.


30 June 1999
Japan’s upper house of the Diet approves $1 billion for the KEDO light water reactor project, thus clearing the way for Tokyo to send the much needed funds to KEDO. Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura says that Japan hopes "North Korea will take it [the Diet approval] positively." However, Komura warns that Japan would find it difficult to send the funds if North Korea test launches another long-range missile. [Note: On 3 June, the lower house of the Diet unanimously approved the funds.]


1 July 1999
A senior US government official says that even if North Korea test-fires another long-range missile, the United States, Japan, and South Korea should adhere to their commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework. In the case of such a missile launch, the official says, the United States, Japan, and South Korea should "coordinate a response that will seek to, as much as possible, preserve our national security interests and not lead to the rupture of the Agreed Framework."


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2 July 1999
South Korea signs a contract with KEDO to provide $3.2 billion for the light water reactor project. The contract is signed by Chang Son Sop, South Korea's representative to KEDO, and KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson. According to an official from South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, South Korea will provide the funds in won, at a fixed rate of 1,100 won per dollar. [Note: The contract is unanimously approved by the National Assembly on 12 September.]

4 July 1999
Kyodo News Service, quoting a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry source, reports that Tokyo has not ruled out freezing financial contributions to the KEDO light water reactor project if North Korea test-fires another long-range missile.

6 July 1999
South Korean Ambassador to Japan Kim Sok Kyu urges Tokyo not to freeze contributions to the KEDO light water reactor project even if North Korea test-fires another long-range ballistic missile. Addressing the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Research Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kim says that freezing KEDO funds "is not the best policy from a diplomatic point of view."

6 July 1999
Japanese Ambassador to the United States Kunihiko Saito announces that Washington understands Tokyo's position that it would be difficult to continue funding the KEDO light water reactor project should Pyongyang conduct another long-range missile test.

6 July 1999
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York to resolve issues related to signing loan agreements between member states and KEDO.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
13 July 1999
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka announces that "should North Korea fire another Taepodong missile, it would be extremely difficult [for Japan] to contribute to KEDO, as gaining public understanding on funding would be hard."

13-14 July 1999
Senior officials from the United States, Japan, and South Korea meet in Tokyo to coordinate policies on North Korea. During the Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) meeting, the three nations agree to work together to deter North Korea from testing another long-range ballistic missile. According to an official from the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the three nations will face similar domestic problems in funding KEDO if North Korea shows signs of preparing for a missile launch.

14 July 1999
Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi warns that "if North Korea fires [another Taepodong missile], it will be difficult to gain public understanding for our cooperation with KEDO." Addressing the lower house of the Diet, Obuchi adds, "In practical terms, that would make it very difficult for the government to contribute to KEDO."

Mid-July 1999
South Korea establishes sound detection stations in Kang'won Province that are capable of detecting a nuclear test explosion in North Korea. The stations, located near the demilitarized zone and consisting of four ultra-low frequency reception facilities, are set one kilometer apart and are capable of detecting explosions up to 1,000km away.

20 July 1999
LG-Caltex Oil Corp delivers 32,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea. This is the sixth oil delivery to North Korea since Pyongyang agreed to freeze its graphite moderated nuclear program in exchange for two light water reactors and 500,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil per year to meet its interim energy needs.

21 July 1999
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura meets with Desaix Anderson, executive director of KEDO, and reiterates Tokyo's position that it would find it difficult to continue funding KEDO if North Korea tests another long-

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range missile.

21 July 1999
The US House of Representatives passes an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2000 International Relations Authorization Act that predicates US nuclear cooperation with North Korea on the latter's compliance with the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the 1994 Agreed Framework. The amendment, named the North Korea Nuclear Threat Act of 1999, passes by a 305-120 vote in the House of Representatives. The bill is based on a similar amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999, but unlike the 1999 appropriations bill, the North Korea Threat Reduction Act requires congressional approval of the President's certification that North Korea is complying with the requirements. In addition, it carries no provision for waiving the preconditions for nuclear cooperation should they not be met. [Note: Congressmen Benjamin Gilman originally proposed the North Korea Threat Reduction Act on 19 May.]

26 July 1999
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Hong Sun Yong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura meet on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum. The three foreign ministers issue a joint statement warning Pyongyang that if it launches another long-range missile, "it would adversely affect peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and beyond, and would have serious negative consequences" for North Korea. While the three foreign ministers do not specify what consequences would follow a missile launch, Komura reiterated Tokyo's threat to freeze contributions to KEDO if Pyongyang tests another missile.

26 July 1999
A North Korea Foreign Ministry spokesman says that North Korea has "sincerely fulfilled" its obligations under the 1994 the US-North Korea Agreed Framework. "The US, however," the spokesman says, "has neglected the implementation the DPRK-US Agreed Framework." The spokesman warns that "if the United States wishes to abrogate the Agreed Framework on the pretext of the DPRK's satellite launch, which has nothing to do with the framework, we will be compelled to take a relevant measure."
—"US Urged to Show Faith," Korean Central News Agency, 26 July 1999, www.kcna.co.jp; "Mi’gug’i Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’rul Po’i’myon Shin’ui’
2 August 1999
The US State Department says that the United States will abide by its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework even if North Korea conducts another long-range missile test. State Department spokesman James Rubin says, "The Agreed Framework is a very important instrument that benefits the security of the United States...and we would intend and want to see that program and agreement continued, even if we have problems and serious concerns about the missiles."

3 August 1999
New Zealand pledges an additional $795,000 to KEDO. Foreign Minister Don McKinnon announces the pledge, saying, "KEDO is a major plank in moves to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, and can also play an important role in improving relations between North and South Korea."

5 August 1999
South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Yong tells the National Assembly's Unification, Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee that Seoul intends to continue supporting the KEDO light water reactor project even if North Korea tests another long-range missile.

5-9 August 1999
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the sixth round of four-party peace talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. The talks once again fail to make significant progress reportedly due to North Korea's continuing insistence that the talks address US troop withdrawal from South Korea. Despite the lack of noticeable progress, the four nations, in a joint statement, describe the talks as "useful and productive."

6 August 1999
The Washington Times reports that North Korea is providing military assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in exchange for uranium ore from the Congo's Shinkolabwé uranium mine. According to the paper, Pentagon intelligence agents have witnessed hundreds of North Korean military advisors training the forces of Congolese President Laurent Kabila. [In September, the South Korean Ministry of Defense submits a report to the National Assembly stating that 147 North Korean military officers are in the Democratic Republic of Congo.]

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
12 August 1999
The South Korean National Assembly unanimously approves a loan of $3.2 billion [to be paid in won] to fund the KEDO light water reactor project. The loans, to be provided through the Inter-Korea Cooperative Fund, will cover 70 percent of the estimated $4.6 billion project.

16 August 1999
The South Korean Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project announces that preliminary site preparation in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o will be extended until 15 December. An official from the office says that delays in negotiations among the nations responsible for financing the KEDO project have in turn delayed the conclusion of a contact between KEDO and KEPCO, the primary contractor for the project.

16-28 August 1999
The US and South Korea hold the joint military exercise "Ulchi Focus Lens." Pyongyang condemns the exercise as a rehearsal for an invasion of North Korea, and threatens to take "corresponding measures" if the United States and South Korea insist on creating tension on the peninsula.

18 August 1999
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung tells visiting Japanese official Taku Yamasaki that the 1994 Agreed Framework and KEDO are vital to ensuring that North Korea does not develop nuclear weapons. Kim also urges Japan not to follow through with its threat to freeze funding for the KEDO light water reactor project if North Korea tests another long-range missile.

23 August 1999
The Los Angeles Times quotes a US official as saying that "it is highly probable" that North Koran technicians are working in Pakistani nuclear labs in a continuing deal between the two countries in which nuclear technology is exchanged for missile technology and components.

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24 August 1999
Pyongyang claims that the United States is purposefully delaying the construction of two light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o, and threatens to restart its graphite-moderated nuclear program if the United States continues such delays. A Rodong Sinmun commentary states that "the light water reactor construction is not a matter that the United States has a choice of living up to or not. It is an inescapable duty of the United States that accompanies the DPRK-US Framework Agreement." The paper adds that "forcibly connecting our peaceful launch of an artificial satellite with the light water reactor construction is no different from refusing to continue the light water reactor construction." If the United States continues to delay the construction of the light water reactors as it does now and does not actively take steps to build the light water reactors as scheduled," the commentary warns, "we will have to take corresponding steps." Later the same day, US State Department spokesman James Foley refutes the claim, saying, "The United States is meeting all of its obligations under the Agreed Framework and remains committed to the light water reactor project." Foley adds, "The burden-sharing agreement reached last August among KEDO members does not contain any commitment by the United States to contribute to the light water reactor project."

25 August 1999
Chang Son Sop, chief South Korean representative to KEDO, announces that construction of two light water reactors in Shinp'o will begin by the end of the year. According to Chang, the project will be accelerated due to North Korea's threat to abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework if construction on the reactors continues to be stalled.

3 September 1999
KEDO's Executive Board meets in News York and agrees to try to start construction on the two light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o by the end of the year. In this regard, the board, comprising the United States, EU, South Korea, and Japan, resolves to hold talks with KEPCO, the primary contractor of the project, as soon as possible to finalize arrangements for the commencement of reactor construction.

6 September 1999
Mexico announces that it will donate $100,000 for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea. The pledge is made at the request of Japan.

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6 September 1999

The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, warns the United States not to delay the KEDO light water reactor project, claiming, "if the construction of the light water reactor project is delayed, the United States will be held wholly responsible for it." The paper adds, "The light water reactor construction is an unavoidable commitment of the United States under the DPRK-US Agreed Framework." The daily also accuses the United States of failing to live up to certain commitments in the Agreed Framework such as its pledge to ease economic sanctions against North Korea.


7-12 September 1999

Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan meet in Berlin to discuss various bilateral issues. Kartman reportedly proposes talks between nuclear experts from the United States and North Korea to monitor and assess implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework. The two sides issue a joint statement at the conclusion of the talks in which they pledge "to preserve a positive atmosphere conductive to improve bilateral relations and to peace and security in Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region."


12 September 1999

US President Bill Clinton, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi issue a joint statement saying that the three nations are prepared "to undertake measures to improve their respective relations" with North Korea. The three leaders issue the statement before the opening of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Auckland, New Zealand.


14 September 1999

William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, presents his report on North Korea to the Congress in which he advises Washington to take steps to normalize relations with North Korea and ease economic sanctions, while urging Pyongyang to allay international concerns about its nuclear and missile programs. In the secret report, Perry states that it is necessary for the United States to obtain a reliable guarantee from North Korea that it will suspend its nuclear and missile programs. The report also says that should North Korea abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework, it would be able to produce a "significant number" of nuclear weapons each year. Perry also issues the threat that Pyongyang "needs to understand that there are certain forms of provocative behavior that represent a direct threat to the United States and its allies and that we will respond appropriately." Both South Korea and

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Japan voice their support of the Perry Report. [Note: Perry's report is the culmination of a 10-month effort beginning in December 1999 and including multiple consultations with Seoul, Tokyo, and Pyongyang. The quotes are taken from the unclassified version of the report released on 12 October.]


15 September 1999

North Korea accuses the United States of deploying more than 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons and a large number of depleted uranium bombs in South Korea. The accusation comes from a White Paper on US strategic weapons issued by North Korea's National Reunification Institute.


17 September 1999

US President Bill Clinton announces an easing of some US sanctions on North Korea, allowing most consumer goods to be available for exports and permitting the imports to the United States of North Korean commodities. Restrictions on the transfer of dual-use, civilian-military technology and military exports will remain in force. [Note: On 19 June 2000, the Bureau of Export Administration implements President Clinton’s statement and amends the Export Administration Regulations.]


19 September 1999

A South Korean official announces that "the cleaning of debris and remnants in the water tank of the spent fuel rods in the No. 2 reactor [the 5MW(e) reactor] in Yongbyon-kun, has been completed, which indicates that the work of sealing the spent-fuel rods has virtually been completed."


19 September 1999

A Rodong Sinmun commentary claims that the US talk about countering a nuclear attack by North Korea is merely intended as a pretext for a pre-emptive US nuclear strike.

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20 September 1999
The IAEA Board of Governors adopts a summary statement of Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei reconfirming the validity of the nuclear safeguards agreement North Korea signed with the agency in 1992. ElBaradei reports no change since the last board of governors meeting in June of Pyongyang's progress in implementing the safeguards agreement. The board of governors urges North Korea to implement the safeguards agreement as soon as possible.


24 September 1999
Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi tells William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, that Japan "wholeheartedly supports the contents of the Perry Report." [Note: Perry's report, submitted to the US Congress on 14 September, calls for normalizing ties with North Korea in exchange for a pledge from Pyongyang to halt its nuclear and missile programs.]


25 September 1999
Approximately 30 delegates from the United States, Japan, South Korea, and KEPCO meet with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss pending issues concerning the KEDO light water reactor project.


27 September 1999
At the opening session of the IAEA General Assembly, Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei says, "the agency remains unable to verify that all nuclear material subject to safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been declared to the agency." ElBaradei adds that 12 rounds of IAEA-North Korean talks have shown "no progress on important issues." Without necessary information, ElBaradei says, "it will be difficult, if not impossible, to verify in the future compliance by the DPRK with its safeguards agreement."


29 September-1 October 1999
Representatives from KEDO and KEPCO, the main contractor for the KEDO light water reactor project, meet with
North Korean officials to discuss technical issues related to beginning construction of the reactors. During the meeting, KEDO and North Korea sign a memorandum of understanding on environmental protection and indemnification.


30 September 1999
Mexico's donation of $100,000 worth of heavy fuel oil to KEDO arrives in Japan en route to North Korea.


October 1999
The US Congress approves $35 million for heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. However, President Clinton’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2000 called for $55 million to be spent on the oil shipments.


1 October 1999
The IAEA adopts a resolution at its 43rd regular session of its General Assembly calling on North Korea to comply with its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The IAEA urges North Korea to cooperate fully in the implementation of its safeguards commitments, and to enable the IAEA to verify North Korea's initial report on its nuclear materials subject to safeguards.


4 October 1999
CNN, citing unnamed Pentagon sources, reports that during 1994, the US planned a pre-emptive air strike against North Korea’s Yongbyon Nuclear Complex. President Bill Clinton was reportedly briefed on the option on 15 June 1994, but before he could order the air strike, former President Jimmy Carter telephoned from Pyongyang with news that North Korea was prepared to accept a deal to curtail its graphite-moderated nuclear program.


5 October 1999
KEDO holds its annual general meeting in New York. After the meeting, Marc Vogelaar, KEDO’s director for public and external promotion and support, announces that KEDO is ready to begin construction on the two light water reactors. Vogelaar also tells reporters that the start up date for the first reactor is 2003.

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5 October 1999
North Korean Ambassador to India Pak Myong Ku denies that North Korea has traded nuclear or missile technologies with Pakistan. [Note: Accusations about possible exchanges of nuclear technology for missile technology surfaced when a North Korean ship was seized by Indian port authorities. The ship, suspected of heading to Pakistan, contained materials related to ballistic missiles. Pak claims that the shipment was bound for an unnamed Gulf state and carried only material to repair and service missiles. However, further evidence suggests missile trade between the two nations. For instance, the similarity of Pakistan's Ghauri missile to North Korea's Nodong suggests the former is merely an identical copy of the latter. Experts believe that if missile trade exists between the two nations, Pakistan, a nation lacking hard currency, might pay for North Korea's missile technology by exporting its superior nuclear weapons technology.]


6 October 1999
US State Department spokesman James Rubin, commenting on Congress's approval of only $35 million of President Clinton's requested $55 million for oil deliveries to North Korea, says that the budget cut could negatively affect implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework.


8 October 1999
National delegations attending a conference in Vienna on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) adopt a resolution calling on North Korea, India and Pakistan to sign the treaty as soon as possible. While North Korea, India and Pakistan are the only three states with nuclear capabilities that have yet to sign the CTBT, the resolution singles out North Korea as the only nuclear capable nation that has not yet even expressed a willingness to sign the treaty.


12 October 1999
The Times (London) reports that for the past month North Korean military personnel have been spotted in various regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the Shinkolobwe uranium mine. Hanneline De Beers, a South African researcher quoted in the report, says that while the presence of the North Koreans in Congo has been known for a while, "it is not clear whether they are providing personal security for President Kabila, training

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his fighters, or working at the uranium mine."

**12 October 1999**
Washington releases an unclassified version of William Perry's policy recommendations for dealing with North Korea. In the report, the culmination of 10 months of research and consultations, Perry recommends that Washington take steps to normalize relations with North Korea in exchange for a reliable pledge from Pyongyang to halt its nuclear weapons and missile programs.


**13 October 1999**
The US General Accounting Office (GAO) issues a report claiming that heavy fuel oil sent to North Korea to meet its energy needs until the completion of two light water reactors has been diverted. The GAO report says, "State Department officials have acknowledged that there is some evidence that perhaps 5 percent of the heavy fuel oil has been used for unauthorized purposes." While the State Department and KEDO have monitoring equipment installed at seven approved heating and electrical generating plants in North Korea, frequent power outages severely limit the effectiveness of the monitoring equipment. [Note: GAO presented the report to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 30 September.]


**13 October 1999**
Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the US House of Representatives International Relations Committee, says that North Korea may be pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on highly enriched uranium despite the 1994 Agreed Framework. Speaking at a committee hearing attended by US Policy Coordinator for North Korea William Perry, Gilman says, "My greatest fear is that this unpredictable regime in Pyongyang will combine its covert nuclear weapons program with an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the United States-and our policy will have failed to prevent it."


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14 October 1999
Chang Son Sop, director of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, says that while KEDO-KEPCO negotiations are in the final stages, there is only a fifty percent chance that the contract will be completed in time to begin construction on the two light water reactors by the end of the year.


18 October 1999
North Korea condemns the upcoming "Foal Eagle" US-South Korean joint military exercise to be held from 26 October to 5 November. North Korea says, "The projected US war maneuvers are a clear indication that it is unwilling to implement the DPRK-US Agreed Framework and ease tension on the Korean Peninsula." The North also warns that "the United States must be wholly responsible for the adverse impact the war maneuvers will have on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and DPRK-US relations."


20 October 1999
The North Korean Foreign Ministry calls on the United States to take steps to implement the 1994 Agreed Framework as soon as possible. A spokesman for the ministry criticizes Washington for having taken an "insincere" approach to the agreement and only paying "lip service" to its promises to construct two light water reactors and provide 500,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil per year until the completion of the reactors.


23 October 1999
South Korea's KBS Radio reports that Russian authorities are currently detaining several trains at Khasan Station because of detected amounts of radiations. The detained trains regularly traveled from Russia to Najin-Sonbong [Nason], North Korea.


1-2 November 1999
KEDO and South Korea's Export-Import Bank hold working level talks in Seoul to finalize the loan agreement for South Korea's $3.2 billion [to be paid in South Korean won] contribution to the light water reactor project.


2 November 1999
Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono announces that Japan will resume charter flights to North Korea as the first step in easing sanctions on North Korea in exchange for addressing international concerns about its nuclear and missile programs.

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3 November 1999
A group of senior Congressional Republicans presents a report labeling the 1994 Agreed Framework a failure. The report, written by the nine-member North Korea Advisory Group, claims that "there is significant evidence that undetected nuclear weapons development activity continues, including efforts to acquire uranium enrichment technologies and recent nuclear-related high explosive tests." Representative Ben Gilman, speaking at a press conference to unveil the report, says, "The comprehensive threat that's been posed by North Korea to our national security has increased since 1994." Gilman adds, "North Korea has not terminated or frozen its nuclear weapons program [and its] intercontinental ballistic missile program now poses a direct threat to the United States and the American people." [Note: The report, written at the request of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, contrasts sharply with William Perry's report which calls for a normalization of relations with North Korea. Congressional Democrats criticized Hastert for appointing only Republicans already critical of President Clinton's North Korean policy to write the report.]

5 November 1999
An official from South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs questions the credibility of a report submitted by US Congressional Republicans on 3 November claiming that North Korea is actively pursuing nuclear weapons despite the 1994 Agreed Framework. The official claims that "the evidence Republicans presented is just a compilation of various suspicions which have already been raised by news media in the United States."

6 November 1999
The US completes its yearly commitment to provide 500,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea to meet its energy need until the completion of the first of two light water reactors being constructed KEDO.

8-9 November 1999
The Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG), comprising the United States, South Korea, and Japan, meets in Washington. The three delegations discuss coordinating policies on North Korea and implementing the comprehensive approach to North Korea recommended in the Perry Report. On 9 November, the three nations issue a joint statement in which they reaffirm their commitment to the Agreed Framework.

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15 November 1999
The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution expressing deep concern over North Korea's failure to fully implement its nuclear safeguards agreement it signed with the IAEA in 1992. The resolution, adopted by a vote of 122 to 1, calls on North Korea to take all measures the IAEA deems necessary to verify the completeness and correctness of its initial declaration of nuclear material.


15-19 November 1999
Representatives from North Korea and the United States meet in Berlin to discuss various bilateral issues. According to South Korean officials, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan calls for the lifting of all US economic sanctions against North Korea and criticizes the delayed implementation of the partial lifting of US sanctions promised at the September meeting. The talks also addressed the itinerary, agenda, and various details of the proposed visit of a high-level North Korean official to the United States. The two sides adjourn the meeting on 19 November without making arrangements for a higher-level meeting or setting a date for further working-level consultations. [Note: According to a source close to the talks quoted by the Japanese Economic Newswire, the North Korean delegation criticizes the Perry Report, claiming that if North Korea to give up its missile and nuclear weapons program in exchange for only normalized relations, North Korea would be left in a "weak position." The source says that the North Korean delegation demanded that Washington show a willingness to negotiate US troop withdrawal from South Korea.]


16 November 1999
A South Korean government official says that North Korea is in the final stage of sealing over 8,000 spent-fuel rods from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun.


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16 November 1999
Japan’s Jiji Press reports that Pak Ok Kyong, former deputy chief of North Korea’s Atomic Research Institute, recently defected to the United States. According to Jiji Press, Pak disappeared from Beijing in April while serving as a representative of the international intelligence investigation department of the Korean Workers’ Party office. He subsequently requested political asylum in the United States while hiding in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Pak reportedly has top secret knowledge about North Korea’s suspected nuclear weapons program.

18 November 1999
Dr. Shin Song T’aek, a researcher with the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis, claims that since 1994 North Korea has stockpiled 40kg of plutonium. While this amount of plutonium is enough for 10 small nuclear weapons, Shin claims that Pyongyang will not develop several nuclear weapons due to its “one nuclear warhead strategy.” Shin presents his conclusions, which are based on data from the CIA and a South Korean-US nuclear inspection team, at the Korea-Russia Defense Forum held in Seoul.

21-22 November 1999
KEDO’s Executive Board meets in New York to narrow differences between board members on a turn-key contract to be signed with KEPCO, the primary contractor of the light water reactor project. The board agrees to wrap up the turn-key contract before 15 December, the date site preparation work in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o is schedule to be completed.

22 November 1999
The Washington Times reports that U.S. intelligence agencies are concerned that the Democratic Republic of the Congo might be providing North Korean with uranium ore in exchange for training assistance provided to Congolese forces. North Korea could use the ore for a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

24 November 1999
The EU and North Korea hold working-level talks in Brussels to address various issues including nuclear

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nonproliferation and security on the Korean Peninsula.

29 November 1999
The US Senate passes into law the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 requiring the President to certify that Pyongyang is adhering to its commitments under the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the Agreed Framework before any funds may be given to KEDO. However, the Senate removes the precondition in the House version of the bill requiring congressional approval following presidential certification that North Korea is complying with the necessary requirements.

December 1999
Codoleezza Rice, policy advisor to US presidential candidate George W. Bush, suggests that should Bush become president, the United States would take a more hard-line approach towards North Korea. In the January-February 2000 addition of Foreign Affairs, Rice says, "The United States must approach regimes like North Korea resolutely and decisively." Rice criticizes the Clinton administration for "sometimes threatening to use force and then backing down." What the United States must do, according to Rice, is clearly convey the message to Pyongyang that any attempt to use weapons of mass destruction would result in the destruction of North Korea.

10 December 1999
North Korea denounces "conservative hard-liners of the United States" for issuing a report calling for a more confrontational approach to North Korea. The Korean Central News Agency claims that Pyongyang "will be compelled to change [its] stand if a policy, which is intended to disarm and lead the DPRK to change and 'collapse' is adopted in the US." North Korea adds, "If the US takes the road of military confrontation, we cannot but take all self-defensive measure corresponding to this." [Note: The report to which North Korea is referring, written by a group of senior Congressional Republicans, labels the 1994 Agreed Framework a failure. The report, written by the nine-member North Korea Advisory Group and presented to Congress on 3 November, claims that "there is significant evidence that undetected nuclear weapons development activity continues, including efforts to acquire uranium enrichment technologies and recent nuclear-related high explosive tests."]

11 December 1999
Kyodo News Service reports that three Japanese firms, Mitsubishi Industries Ltd, Toshiba Corp, and Hitachi Ltd, will participate in the KEDO light water reactor project as subcontractors. According to a Japanese official quoted by Kyodo, the three firms will sign working agreements with KEPCO by the end of the month.

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13 December 1999
KEDO's Executive Board meets in Tokyo and adopts a resolution allowing KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson to conclude a turnkey contract with KEPCO, the main contractor for the light water reactor project, on 15 December.

Mid-December 1999
Representatives from the IAEA and North Korea meet in Vienna for the 13th round of talks addressing North Korea's failure to fully implement its nuclear safeguards agreement.

15 December 1999
KEDO and KEPCO sign a $4.6 billion dollar turnkey contract in Seoul, allowing KEPCO to begin construction on the two light water reactors in Shinp'o. The contract, signed by KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson and KEPCO President Ch'oe Su Pyong, supercedes the preliminary works contract signed by KEDO and KEPCO in August 1997. [Note: While the turnkey contract is signed on 15 December, it does not become effective until 3 February 2000 when KEDO signs a contract with Japan's Bank of International Cooperation for $1 billion in funding for the project.]

15 December 1999
Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono calls on North Korea "to fully cooperate with the IAEA and related nations to fulfill its obligations." Kono says that while Japan welcomes the signing of a turnkey contract between KEDO and KEPCO, North Korea must "clear up past suspicions over nuclear weapons developments" before KEDO will supply the reactors.
15 December 1999
An official from South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project announces that KEDO will not provide financial assistance to North Korea for the construction of a new electricity transmission and distribution system, which is necessary for the successful operation of the two KEDO light water reactors.

23 December 1999
North Korea calls on KEDO to pay compensation for losses incurred due to delays in constructing two light water reactors. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry says, "If the reactors are not built as promised, losses stemming from freezing our own nuclear programs and the significant impact the delay has on our economy must be carefully calculated and accounted for. Other measures must also be taken to compensate us for these losses."

1998
Late 1990s
According to Outlook India.com, North Korea approaches Pakistan for "design information and technical support to set up a centrifuge enrichment plant."

1998
According to intelligence sources in the United States, South Korea, and Japan, North Korea constructs an explosive test site approximately 8km north of Kusong, and conducts at least two explosive tests of nuclear warhead triggering devices. [Note: CNS analysts believe this site is located in Kump'ung-ri (???), Kusong (???), North P'yon'an Province (????). While the test explosions do not entail an actual nuclear chain reaction, they would provide valuable information on whether the lens-shaped chemical explosives surrounding nuclear material in a warhead will explode simultaneously and maintain enough homogenous pressure to trigger a nuclear explosion.]

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**January 1998**

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) issues a classified report stating that it has discovered a suspicious facility near Ha'gap, North Korea. According to the report, the facility, known as the "Ha'gap Unidentified Underground Complex," is a site "of an unconfirmed function, that possibly could be a nuclear weapons-related facility by 2003." The report states that the partially underground Ha'gap facility, which "could be intended as a nuclear production and/or storage site," contains 30 external buildings already completed, 5 external buildings in various stages of construction, and at least four tunnel entrances into the side of a hill.


**3 January 1998**

Yonhap News Agency, quoting an official of Kim Dae Jung's presidential transition team, reports that South Korean President-Elect Kim Dae Jung is urging the current South Korean government to ask Washington to share some of the light water reactor construction cost. Yonhap News Agency quotes the official as saying, "[South Korea's] burden should be reduced to the minimum in view of the financial difficulties we are suffering."


**6 January 1998**

The *Rodong Sinmun*, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, claims that various consultations between the United States and North Korea held in 1997 did not "come to fruition" because of the US "distrust and hostile policies against [North Korea]."


**13 January 1998**

LG-Caltex Oil Corp ships 22,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea. [Note: This is the eighth shipment of heavy fuel oil sent to North Korea since it agreed to freeze its nuclear program in 1994.]


**15-18 January 1998**

US Senator Carl Levin travels to North Korea to discuss progress in implementing the 1994 Agreed Framework.

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After talks with various North Korean officials, Levin visits the Yongbyon nuclear complex and verifies that North Korea is abiding by the freeze on its nuclear activities. He also confirms that the project to safely store 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods is "occurring successfully." Evans Revere, the designated head of the yet to be established US liaison office in North Korea, accompanies Levin and meets with North Korean officials to resolve matters related to setting up the liaison office. Revere does not return with Levin, remaining in Pyongyang until 25 January.


16 January 1998

Seoul announces that it will provide half of the $45 million it promised to KEDO for preparatory work at the light water construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o. Seoul says it will provide the funds from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund within the month, and the remaining 50 percent will be provided after the completion of site preparation.


18 January 1998

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official, commenting on a DIA classified report recently leaked to the press, announces that Seoul has yet to confirm whether or not the reported underground facility in Ha’gap, North Korea is related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. The official says that both Seoul and Washington have been aware of the Ha’gap underground facility since 1993 but have yet to identify its function.


20-23 January 1998

KEDO and North Korea hold expert-level talks in Pyongyang. The two sides discuss technical aspects of supplying the light water reactors.


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22 January 1998
Yu Myong Hwan, director general of the North American Bureau of the South Korean Foreign Ministry, says that Seoul has "secured information on the underground military complex in Ha'gap from both domestic and US intelligence agencies," and based on that intelligence, Seoul does not believe that the Ha'gap facility is related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. [Note: On 18 January, the Times Union quotes a classified DIA report as saying that the partially underground facility in Ha'gap "could be intended as a nuclear production and/or storage site."


20 January 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin denies the report that "Ha'gap" is a nuclear-related facility.


22 January 1998
US Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth meets with South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Yong Shik to discuss various issues related to North Korea such as preparations for the next round of four-party peace talks, the provision of food aid, and cost-sharing for the KEDO light water reactor project.


2 February 1998
Yonhap News Agency quotes a senior official in President-Elect Kim Dae Jung's transition team as saying that South Korea's financial burden of the KEDO light water reactor project must be reduced from 70 percent of the total cost to 60 percent. According to the official, the presidential transition team has "demanded the government strongly urge the United States to share the financial burden for the reactor project."


3 February 1998
The US Department of Defense states that North Korea remains a "formidable" threat to South Korean security. In its Annual Defense Report submitted to the president and Congress, the Department also warns that "the pressure imposed by increasingly dire economic conditions in North Korea make this threat all the more unpredictable."

—US Department of Defense, Annual Report to the President and Congress, 1998; "U.S. Bracing for Continued N.

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5 February 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that the United States will not share the cost of constructing two light water reactor in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o. Rubin claims that despite the recent economic crisis in South Korea, it remains the world's 11th largest economy and is capable of financing a majority of the $5.17 billion project. [Note: In 1995, South Korea agreed to finance a majority of the light water reactor construction in return for playing a central role in the project. However, the 1997 financial crisis and the subsequent IMF bailout have led Seoul to ask for larger contributions from the United States and Japan.]

5-6 February 1998
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York to discuss cost-sharing for the estimated $5.17 billion light water reactor project. At the talks, South Korea reportedly asks the United States and Japan to fund a larger portion of the construction costs. According to one member of the South Korean delegation, "We are asking as a matter of principle the United States and Japan to take the burden off South Korea." In a statement issued at the conclusion of the two-day meeting, KEDO says the talks were "productive, and are part of an ongoing process that will continue." However, board members fail to resolve the issue of cost-sharing.

9 February 1998
US President Bill Clinton submits a presidential determination to Congress in which he verifies that "North Korea is cooperating fully in the canning and safe storage of all spent fuel from its graphite-moderated nuclear reactors and...such canning is scheduled to be completed by 1 April 1998." Clinton also confirms that "North Korea has not significantly diverted assistance provided by the United States for purposes for which it was not intended." [Note: The presidential determination is required by Congress for the allocation of funds to KEDO under the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1997.]
10 February 1998
In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Secretary of State Madeline Albright says that South Korea will be able to fulfill its financial commitment to the KEDO light water reactor project despite its recent financial crisis. Albright also presents President Clinton's presidential determination which confirms that North Korea is adhering to its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

13 February 1998
US Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth suggests that the United States might share some of the reactor construction cost. Speaking in Tokyo, Roth says, "If the US Congress receives a request from the administration to approve the cost of the light water reactors, Congress will positively review it." [Note: Up to this date, the United States has been adamant that, despite its recent economic crisis, South Korea is capable of funding the construction of the reactors, and the United States will only pay for the annual heavy fuel oil shipments as was agreed when KEDO was established in 1995.]

15-17 February 1998
The US and South Korea hold working-level talks in Hawaii on issues related to the Korean Peninsula. The delegations are headed by Charles Kartman, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and Song Yong Shik, South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister. The two sides discuss food aid to North Korea, progress on the KEDO light water reactor project, and the second round of the four-party talks scheduled for mid-March. Kartman reportedly informs Song that the United States is prepared to lift economic sanctions against North Korea if the four-party talks produce results.

16 February 1998
The Chosun Ilbo reports that the United States has informed South Korea that it will help fund the construction of the light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o. According to the report, South Korea expects the United States

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to contribute up to $400 million to the project.


25 February 1998

Kim Dae Jung is sworn in as South Korea's president. Immediately following his inauguration, Kim calls for an exchange of envoys and a summit with North Korea. Commenting on the 1991 Basic Agreement between the two Koreas that calls for cooperation and nonaggression, Kim says, "If we only carry out these agreements faithfully, we can successfully resolve inter-Korean problems and move forward on a broad path toward unification." Kim also reaffirms South Korea's commitment to the KEDO light water reactor project.


26 February 1998

The South Korean sea vessel Taewonkatamaran-ho, transports 19 technicians and 10 tons of supplies to the light water construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o. [Note: Taewonkatamaran-ho is the first ship to travel on a temporary shipping route directly connecting North and South Korea.]


27 February 1998

Taiwan's Central News Agency reports that North Korea has threatened to file a complaint with an international court if Taipower abandons its contract to ship up to 200,000 barrels of nuclear waste to North Korea. The report follows an announcement by Taipower that it is considering storing the nuclear waste on Hsiao Chiu, a small island located in the Taiwan Strait. [Note: In January 1997, Taipower and North Korea signed a contract for the storage of low-grade nuclear waste, but in December, Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council vetoed the plan, claiming that North Korea had failed to build adequate facilities for the safe storage of the radioactive material.]


2 March 1998

Stephen Bosworth, US ambassador to South Korea and former executive director of KEDO, says that the United States is prepared to help South Korea pay for the construction of two light water reactors in North Korea. Referring to Washington's previous stance that it was only responsible for funding the annual heavy fuel oil project.

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deliveries, Bosworth says, "Maybe it's time to stop thinking separately about the light water reactors and heavy fuel oil." Bosworth suggests that in order to temporarily relieve the burden on South Korea, "the United States and Japan can pay more early on and Korea can pay later on." However, Bosworth believes that the economic situation in South Korea will soon improve, and stresses that any cost-sharing would be temporary.

2-3 March 1998
Jean-Pierre Leng, the EU ambassador to KEDO, meets with South Korean officials and Stephen Bosworth, US ambassador to South Korea, to discuss the EU's role in the KEDO light water reactor project.

3 March 1998
General John Tilelli, Commander of United States Forces Korea, says that implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework is on track and is achieving its goals of preventing a nuclear weapons program in North Korea. However, Tilelli says that the United States must uphold its commitment to provided annual shipments of heavy fuel oil to North Korea in order to ensure the success of the agreement. Speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Tilelli warns that "walking back from [heavy fuel oil deliveries] will set a bad precedent and may stimulate a starting of another [nuclear] program."

5 March 1998
In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, US Undersecretary of Defense Walter Slocombe says, "North Korea's extensive NBC [nuclear, biological and chemical] weapons program threatens Japan, South Korea and US forces and interests in the region."

6 March 1998
North Korea's Foreign Ministry accuses the United States of not honoring the terms of the 1994 Agreed Framework. In a statement carried on the Korean Central News Agency, a ministry spokesman says that North Korea has frozen its nuclear program and is allowing the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel rods, but the United States has yet to ease economic sanction against North Korea and is making little progress on the construction of two light water reactors. The spokesman adds, "Nobody can predict what will happen unless the US seeks new practical measures and takes decisive action to implement its obligations."

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7 March 1998
South Korea decides to allow Japan and the United States to provide additional labor and materials for the KEDO light water reactor project in exchange for funding a larger portion of the construction cost. The South Korean government makes the decision at the first meeting of ministers responsible for security and unification under Kim Dae Jung’s government.

9 March 1998
The Chosun Ilbo reports that KEDO has accumulated a $47 million debt in its three years of activity.

Mid-March 1998
North Korea reportedly conducts military exercises in response to the growing threat it perceives from Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

13 March 1998
The US and North Korea meet in Berlin for bilateral negotiations before the four-party peace talks to be held 16-20 March in Geneva. The two sides reportedly discuss the gradual easing of US economic sanction against North Korea, the establishment of liaison offices and the resumption of missile talks.

16-21 March 1998
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the second round of four-party peace talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. North Korea reportedly continues to set as preconditions of a peace treaty the withdrawal of all US forces from South Korea and normalization of ties between Washington and Pyongyang. The talks break down due to disagreement over whether the removal of US forces from South Korea should be included on the agenda of future talks.

19-20 March 1998
The KEDO Executive Board meets in New York to discuss sharing the construction costs for the light water reactor project. The board fails to reach an agreement on how much each country will contribute, but according to Chang Son Sop, director of South Korea’s Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, all board members "concurred that reactor construction should not be halted under any circumstances."

26 March 1998
Paul Cleveland, US ambassador to KEDO, says that due to a KEDO debt of $47 million and a shortage of funds for heavy fuel oil shipments, the shipments of oil to North Korea could stop "in the not too distant future."

30 March 1998
North Korea accuses the United States of suspending heavy fuel oil shipments. In a Korean Central News Agency commentary, the agency says, "At a time when the light water reactors project has been postponed as divergences of opinion on cost sharing exist within the US-led KEDO, the United States has decided to tentatively suspend the supply of heavy oil for April in a bid to share even costs for heavy oil among its allied nations."

2 April 1998
Taiwan’s Economics Minister Wang Chih Kang announces that the agreement between Taipower and North Korea for the disposal of up to 200,000 barrels of nuclear material is still valid. [Note: In December 1996 Taiwan’s Atomic Energy Council temporarily suspended the contract, claiming that North Korea did not have facilities to adequately dispose of the nuclear waste, but according to Kang, the contract has not been terminated.]

3 April 1998
Taipower confirms that it has not abandoned the plan to ship nuclear waste to North Korea, claiming that it is

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waiting for an export permit from the Atomic Energy Council. However, according to Atomic Energy Council officials, the council must inspect the North Korean disposal site before it will issue an export permit. To date, North Korea has not allowed the council to inspect the proposed disposal site in P’yongsan-kun.


8 April 1998
Kim Ch’ang Guk, North Korean Deputy Ambassador to the UN, calls on the United States to give a legally biding security assurance that it will not use nuclear weapons against North Korea. Kim, speaking at the UN First Committee on Disarmament, also calls on the United States to remove all nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula and remove South Korea from underneath its nuclear umbrella.


8 April 1998
US Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering meets with Pak Chong Su, South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Im Tong Won, South Korean Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Security, and requests that South Korea help fund the annual heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. Pak and Im reportedly inform Pickering that it would be difficult to convince the National Assembly to accept the additional financial burden given the current economic crisis in South Korea. [Note: The US had originally agreed to completely fund the 500,000 tons/year of oil to North Korea until the completion of two light water reactors. However, following Congress’s refusal to allocate the necessary funds, the United States has asked South Korea and Japan to share approximately $20 million/year of the costs.]


10 April 1998
A senior US official announces that due to lack of funds, preparatory construction for the KEDO light water reactor project could soon halt.


11 April 1998
North and South Korea hold high-level talks in Beijing, and the South promises to follow through with its pledge to finance the construction of two light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o, North Korea. [Note: The Beijing talks are the first high-level consultations between the two Koreas in over four years.]

—Andrew Browne, "Move to Reunite Millions; Two Koreas Take Tentative Steps Towards Reconciliation at Their

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**13 April 1998**

Pak Chong Su, South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, suggest that heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea may halt due to lack of funding from the United States, but Pak reaffirms South Korea’s position that it "will not share the burden for the heavy fuel oil because the United States is responsible for the provision of the heavy oil."


**14 April 1998**

A North Korean official reportedly says that North Korea may resume its graphite-moderated nuclear program if the United States suspends heavy fuel oil shipments.


**19 April 1998**

North Korea reportedly unseals its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun to "conduct maintenance activities," and halts the canning of spent fuel rods from the reactor. North Korea’s Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam discloses the information in a meeting with a US academic on 9 May. According to Kim, North Korea decided to suspend certain aspects of the Agreed Framework due to the US failure to ease sanction against North Korea and make prompt deliveries of heavy fuel oil. [Note: On 13 May, US State Department spokesman James Rubin refutes the claims and says that the United States has "confirmed through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that [the 5MW(e) reactor's] seals remain in place and that the freeze at North Korea's nuclear complex remains in place." Rubin adds that although North Korea did suspend clean-up operations at the reactor, the canning process was completed in mid-March. Rubin says that the United States is "confident that North Korea has not violated the across-the-board freeze on its nuclear activities, and that the Agreed Framework is alive and well." However, on 25 May, Washington confirms that in mid-April, US nuclear technicians were in fact expelled from the Yongbyon nuclear complex before the canning process was completed.]


**28 April 1998**

US Secretary of State Madeline Albright urges Japan to share some of the cost of annual heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. Albright makes the request in a meeting with Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi. Later in the day, the Foreign Ministry announces that "Japan, at this moment, wants to concentrate its efforts on light water nuclear reactors," suggesting that Tokyo remains reluctant to share any of the cost of heavy fuel oil shipments.

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May 1998
North Korean defector Hwang Chang Yop says that the United States made a mistake in agreeing to supply 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea annually as part of the 1994 Agreed Framework. Hwang, speaking to Selig Harrison, says, "The policy of avoiding war over the nuclear crisis was the correct policy, but you were naïve in letting them bluff you about the potential of the nuclear program." According to Hwang, North Korea "did not have the technical or financial means to complete the 50MW(e) and 200MW(e) nuclear reactors then under construction that you were so concerned about." [Note: Hwang, a former secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, and chief architect of the North Korean ideology of chuch'e, is the highest ranking North Korean ever to defect. After seeking asylum in the South Korean Embassy in Beijing on 12 February 1997, Hwang warned that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons and is prepared to use them against South Korea and Japan.]

May 1998
The United States, Japan, and South Korea hold informal talks aimed at reducing the cost of the KEDO light water reactor project. Japan proposes that the overall budget be reduced from $5.18 billion to $4.5 billion.

1 May 1998
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright meets with South Korean officials to discuss funding for the KEDO light water reactor project. An official from South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade announces that Albright "said that her government will consider contributing to the construction of the light water reactors if South Korea pays for the purchase of the heavy fuel oil." Albright reportedly says that the United States will donate $55 million for safety equipment if South Korea assists with the oil deliveries. However, according to the official, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Pak Chong Su informs Albright that Seoul has no intention of funding the oil shipments. Despite recent difficulties in funding the KEDO project, Albright stresses that the United States will not abandon its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

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5-10 May 1998
KEDO and North Korea hold high-level consultations at a resort hotel near Mt. Myohyang in North Korea. The two delegations discuss various issues related to the light water reactor project such as heavy fuel oil deliveries, quality guarantees for the reactors, and training for North Koreans working on the project. The delegations also set a schedule for concluding negotiations on the remaining follow-up protocols to the light water reactor supply agreement.


7 May 1998
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry condemns the United States for not honoring its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework, and says Pyongyang might restart its nuclear program. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, the Foreign Ministry accuses the United States of failing to ease sanctions against North Korea as promised and purposefully delaying heavy fuel oil deliveries. According to the ministry’s statement, "All facts show that the DPRK has gone farther in implementing the agreement whereas the US side is not sincerely fulfilling its obligations." Given the situation, the ministry suggests that North Korea "should no longer lend an ear to the empty promises of the US side, but open and readjust the frozen nuclear facilities." The United States calls North Korea’s statements "unfortunate, because they're not founded on the reality of what the United States is doing on implementing the Agreed Framework." Responding to North Korea's comment, State Department spokesman James Foley says, "The United States has fulfilled its part of the Agreed Framework and will continue to do so." Foley continues, "We expect and trust that North Koreans will continue to implement their side of the agreement."


8 May 1998
US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering announces that the United States will soon make a heavy fuel oil shipment to North Korea. [Note: Pickering’s announcement a day after a North Korean threat to reactivate its frozen nuclear program because of the apparent US failure to honor its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework.]


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9 May 1998
North Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam meets with Selig Harrison and announces that on 19 April North Korea unsealed its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor to "conduct maintenance activities" and suspended the canning of spent nuclear fuel rods. According to Kim, North Korea decided to suspend certain aspects of the Agreed Framework due to the US failure to ease sanction against North Korea and make prompt deliveries of heavy fuel oil.

12 May 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that the United States, Japan and South Korea have thus far failed to rectify problems in funding and cost-sharing for the KEDO light water reactor project.

13 May 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin refutes the 9 May claim by North Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam that on 19 April North Korea unsealed its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and suspended the canning of spent nuclear fuel rods. Rubin says that the United States has "confirmed through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), that [the reactor's] seals remain in place and that the freeze at North Korea's nuclear complex remains in place." Rubin adds that although North Korea did suspend clean-up operations related to the canning of spent nuclear fuel rods, the canning process "was essentially completed in mid-March." Rubin says that the United States is "confident that North Korea has not violated the across-the-board freeze on its nuclear activities, and that the Agreed Framework is alive and well." [Note: On 25 May, Washington confirms that in mid-April North Korea expelled US technicians from the Yongbyon nuclear complex before they could complete the safe storage of 8,000 spent fuel rods.]

13 May 1998
Kim Myong Gil, minister councilor at the North Korean Mission to the UN, says that if the United States continues to delay heavy fuel oil shipments, North Korea may reactivate its nuclear program. Kim adds that there is growing pressure in Pyongyang to abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework and revert back to North Korea's graphite-moderated nuclear technology. According to Kim, "The peaceful nuclear industry says they want to continue to develop their technology rather than replace it with new KEDO [technology]. The military people support them."

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Mid-May 1998
US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman travels to South Korea to discuss cost-sharing for the KEDO light water reactor project and the four-party peace talks. [Note: While Kartman was expected to reiterate the US request that South Korea help fund the heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea, Kartman reportedly does not bring up the issue.]

14 May 1998
North Korea's ambassador to China, Chu Ch'ang Chun, says that pressure is growing in North Korea to reactivate its nuclear program and resume construction of two graphite-moderated reactors. According to Chu, this growing sentiment is due to perceived US failure to honor its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework by delaying heavy fuel oil shipments and failing to ease economic sanctions against North Korea. Commenting on the nuclear test explosions conducted by India on 11 and 13 May, Chu says that North Korea is "opposed to the production, stockpiling and use" of nuclear weapons.

20 May 1998
A KEDO official announces that the two light water reactors being constructed in North Korea will not be completed by the original target date of 2003.

23 May 1998
South Korea's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Pak Chong Su announces that Seoul is exploring ways to reduce the cost of the KEDO light water reactor project.

25 May 1998
Washington confirms that North Korea expelled US nuclear technicians and IAEA personnel from the Yongbyon nuclear complex in mid-April before they were able to complete the safe storage of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods. According to US government officials, the storage process has yet to resume.

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28 May 1998
A Japanese Foreign Ministry official says that there is a threat of Pakistan transferring nuclear weapons technology to North Korea in exchange for North Korea's past support of Pakistan's ballistic missile program. The statement follows a nuclear test conducted by Pakistan on the same day. [Note: On 1 June, Vice Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai announces that Japan is not aware of any transfer of nuclear technology from Pakistan to North Korea.]

29 May 1998
Responding to the 28 May comment by a Japanese Foreign Ministry official that Pakistan might transfer nuclear weapons technology to North Korea, US State Department spokesman James Rubin says that the United States is not aware of any nuclear cooperation between the two countries and believes that North Korea is adhering to its commitments under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

1 June 1998
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung calls on the United States to end economic sanctions against North Korea. In an interview conducted in Seoul, Kim says that in his upcoming visit to Washington he will urge President Clinton and Congress to end sanctions in order to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula. [Note: North Korea has threatened to abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework and restart its nuclear program if the United States does not lift economic sanctions.]

1-2 June 1998
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York to discuss cost-sharing for reactor construction and heavy fuel oil deliveries. The executive board, comprised of the United States, Japan, South Korea, and the EU, also discuss ways to reduce the cost of the $5.18 billion project. Japan reportedly proposed a new cost estimate that would reduce the total cost by $500 million. Executive board members fail to reach an agreement on cost-sharing and new cost estimates, but they agree to continue talks in Brussels on 29-30 June.

3 June 1998
The Nihon Keizai Shimbun quotes a Japanese Defense Agency internal report as saying that the recent South Asian nuclear tests might encourage North Korea to restart its nuclear program. According to the report, the Defense
Agency believes it is possible that North Korea already possesses at least one nuclear weapon.

3 June 1998
Japan announces that it will still provide $1 billion to the KEDO light water project even though the total cost of the project is expected to be decreased by as much as $500 million. [Note: Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi informs the Diet about the decision on 8 June.]

3 June 1998
Georgiy Kaurov, press secretary for Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry, says that according to Russian nuclear experts, North Korea does not have nuclear weapons. Kaurov says that "if North Korea did have a nuclear bomb, it would have been tested," and such a test would have been easily detected. Kaurov adds that developing a nuclear weapon also requires hundred of test explosions without fissile material. Such tests, according to Kaurov, would have to be conducted at a special test site which would "be clearly visible from space." [Note: According to intelligence sources in US, South Korea and Japan, North Korea has constructed an explosive test site approximately 8km north of Kusong, and conducts at least two explosive tests of nuclear warhead triggering devices in 1998. CNS analysts believe this explosives test site is located in Kump'ung-ri (????), Kusong (???), North P'yon'an Province (????).]

5 June 1998
Washington announces that it is willing to pay for all of the heavy fuel oil to be delivered to North Korea as a substitute energy source until the two KEDO light water reactors are completed. A government official says that the United States will continue to seek cooperation from the EU and Middle Eastern countries, but if no financial support is given, the United States will pay the entire amount for the annual shipments of 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil.

6 June 1998
Charles Kartman, US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, meets with Lee Kun, North

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Korea’s deputy ambassador to the UN, to discuss various issues including the provision of heavy fuel oil, progress on the KEDO light water reactor project, and the four-party peace talks. At the meeting, Kartman reassures Lee that the United States will continue to seek cooperation from the EU and Middle Eastern countries, but if no financial support is given, the United States will pay the entire amount for the annual shipments of 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil.


8 June 1998
Lee Jong Ch’an, director of South Korea’s National Security Planning Agency, says, "At this moment, we have not found any signs that North Korea has reneged on the nuclear agreement with the United States and is actively trying to resume its nuclear weapons program."


9 June 1998
Speaking at a joint press conference with US President Bill Clinton in Washington, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung says, "We have nothing to fear from North Korea." [Note: Kim, on a nine-day diplomatic trip to the United States, has encouraged the United States to lift economic sanctions against North Korea in order ease tension on the Korean Peninsula and pave the way for a lasting peace between the two Koreas.]


10 June 1998
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright and South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Pak Chong Su meet in Washington to discuss various bilateral issues. Albright and Pak agree to hold working-level talks in July on easing economic sanctions against North Korea.


19 June 1998
North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan sends a letter to US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Stanley Roth stating that North Korea will soon restart its nuclear program unless the United States

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honors its yearly commitment to supply North Korea with 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil per year until the completion of the KEDO light water reactor project. [Note: For 1998, the United States has thus far only supplied 152,000 tons of oil.]


22 June 1998

A North Korean submarine is captured by South Korea 11.5 miles off the South Korean port city of Sokch'o. The 70-ton submarine is detected after becoming ensnared in the nets of a fishing vessel. Following the incident, South Korea places its military on the east coast on high alert.


22 June 1998

North Korea warns the United States of unspecified "consequences" if it does not ease economic sanctions "in accordance with the Agreed Framework."


23 June 1998

The US-led United Nations Command (UNC) and North Korean military officials meet in the truce village of Panmunjom and commence the first high-level military talks in seven years. During the course of the talks, which last several weeks, the UNC delegation reportedly condemns the 22 June incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korean waters as a violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement.


23-26 June 1998

IAEA inspectors travel to North Korea to negotiate the implementation of the inspection regime agreed under the 1994 Agreed Framework. This, the tenth round of technical discussions, fails to produce any results as North Korea reportedly continues to refuse to grant the inspectors access to information necessary to determine the completeness and correctness of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material.


29-30 June 1998
KEDO's Executive Board meets in Brussels to discuss cost-sharing and reducing the total cost of the light water reactor project. The executive board decides to lower the total cost for the light water reactor construction from $5.2 billion to $4.6 billion and agree to meet in mid-July to formalize the new cost estimate. However, the board members fail to reach an agreement on sharing the cost of the project. [Note: Even with the new figure of $4.6 billion, KEDO still needs at least $300 million to cover construction costs.]

30 June 1998
Japan reiterates its pledge to provide $1 billion to the KEDO light water reactor project. Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi says that "although the exchange rate is uncertain (depending on when the payment is actually made), Japan has expressed its intention to contribute that dollar amount."

2 July 1998
Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai and his South Korean counterpart meet in Tokyo and agree to seek an early resolution on how to share the construction costs of the KEDO light water reactor project. The foreign ministers agree that US cooperation in funding the reactor construction is indispensable.

6 July 1998
The Washington Post reports that North Korea has recently begun maintenance work at a "plutonium separation plant" located in the Yongbyon nuclear complex. According the US officials quoted by the paper, the resumption of maintenance work is intended "to make sure Washington got the message North Korea is capable of resuming its nuclear program." [Note: The "plutonium separation plant" probably a reference to the Radiochemistry Laboratory.]

6 July 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin announces that the United States has not yet raised enough funds to meet its yearly obligation to supply North Korea with 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil. By August the United States

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will have delivered 216,000 tons of oil, but Congress has yet to allocate the funds for the remaining 284,000 tons. However, Rubin states that the United States is actively seeking financial contributions from other countries and the Clinton Administration has expressed a readiness to use "certain provisions of US law" (Rubin does not give details on the "certain provisions") to come up with the additional funds. Rubin also denies a 6 July Washington Post report that accused North Korea of conducting maintenance work at a "plutonium separation plant." Rubin says that Washington "believe(s) that North Korea is in compliance with its obligations under the Agreed Framework."


11 July 1998

The Japanese Foreign Ministry announces that it recently proposed a compromise plan to the United States for sharing the cost of the KEDO light water reactor project. At the KEDO Executive Board meeting held in Brussels on 29-30 June, board members agreed to lower the cost of the reactor project from an estimated $5.2 billion to $4.6 billion. However, even with the reduced cost estimate, KEDO still lacks approximately $350,000. Under the Japanese proposal, the United States would pay part of the remaining cost and take the leading role in raising the rest of the necessary funds. [Note: As preparatory construction in Kumho-chigu, Ship'o is scheduled to be completed in August and reactor construction cannot begin until the issue of funding is resolved, board members are under great pressure to reach an agreement on sharing the costs of construction.]


14 July 1998

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Rust Deming tells the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States has been unsuccessful in persuading other nations to donate funds for heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. Urging the Senate to allocate additional funds for the 1998 oil shipments, Deming says, "It is not realistic to think that the shortfall (in funding the oil shipments) will be met in the near term by contributions from abroad."


15 July 1998

The US General Accounting Office (GAO) releases a report saying that there are many monitoring problems that affect the IAEA's "ability to determine whether North Korea is complying fully with certain aspects of the nuclear

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freeze." North Korea has not allowed the IAEA to install monitoring devices in the nuclear waste tanks, which are connected to a "complex and inaccessible piping system that, if operating, would permit the waste to be removed and/or altered." The GAO report warns that North Korea may have "secretly removed some of the nuclear waste in order to hide evidence of earlier diversions of plutonium." [Note: GAO presented the report to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 7 July.] Commenting on the GAO report, US State Department spokesman James Rubin confirms there are "significant" discrepancies between the amount of plutonium North Korea declared and the amount discovered. Rubin adds that while the 1994 Agreed Framework remains intact, the United States will not deliver "key components" for the KEDO light water reactors until North Korea clears up discrepancies about the amount of plutonium it possesses.


20 July 1998

The European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Budget Committee and the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy allocate €15 million for the annual contribution to KEDO.


22 July 1998

The Chosun Ilbo quotes a South Korean official working on the KEDO light water reactor project as saying that even through preparatory construction is scheduled to be completed in early August, construction on the actual reactors will probably not begin until October because the United States, South Korea and Japan have yet to reach a final agreement on each party's share of the construction costs.


22 July 1998

Desaix Anderson, executive director of KEDO, says that he is confident that the United States will be able to meet its commitment to deliver 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea. Commenting on his recent congressional testimony and request for additional fund for the oil shipments, Anderson says, "I got a strong impression from both the Republicans and Democrats that they supported this project."


24 July 1998

Australia pledges an additional A$2 million to help prevent nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula.

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According to Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, part of the contribution will be for the supply of heavy fuel oil.


24 July 1998
North Korea condemns the recent deployment of a US nuclear submarine and eight P-3C antisubmarine patrol aircraft to the Sea of Japan (East Sea). A commentary printed in Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, says the deployment is an attempt "to drive the South Korean puppets to confrontation with the DPRK and stifle the DPRK with strength at any cost." The commentary adds that if the United States continues with its "military adventures...it will be held wholly responsible for all consequences that arise." [Note: The deployment of additional US Navy forces was at the request of Seoul. In late August, US and South Korean forces patrol the East Sea searching for North Korean mini-submarines, one of which was discovered in South Korean waters on 22 June.]

27-28 July 1998
KEDO's Executive Board meets in New York and tentatively agrees on how to share the cost of constructing two light water reactors in North Korea. South Korea will be responsible for $3.22 billion, or 70 percent of the estimated $4.6 billion project. Japan is to pay $1 billion, and the remaining $380 million will be split between the United States and EU. The board does not announce the specifics on how the $380 will be divided between the United States and EU. [Note: The tentative agreement must still be accepted by each of the governments involved.]

3 August 1998
Time reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is actively "pushing the construction of a new nuclear reactor--underground, to confound US spy satellites." The reactor is reportedly designed to develop "usable atom bombs, possibly including missile warheads." [Note: According to the Times article, some Clinton administration officials believe the reports of a new underground nuclear facility is misinformation leaked by Washington hardliners to "choke off congressional support" for KEDO heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea.]

6-7 August 1998
Representatives from the United States and South Korea meet in Hawaii to discuss lifting economic sanctions against North Korea. The two sides fail to agree to what degree sanctions should be eased. An official from the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade says on 10 August that the United States did not completely rule out the possibility of easing sanctions, but "the conditions for lifting sanctions, however, is not favorable on the Republican Congress mainly because of the recent infiltration of a North Korean submarine into the South and the North's suspected transfer of missile technology." [Note: Under the 1994 Agreed Framework, the United States agreed to take steps to ease economic sanctions against North Korea.]

12 August 1998
Admiral Joseph Prueher, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Command, meets with South Korean Defense Minister Ch’on Yong T’aek and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Kim Jin Ho, and promises to make additional assets of the US Pacific Command available in order to counter any small scale North Korean military provocations, such as the recent submarine incursion.

13 August 1998
A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry warns that North Korea might restart its nuclear program if the United States continues to delay fulfilling its obligations under the 1994 Agreed Framework. According to the spokesman, North Korea’s decision will be based on the success of upcoming US-North Korean high-level talks scheduled to begin 21 August in New York. The spokesman says that Pyongyang hopes "the two sides will settle the problems smoothly at the upcoming DPRK-US high level talks lest we should take an undesirable option."

17 August 1998
The New York Times reports that US intelligence agencies have recently detected activity at a large underground complex, located 25 miles north of the Yongbyon nuclear complex, which they believe to be an attempt to revive North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. According to the report, US spy satellites have detected “thousands of North Korean workers...swarming around the new site, burrowing into the mountainside.” Other unspecified intelligence led Washington to believe that North Korea is constructing a reactor and reprocessing facility under the mountain located near the village of Kumch’ang-ri. In response to the report, a US State Department official says, "We continue to monitor the situation closely. At this time, we have no basis to conclude there has been a
violation of the Agreed Framework." However, the official continues, "if the construction is a violation of the Agreed Framework, it would be of serious concern."


18 August 1998
Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon says that the US satellite images that show massive underground construction at a site 25 miles north of the Yongbyon nuclear complex are inconclusive. Responding to a 17 August New York Times article claiming that North Korea is currently constructing a new reactor and reprocessing plant, Bacon says, "Right now I do not believe we have a firm basis to conclude that they are out of compliance [with the 1994 Agreed Framework]."


18 August 1998
A US Congressional source claims that US reconnaissance satellite imagery confirms that the recently discovered underground complex in North Korea is in fact related to a nuclear program. The source says that the satellite photos show equipment particular to a nuclear facility being transported to the underground construction site.


21-25 August 1998
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan in New York to discuss various issues including resuming four-party peace talks, delays in heavy fuel oil shipments, and the recent discovery of a suspected underground nuclear complex located 25 miles north of Yongbyon-kun. After the conclusion of the talks, both delegations refuse to comment on the details of the meetings and return to their capitals for consultations. [Note: On 30 August, the Chosun Ilbo, citing an anonymous source in Washington, reports that at the talks, North Korea denied that the underground facility being built is related to a nuclear weapons program and expressed willingness to allow an outside inspection. The talks are concluded on 5 September when the two sides reach a tentative package agreement.]


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22 August 1998

North Korea denounces the Ulchi Focus Lens joint military exercise currently being conducted by US and South Korean troops. A Korean Central News Agency broadcast says Ulchi-Focus Lens, which is merely "a replica of the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise," is bringing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.


25 August 1998

South Korea's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Yong submits a report to the National Assembly in which he claims that while there does not yet exist any proof the North Korea has violated the 1994 Agreed Framework, the recently discovered underground facility is most likely linked to a clandestine nuclear program.


27 August 1998

Commenting on the recently discovered underground facility in North Korea, South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry spokesman Lee Ho Chin announces that "the government has no ground to prove that the facility is for nuclear development and the governments of South Korea and the United States share such an evaluation." However, Lee says, South Korea is "closely watching the facility with every possibility in mind, including the possibility of the facility being reserved for nuclear development."


28 August 1998

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan denies that the recently discovered underground facility in North Korea is part of a clandestine nuclear program. Speaking to US congressional staff members, Kim says that the facility is a "civilian structure." Kim reportedly reiterates the offer to allow international inspections of the site.


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31 August 1998
KEDO's Executive Board postpones signing an agreement on sharing the cost of the $4.6 billion light water reactor project after North Korea test-fires a ballistic missile over Japan. Following the missile test, Tokyo informs Seoul and Washington that it will not sign the agreement as scheduled and is currently suspending all financial support to KEDO.

31 August 1998
The United States and North Korea meet in New York to continue bilateral talks on various issues including the implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, resuming four-party peace talks, and the suspected underground nuclear facility recently discovered near Yongbyon-kun. The US and North Korean delegations are once again headed respectively by Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. The United States reportedly demands that North Korea allow periodic inspections of the suspected underground nuclear facility currently under construction, but North Korea insists that the United States will be allowed to inspect the site only once. [Note: The meeting was supposed to continue on 1 September, but the North Korean delegation, reportedly awaiting instructions from Pyongyang, failed to show up. The talks resume on 3 September.]

2 September 1998
The US Senate votes to place tough conditions on allocating funds for KEDO. In a 80-11 vote, the Senate added an amendment to a foreign aid bill stipulating that no money would be allocated for heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea unless the president certifies that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program and is not exporting ballistic missiles to countries on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

3 September 1998
KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson meets with Keizo Takemi, Japan's state secretary for foreign affairs, and requests that Tokyo sign the cost-sharing agreement so that construction of the two light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o can begin at the earliest date. Despite Anderson's request that Tokyo separate the KEDO issue from the 31 August missile incident, Takemi says that Tokyo cannot sign the agreement so soon after North Korea test-fired a missile over Japanese soil.
—"Japan Sky of KEDO Request on N. Korea," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 3 September 1998, in Lexis-Nexis,
3 September 1998
The United States and North Korea resume bilateral talks in New York. The US and North Korean delegations are once again headed respectively by Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. The talks reportedly break down.

5 September 1998
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan meet once again in New York for bilateral talks. The delegations refuse to comment on the details of what was discussed, but after the talks, Kim tells reporters, "We have come out with substantial progress." The two sides reportedly created a package of agreed upon steps, which will be finalized after approval from Washington and Pyongyang. Under the tentative agreement, the United States agrees to resume heavy fuel oil shipments, ensure that construction on the KEDO reactors begins in November, and take steps to ease economic sanctions against North Korea. North Korea agrees to resume sealing the remaining 200 spent nuclear fuel rods from its 5MW reactor, resolve suspicions about a recently discovered underground facility, participate in upcoming four-party peace talks scheduled for October, and resume missile talks with the United States. [Note: The talks, held intermittently since 21 August, have addressed various bilateral issues such as implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, the suspected underground nuclear facility recently discovered near Yongbyon-kun, and the resumption of four-party peace talks.]

5 September 1998
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) revises the constitution, making the National Defense Commission (NDC) the highest authority over state affairs, and making Kim Il Sung "eternal president" of North Korea. The SPA also re-elects Kim Jong Il as chairman of the NDC.

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9 September 1998
According to Japanese Foreign Ministry sources, Tokyo is willing to resume contributions to KEDO if there is "a certain level of progress" in missile talks between the United States and North Korea.

10 September 1998
Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka announces that Japan will not yet resume contributions to KEDO despite the tentative agreement reached between the United States and North Korea on 5 September. Nonaka Notes the progress in the talks, but says, "We have announced our new policy toward North Korea, including the suspension of our assistance to the KEDO project--and we will stick by it."

10 September 1998
Charles Kartman, US special envoy to the recent US-North Korean talks, reports to the Senate on the outcome of the talks. In prepared testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, Kartman claims that he views the outcome with skepticism, saying, "We do not trust North Korean intentions." However, Kartman says that the commitments recently obtained from North Korea "will facilitate our ability to deal squarely with the issues of great and immediate concern," including the suspected underground nuclear facility, the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel rods, and North Korea's missile program. Kartman continues to say that the Agreed Framework "is still the only viable alternative we have that has a chance to keep North Korea's nuclear activities in check and keep the North engaged on other matters."

10 September 1998
North Korea's mission to the UN issues a statement granting the United States permission to inspect a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. However, the statement stipulates, "If the US allegations are proved groundless through a visit to the site, the United States is obliged to make appropriate compensation, particularly for slandering and disgracing (North Korea)."
**11 September 1998**

Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura implies that Japan is ready to resume contributions to the KEDO light water reactor project. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo, Komura says, We will consult with the US government closely over the issue in order to decide what to do...We know that Japan should not ruin the project in North Korea, which is the only way to have North Korea give up its nuclear weapons program." [Note: Japan froze all contributions to KEDO after North Korea test-fired a suspected ballistic missile over Japan on 31 August.]


**14 September 1998**

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei announces that the tenth round of technical discussions between the IAEA and North Korea (24-26 June) failed to make any progress. ElBaradei, addressing the IAEA board of governors, says that points of contention include the "preservation of information which must remain available to enable the agency to verify in the future the correctness and completeness of the DPRK's nuclear freeze declaration, and the continuous refusal by the DPRK to accept measures at the reprocessing plant." ElBaradei stresses that the IAEA must be allowed to monitor liquid nuclear waste in order to ensure that the waste--valuable evidence of North Korea's nuclear history--is not altered in any way.


**18 September 1998**

The US House of Representatives adopts a foreign relations appropriations bill that cuts all $35 million earmarked for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korean in 1999. The bill also carries an amendment stating that President Clinton cannot divert other parts of the foreign relations budget to fund the oil deliveries. The House bill goes farther that the recently adopted Senate bill which prevents the administration from using the $35 million unless Clinton can certify that North Korea is not pursuing nuclear weapons and has halted all missile exports. [Note: The two houses of Congress will soon hold a joint session to coordinate their foreign relations appropriations bills.]


**19 September 1998**

North Korea condemns the United States for alleging that an underground civilian structure is in fact a "secret underground nuclear facility." A commentary in the Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, calls the accusation "groundless slander," a "violation of (North Korea's) sovereignty," and an attempt to break the Agreed Framework. The commentary continues, "if the United States continues to delay the implementation on the framework agreement on unreasonable pretexts and puts pressure on the DPRK, we will be compelled to take relevant action and measures."

—"Sophism Will Not Work," Rodong Sinmun, 19 September 1998, in Korean Central News Agency (Pyongyang), 19

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20 September 1998

US Secretary of State Madeline Albright meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura in New York in an attempt to urge Tokyo to remove its freeze on financial contributions to KEDO and to sign the KEDO cost-sharing agreement. Albright says that the August 31 missile incident and the KEDO light water reactor project should be dealt with separately. Komura acknowledges that "KEDO is the best means to prevent North Korea's nuclear (weapons) development" and that Tokyo does not plan to permanently withhold financial support for KEDO. However, he maintains that the financial freeze will remain in place for the time being. According to Komura, "If Japan immediately signed the agreement on the cost sharing, that would give the wrong impression to Pyongyang." [Note: Japan was scheduled to sign the KEDO cost-sharing agreement on 31 August, but indefinitely postponed the signing after North Korea fired a rocket over its territory. The cost-sharing agreement must be signed before KEDO can contract KEPCO to begin construction of the two light water reactors.]


21-25 September 1998

The IAEA General Assembly meets in Vienna. During the opening session, South Korean Science and Technology Minister Kim Ch'ang Hui delivers a speech urging North Korea to cooperate fully with the IAEA and stressing the vital importance of obtaining information about North Korea's past nuclear activities. In this regard, Kang expresses regret that North Korea has not granted IAEA inspectors access to information necessary to determine the correctness and completeness on North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material. On 25 September, the general assembly adopts a resolution in which the agency "expresses deep concern over the continuing non-compliance of the DPRK with the IAEA-DPRK safeguards agreement and calls upon the DPRK to comply fully with that safeguards agreement."


21 September 1998

On the sidelines of the IAEA General Assembly meeting, US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson meets with Japanese Science and Technology Agency Director General Yutaka Takeyama and requests that Tokyo reconsider its decision

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to freeze financial contributions to KEDO.

21 September 1998
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura tells South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Soon Young that Japan will observe the results of the upcoming US-North Korean missile talks scheduled to begin 1 October before deciding whether or not to sign the KEDO cost-sharing agreement. [Note: On 31 August, Japan postponed signing the agreement after North Korea fired a rocket over its territory.]

Late September 1998
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright reportedly sends a letter Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura requesting that Tokyo lift its suspension of financial assistance to KEDO by 12 October. [Note: Funds for preparatory construction work in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o are scheduled to run out on 15 October, after which, preparatory construction will halt unless the board members sign the cost-sharing agreement and allocate the needed funds.]

24 September 1998
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura and South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Soon Yung meet on the sidelines at the UN General Assembly. The three ministers reconfirm the importance of KEDO "as the most realistic and effective mechanism for preventing North Korea from advancing its nuclear program." They also jointly "deplore" the 31 August missile launch by North Korea. While Albright and Hong had hoped to persuade Tokyo to reconsider its decision to suspend all financial contributions to KEDO, Komura reiterated Tokyo's position that it is not prepared to resume financial contributions to KEDO or sign the cost-sharing agreement.

25 September 1998
North Korea's Rodong Sinmun denounces the US allegation that North Korea has built underground nuclear facilities and threatens to attack the United States for the "unpardonable encroachment upon the sovereignty and dignity of North Korea." The commentary also states that "whether the launch of our artificial satellite is used for military purposes or not, entirely depends on the attitude of the United States and other hostile forces."

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28 September 1998
US government sources confirm that North Korea has resumed canning its nuclear spent fuel rods in containers. According to the source, the work should be complete within one month.

29 September 1998
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura says, "The time has come for (Japan) to seriously consider when we should lift the suspension (of financial contributions to KEDO) and under what circumstances." Speaking to reporters, Komura adds that the international community will not understand if Japan continues to refuse to sign the KEDO cost-sharing agreement merely as retaliation for North Korea's missile test on 31 August.

28 September 1998
KEDO's Executive Board meets to discuss ways to alleviate an imminent funding crisis following Japan's refusal to sign the cost-sharing agreement. [Note: Funds for preparatory construction work in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o will run out by 15 October, after which, preparatory construction will halt unless the board members sign the cost-sharing agreement and allocate the needed funds.]

29-30 September 1998
KEDO holds a general assembly meeting in New York, attended by representatives from 11 countries. The representatives review KEDO's annual report and discuss ways in which to alleviate funding problems. Discussions focus on Japan's recent suspension of financial contributions to KEDO following North Korea's 31 August missile test.

30 September 1998
The US State Department announces that President Bill Clinton has allocated $15 million for additional heavy fuel oil to be sent to North Korea. Both Houses of Congress refused to allocate funds for the oil shipments, but,

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according to State Department spokesman James Foley, Clinton used funds originally earmarked for nonproliferation and antiterrorism. Clinton says, in a statement read by Foley, that his decision is "important to the security interests of the US."


2 October 1998

The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, accuses the United States of failing to implement the Agreed Framework. The editorial, carried by the Korean Central News Agency, accuses the United States of delaying construction of the two light water reactors, failing to make heavy fuel oil deliveries, and threatening North Korea with nuclear weapons. The commentary threatens that North Korea might abandon the Agreed Framework, saying, "Implementing an agreement with the United States while the latter does not have to do so does not make sense."


5 October 1998

The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, responds to a resolution adopted by the IAEA on 25 September that "expressed deep concern over the continuing non-compliance of (North Korea) with the IAEA-DPRK safeguards agreement." The Rodong Sinmun claims that the 1994 Agreed Framework supercedes the safeguards agreement, saying that "it is specified in the DPRK-US framework agreement that after considerable progress is made on the light water reactor agreement, the DPRK is to negotiate with the IAEA and implement the safeguards agreement." The article adds, "It is ridiculous for the IAEA to talk about nuclear inspection and total implementation of the nuclear safeguards accord at a time when the light water reactor project is at a standstill."


5-9 October 1998

The IAEA and North Korea hold negotiations in Vienna on North Korea's denial of access to information necessary for inspectors to verify the completeness and correctness of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material.


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8 October 1998
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi meet in Tokyo to discuss cooperation between their two countries in the 21st Century. The two leaders issue a joint declaration in which they reconfirm their commitment to uphold the 1994 Agreed Framework and recognize KEDO as the most effective mechanism to halt North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

13 October 1998
North Korea's Foreign Ministry accuses "conservative hardliners" in the United States of attempting to delay heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. According to the ministry, if the US intention is to abolish the Agreed Framework, Pyongyang will not object.

13 October 1998
South Korean Foreign Minister Hong Sun Yong urges the US Congress to approve funds for heavy fuel oil shipments to North Korea. Stressing the seriousness of the current situation to the survival of the Agreed Framework, Hong says, "In case the US neglects its part of the agreement, they will give North Korea the excuse to scrap the agreement."

14 October 1998
KEDO's Executive Board adopts a resolution extending the preparatory construction work in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o until mid-January 1999. Because Tokyo has refused to sign the KEDO cost sharing agreement, KEPCO, the main contractor for the reactor project, will provide the $8.9 million needed for the additional work, and KEDO will repay KEPCO by June 1999. [Note: According to a South Korean official from the Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, since KEDO will not have to halt preliminary work due to lack of funding, the actual construction of the reactors is expected to begin the first half of 1999.]

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15 October 1998

The White House and Congress agree on a budget for fiscal year 1999 which includes $35 million earmarked for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea. Under the agreed upon budget, President Clinton must certify that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program and has halted all ballistic missile exports before the funds can be used.


15 October 1998

In an interview with Japan’s Nihon Keizai, former US Defense Secretary William Perry says that the recently discovered underground facility in North Korea likely contains a nuclear reactor that will completed in four to five years.


16 October 1998

Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi tells Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka to take necessary measure to resume financial contributions to KEDO. According to a government official, Japan plans to sign the KEDO cost-sharing agreement with the United States, South Korea and the EU as early as next week. [Note: On 31 August, Tokyo suspended all financial contributions to KEDO after North Korea test-fired a missile that passed over Japanese territory.]


17 October 1998

The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, questions the US commitment to the 1994 Agreed Framework. The paper claims that if the United States fails to implement the agreement, "it will be wholly to blame for the consequences."


17 October 1998

A spokesman for North Korea's Disarmament and Peace Institute says that peace on the Korean Peninsula will be

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realized "only when" the United States removes all troops from South Korea. [Note: The institute is a think tank under North Korea's Foreign Ministry.]


20 October 1998
The US Congress passes a budget for fiscal year 1999 that allocates $35 million for heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea. However, the budget stipulates the funds will not be allocated until 1 March 1999, and no more than $15 million may be allocated before 1 June 1999. Thirty days prior to each date, President Clinton must certify that North Korea is taking steps to implement the 1994 Agreed Framework and is no longer exporting ballistic missiles. Congress also specifies that "30 days before the June deadline, the White House must certify that it has reached an agreement with North Korea on the means for satisfying US concerns regarding suspect underground construction."


21 October 1998
Terusuke Terada, Japan's ambassador to KEDO, signs the KEDO cost-sharing agreement in Tokyo, thus officially ending Japan's suspension of financial support for KEDO. Representatives from the United States, South Korea and the EAEC also sign the cost-sharing agreement. [Note: Japan suspended all funds for KEDO on 31 August 1998 after a North Korean rocket flew over Japanese territory.]


21 October 1998
Lee Gun, North Korea's spokesman for the four-party peace talks in Geneva, says that North Korea does not care if the United States abandons the 1994 Agreed Framework. Commenting on the US Congress's plan to freeze funds for KEDO until at least 1 March 1999, Lee says, "The [Agreed Framework] was signed and agreed upon because the United States wanted it. We don't care and it does not matter to us whether they stop funding or break the agreement."

21-24 October 1998
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the third round of four-party peace talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. This round of talks shows progress as the four parties agree to form two subcommittees to discuss establishing peace on the peninsula and reducing tension between North and South Korea. At the talks, the United States and North Korea meet in private to discuss the suspected underground nuclear facility located near Kumch'ang-ri. North Korea reportedly offers to allow the United States to inspect the site in return for compensation for infringing on its sovereignty. On 24 October, a US official announces that at the bilateral meetings, North Korea agreed to allow Charles Kartman, head of the US delegation, to visit the suspected sites as early as November.


23 October 1998
Kim Tok Ryong, a member of South Korea's National Assembly, claims that Seoul has evidence that two recently discovered underground facilities in North Korea are related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. According to Kim, one of the facilities is located in Kumchang-ri, Taegwan-kun, and the other is located between T'aechon-kun and Kusong. Kim says the Kumch'ang-ri facility, to be completed within six years, is expected to house a reactor and a reprocessing plant. The other facility, according to Kim, is located under an island in the middle of a lake, and is already producing plutonium. However, South Korea's Unification Minister, Kang In Tok, announces that the United States and South Korea have not yet determined whether or not the facilities are in fact related to a nuclear weapons program.


27 October-7 November 1998
The United States and South Korea hold the annual Foal Eagle joint military exercise. The military exercise, aimed at preparing for a North Korean invasion, involves 50,000 South Korean troops and 35,000 US troops. Foal Eagle

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'98 is the largest joint-military exercise since the cancellation of Team Spirit in 1993. [Note: Team Spirit was cancelled in order to encourage North Korea to sign the Agreed Framework, but since Team Spirit’s cancellation, North Korea has accused the United States and South Korea of merely replacing Team Spirit with other joint military exercises.]


28 October 1998
The US State Department announces that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman will lead a delegation to North Korea on 16 November to discuss inspections of suspected underground nuclear facilities. According to State Department spokesman James Rubin, the United States will demand a written commitment from Pyongyang to allow such inspections. [Note: At the recently concluded third round of four-party peace talks in Geneva, North Korea reportedly agreed to allow inspections of the sites if the United States agreed to compensate North Korea for infringing on its sovereignty if the sites are found not to be related to a nuclear program.]


Late October 1998
CIA Director George Tenet reportedly meets with top South Korean officials in Seoul to coordinate the US and South Korean policies on North Korea.


30 October 1998
A commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun says that while North Korea hopes to see the Agreed Framework implemented in full, if the United States breaks the agreement, North Korea has nothing to lose. The commentary adds that if the United States does in fact abandon the 1994 agreement, Washington "must know that it will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therein."


1 November 1998
In an interview with the Asahi Shimbun, US Defense Secretary William Cohen says that the 1994 Agreed Framework "would be in jeopardy" if North Korea does not allow inspections of two suspected underground nuclear facilities.

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**2 November 1998**

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai urges North Korea to allow inspections of two recently discovered underground facilities with suspected ties to a clandestine nuclear program.


**2 November 1998**

The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling on North Korea to come into full compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement. The resolution also calls on North Korea to preserve information relevant to verifying the completeness and correctness of its initial declaration of nuclear material.


**4 November 1998**

North Korean Ambassador Kim Chang Guk tells the UN General Assembly that North Korea will not cooperate with the IAEA until the United States fulfills its pledge under the Agreed Framework to supply two light water nuclear reactors. [Note: On 2 November, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution urging North Korea to come into full compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement.]


**3 November 1998**

South Korea’s SBS Television reports that North Korean uranium, thorium, and lithium are being sold on the black market in China.


**5 November 1998**

South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Yong announces that South Korea has discovered "some suspect parts of North Korea’s underground facility," but, Hong adds, South Korea will not take "excessive action until we obtain a clear conclusion that the underground facility is related to a nuclear program." Hong states that until such proof comes forward, South Korea will continue to support the KEDO light water reactor project.


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9 November 1998
North Korea's Foreign Ministry objects to the US demand for unconditional access to two underground facilities it suspects of being related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. The Korean Central News Agency quotes a ministry spokesman as saying that North Korea has made it clear that it would allow an inspection of the sites only if it is compensated for what it feels to be an infringement upon its sovereignty if the facilities are proven not to be related to a nuclear program.


9 November 1998
KEDO adopts a resolution stipulating how the costs of constructing two light water reactors will be divided among the executive board members. Under the resolution, South Korea will finance 70 percent of the $4.6 billion project, and Japan will provide $1 billion. The remaining $400 million will be provided by the United States and the EU, but the details of how much each would pay is not mentioned in the resolution.


10 November 1998
Washington says that it is willing to abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework unless North Korea allays suspicions that two recently discovered underground facilities are related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. A senior US official says that "in the absence of such a solution, it is very difficult to foresee how we will be able to sustain our obligations under the Agreed Framework." The official also says that Washington has "a great body of evidence" that suggests that North Korea is in deed constructing a new nuclear facility.


12 November 1998
Pyongyang denounces the United States for stating it has evidence that North Korea is constructing an underground nuclear facility. The Korean Central News Agency says once again that the United States may inspect the suspected site if it agrees to pay compensation should the facility be found not to be related to a nuclear program. The commentary also warns that "the United States should ponder over the serious consequences to be entailed by its ill-intentioned demand for 'inspection'."


13 November 1998
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright tells reporters that Washington believes "that the Agreed Framework is doing what it's supposed to do, which is to freeze (North Korea's) nuclear materials program." Despite concerns

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about recently discovered underground facilities with suspected ties to a North Korean nuclear program, Albright says that the United States is "at this time satisfied." [Note: Albright’s comments are noticeable different from the 10 November statement of a senior government official who claimed that the United States was prepared to walk away from the Agreed Framework if North Korea did not allow inspections of the suspected sites.]

13 November 1998
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, reports that North Korea is "not on the least fearful of the US threat that if the 'inspection' of the 'underground nuclear facility' is not allowed, the DPRK-US Agreed Framework will face crisis." "If the USA breaks the framework," the paper warns, "we will have the next option."

14 November 1998
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Ch’oe Song Hong prior to his trip to North Korea. The two agree that North Korea must allow on-site inspections of its suspected underground nuclear installations.

16-18 November 1998
A US delegation, lead by Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss inspecting a recently discovered underground facility in Kumch'ang-ri with suspected ties to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. Kartman informs North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan that Washington will reconsider its commitment to the Agreed Framework if North Korea does not allow inspections of the site. Claiming that the disputed facility is for food storage, North Korea reportedly says it will allow the inspection only if the United States pays $300 million, but the United States rejects the offer. While little progress is made during the discussions, the two sides agree to meet again at a later date.

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18 November 1998
US State Department spokesman James Rubin says that Washington is not surprised that Pyongyang refused to allow unconditional access to a suspected nuclear facility. Commenting on the recent failure of a US delegation to convince Pyongyang to allow inspections of an underground facility in Kumch'ang-ri, Rubin says that Washington is not "satisfied with the response we received." However, he adds, "This is an ongoing process. There was no expectation that we were going to resolve it right away." Rubin says that the two sides agreed to meet again "as soon as possible." [Note: During the 16 November meeting, North Korea said that it would allow inspections of the site only if the United States paid $300 million.]

19 November 1998

19 November 1998

20 November 1998
South Korean President Kim Dae Jung says that there is not yet any "conclusive evidence" to prove that the underground facility in Kumch'ang-ri, North Korea is related to a clandestine nuclear weapons program. —"Kim Says No Evidence About N. Korea's Nuclear Site," Japan Economic Newswire, 20 November 1998, in Lexis-
20 November 1998
After his visit to Pyongyang, Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, announces that the United States and South Korea have "compelling evidence" that the underground facilities currently under construction in Kumch'ang-ri are related to a nuclear program. However, the South Korean government denies that there is clear evidence. South Korean President Kim Dae Jung also says, "there is suspicion that the underground facilities in Kumch'ang-ri are nuclear-related, but there is no clear evidence."

20 November 1998
US President Bill Clinton, appearing at a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, dismisses as "completely unacceptably" North Korea's demand for up to $300 million in compensation for allowing inspection of a suspected nuclear site.

21 November 1998
US President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Dae Jung urge North Korea to allow inspections of a suspected underground nuclear facility at Kumch'an-gi. Speaking at a joint press conference, Clinton says that Washington and Seoul "have strong information that raises a suspicion, but no one knows for sure what the facility is." Kim warns that the two allies "will not tolerate any development of nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass-destruction" by North Korea.

21 November 1998
A Rodong Sinmun commentary says that in order to reduce military tension on the Korean Peninsula, Washington must sign a peace treaty with Pyongyang and remove all its troops from South Korea.
22 November 1998

South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, in a meeting with top government officials, says, "If North Korea's underground site is confirmed to be a nuclear weapons storage facility, we will first ask Pyongyang to remove nuclear weapons. Should it deny the call, a grave situation will take place."


23 November 1998

Pentagon issues a report reviewing US strategy in East Asia. The 68-page report, titled "The United States Security Strategy for the East Asia-Pacific Region 1998," notes that the 1994 Agreed Framework "defused a critical source of tension and deflected what could have been a military confrontation with North Korea." The report continues, "If North Korea proves unwilling to fulfill the terms of the agreement, the United States will pursue its fundamental security interests through other diplomatic and security means."


24 November 1998

The North Korean Foreign Ministry says that North Korea has no obligation to allow an inspection of an underground facility in Kumch’ang-ri. A ministry spokesman says that North Korea will never accept the US demand for such an inspection, calling it "a grave violation of and insult to our sovereignty and dignity." The spokesman says, however, that North Korea could allow a one-time inspection if the United States compensates it for the "groundless" insult.


24 November 1998

Asahi News Service, quoting US and South Korean defense experts, reports that North Korea has recently tested nuclear warhead triggering devices. The report quotes the defense experts as saying they have "credible evidence" that North Korea has conducted such tests nearby the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch’ang-ri several times in 1998.


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25 November 1998
Speaking at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei says that he regrets "to report that no tangible progress was made during the eleventh round of technical discussions between the IAEA and the DPRK which took place in Vienna from October 5-8, 1998." ElBaradei adds, "Since 1995 there has been no progress in our efforts to obtain access to the information which the agency deems necessary." [Note: On 4 December, North Korea condemns ElBaradei's statements as a cooperative attempt with US hardliners to derail the 1994 Agreed Framework.]

26 November 1998
The Rodong Sinmun denies allegations from the United States and South Korea that an underground facility in Kumch'ang-ri is intended for nuclear weapons production. The newspaper also claims that the accusations raise tension on the peninsula and give North Korea the right to take "appropriate defensive measure."

28 November 1998
Top government officials from Tokyo and Seoul meet in Kagoshima, Japan and agree to take concerted steps to resolve the issue of a suspected nuclear facility under construction in North Korea.

29 November 1998
After meeting with South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei calls on North Korea to open suspected nuclear sites for inspection. ElBaradei says, "There is a need to clarify what the underground facility is, and we should be able to examine it through dialogue with North Korea."

2 December 1998
A spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army condemns a recently leaked Pentagon report, Operation Plan 5027, that calls for the invasion of Pyongyang and the overthrow of Kim Jong Il's regime in the event of a North Korean invasion of the South. A spokesman for the general staff of the Korean People's Army

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accuses the United States of trying to ignite a war on the Korean Peninsula. The spokesman adds that if the United States attacks the North, it will respond with an "annihilating blow" against the United States, South Korea and Japan.


2 December 1998

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei urges North Korea to comply with its safeguards agreement and allow agency inspectors access to information necessary for verifying the completeness and correctness of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material. Meeting with South Korea's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Yong, ElBaradei also urges North Korea to allow inspections of the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri and states that the agency will get involved with the dispute over the facility in the future. In an interview with the Korea Herald following the meeting, ElBaradei proposes that North Korea allow the IAEA to inspect the site in order to defuse mounting tension over the issue and prove that the site is not related to a nuclear program.


2 December 1998

The EU and North Korea hold working-level discussions in Brussels to address various issues including nuclear nonproliferation on the Korean Peninsula. The meeting is attended by officials from the European Commission, the foreign ministers of Britain, Germany and Austria, and Kim Ch'un Guk, director in charge of European affairs in the North Korean Foreign Ministry. Delegates do not comment on the details on the meeting, but describe the talks as "constructive".


3 December 1998

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon announces that Washington has not detected any signs that North Korean forces are preparing for war on the Korean Peninsula. Commenting on a 2 December statement by the general staff of the Korean People's Army threatening to annihilate the United States if it made any aggressive moves on the peninsula, Bacon says that while North Korean forces are currently involved in winter training exercises, there has not been "anything out of the ordinary going on." [Note: The 2 December North Korean statement, carried by the Korean central News Agency, was in response to a recently leaked Pentagon report, Operation Plan 5027.

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which stated that if North Korean invaded the South, the United States would not only defend the 38th parallel but also invade Pyongyang and overthrow the regime.


3 December 1998
South Korean Defense Minister Ch'on Yong Taek says that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs remain a threat to Northeast Asia. Speaking at an annual meeting of top ranking military personnel, Chun says that South Korea must remain at full alert as tension grows over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program.


3 December 1998
North Korea's Vice Defense Minister Ch'ong Ch'ang Ryol warns the United States that if it starts a war on the Korean Peninsula, "our People's Army will blow up the US territory as a whole."


4 December 1998
Seoul announces that in 1999 it plans to send an additional consul to the KEDO office in Shinp'o as construction of the reactors gets under way. [Note: Currently there are five consuls at the KEDO office: two each from the United States and South Korea, and one from Japan.]


4 December 1998
More than 100,000 North Korean soldiers, workers, and students attend a demonstration at Kim Il Sung Square in the heart of Pyongyang reportedly vowing to answer "the reckless provocation of the US imperialist aggressors with an all-out war."


4 December 1998
A Rodong Sinmun commentary urges the North Korean Army to assume full combat readiness and warns the United States that if it makes any military provocations it will be "uprooted from this land once and for all." A similar commentary appearing in Rodong Sinmun on the same day denounces the continued US assertion that Kumch'ang-ri is a nuclear weapons facility, calling the allegation "a wicked plot to come up with a pretext for

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provoking a war at all cost."

4-5 December 1998
Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in New York to discuss a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. The US and North Korean delegations are respectively headed by Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. After the first day of talks, Kim tells reporters that there are still "great differences in our views." He adds that North Korea has faithfully adhered to the Agreed Framework, and reiterated the demand that if the United States wants to inspect the KUmc'h'ang-ri site it must pay. Following the second day of talks, Kartman says, "The atmosphere is serious, and we managed to cover some ground today." However, neither he nor Kim mentions any comment on the details of the meetings. [Note: The two delegations continue talks in Washington on 7 December.]

6-7 December 1998
William Perry, coordinator for US policy on North Korea, visits Seoul to discuss North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. During a meeting with Perry, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Sun Young reportedly urges the United States to deal with the Kumch'ang-ri issue carefully since there is no "conclusive evidence" that the facility is related to a nuclear weapons program. President Kim Dae Jung proposes to Perry a package deal that includes increasing food aid to North Korea in return for its allowing access to the Kumch'ang-ri site. A presidential spokesman quotes Kim as telling Perry, "I hope for normalization of relations between the United States and North Korea, and I think it's time to think about lifting economic sanctions against North Korea." [Note: While in Seoul, Perry also meets with Lim Dong Won, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security, Lee Jong Ch'yan, director of the Agency for National Security Planning, and Defense Minister Ch'on Yong Taek.]

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7-8 December 1998

Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in Washington to continue talks on a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. As with the last meeting held in New York on 4-5 December, the United States and North Korean delegations are respectively headed by Charles Kartman, special envoy for Korean affairs, and Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan. The two sides adjourn the meeting without commenting on how the talks progress, and they agree to meet again in New York on 10 December. State Department spokesman James Foley, suggesting that the United States might ease sanction in order to gain access to the disputed site, says, "The fact is that the DPRK is seeking an improved relationship with the United States. We are willing to entertain that possibility if our concerns can be addressed in the various fora in which we are negotiating."


7-11 December 1998

An high-level EU delegation travels to Pyongyang reportedly to gauge Pyongyang's willingness to implement and abide by the 1994 Agreed Framework. According to the EU delegation, the North Korean officials with whom they meet express annoyance over delays in heavy fuel oil deliveries and suggest that should such delays continue, North Korea will abandon the 1994 Agreed Framework without regret. Speaking to reporters in Beijing after the five-day trip, former Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindmans says, "We left the country with a positive impression but without any commitment on their part."


8 December 1998

North Korea once again warns the United States against military provocation over a suspected nuclear weapons facility. As it has for the past few weeks, the Korean Central News Agency carries a series of threats and warnings aimed at the United States stating that North Korea is prepared for war and will annihilate the United States, South Korea and Japan if provoked. [Note: Washington and Seoul dismiss the escalated war of words as mere bargaining chips and do not take the threats seriously. When questioned about the recent barrage of threats, a South Korean official says, "When there are major talks scheduled, North Korea usually starts blasting us or the United States. It is their usual bargaining tactic, although they know it never works."]

—"'Angry' N. Korea Ready for War with US," Agence France Presse, 8 December 1998, in Lexis-Nexis,

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8-9 December 1998
William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, visits Beijing to discuss North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

9 December 1998
The Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, a South Korean think tank under by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, issues a report urging US President Bill Clinton to invoke a presidential decree overriding the congressional freeze on heavy fuel oil deliveries to North Korea until 31 May. The report also calls on the United States and South Korea to offer additional food aid in exchange for access to the suspected nuclear weapons facility in Kumch'ang-ri.

9-10 December 1998
William Perry, coordinator of US policy on North Korea, visits Tokyo to discuss North Korea's suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. Perry reaffirms Japanese government officials that the United States is committed to keeping close contact with Japan and South Korea on resolving the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. In a meeting with Perry, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party Yoshiro Mori says that if North Korea remains secretive about the suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri, Japan may reconsider its financial contribution to the KEDO light water reactor project.

10 December 1998
China urges the United States to be patient in resolving the dispute with North Korea over access to a suspected nuclear weapons site. Foreign Minister Zhu Bangzao says that "although new problems have arisen, the Chinese side stresses that the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula serves the fundamental interests of all sides." Bangzao adds that China hopes "that the relevant sides can treasure the achievements already gained and continue to work through peaceful consultations to properly settle the problems."
10-11 December 1998
Charles Kartman, US special envoy for Korean affairs, and Kim Gye Gwan, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister, meet in New York for continuing negotiations on the suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. US State Department spokesman James Rubin says that after the talks, "the two sides recognized that progress was made and agreed to meet again as soon as possible at a venue and date to be determined." Rubin adds that "although gaps remain, the parties approached the issues in a problem-solving manner." On 12 December, sources close to the talks announce that the next round of negotiations will be held in Geneva before and after the next round of four-party peace talks scheduled for 18-22 January 1999. [Note: On 14 December a senior Clinton Administration official announces that during the course of the talks, which began in New York on 4 December, North Korea dropped its demand for $300 million in compensation, and the United States agreed to increase humanitarian aid to gain access to the site.]

10-11 December 1998
Government officials and security experts from the United States, Russia, and Japan meet in Tokyo for the North Pacific Security Forum. On 11 December, the three nations issue a joint statement in which they agree that North Korea's suspected nuclear and missile development does not pose an immediate threat, but rather it poses a latent threat that may surface in the future. In that regard, the three nations agree to increase cooperation on monitoring North Korea's suspected development of weapons of mass destruction.

11 December 1998
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura says in a press conference that if North Korea test-fires a second rocket, Japan would find it "extremely difficult" to win public support for its pledged contributions to the KEDO light water reactor project. [Note: On 31 August, Japan temporarily suspended all financial support for KEDO following the testing of a North Korean rocket that flew over Japanese territory.]

11 December 1998
North Korea condemns South Korean Minister of National Unification Kang In Tok's recent statements calling for inspections of the suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. A report carried on the Korean Central News Agency, equates the call for "on-site inspection" with "provocation of war against the North." The report adds, "If the
enemies dare a war against the North in this land, we will answer fire with fire and annihilate the provokers without mercy."


14 December 1998
A senior Clinton administration official is quoted as saying that North Korea has dropped its demand for $300 million in return for a one-time inspection of a suspected nuclear facility in Kumch'ang-ri. According to the official, at the latest round of US-North Korean talks, North Korea dropped its demand for direct financial compensation, and the United States agreed to increase humanitarian aid to gain access to the facility.


17 December 1998
The South Korean military detects a North Korean spy submarine at 11:15 PM about 2km from the South Korean Imp'o-ri Army Battalion in Yosu, South Cholla province. South Korean Navy vessels give chase and sink the submarine around 5:55 AM on 18 December. [Note: On 19 December, North Korea denies any wrongdoing and accuses South Korea of creating the incident in order to fuel tension on the peninsula.]


18 December 1998
Japan's Defense Agency presents a report to the Liberal Democratic Party that says North Korea has three suspected nuclear facilities. The three sites are said to be a nuclear reactor and reprocessing facility at Kumch'ang-ri, Tae'gwon-kun, North P'yong'an Province; a trigger device testing facility at "Kwisong;" and an underground nuclear facility at T'aechon-kun, North P'yong'ang Province.


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21 December 1998
Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, speaking at the Japan National Press Club, says that maintaining support for KEDO is vital for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. [Note: Despite his statements in support of KEDO, on 11 December Komura said in a press conference that if North Korea test-fires a second rocket, Japan would find it "extremely difficult" to win public support for its pledged contributions to KEDO.]

21 December 1998
Representatives from the United States, EAEC, Japan and South Korea meet in New York for a KEDO executive board meeting.

22 December 1998
Keizo Takemi, Japan's state secretary for foreign affairs, announces that "it will be difficult to get the approval of the parliament for contributions to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) unless progress is made in connection with the suspected Kumch'ang-ri nuclear facility in North Korea."

22 December 1998
Representatives from the United States, South Korea and Japan meet in New York to coordinate their policies on North Korea. The three nations agree to maintain pressure on Pyongyang to allow inspections of a suspected underground nuclear facility in Kumchang-ri.

Late December 1998
US President Bill Clinton orders the disbursement of $12 million for 108,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to shipped to North Korea by the end of the year. The oil shipment would complete the annual commitment under the 1994 Agreed Framework to deliver 500,000 tons of oil to North Korea until the completion of the KEDO light water reactor project.

1997

January 1997
The EU agrees to finance part of the heavy fuel oil to be delivered to North Korea until the completion of the light water reactors. Under an agreement with KEDO, the EU pledges up to $19 million annually for the next five years in order to help alleviate funding problems. [Note: The US agreed to supply the $50 million/year of heavy fuel oil, but due to budget problems, the United States has been supplying only $30 million/year.]

Early January 1997
US nuclear technicians resume storing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in steel canisters. The US technicians arrive in Pyongyang on 8 January under an agreement by which North Korea agrees to resume the storage activities simultaneously with the signing of two additional reactor supply agreement protocols. [Note: US technicians, under the supervision of the IAEA, began the storing the fuel rods in May 1996, but in November, Pyongyang suspended the storage process in response to Seoul's threats to delay any work on the light water reactors until Pyongyang apologized for the 18 September submarine incident.]

8 January 1997
KEDO and North Korea sign two additional protocols to the light water reactor supply agreement. The two protocols, signed by KEDO Executive Director Stephen Bosworth and North Korean ambassador Ho Jong, cover the management of the construction site near Shinp'o and the provision of North Korean labor, goods and services relating to the project. North Korea also agrees to allow US technicians to resume storing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in steel canisters. [Note: The two sides initialed the protocols in July 1996, but the official signing of the protocols was delayed due to rising tension on the Korean Peninsula following the 18 September submarine incident.]

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9 January 1997

KEDO and North Korea resume talks on implementing the light-water supply agreement. The resumption of talks in New York follows the signing on 8 January of two protocols relating to the reactor supply agreement. The two sides agree to meet in February to discuss a protocol dealing with North Korea's repayment of the estimated $4.5 billion.


11 January 1997

The Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) and North Korea sign a contract allowing Taipower to ship up to 200,000 barrels of low-grade radioactive waste to North Korea for an estimated cost of $1,151/barrel. [Note: Seoul, worried that North Korea will dump the waste in abandoned mines near the border, strongly objects to the deal.]


20-25 January 1997

The IAEA and North Korea hold negotiations for the first time since September 1996. The five-member IAEA delegation meets with representatives from North Korea's General Department of Atomic Energy to discuss North Korea's non-compliance with its safeguards agreement, and its failure to provide the IAEA with information necessary for the IAEA to verify the accuracy of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material.


21 January 1997

In a written statement to Congress, US Secretary of State Designate Madeline Albright says that "to date, approximately 53 percent of the spent fuel rods (roughly 4,202 of the total 8,000) have been canned and stored." Albright also informs Congress that "without ongoing US financial support, KEDO will be unable to operate or carry out its objectives, which will...contribute to rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
22 January 1997
South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha warns Taiwan that Seoul will take economic and political measures to cancel a deal by which North Korea agreed to dispose of up to 200,000 barrels of Taiwanese nuclear waste in P'yongsan-kun—approximately 90km from the South Korean border. Seoul contends that North Korea lacks the necessary technical facilities to properly dispose of the waste, and thus might cause environmental damage to the Korean Peninsula for many years to come.

28 January 1997
KEDO Executive Director Stephen Bosworth warns that the transfer of Taiwanese nuclear waste to North Korea could seriously "hamper efforts to secure transparency of [North Korea's] nuclear program." Bosworth, however, opposes linking the nuclear waste shipment to the light water reactor project and says that the KEDO project must proceed regardless.

31 January 1997
South Korea threatens to abandon the KEDO light water reactor project if North Korea takes delivery of nuclear waste from Taiwan. Protesting the recently signed contract between Taipower and North Korea, South Korean Prime Minister Lee Su Song warns that if the contract is realized, "it would be difficult for the National Assembly to approve the necessary expenditures to provide the reactors to the North." [Note: Since the contract was signed on 11 January, South Korea has protested the deal, contending that North Korea does not have the necessary facilities to safely dispose of waste.]

4 February 1997
South Korean ambassador to Austria, Lee Sung Kon, meets with IAEA Director General Hans Blix to discuss the planned shipment of Taiwanese nuclear waste to North Korea. Blix expresses concern and says that "South Korea and the IAEA need to discuss closely what they could do to thwart Taiwan's bid to export nuclear waste to North Korea from legal and moral viewpoints."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
12-13 February 1997

Representatives from KEDO meet in Tokyo to draft a protocol to the light water reactor supply agreement concerning the conditions by which North Korea will repay the loans. [Note: KEDO and North Korea hold negotiations on the protocol from 28 March to 2 May and sign it on 2 July.]


16 February 1997

After an attempt on the life of North Korean defector Lee Han Yong in Seoul on 15 February, the South Korean government decides to suspend the seventh visit of a reactor survey team to [Kumho-chigu], Shimp'o, until North Korea guaranteed the team’s safety. The Ministry of Unification makes the decision during an emergency meeting called by Unification Minister Kwon O Ki after the attack on Lee Han Yong.


17 February 1997

North Korea has sent the South Korean government a memorandum guaranteeing the safety of the 27 South Korean members of KEDO team. In response to a North Korean letter assuring the safety of a 27-member South Korean KEDO team, Pan Ki Mun, South Korea’s Senior Presidential Security Secretary, announces that South Korea intends to send the survey team to [Kumho-chigu], Shimp'o as planned. Pan adds that KEDO light water project is not related to the current political tension that resulted from the attack on North Korean defector Lee Han Yong because the KEDO project is an international agreement. However, the negotiations between the two Koreas on the safety of the KEDO team’s trip to North Korea are still underway, and no final decision has been made. [Note: The target date of 22 February is pushed back to 1 March as KEDO officials await an official reply from Pyongyang that it will strictly abide by the protocol signed in 1996 granting immunity and consular protection to all personnel working on the light water reactor project.]


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19 February 1997
A cargo ship carrying 15 tons of equipment to be used by the seventh KEDO site inspection team departs Pusan, South Korea on its way to Najin [Nason], North Korea. From Najin the equipment will be transported by rail to the proposed light water reactor construction site near Shinp’o. The equipment reportedly includes five drilling machines and 11 pumps.

21 February 1997
North Korea announces that it will participate in the upcoming briefing to discuss the proposed four-nation peace talks on 5 March in New York. The briefing, including delegates from the United States, South Korea, and North Korea, was originally scheduled for 29 January, but Pyongyang twice delayed the meeting claiming that the United States must first provide food aid. Pyongyang’s announcement that it will participate follows a pledge of $16 million in famine-relief aid from the United States and South Korea. [Note: The proposed four-nation peace talks, including representatives from the United States, China, and both Koreas, is aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty that would officially end the Korean War.]

Early March 1997
North Korea’s Nuclear Safety Monitoring Committee issues an import permit to Taipower allowing the company to import up to 200,000 barrels of low-grade radioactive material to North Korea.

1 March 1997
The seventh KEDO survey team travels to North Korea to conduct various tests at the proposed light water reactor construction site in Shinp’o. According to KEDO officials, the seventh site survey will last five months.

5 March 1997
Delegates from the United States, South Korea and North Korea meet in New York to discuss the proposed four-party peace talks. The US, South Korean, and North Korean delegations are respectively headed by Charles Kartman, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Song Yong Shik, South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister, and Kim Kye Kwan, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister. The South Korean

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delegation suggests that North Korea could receive economic assistance, food aid, and more cooperation on the light water reactor project if Pyongyang participated in the four-party talks. During the five-hour meeting, described by all sides as "serious and sincere," the North Korean delegation listens to the US and South Korean proposal for the peace talks, which would also include China. After the briefing, the North Korean delegation expresses interest in the proposal and returns to Pyongyang for consultations.


6 March 1997
The South Korean Foreign Ministry announces that the United States and South Korea will cancel the Team Spirit joint-military exercise for the fourth consecutive year.


7 March 1997
The US and North Korea resume high-level talks in New York. During the 10-hour talks the two sides discuss a variety of issues including implementation of the Agreed Framework, North Korea's ballistic missile program, and the proposed four-nation peace talks. [Note: Before this meeting, the United States and North Korea had not held high-level consultations since June 1995.]


11 March 1997
Kwon Yong Hae, director of South Korea's Agency for National Security Planning, says that "it is believed North Korea is trying to import Taiwan's nuclear waste as a means of camouflage for the disposal of its own nuclear waste."


Mid-to-Late March 1997
The US, South Korea and North Korea hold working-level consultations in New York on the proposed four-nation peace talks. The North Korean delegation reportedly says that North Korea will participate in the talks if it receives additional food aid.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
17 March 1997
At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, IAEA Director General Hans Blix reports little progress in negotiations between the IAEA and North Korea over securing necessary for the IAEA to verify the accuracy of North Korea’s initial declaration of nuclear material. Many member states voice concern over the stalled negotiations and Taiwan’s proposed shipment of low-grade nuclear waste to North Korea.

19 March 1997
US President Bill Clinton issues a presidential determination to Congress in which he certifies that "North Korea is cooperating fully in the canning and safe storage of all spent fuel from its graphite-moderated nuclear reactors," and that "North Korea has not significantly diverted assistance provided by the United States for purposes for which it was not intended." [Note: The presidential determination is required by Congress for the allocation of funds to KEDO under the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1997.]

28 March-2 May 1997
Representatives from KEDO and North Korea meet in New York to discuss a protocol setting the schedule by which North Korea will repay the cost of the light water reactors and the penalties incurred if North Korea fails to make the payments on schedule. [Note: The protocol is signed on 2 July.]

9-15 April 1997
A KEDO delegation travels to North Korea for working-level talks on preparations for the groundbreaking at the proposed light water reactor construction site. The 54 member delegation meets with North Korean government officials in Shinp’o. Upon returning to Seoul, Ch’oe Yong Jin, head of the delegation, tells reporters that KEDO and North Korea reached an agreement on entry and exit procedures for personnel working on the project. Cho’oe also reports progress in negotiations on wages for North Korean workers. However, Ch’oe says, more negotiations are necessary before the groundbreaking at the construction site. [Note: This KEDO delegation, which travels aboard the South Korean ship Hanara-ho, is the first to travel directly to North Korea by ship. In July 1996, KEDO and North Korea signed a protocol opening four transportation links--two by sea and two by air--between the North and South for materials and personnel related to the light water reactor project.]
12 April 1997
A high-level source in the South Korean Foreign Ministry says that the four-party talks between the United States, China, North Korea and South Korea will resume in the middle of May. The source also says that the United States and North Korea will apparently establish liaison offices in mid May. [Note: The US and North Korea do not establish the liaison offices, and the talks do not resume until December.]


14 April 1997
KEDO selects four South Korean companies--Hyundai Engineering & Construction Company, Dong Ah Industrial Company, Daewoo Corporation, and Korea Heavy Industry & Construction Company--to construct preliminary facilities for the light water reactor project. The companies’ work involves building offices and living quarters for personnel working of project, constructing roads between Yanghwa port and the reactor site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o, and securing reliable sources for drinking water and electricity.


14 April 1997
Pyongyang condemns the United States for recent meetings with Japan and South Korea at which they discussed "military preparations" and a "joint defense posture" against North Korea. Pyongyang warns that the US attempts to contain North Korea threaten the success of the 1994 Agreed Framework.


15 April 1997
The State Department announces that the United States will donate an additional $15 million worth of food aid to North Korea. However, US officials insist that there is no linkage between the food aid and the proposed four-nation peace talks. [Note: The latest donation brings the total amount of US famine-relief aid given to North Korea since 1995 to $33.4 million.]

16-21 April 1997
Representatives from North Korea meet with representatives from the United States and South Korea in New York to present Pyongyang’s reply to the 5 March joint briefing on the proposed four-party talks. Kim Gye Gwan, head of the North Korean delegation, says that the confidence needed for the peace talks has not yet been built. Thus, he suggests more rounds of negotiations with the United States and South Korea before the actual peace talks begin.

22 April 1997
A Pentagon spokesman says that Washington believes that North Korea "could have generated enough plutonium to make at least one nuclear weapon" before the signing of the 1994 Agreed Framework in which Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear program.

24 April 1997
North Korea announces that it will participate in four-party peace talks only after the United States meets several preconditions, including additional food aid, diplomatic recognition and an easing of trade sanctions.

May 1997
The US company Duke Engineering & Services is contracted by KEDO to serve as the technical support consultant for the two light water reactors being constructed at Shinp'o.

May 1997
The CIA circulates a classified report to senior US officials claiming that North Korea had planned to conduct an underground nuclear test. The report, based on interviews with Hwang Chang Yop, a recent North Korean defector, claims that the test was cancelled after warnings from the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

2 May 1997
KEDO and North Korea initial a protocol on the repayment schedule for the costs of the light water reactor project. Under the protocol, North Korea must make regular interest-free payments over a 17-year period beginning three years after the completion of the reactors. However, if North Korea fails to repay the loans according to the

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designated schedule, KEDO reserves the right to impose economic sanctions. [Note: Negotiations on the protocol began in New York on 28 March.]


12-13 May 1997
The KEDO Executive Board meets in Tokyo and decides to allow the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) to join KEDO as a board member. The board, including representatives from the United States, Japan and South Korea, also decides to begin construction of peripheral facilities for the light water reactor project in mid-July.


15 May 1997
The European Union and KEDO initial an agreement by which the EU will join KEDO as a board member and donate $20 million/year to the international consortium over the next five year.


21 May 1997
In a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, IAEA Director Hans Blix says that North Korea has still not provided sufficient information about its past use of spent nuclear fuel.


22 May 1997
US Secretary of State Madeline Albright asks Congress to appropriate $30 million in fiscal year 1998 for donations to KEDO. In a prepared statement given before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Albright says that the KEDO project is related "directly to the safety and security of the American people."


25-27 May 1997
IAEA Director General Hans Blix travels to Seoul to discuss North Korea's nuclear program and Taiwan's planned shipment of nuclear waste to North Korea. Blix promises that the IAEA will continue to make efforts to ensure the transparency of North Korea's past and present nuclear activities. He also reaffirms that the planned shipment of Taiwanese nuclear waste is comprised solely of low-grade nuclear material and thus not prohibited for
international transportation.


27 May 1997

Former US Defense Secretary William Perry say that he does not believe North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. Speaking at a conference in Seoul, Perry says that even though North Korea may possesess "a few kilograms of plutonium," he is "confident" that North Korea does not have the necessary technology to construct a nuclear bomb.


28 May 1997

KEDO contracts Korea Telecom to provide all of the telecommunication links between South Korea and the light water reactor construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o.


31 May–7 June 1997

A 44-member KEDO delegation travels to North Korea to negotiate construction terms for the Shinp’o light water reactor project. While various details have yet to be worked out, the two sides sign a tentative agreement on almost all major issues relating to site preparation work including mail and telecommunication services, quarantine procedures, and transportation.


2 June 1997

The US General Accounting Office (GAO) presents a report to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources stating that as of 1 April 1997, the United States had allocated $82 million for the implementation of the Agreed Framework, including $51 million in contributions to KEDO and $26 million to assist North Korea in the safe storage of over 50,000kg (8,000 rods) of spent nuclear fuel. The report claims, however, that the total amount of future US expenditures for the project is unclear because reliable estimates of the projects total cost are not yet available and other countries have yet to specify the amount of their contributions. Regardless, the report assesses, the United States may have to supply more funds than originally anticipated or risk the collapse of the Agreed

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Framework. Of particular concern, the report states, is the "significant funding shortfalls" for the annual heavy fuel oil deliveries.


3 June 1997
Norway pledges $250,000 to KEDO.

4 June 1997
The US House of Representatives passes a non-binding resolution calling on Taiwan to refrain from shipping low-grade nuclear material to North Korea. Taipower ignores the resolution and on 6 June announces that the shipment will proceed as scheduled.

4 June 1997
The Nuclear Assurance Corp., the US contractor in charge of the packing, clean-up, and dismantlement project at the Yongbyon nuclear complex, announces that 6,500 of North Korea's 8,000 nuclear spent-fuel rods have been packed for long-term storage. However, more than 800 rods were "seriously neglected," complicating the process. Officials from the corporation say that delays have increased the cost of packing and storage of the fuel rods from $8 million to about $15 million, a cost which will be paid by the United States.

9 June 1997
IAEA Director General Hans Blix reports to the Board of Governors that the agency cannot verify that North Korea's nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. In the Safeguard Implementation Report, the annual report presented to the board, Blix claims that North Korea has yet to allow full-scope inspections or clarify discrepancies in its inventory of plutonium.

Late June 1997
The UN Special Assembly on the Environment adopts an agreement calling for a ban on the shipment of nuclear material to countries that lack adequate nuclear storage facilities. The agreement is passed in response to Taiwan's
planned shipment of up to 200,000 barrels of low-grade nuclear waste to North Korea.

23 June-2 July 1997
Representatives from KEDO and North Korea hold the third round of working-level consultations on logistical aspects of the light water reactor project. The two sides reach an agreement on all unresolved technical issues such as wages for North Korean workers, communication links, the condition of roads connecting the port to the construction site, and emergency procedures. On 2 July, Stephen Bosworth, KEDO Executive Director, and Ho Jong, North Korean ambassador at large, sign four memoranda of understanding allowing construction of the reactors to begin as soon as possible. According to a joint communiqué, construction is scheduled to begin in early August.

24 June 1997
KEDO and North Korea sign a protocol concerning the repayment schedule for the cost of the light water reactor project. Under the protocol, North Korea must repay the interest-free loans over a 17-year period beginning three years after the completion of the reactors. However, if North Korea does not adhere to the repayment schedule, KEDO reserves the right to impose economic sanctions. [Note: Negotiations on the protocol were held in New York from 28 March to 2 May.]
30 June 1997
North Korea agrees to participate in four-nation peace talks tentatively scheduled to begin 5 August. The peace talks, aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty, will include representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas.

Early July 1997
In a letter to a Korean-American journalist, Kim Jong Il says, "In our relations with the United States, we will faithfully implement the agreed points in conformity with the idea and principle of our foreign policy. This is our invariable stand." He added that many problems still remain due to "imperialists' hostile activities."

2 July 1997
Officials from the United States and North Korea meet to discuss various bilateral issues, such as implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, North Korea's missile program, and famine relief aid.

10 July 1997
North Korean defector, Hwang Jang Yop concedes that he does not have proof that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons. In his first major press conference in Tokyo, Hwang says, "It is common knowledge they have these weapons, but there is no means to verify it." He adds, however, that South Korea "would be wise" to assume that such weapons exist.

16 July 1997
Fourteen North Korean soldiers reportedly cross the military demarcation line and exchange gunfire with South Korean forces for about 20 minutes. The South Korean Defense Ministry calls the incident a "deliberate provocation" by North Korea.

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17 July 1997
In response to the 16 July incursion of North Korean soldiers over the demarcation line, the US Senate votes to
hold back $14 million allocated to KEDO until the president certifies that North Korea has not violated the
armistice for nine months.
—"Senate OKs Big Aid Bill, Will Use to Press Policy; Lawmakers Reject Criticism of China Trade, Lifting Cuba Travel

18 July 1997
Minju Joson, a North Korean daily, denounces the US and South Korean reaction to the 16 July conflict in the
demilitarized zone (DMZ). The commentary claims that North Korea is a victim and demands an apology from
Seoul. The daily also says that North Korea has a right to retaliate. A spokesman for the Committee for the
Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland says the "retaliatory blow will be a thousand fold punishment and will be
so merciless that none of the provokers can survive."
—"Minju Joson Blasts S. Korea for Grave Military Provocation," Korean Central News Agency, 18 July 1997,
www.kcna.co.jp; "South Korean Rulers Urged to Make Honest Apology" Korean Central News Agency (Pyongyang),
18 July 1997, in "North Korean Committee Demands South's 'Honest Apology' on 16th July Incident," BBC Summary
of World Broadcasts, 19 July 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "We Will Keep Our Eyes upon US Attitude,"
Korean Central News Agency (Pyongyang), 18 July 1997, in "North Korea Denounces US Response to 16th July

22 July 1997
A 17-member team arrive in North Korea to begin preliminary construction for the light water reactor project in
[Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o. The team is comprised of personnel from the Korea Electric Company (KEPCO), Korea
Heavy Industry and Construction, Hyundai Engineering and Construction, Daewoo Corp and Donga Construction.
Equipment and material for the preliminary groundwork at the site is scheduled to arrive in Shinp’o on 25 July, and
63 additional workers will follow on 26 July. [Note: An approaching typhoon forces the barges carrying the
equipment to return to South Korea. The shipment of does not arrive until 30 July.]
—Yonhap News Agency (Seoul), 22 July 1997, in "South Reactor Construction Team Arrives in North," BBC
to Turn Back from Trip North," Agence France Presse, 25 July 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "5 Korean
Barges Arrive in North Korea with Reactor Construction Equipment," Agence France Presse, 30 July 1997, in Lexis-

26 July 1997
An additional 63 South Korean technicians arrive in North Korea to begin preliminary construction for the light
water reactor project in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o.
—Yonhap News Agency (Seoul), 22 July 1997, in "South Reactor Construction Team Arrives in North," BBC

26-28 July 1997
At the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, US Secretary of State Madeline Albright asks member nations

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to contribute $30 million to KEDO over the next five years.

28 July 1997
KEDO opens a liaison office in Kumho-chigu, Shinp'o. The KEDO office, consisting of two representatives each from the United States and South Korea, and one from Japan, will ensure the safety of KEDO personnel working on the reactor project, and act as a liaison between the KEDO Secretariat in New York and North Korea.

30 July 1997
Two South Korean barges, Korex Champ and Korex Pusan, arrive in Shinp'o carrying 9,000 tons of equipment and materials for preliminary groundwork at the for the reactor construction site. Included in the cargo are 30 pieces of heavy machinery, such as bulldozers and dump trucks, 15 light cars, and 250,000 liters of fuel. [Note: The shipment was originally scheduled to arrive on 25 July, but due to an approaching typhoon, the barges had to return to South Korea.]

August 1997
KEDO and KEPCO sign a preliminary works contract allowing KEPCO to begin site preparation work in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o.

4 August 1997
Eight inter-Korean phone lines open, linking Seoul with the light water reactor construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o.

5-8 August 1997
Representatives from the United States, China, and both Koreas meet in New York for preliminary consultations on the proposed four-party peace talks. Discussions focus on selecting a date and venue for the talks, setting the agenda and deciding the level of representation. The delegates fail to agree upon an agenda but agree to hold

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further preparatory consultations in September. The official four-party peace talks are to be held in Geneva six weeks after the next preparatory meeting. [Note: The four-part peace talks are aimed at replacing the 1953 Armistice Agreement with an official peace treaty ending the Korean War.]


15 August 1997
Citing "politically induced delays," Stephen Bosworth, executive director of KEDO, announces that the two light water reactors will not be completed by 2003 as originally planned. Bosworth adds that KEDO has not yet set a new target completion date.


17 August 1997
South Korea's Ministry of National Unification announces that US technicians have safely stored over 90 percent of the 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods removed from North Korea's SMW reactor in May 1994. According to a ministry official, the storage process should be completed within the year.


19 August 1997
KEDO holds the groundbreaking ceremony in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o, marking the start of construction on the first of two light water reactors. The ceremony is attended by over 200 people, including Stephen Bosworth, executive director of KEDO, Chang Sun Sop, chief of South Korea's Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project, Ho Jong, North Korean ambassador at large, and various other representatives from KEDO member states and contractors working on the project. Bosworth touts the groundbreaking as "the fulfillment of a promise," but Kim Pyong Ki, North Korean project manager, claims that the road ahead "is still very long and twisted." After pointing out that the groundbreaking comes 18 months late, Kim says, "It's only when the two light water reactors are completed that the suspicion of the Korean people will be removed thoroughly, and confidence built between the United States and the government of the DPRK."


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20 August 1997
The Korean Central News Agency carries a report on the works of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. According to the report, Kim says that North and South Korea must "join their efforts to promote co-existence, co-prosperity, and common interests and achieve the great cause of the country's reunification transcending the differences in ideologies and social systems." Kim continues, "We have no intention of regarding the United States as our sworn enemy. We hope to normalize the Korean-US relationship."

26 August 1997
Lee Chong Hun, president of KEPCO, the prime contractor for the KEDO light water reactor project, announces that construction of the reactors will not be completed by the target date of 2003. According to Rieh, the two reactors will take at least 107 months to complete, and if construction begins in January, as expected, the second reactor could be completed before 2006.

Late August 1997
North Korean diplomats, Taiwan Foreign Ministry officials and representatives from Taipower reportedly hold secret consultations in Singapore to finalize the necessary documents for the planned shipment of 200,000 barrels of low-grade nuclear waste to North Korea.

5 September 1997
Barges carrying additional heavy machinery for the KEDO light water reactor project in Shinp'o depart from South Korea.

10 September 1997
Taipower announces that its plans to ship nuclear waste to North Korea have not changed despite international protests.

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11 September 1997
Charles Kartman, US deputy assistant secretary of state, and Kim Kye Kwan, North Korean vice foreign minister, meet in Beijing to discuss the recent defection of North Korean Ambassador Chang Sung Kil and the proposed four-party peace talks. Kim agrees that the issues are "completely separated," and says that North Korea will participate in preparatory peace talks in New York on 18 September.

12 September 1997
Pyongyang issues a government memorandum condemning the buildup of US and South Korean forces on the peninsula. Pyongyang says that the drastic increase in Seoul's military spending and the continuing presence of US forces in South Korea add unnecessary tension in the region and threaten the success of the proposed four-party peace talks. In the memorandum, Pyongyang states, "To prevent war and guarantee peace on the Korean Peninsula, the United States should stop instigating an arms build-up in South Korea and aggravating tensions, and should withdraw the US forces in South Korea."

18-19 September 1997
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in New York for preparatory four-party peace talks. The talks break down reportedly due to North Korea's demand for more food aid and the withdrawal of US military forces stationed in South Korea.

19 September 1997
The US, Japan, and South Korea amend the Agreement on the Establishment of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization to allow international organizations to become members of KEDO. Following the decision, the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) joins KEDO as an executive board member.

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22 September 1997
IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs the Board of Governors that the process of safely storing 8,000 spent fuel rods will be completed by November, but, according to Blix, the IAEA is still unable to confirm whether or not North Korea has suspended all its nuclear activities.

25 September 1997
Poland becomes a member of KEDO.

29 September-3 October 1997
The IAEA holds its annual conference in Vienna and once again calls on North Korea to fully comply with its safeguards agreement and turn over all information necessary for the Agency to determine the accuracy of its initial declaration of nuclear material.

Early October 1997
On 1 October, North Korea halts work on the KEDO light water reactor project after North Korean officials discover a damaged copy of the newspaper Rodong Sinmun containing a picture of Kim Jong Il. Upon discovery of the discarded newspaper in the living quarters of South Korean personnel, over 40 North Korean walk off the construction site, and work on the project is suspended. In the days following the incident South Korea rebukes the North’s demand for an apology and postpones a trip of a 24-member survey team scheduled to arrive at the [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o site on 7 October. On 6 October, after KEDO intervention, North Korean workers return to the site and the project resumes. [Note: According to an IAEA official, a similar incident occurred when an inspection was temporarily suspended after an IAEA team member inadvertently placed a beer can on a magazine containing the image of Kim Jong Il.]

3 October 1997
North Korean Foreign Minister Ch’oe Song Hong warns the UN General Assembly that "the prevailing situation in the Korean Peninsula is so tense that a war could break out at any moment." Ch’oe adds, "This situation...demands urgently the establishment of a new peace arrangement."

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8 October 1997

Kim Jong Il is elected General Secretary of the Korean Workers' Party. [Note: Kim has been North Korea's undisputed ruler since his father Kim Il Sung died July 1994, but the positions of president and KWP general secretary remained vacant after Kim's death. However, on 5 September 1998, North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) revised the constitution, making the National Defense Commission (NDC) the highest authority over state affairs, and making Kim Il Sung "eternal president" of North Korea. The SPA also re-elects Kim Jong Il as chairman of the NDC in September 1998.]


12 October 1997

South Korea's 1997-98 Defense White Paper says that although it is doubtful North Korea has produced deliverable nuclear weapons, it probably has the capacity to produce "one or two rudimentary nuclear weapons."


21 October 1997

The eighth KEDO site survey team travels to North Korea. The 21-member team evaluates the firmness and safety of the land at the reactor construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o. A 28-member team of KEDO and KEPCO officials also travels to Shinp'o to discuss the progress of ground preparation work with South Korean engineers working on the project.


23 October 1997

Richard Christenson, acting US ambassador to South Korea, says that the United States will not pay any of the costs associated with building the light water reactors in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o, stating, "When the North Korea-US Agreed Framework was adopted in Geneva in 1994, the ROK (South Korea), the United States, and Japan agreed that the ROK and Japan would share the expenses for the LWR construction while the United States would be responsible for supplying substitute energy." Christenson adds that the US Congress has repeatedly stated that it

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also condemns the recent US-South Korean "Foal Eagle" military exercise as a preparation for a nuclear attack on the North.


11 November 1997
North Korea says that the KEDO light water reactor project is "an important project...which set a milestone in the improvement of bilateral relations [between the United States and North Korea]."


12 November 1997
The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution urging North Korea to come into full compliance with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA and preserve all information the IAEA needs in order to verify the accuracy of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material. [Note: On 22 November, North Korea condemns the resolution as an attempt by "dishonest-minded forces of the US and IAEA to isolate and stifle the DPRK." North Korea also claims that it has fully cooperated with the IAEA and has not withheld any relevant information.]


12-16 November 1997
KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson meets with South Korean officials to discuss the progress of preliminary construction in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o and cost sharing of the light water reactor project. In a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha, Anderson asks South Korea to finish negotiations with other KEDO executive board member-nations on cost sharing at the earliest possible date.


18-20 November 1997
KEDO Executive Director Desaix Anderson meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss ways to ensure that the light water reactor project proceeds smoothly. Anderson also visits the construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o to inspect progress on preliminary construction.


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21 November 1994
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas hold preparatory consultations for the proposed four-party peace talks. At the meeting held in New York, North Korea agrees to participate in the peace talks and drops its demand for the immediate withdrawal of all US troops stationed in South Korea. The talks are to be held in Geneva beginning 9 December.

24-25 November 1997
The KEDO Executive Board meets to finalize the cost estimate of the light water reactor project. The total cost of the project is estimated at $5.18 billion. [Note: The Executive Board will meet in December to discuss cost sharing, but the United States reportedly has thus far refuses to share any of the construction cost.]

26 November 1997
The US and North Korea meet in Washington to discuss various bilateral issues such as US food aid to North Korea, implementation of 1994 Agreed Framework, and the upcoming four-party peace talks. The US delegation is headed by Charles Kartman, deputy secretary of state, and the North Korean delegation is headed by Kim Kye Kwan, deputy foreign minister.

2 December 1997
The US State Department announces that the KEDO light water reactor project will not be negatively affected by the looming financial crises in South Korean and Japan.

2 December 1997
South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha meets with Stephen Bosworth, the recently appointed US ambassador to South Korea, and asks for US assistance in financing the construction of two light water reactors in North Korea.

4 December 1997
South Korea announces that its economic crisis will not negatively affect funding for the KEDO light water reactor project. A Blue House [Ch’onghwadae] official says, "The North Korean reactor project is not only a commitment to

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the international community but an obligation...We should not change our position.” [Note: South Korea committed itself to pay a majority of the estimated $5.18 billion project, but on 3 December Seoul had to arrange a bailout package with the IMF that could exceed $55 million.]

4 December 1997
Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi meets with US National Security Advisor Samuel Berger and requests that the United States share some of the construction costs for the KEDO light water reactor project.

6 December 1997
IAEA Director General Mohammad Elbaradei tells the Board of Governors that the process of safely sealing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in North Korea will be completed in early 1998. Once the process is complete, Elbaradei says, the number of IAEA inspectors in North Korea will be reduced from four to two. Elbaradei also informs the Board of Governors that no progress has been made in collecting information necessary for verifying North Korea's compliance with its safeguards agreement.

8 December 1997
The KEDO Executive Board meets in New York to discuss cost sharing for the light water reactor project. The board, comprised of representatives from the EAEC, Japan, South Korea and the United States, fails to agree on a plan for sharing the cost of the estimated $5.18 billion project.

9 December 1997
Representatives from the United States, China, and the two Koreas meet in Geneva for the first round of the four-party talks aimed at replacing the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement with a formal peace treaty. The delegations are headed by US Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth, Chinese Vice Foreign Minster Tang Jiaxuan, South Korean Ambassador to France Lee Shi Yong, and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Kwan.

13 December 1997
Taiwanese Vice Premier Liu Chao-hsiuan announces that Taipower will not ship nuclear waste to North Korea.

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Taipower signed a contract with Pyongyang in January 1997 to ship up to 200,000 barrels of low-grade nuclear waste to North Korea for storage, but Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council vetoed Taipower's plan, claiming that North Korea had failed to build adequate storage facilities.


16 December 1997

The South Korean Ministry of National Unification reaffirms Seoul's commitment to the KEDO light water reactor project despite the current economic crisis in South Korea. A ministry official is quoted as saying, "Just because we are facing this financial problem, we are not going to go back on every international commitment we have made. We made a promise and we will keep it."


19 December 1997

South Korean president-elect Kim Dae Jung proposes the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue based on the 1991 Basic Agreement, which pledges nonaggression, cultural exchanges, reconciliation and cooperation between North and South Korea. [Note: The Basic Agreement was signed in December 1991 but became effective in 1992.]


Late December 1997

The US company Combustion Engineering applies for a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to export two nuclear reactors, for "commercial operation of electricity," to North Korea.


24 December 1997

KEDO and North Korea conclude the second round of talks on a protocol on quality guarantees for the two light water reactors. They fail to agree on issues such as the level of North Korean participation in evaluating the performance of the reactors and the compensation mechanism should one of the reactors fail to perform adequately. The two sides agree to meet for a third round of talks in early 1998.


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1996

Late 1990s
North Korea begins to develop a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment capability.

1996
The Philippines donates $150,000 to Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

January 1996
Russian officials from the Foreign Ministry and Atomic Energy Ministry issue a report stating that between 1991 and 1994 North Korea tested high explosive nuclear warhead triggering devices over 70 times. The report also claims that North Korea is storing up to 22kg of plutonium at a facility in Yongbyon-kun.

9 January 1996
South Korean officials announce that North Korea has started transferring 8,000 spent fuel rods to special steel containers sealed in a concrete casing. The spent fuel rods, necessary for determining the amount of plutonium North Korea has reprocessed, have been slowly corroding in a cooling pond since they were removed from a 5MW(e) reactor in May 1994. Under the Agreed Framework, the spent fuel rods are to be moved out of North Korea for inspection and safe storage upon completion of the first light water reactor.

13 January 1996
A South Korean official announces that Pyongyang will allow seven members of the third Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) survey team to remain in North Korea for an additional 38 days. The team was unable to complete the necessary geological survey work, including measuring the depth of the sea off the coast of Shinp'o, within the scheduled time. The third KEDO survey team arrived in North Korea on 16 December, but instead of departing on 16 January as scheduled, the seven members who were granted extensions will remain in Shinp'o until 23 February and work with the fourth survey team, which is scheduled to arrive on 16 January.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
14 January 1996

16 January-23 February 1996

24-29 January 1996

February 1996

February 1996
Japan agrees to pay approximately $19 million for heavy fuel oil to be delivered to North Korea in April. Under the
Agreed Framework, the United States shoulders the responsibility of financing the 500,000 tons/year of heavy fuel oil to meet North Korea's energy needs until the completion of two light water reactors. However, due to delays in enacting the necessary funding bill in Congress, several US officials, including US Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale and Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Director General Stephen Bosworth, have requested that Tokyo temporarily share some of the cost.


February 1996

The US and South Korea conduct 10-day joint naval exercises off South Korea's east coast and a joint bombing exercises north of Seoul. Pyongyang claims that the military exercises are preparations for war and condemns the bombing tests as target practice for dropping nuclear bombs on North Korea. While the United States and South Korea have refrained from holding the highly contentious Team Spirit exercise since the signing of the Agreed Framework, North Korea has warned that any US-South Korean joint military exercises threaten the success of the agreement.


14 February 1996

The South Korean Defense Ministry announces that the joint US-South Korean military exercise Team Spirit will be cancelled for the third year in a row. According to a Ministry spokesman, "The decision has been made to create a more positive atmosphere for the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and as a confidence-building measure for North Korea's implementation of the Geneva nuclear agreement." However, the Ministry claims that the exercise will resume in 1997 if North Korea does not adhere to the Agreed Framework or threatens military aggression against South Korea.


26 February 1996

The European Union pledges $6.25 million to Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).


10 March 1996

KBS Radio in Seoul cites the Taiwanese newspaper Lien Ho Pao as having reported that Taiwan's Kaoshiung port
authorities seized 35 tons of nuclear material from a North Korean ship that was en route to Pakistan. The report says Taiwanese authorities are waiting for the results of tests on a material believed to be nitroglycerin. [Note: This report is unsubstantiated and "nitroglycerin," is not a "nuclear material;" however, it could be used in the high-explosive triggering device in a bomb. It is unclear whether this shipment is related to nuclear weapons development.]


10 March 1996

North Korea says that US and South Korea have not actually cancelled the Team Spirit military exercise as they had claimed. The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, charges that Team Spirit has merely been replaced by recent naval and bombing exercises.


13 March 1996

North Korea establishes a working-level group to coordinate activities relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project. The group, tentatively called the "East Sea Atomic Reactor Project Planning Office," will have responsibilities ranging from establishing strategies for follow-up negotiations with KEDO to managing both North Korean and foreign personnel working on the reactor project in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o.


18 March 1996

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Hans Blix reports to the IAEA Board of Governors that North Korea is not cooperating with IAEA efforts to ascertain the quantity of plutonium held at the Yongbyon nuclear complex. IAEA inspectors have made a number of attempts to photograph the facility since September 1995, in accordance with agreements reached with North Korea. However, they have been restricted from taking photographs. Blix also reports that North Korea has been slow in granting visas for IAEA inspectors.


19 March 1996

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) executive board officially names the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) as the prime contractor for the light water reactor project. At the meeting held in Seoul, delegates from South Korea, the United States and Japan also discuss funding for the heavy oil shipments

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and the admission of the European Union to the executive board.

20 March 1996
Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Director Stephen Bosworth and Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) President Lee Chong Hun sign the agreement commissioning KEPCO as the prime contractor for the light water reactor project.

26-30 March 1996
A Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) delegation, headed by Executive Director Stephen Bosworth, meets with North Korean officials in Shinp'o to inspect the proposed construction site and discuss details of the light water reactor project. The two sides agree to hold further consultations in New York and Mt. Myohyang to conclude necessary follow-up protocols for implementing the reactor supply agreement.

29 March 1996
North Korean Vice Marshall Kim Kwang Jin says, "What the point is now is not whether a war will break out on the Korean Peninsula, but when it will be unleashed."

5 April 1996
North Korea announces that it will no longer recognize the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea. North Korea, in the statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, claims that the North Korean Army is taking "self-defensive measures" now that the demilitarized zone is no longer respected. While the statement offers no explanation, the South Korean Defense Ministry believes the threat to be an attempt to "wring concessions from the United States as they did by raising nuclear threats a couple of years ago."

April 1996
Representatives from the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea begin

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negotiations in New York to resolve issues relating to the light water reactor supply agreement. The two sides discuss issues such as the protection of foreign engineers working on the project (8 April-22 May) and the transportation of reactor components (16 April-14 June). The talks in New York and later talks to be held near Mt. Myohyang, North Korea are aimed at concluding protocols necessary for implementing the reactor supply agreement.


11 April 1996
Secretary of State Warren Christopher says that the United States will not enter into any peace talks with North Korea that exclude South Korea. [Note: Washington and Seoul view North Korea's recent incursions into the demilitarized zone as an attempt to force the United States into direct negotiations to replace the current armistice agreement with a peace treaty.]


11 April 1996
A Pentagon report, "Nonproliferation: Threats and Response," highlights North Korea's ballistic missile and other weapons of mass destruction programs. The report says North Korea has "significantly advanced its nuclear program during the last 10 years." The report also says that Pyongyang has agreed to freeze and eventually eliminate its "plutonium-producing nuclear reactors and associated facilities."


16 April 1996
US President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young Sam propose four-party talks to replace the current armistice agreement with a peace treaty officially ending the Korean War. The proposed talks would include North and South Korea, the United States and China. North Korean ambassador to Moscow Song Sung Pil dismisses the proposal, saying, "At present other countries have no role to play on this area...There is no need for an international conference on this question." However, on 18 April, the North Korean Foreign Ministry announces that it is "examining the proposal of the US side to see whether it seeks another purpose and whether it is feasible."


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17 April 1996
For the second year in a row, Indonesia pledges $325,000 to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) in the form of heavy fuel oil.

19 April 1996
Singapore announces that it will make annual contributions of $100,000 to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) for the next three years.

26 April 1996
According to a 9 June report in the Japan's Sankei Shimbun, a North Korean official claims that North Korea has four nuclear-tipped missiles. In a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard, Kim Jong U, Vice Chairman of North Korea's external economy commission, threatens that if the United States does not provide food aid and technological assistance to North Korea, the people of South Korea and Japan may fall victim to four nuclear missiles. The Sankei Shimbun article quotes US military officials as saying they found the threat to be "rational" and reliable. [Note: On 10 June, the day after the Sankei Shimbun article is published, US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns dismisses the report as "preposterous."]

28 April-6 May 1996
A 13-member Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) team travels to Shinpo to conduct an infrastructure design assessment for the proposed light water reactor site. Upon returning to Seoul, one of the team members says that due to the lack of a stable power supply, generators may have to be shipped to the construction site.

Late April-Early May 1996
A delegation representing Japanese and Koreans who suffered from the 1945 atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki meets with Korean Workers' Party Secretary Kim Yong Sun, in Pyongyang and asks him to take steps to help realize a nuclear weapons free zone in Northeast Asia.

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May 1996

The US issues an authorization for the transfer of certain nuclear technology to North Korea. The authorization is issued under the Department of Energy's regulations in 10 CFR Part 810, and it limits technology transfers only to what is "necessary for the licensing and safe operation of the reactors and not technology enabling the design or manufacture of nuclear reactor components or fuel."


1 May 1996

Personnel from the American firm NAC International and the Department of Energy, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), begin safely storing 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in North Korea. The spent fuel rods had been slowly corroding in a cooling pond near the Yongbyon Nuclear Complex since they were removed from the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in May 1994. The technicians are transferring the rods to steel canisters filled with argon gas, in which they will later be shipped to another country for safe storage and inspection. [Note: North Korea repeatedly denied the IAEA's request to conduct tests on the spent fuel rods before they were sealed inside the steel canisters.]


2 May 1996

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman David Kyd verifies that North Korea has begun storing the 8,000 nuclear spent fuel rods. However, according to Kyd, North Korean officials have refused to let IAEA inspectors measure the plutonium levels in the rods. Kyd says that four IAEA inspectors, including a radioactivity expert, are involved in the storage process. The inspectors have only been allowed to verify whether the fuel rods have been "burnt." The IAEA has estimated that the storage of the 8,000 fuel rods will be completed by June 1997. The IAEA will continue to seek authorization to measure the plutonium through negotiations with North Korea.


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7 May 1996
Indonesia becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

10 May 1996
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Hans Blix submits a report to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the progress of IAEA-North Korean talks. According to the report, the two sides have made little progress in negotiations on securing data necessary for verifying North Korea's past nuclear activities. Further delays, Blix warns, could prevent the IAEA from ever verifying that North Korea has declared all of the plutonium in its possession.

22 May 1996
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea initial a protocol granting diplomatic immunity to KEDO and KEPCO personnel working in North Korea on the light water reactor project. Talks on the protocol began in New York on 8 April.

31 May 1996
Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Director Stephen Bosworth announces that site preparation work in [Kumho-chigu], Shin'p'o will begin by the end of the year. According to Bosworth, the proposed location for the reactors "fully meets international standards [of safety]." However, due to disputes over the type of reactor to be supplied, the target completion date of 2003 for the first reactor will be delayed at least one year.

14 June 1996
North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) initial two more protocols relating to the light water reactor supply agreement. One protocol calls for the establishment of two transportation routes, one by sea and one by air, to facilitate the transfer of reactor materials. The other protocol establishes rules for the use of satellite communications by KEDO personnel while they are in Shinp'o. Talks on these protocols began in New York on 16 April.

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21 June 1996
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that in 1995 it did not find any evidence that North Korea has diverted nuclear material. However, because the Agency remains unable to verify North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material, North Korea is still non-compliant with its nuclear safeguards agreement it signed with the Agency in 1992.

25 June 1996
IAEA representatives arrive in Pyongyang for the fifth round of talks with North Korea. The talks focus on the implementation of measures to preserve 8,000 spent fuel rods for future inspections, which are necessary for the Agency to determine the accuracy of North Korea’s initial declaration of nuclear material.

2 July 1996
North Korea threatens to resume its nuclear program if heavy fuel oil shipments do not arrive on schedule. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, Pyongyang condemns a recent US congressional decision to cut the proposed $25 million package in half, and says that if the decision adversely affects oil deliveries, "we will be compelled to reconsider our nuclear freeze."

6-29 July 1996
The sixth Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) inspection team travels to North Korea to inspect the proposed light water reactor construction site in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o.

9 July 1996
South Korea remits $6 million to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) for pre-project service costs. South Korea's donation completes the estimated $9 million required by KEDO for this purpose; in 1995, Japan donated $3 million.
11 July 1996
North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) officially sign three protocols relating to the light water reactor supply agreement. The protocols, which were initialed on 22 May and 14 June, provide diplomatic protection for KEDO and KEPCO personnel, regulate satellite communications, and designate two transportation routes for reactor materials. [Note: Talks on the protocols were held in New York from April to June.]

16 July 1996
The Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), primary contractor of the light water reactor project in North Korea, submits a cost estimate to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). KEPCO estimates that the construction will cost at least $5 billion, but KEDO officials say the figure is subject to further negotiations.

17 July 1996
Chile becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

19 July 1996
South Korea’s National Unification Ministry approves KEPCO’s construction plan for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project.

20-29 July 1996
Representatives from the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea meet near

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Mt. Myohyang, north of Pyongyang, to discuss additional follow-up protocols to the light water reactor supply agreement. The protocols under discussion will cover the management of the construction site near Shinp'o and the provision of North Korean labor, good and services relating to the project. The North Korean delegation reportedly demands "special" wages for North Koreans working on the project. The two sides fail to initial an agreement, but talks resume in New York on 22 August. [Note: The KEDO delegation had originally planned to visit the proposed reactor site, but due to torrential rains, the trip was cancelled.]


22 July 1996

South Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy informs the Office of Planning for the Light-Water Reactor Project that South Korea will not finance more than 60 percent (approximately $3.5 billion) of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) project.


24 July 1996

Stephen Bosworth, executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), announces that construction of the first light water reactor in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp'o, North Korea will likely begin within the year.


26 July 1996

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) announces that it has selected the Korea Exchange Bank, Citibank, the Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi Bank to handle the funding of the light water reactor project in North Korea.


August 1996

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards report not released to the public says that the IAEA is unable to verify North Korea’s initial declaration of nuclear material under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).


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11 August 1996
A Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) official announces that KEPCO has selected Duke Engineering & Services as its technical consultant for the light water reactor project in North Korea. The US based Duke Engineering will provide technical support for various aspects of the project, including expenses, design and construction. [Note: KEPCO and Duke Engineering & Services sign a contract in May 1997.]

22 August 1996
The US Treasury Department, calling North Korea a "sponsor of terrorism," announces steps to prohibit the transfer of funds from US citizens to North Korea.

22 August to 27 September 1996
Representatives from the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea meet in New York for the second round of talks concerning protocols on management of the [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o reactor site and the provision of North Korean labor and services to the light water reactor project. On 27 September, the two sides agree to the terms of the protocols. North Korea agrees to provide 3.3 square miles for the construction site and related facilities. However, the most contentious issue, the wages of North Koreans working on the project, remains unresolved as the two sides decide to pass the issue on to KEPCO, the prime contractor for the project.

24 August 1996
Japan's Sankei Shimbun, quoting a Japanese government official, reports that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) will begin construction on the first light water reactor as early as November.

24 August 1996
The North Korean Foreign Ministry warns that Pyongyang is prepared to resume its nuclear program if Washington
changes its North Korean policy as a result of the upcoming US presidential election.

5 September 1996
Argentina becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

16 September 1996
During the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Annual General Conference in Vienna, IAEA Director General Hans Blix states that "the IAEA remained unable to verify the initial declaration of nuclear materials made by [North Korea]...and that this is still the case."

17 September 1996
Yun Ho Jin, North Korean representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), states that North Korea "will not give the IAEA any information whatsoever" about spent fuel from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor "until the new reactors are finished and begin operating."

18 September 1996
A North Korean submarine runs ashore in the northeastern region of South Korea. According to South Korean reports, the submarine carried 26 North Korean agents, 24 of whom are later killed by South Korean soldiers or their fellow agents. The incident sparks inflamed rhetoric from both the North and South and threatens the success of ongoing KEDO-North Korean negotiations on the light water reactor supply contract. Following the incident, South Korea cancelled a planned visit to Shimp’o by a site survey team.
20 September 1996
As tensions on the peninsula rise following the incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korea, Pyongyang warns against a possible surprise attack from the United States. Pyongyang condemns Washington's statement that it has a "strong plan" to prevent North Korea from possessing nuclear weapons, and warns that if Washington continues its "anti-DPRK campaign," North Korea "cannot sit idle, restricted by the agreement (Agreed Framework)." "We have nothing to lose even without the agreement. On the contrary, we will be able to continuously develop our independent nuclear power industry...without any restriction."—Korean Central News Agency (Pyongyang), 20 September 1996, in "US 'Strong Plan' Against Nuclear Weapons Possession Denounced," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 21 September 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "N Korean Media Again Says Pyongyang Can Restart Nuclear Program," Agence France Presse, 20 September 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

21 September 1996
For the fourth year in a row, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Assembly adopts a resolution stating that North Korea is in noncompliance with its safeguards agreement. While the resolution notes that North Korea has begun safely storing 8,000 spent fuel rods, it calls on Pyongyang to fully abide by its safeguards agreement.


23-27 September 1996
The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea hold negotiations in Vienna, but the IAEA fails to persuade North Korea to comply with its safeguards agreement and allow inspections of spent nuclear fuel rods.


24 September 1996
The South Korean Defense Ministry issues a statement proposing the resumption of the joint US-South Korean military exercise Team Spirit. According to the statement, Seoul will make the recommendation to Washington during bilateral security consultative talks scheduled for 31 October to 1 November. [Note: Condemned by Pyongyang as preparations for a nuclear conflict, the annual Team Spirit exercise was canceled in 1994 in order to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula in the months leading up to the Agreed Framework. The proposed resumption of the exercises comes in the wake of the mid-September incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korea.]


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1 October 1996
The US General Accounting Office (GAO) presents a report to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the status of the 1994 Agreed Framework. The report describes the Agreed Framework as "nonbinding political agreement" with legal obligations. The report cites the State Department as saying that US "executed a nonbinding political agreement because it would not have been in the United States' interests to accept an internationally binding legal obligation to provide the reactors and interim energy to North Korea." Instead, the United States "wanted the flexibility to respond to North Korea's policies and actions in implementing the Agreed Framework flexibility that binding international agreements, such as a treaty, would not have provided."

9 October 1996
South Korean President Kim Young Sam announces that construction on the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project will be delayed due to the mid-September incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korea.

11 October 1996
US Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord and South Korean Foreign Minister Kong Ro Myong meet in Seoul to discuss joint US-South Korean security following the mid-September incursion of a North Korean submarine into South Korea and the subsequent deaths of the North Korean crew. Despite the rising tension on the peninsula, Lord and Kong agree that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) project should move ahead as scheduled.

15 October 1996
North Korea denounces US Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord's recent trip to Seoul to discuss escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula, and warns the United States not to support South Korea's attempts to delay implementation of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project. According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, "If the US administration...decided to leave the provision of light water reactors to the unilateral decision of the South Korean authorities, it will, needless to say, have a decisive influence on the implementation of the agreement." "If things go that way," the spokesman continues, "It goes without saying that the future of the DPRK-US framework agreement has already been decided."
—"North Korea Threatens to Abrogate Nuclear Deal with U.S.,” Associated Press, 15 October 1996, in Lexis-Nexis,
16-17 October 1996
Representatives from the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and the European Union (EU) meet in Brussels to discuss the EU becoming a member of the KEDO Executive Board. The current board members, the United States, Japan and South Korea, agree to realize the EU’s membership at an early date. [Note: On 1 October, EU foreign ministers met in Luxemburg and pledged $21 million to KEDO annually for the next five years on the condition that the EU is given a seat on the executive board.]


24 October 1996
Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Director Stephen Bosworth acknowledges that the recent elevation in tension on the Korean Peninsula could lead to delays in implementing the light water reactor supply agreement. However, Bosworth emphasizes that the KEDO framework is still intact and all parties continue to recognize its importance.


28 October-10 November 1996
The US and South Korea hold the annual "Foal Eagle" military exercise. North Korea condemns the exercise as a "replica of the 'Team Spirit' joint military maneuvers," and an attempt to increase military tension on the Korean Peninsula.


29 October 1996
The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling on North Korea to adhere to its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The resolution urges North Korea to "preserve all information relevant to verifying the accuracy and completeness of the initial report of the DPKR on the inventory of nuclear material subject to safeguards until the DPKR comes into full compliance with its safeguards agreement."


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31 October-1 November 1996
US Defense Secretary William Perry and South Korean Defense Minister Kim Dong in meet in Washington for an annual security meeting. Perry and Kim issue a joint security communiqué condemning "the submarine infiltration of armed North Korean commandoes" as a breach of the armistice agreement. In addition, the communiqué reaffirms the need for a "robust schedule" of joint military maneuvers, but it puts off until next year any decision on whether or not to resume the contentious Team Spirit exercise. [Note: Pyongyang condemns the Team Spirit exercise as a preparation for nuclear attacks against North Korea. Team Spirit has been cancelled since 1994 in order to reduce tension on the peninsula, but after the 18 September North Korean submarine incident, South Korea has recommended resuming the maneuvers.]

5 November 1996
According to the Hankyoreh Shinmun, US and North Korean officials meet in New York to discuss various issues including the progress of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project. North Korea reportedly threatens to resume its nuclear program if work on the project does not begin soon.

7 November 1996
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Hans Blix expresses concern that North Korea is concealing or destroying information necessary to determine the exact amount of plutonium in its possession. Speaking to reporters after briefing the UN Security Council, Blix says, "The concern now is that although the DPRK promised that at some time in the future they will come into full compliance, time passes, and some of the evidence that will help us to establish what the quantities are may disappear."

8 November 1996
In his first press conference since winning the presidential election, President Bill Clinton says he remains committed to "stopping the North Korean nuclear program."

8 November 1996
US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns says that the United States is meeting its commitments under the Agreed Framework, and that there is no evidence that North Korea is not meeting its commitments. He says, "The
Agreed Framework is going forward - it's being implemented."
—US Department of State, Office of the Spokesman, "Daily Press Briefing," 8 November 1996,

9 November 1996
South Korean President Kim Young Sam announces that South Korea will not participate in the Korean Peninsula
Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project until North Korea apologizes for the incursion
of a North Korean submarine into South Korea on 18 September. In an interview with the Washington Post, Kim
says, "The implementation of the nuclear agreement on our part will be suspended for the time being."
—Kevin Sullivan, "S. Korea Demands Apology from North: Kim Suspends Nuclear Deal after Sub Incident,"
Says Nuclear Project Aid Suspended but Not Totally Withdrawn," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 11 November

15 November 1996
North Korea threatens that it will restart its nuclear program if there are any further delays in the Korean Peninsula
Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project. In a statement carried by the Korean Central
News Agency, Pyongyang says, "We cannot keep the nuclear program frozen any longer only to get heavy oil
shipments which can be suspended at any time."
nexis.com; North Korea Threatens to Restart Nuclear Program," Associated Press, 15 November 1996, in Lexis-
Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Teruaki Ueno (Reuter), "N. Korea Moves to Break U.S. Nuclear Agreement," The

17 November 1996
US Defense Secretary William Perry says that if North Korea follows through with its threat to abandon the Agreed
Framework, Washington would regard it as "a very serious threat to American security." However, Perry does not
mention specifically what the United States would do in such an event.
—"Perry Voices Concern Over North Korea Breaking Nuclear Agreement," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 17 November
1996, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "US Would See As 'Serious' North Korea Nuclear Program Resumption,"

19 November 1996
North Korea closes its liaison office in the truce village of Panmunjom.
—Richard Lloyd Parry, "Dithering in Europe Leaves Korea Staring into Nuclear Abyss," The Independent (London),
20 November 1996, p. 15, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Puk 'Panmunjom Yollaksamuso

20 November 1996
Paul Cleveland, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
(KEDO) and US ambassador at large in charge of nuclear affairs, meets in Seoul with Chang Son Sop, director

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commissioner of the ROK Light-Water Reactor Office. Cleveland stresses that resumption of the KEDO light water reactor project is vital to security on the Korean Peninsula, but Chang says that Seoul’s position is that activities relating to the reactor project will not resume until Pyongyang apologizes for the 18 September submarine incident. Chang says that South Korea cannot guarantee the safety of technicians working on the project while tension on the peninsula is so high.


**22 November 1996**

In Manila, South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha says that South Korea cannot proceed with the four-party talks and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project until North Korea apologizes for the 18 September submarine infiltration into South Korea. However, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher says it is important to continue the talks and the reactor project.


**24 November 1996**

US President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young Sam issue a joint statement reassuring North Korea that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project "will be implemented." Referring to the 18 September submarine incident, the statement also calls on North Korea to "take acceptable steps...to reduce tension and avoid such provocation in the future."


**26-27 November 1996**

US Congressman Bill Richardson meets with North Korean officials in Pyongyang to discuss the rising tension on the Korean peninsula and the survival of the 1994 nuclear accord. The two sides agree to take "action measures" to help implement the Agreed Framework and improve Washington-Pyongyang relations.


**29 November 1996**

North Korea once again threatens to restart its nuclear program. A statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency warns that "if the provision of LWRs (light water reactors) is delayed or frustrated, the DPRK-US framework agreement will be destroyed."

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9-28 December 1996

11 December 1996

24 December 1996

29 December 1996
In a statement carried on the Korean Central News Agency, North Korea apologizes for the 18 September submarine incident. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, reading the statement on behalf of Pyongyang, expresses "deep regret for the submarine incident in the coastal waters of Kangnung, South Korea, in September 1996 that caused the tragic loss of human life." The statement also says that North Korea "will make efforts to ensure that such an incident will not recur, and will work with others for durable peace on the Korean Peninsula."

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30 December 1996
South Korea returns the remains of 24 North Korean commandoes that were killed after their submarine ran ashore near Kangnung, South Korea on 18 September. After the remains are returned, North Korea further eases tension on the peninsula by expressing its "willingness to listen...to a 'joint explanation' of the proposed 'four-way (peace) talks'" aimed at replacing the Korean armistice agreement with an official peace treaty.


1995
Mid-1990s
The United States "intelligence community" estimates that North Korea has produced one, possibly two nuclear weapons.

9-12 January 1995
Experts from the United States, Japan and South Korea meet in Washington to set up the framework for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the consortium tasked with supplying two light water reactors and 500,000 tons/year of heavy fuel oil to North Korea in exchange for Pyongyang's pledge to give up its graphite-moderated reactors and allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. The total cost is estimated at $4 billion.

13 January 1995
The Jerusalem Post reports "Israel has concluded that—given current assistance from China, North Korea and Russia—Iran could achieve nuclear capability by mid-1996. The report does not say what role North Korea could play, or is playing in Iran's nuclear weapons program.

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Mid-January 1995
The United States delivers 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea. The shipment, originally expected by 1 January, was delayed after North Korea captured a downed US helicopter and its two-man crew. [Note: One crew member died in the crash and the pilot is later returned to the United States.]


Mid January 1995
A delegation of US experts headed by State Department official Norman Wulf travels to Pyongyang to discuss the disposal of 8,000 spent fuel rods currently stored in a cooling pond at the Yongbyon nuclear complex. The US delegation is allowed to inspect the cooling pond and the graphite reactor from which the rod were removed. North Korea reportedly agrees to store the rods in dry concrete until they are shipped to a third country by 2002.


28 January to 1 February 1995
Technical experts from the United States and North Korea meet in Berlin to work out details of the delivery of two light water nuclear reactors. Pyongyang's insistence that the reactors come from a country other than South Korea reportedly threatens the success of the talks and the survival of the nuclear agreement between the United States and North Korea. However, after the meeting, the two sides release a joint statement in which they "agreed that some progress had been made," but details such as financing, the type of reactor and safety considerations have yet to be resolved.


1 February 1995
US Senator Richard Lugar announces in a press conference that South Korea will pay approximately three quarters of the cost for the two light water reactors. The total cost of the reactors is approximated at $4.5 billion.


8 February 1995
In a meeting with Clinton administration officials, IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that North Korea has

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8 February 1995

Washington announces that it will not accept new demands made by North Korea at talks held in Berlin 28 January to 1 February. Among the additional demands that would add $1 billion to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) project was the provision of new power grids connecting the two light water reactors to the existing power grid.


12 February 1995

The Yomiuri Shimbun, quoting a diplomatic source in Seoul, reports that the United States and South Korea are making plans to conduct the annual Team Spirit military exercises from 28 March to 2 April. The military drill has reportedly been scaled down to one-fourth of the usual size, involving about 30,000 US and South Korean soldiers.


15 February 1995

North Korea states that it will not accept light water nuclear reactors if they are provided by South Korea and warns that it has "nothing to lose" by walking away from the Agreed Framework.


17 February 1995

Washington reiterates its demand that North Korea accept South Korean designed reactors. Pyongyang has insisted that the reactors be provided by a state of its choice, but according to State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly, the Clinton administration considers reactors designed by South Korea as "the only viable option."


23 February 1995

Ambassador Robert Gallucci, in testimony before the Asian and the Pacific Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, says that international inspectors have discovered that North Korea possesses up to 30kg of plutonium from its 5MW graphite moderated reactor. This amount, enough to build four to five nuclear weapons, is more than Western experts had suspected was in North Korea’s possession.

—"Hearing of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee," Federal

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25 February 1995
South Korean Defense Minister Lee Yang Ho announces that South Korea and the United States will not hold the annual Team Spirit joint military exercise in March as earlier planned. Another Defense Ministry official claims that the military exercise is not cancelled but merely postponed until Washington and Seoul decide whether or not to hold it later in the year.

7 March 1995
The South Korean Defense Ministry announces that South Korean and the United States will hold a six-day joint military exercise beginning 3 April. A Defense Ministry spokesman says that these maneuvers should not be mistaken as a resumption of the annual Team Spirit military exercise that was postponed in order to relieve tension on the peninsula and encourage North Korea to abide by the Agreed Framework. North Korea has threatened to revive its frozen nuclear program if Team Spirit exercises resume.

7 March 1995
The North Korean Foreign Ministry warns that the Agreed Framework will collapse unless the United States drops its demand that the two light water reactors come from South Korea.

8-9 March 1995
The United States, Japan and South Korea host a conference in New York for the establishment of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO). Twenty-three nations plus the European Union attend the conference. On 9 March, the United States, Japan and South Korea sign the Agreement on the Establishment of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, officially establishing KEDO. Of the other twenty-three nations, none sign on as members, but Australia, New Zealand, and Canada pledge funds amounting to approximately $7 million.

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20 March 1995
Steven Bosworth, a former US ambassador, is named head of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

20 March 1995
Seoul warns that the United States, Japan, and South Korea will impose "immediate sanctions" and seek UN Security Council intervention if Pyongyang does not accept a South Korean reactor model for the light water reactors to be supplied under the Agreed Framework. The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) says that North Korea has until 21 April to accept the South Korean design.

25-27 March 1995
Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in Berlin to discuss implementation of the Agreed Framework. The talks, originally scheduled to run through 29 March, are suspended on 27 March reportedly to allow the two delegations to consult with their capitals. North Korea reportedly continues to insist that the two light water reactor it is to provided under the agreement must come from a country other than South Korea.

29 March 1995
The IAEA Board of Governors asks North Korea to permit IAEA inspectors to measure the amount of plutonium in the spent fuel of its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and in the waste from its Radiochemistry Laboratory [reprocessing facility]. It also requests that the Agency be allowed to verify the freeze on North Korea's nuclear facilities.

April 1996
Singapore pledges $300,000 to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

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Early April 1995
North Korea conducts maintenance on its 5MW(e) reactor in Yongbyon. IAEA Director General Hans Blix confirms that North Korea is conducting legitimate maintenance, not making preparations to restart the reactor.

12-13 April 1995
Representatives from the United States and North Korea once again meet in Berlin to resolve issues relating to the implementation of the Agreed Framework. The main point of contention is whether or not South Korea will supply the two light water reactors promised to North Korea for halting its graphite moderated nuclear program. North Korea demands that the reactors come from another country, but the United States insists that South Korean reactors are the "only option." After two days of talks the meeting adjourns without any apparent resolution, but the two sides agree to meet again on 18 April after consulting with their capitols.

14 April 1995
The Pentagon announces that the United States and South Korea will conduct a joint military exercise beginning in late-April and running through mid-May. According to a Pentagon official the exercise will be limited in scope, involving approximately 13,000 personnel.

18-20 April 1995
Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet for the fifth time in Berlin in an attempt to resolve issues relating to the implementation of the Agreed Framework. The two sides fail to reach an agreement on whether or not the two light water reactors, promised to North Korea for freezing its graphite moderated nuclear program, would be of a South Korean design. North Korea insists that the reactors come from another country, but the United States continues to claim that since Seoul is funding most if the $4 billion project, South Korean reactors are the only option.
19 April 1995
At the NPT Review Conference, South Korean ambassador to the UN, Park Su Gil, says that North Korea’s noncompliance with its obligations under the NPT is a threat not only to the Korean Peninsula "but also to the whole world." Park also calls on North Korea to "faithfully implement" the Agreed Framework.

21 April 1995
As the date arrives by which the United States and North Korea were to have reached an accord for the provision of two light water reactors, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher urges North Korea not to resume operations at its nuclear facilities and proposes high-level talks in Geneva. In Berlin, Kim Jong U, chief North Korean negotiator to the recently dissolved talks, rebuffs Christopher’s proposal, saying, "We think everything that could be discussed in high-level talks has already been discussed and settled." North Korea insists that 21 April is a legally binding deadline by which a contract must be concluded, but the United States claims that it is merely a "target date."

22 April 1995
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman announces that Pyongyang will take a "necessary decisive measure" in order to defend North Korea’s sovereignty following the breakdown of nuclear talks with the United States.

1 May 1995
North Korea notifies the United States that it is willing to resume nuclear talks at a higher level as proposed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 21 April. The date and venue have yet to be determined. North Korea had originally rejected Christopher’s proposal, insisting that 21 April was the deadline for negotiating a contract for the provision of two light water reactors.
—Sid Balman Jr., "N. Korea Agrees to Talks," United Press International, 1 May 1995, in Lexis-Nexis,

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
8 May 1995
North Korea informs the NPT Review Conference President Jayantha Danapala that it disassociates itself from any decision or document emerging from the conference.

10 May 1995
The United States, Japan, and South Korea call on North Korea not to reactivate its nuclear facilities before high-level between Washington and Pyongyang resume late in the month. Representatives from the three countries make the statement from Seoul where they are meeting to prepare for the upcoming nuclear talks.

13 May 1995
In an article published in the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, North Korea warns that it might resume operations of its nuclear facilities if the United States continues to insist on South Korean designed nuclear reactors.

20 May-13 June 1995
The United States and North Korea meet in Kuala Lumpur to resolve issues relating to the Agreed Framework. The main topic of the negotiations is whether or not two light water reactors, promised to North Korea for giving up its graphite moderated nuclear program, will be provided by South Korea. North Korea, claiming that the South Korean reactor design is untested and unsafe, demands that the reactors come from another country, but the United States insists that since Seoul is financing more than three-quarters of the reactor project, South Korean reactors are the only option. On 13 June, after three weeks of talks, the two sides release a joint statement in which North Korea concedes that the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) retains the right to choose the provider of the reactors.

12 June 1995
IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs the IAEA Board of Governors that North Korea has serviced its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and is expected to do the same at its Radiochemistry Laboratory [reprocessing facility].

13 June 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) officially decides to provide North Korea with two South Korean-designed light water reactors. The KEDO executive board determines that the "reference plants" for the project will be South Korea’s Ulchin 3 and 4 reactors, currently under construction by the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), South Korea’s state-controlled electric utility. [Note: KEDO officially names KEPCO as the main contractor for the project on 19 March 1996.]

26 June 1995
New Zealand becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

Late June 1995
Pyongyang agrees to allow US personnel to take steps to ensure the safe storage of 8,000 nuclear fuel rods that were removed from its 5MW(e) reactor in May 1994 and are slowly corroding in a cooling pond. The Department of Energy personnel will be allowed to clean the water, adjust the temperature, and encase the rods in corrosion-resistant storage containers.

21 July 1995
A South Korean government official announces that three US firms, Combustion Engineering, General Electric and Sergent and Lundy, will participate in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) light water reactor project. Sergent and Lundy will provide technical support to Korea Power Engineering Company in designing the reactors. Combustion Engineering will provide technical assistance to Korea Heavy Industries Company (KHI) and Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) in manufacturing and designing the reactor facilities. General Electric will provide technical assistance to KHI in construction of the turbine generators. The government official stresses that overall project management and infrastructural construction will be conducted exclusively by Korea Electric Power Cooperation (KEPCO).
Late July 1995
North Korea prevents a scheduled visit by KEDO's top three executives because one of them is South Korean. The KEDO delegation was to include Stephen Bosworth, KEDO executive director, and his two deputies, Ch'oe Yong Jin and Umezu Itami, from South Korea and Japan respectively.

26 July 1995
Italy pledges $1.9 million to Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

31 July 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) Executive Board, comprising representatives from the United States, Japan, and South Korea, meets in New York. The Executive Board creates three advisory committees on the light water reactor project, the supply of heavy fuel oil and the safe storage of 8,000 spent fuel rods. The newly created committees are tasked with advising and recommending appropriate measures to the Executive Board and the Executive Director regarding their respective area of focus within the KEDO project.

1 August 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) holds its first general assembly. Over thirty nations attend the meeting held in New York. At the meeting, the Executive Board proposes sending a team of experts to North Korea later in the month in order to find a suitable site to construct the two reactors.

15-22 August 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) sends a team of experts to North Korea to survey possible locations for two light water reactors. The 15-man team, including experts from the United States, Japan and South Korean and US government officials, visits Shinp'o, a coastal city located in South Hamgyŏng Province. The KEDO team reportedly has "productive and Technical consultations" with North Korean personnel from the Department of Atomic Energy, However, the team receives incomplete survey documents of the proposed area
carried out by the former Soviet Union in the 1980s, and according to Kang Yun Kwan, a member of the KEDO team, the documents do not have all the data needed by KEDO. Pyongyang has reportedly demanded that KEDO must pay a fee of about $2.5 million to get the complete survey report. [Note: In 1985 Russia began conducting site surveys in [Kŭmho-chigu], Shinp’o for the construction of two VVER-440 reactors. Russia stopped the program in 1992 due to lack of funds from North Korea. At that time, North Korea had paid only $500,000 of the estimated $2.5 million cost of the survey results. North Korean officials from the Department of Atomic Energy informed the KEDO team that under the agreement with Russia it could not release the full results of the survey without payment.]


28 August 1995

South Korea’s Joongang Ilbo, quoting North Korean defector Kang Myŏng Do, reports that North Korea has a secret underground nuclear facility in Kimdan-gol, Tongsŏng-ri, Tongshin-kun, Chagang Province. The defector, Kang Myŏng Do, son-in-law of North Korean Premier Kang Song San, claims that he witnessed construction of the facility and was told by the project coordinator that it was a nuclear facility. [Note: In July 1994, Kang, who defected in May 1994, claimed that North Korea possessed five nuclear bombs.]


11-13 September 1995

Representatives from North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) meet in Kuala Lumpur to conclude the light water reactors supply agreement. The North Korean and KEDO delegations are respectively headed by Ambassador-at-Large Hŏ Jong and Stephen Bosworth, executive director of KEDO. The talks are productive but disagreements remain over whether KEDO should finance additional projects related to the reactors such as new power grids and improved port facilities. North Korea reportedly requests an additional $1 billion to finance the additional facilities. The two sides agree to hold working-level discussions in Kuala Lumpur

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immediately following the high-level talks.

12-19 September 1995
The IAEA sends a team of negotiators to Pyongyang. The IAEA requests that it be allowed to expand its monitoring activities in North Korea and improve its technical capability to confirm that North Korea's maintenance of the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun and the plutonium processing facility does not reflect an attempt to revive its nuclear program.

13 September 1995
A Bangkok official announces that Thailand has pledged $300,000 to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

13-15 September 1995
North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) hold working-level talks in Kuala Lumpur immediately following three days of high-level discussion earlier in the week. KEDO delegation head Gary Samore says that the talks were "very successful in identifying the key issues that need to be addressed in the course of the upcoming discussions." The two sides agree to resolve the outstanding issues and conclude a light water reactor supply agreement as soon as possible.

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14 September 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) executive board meets in Tokyo to discuss the proposed location of two light water reactor and the recently concluded expert-level talks in Kaula Lumpur.

18 September 1995
IAEA Director General Hans Blix calls on Pyongyang to allow agency inspectors to verify the accuracy and completeness of North Korea's initial declaration of nuclear material in its possession. In his address opening the IAEA General Conference, Blix also announces that current IAEA-North Korean negotiations currently underway in Pyongyang have made little progress.

19 September 1995
Australia becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

22 September 1995
Member states attending the IAEA General Conference adopt a resolution concerning nuclear safeguards in North Korea. The resolution calls on North Korea to cooperate with the IAEA to "preserve intact" all data pertinent to determining the "accuracy and completeness" of North Korea's original nuclear inventory report until North Korea "comes into full compliance with the safeguards agreement." In his opening statement, IAEA Director General Hans Blix tells the conference that unresolved concerns include the disposition of nuclear spent fuel from North Korea's 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and installation of waste tank monitoring equipment at its reprocessing plant.

25 September 1995
IAEA Director General Hans Blix reports to a special IAEA Board of Governors meeting that North Korea has denied the IAEA permission to measure the amount of plutonium in the 8,000 spent fuel rods or in the liquid waste at its Radiochemistry Laboratory [reprocessing facility]. Blix says that North Korea agreed only to allow IAEA inspectors to determine if the fuel rods were irradiated and to photograph the radiochemical lab. North Korea has indicated that it will make the examination of plutonium contingent upon progress in negotiations for a light water reactor supply contract.
—Cha Man-sun, "North Said to Refuse IAEA Demand," KBS-1 Radio Network (Seoul), 26 September 1995; in FBIS

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28 September 1995
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says, "It is self-evident that we cannot continue to unilaterally fulfill our obligation—a nuclear freeze—of the US side does not fulfill its obligation concerning the provision of light water reactors."

29 September 1995
In testimony before the National Assembly, General Kim Hong Rae, South Korean Air Force chief of staff, says that North Korea has deployed about 600 FROGs and Scuds. Kim says that North Korea has chemical weapons, and is developing nuclear weapons. General Kim also says the United States has three intelligence satellites monitoring North Korean military activities.

30 September-Mid-October 1995
Representatives from North Korea and Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) conduct working-level talks in New York on concluding the light water reactor supply agreement. North Korea reportedly continues to demand additional funds for facilities relating to the reactors, such as roads, ports and power grids. Another issue under discussion is the repayment schedule: KEDO proposes the repayment be made over 15 years while North Korea demands that the repayment period be extended to 30 years with a 10 year grace period. Lee Yong Ho, head of the North Korean delegation, says that the contract must be signed by 21 October, the one year anniversary of the signing of the Agreed Framework in Geneva.

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13 October 1995

IAEA Director General Hans Blix says in a report to the UN Security Council that North Korea has denied the IAEA inspectors permission to evaluate the plutonium levels in the nuclear spent fuel. Blix adds that North Korea has only provided the IAEA with minimal access to its Yongbyon nuclear facilities.


16 October-Late October 1995

North Korea and Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) hold high-level talks in New York. The delegations from North Korea and KEDO, respectively headed by Ambassador Hồ Jong and US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, work towards concluding a light water reactor supply agreement. The two main unresolved issues under discussion are (1) the scope of facilities to be provided, and (2) the repayment schedule. After six days of talks, the two sides issue a joint statement saying, "The talks were conducted in a business-like and positive manner. Progress has been made on some key issues related to the conclusion of the LWR [light water reactor] supply agreement." North Korea agrees to allow a second KEDO team to conduct additional reactor site surveys in [Kumho-chigu], Shinp’o from 24 October to 4 November. According to a South Korean official, the 19-member team "will try to locate an adequate site for the projected nuclear power plant by verifying additional basic survey reports to be obtained from North Korea, conducting a concentrated safety survey of the Shinp’o region in the north and analyzing the level of difficulty involved in executing the project."


24 October-4 November 1995

A team of Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) experts conducts additional reactor site surveys near the North Korean coastal city Shinp’o. According to a member of the team, "after having conducted our safety survey of the region, with the aid of seismological measuring equipment, the survey team concluded that Shinp’o is equipped with favorable conditions to construct a light water power plant."


29 October-15 November 1995

A team of North Korean nuclear experts visits the United States. The four-man team, headed by Chang Sang Hak, a senior official in the Department of Atomic Energy, inspects a "System 80" reactor model to verify its safety. The

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30 October-12 December 1995
North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) resume high-level talks in New York. At the talks the two sides resolve contentious issues regarding the scope of the agreement and the repayment schedule. KEDO reportedly agrees that, in addition to the two light water reactors, it will finance the construction of housing facilities, a simulation training facility, a port and access roads to the proposed reactor site, adding approximately $500 million to the project. However, the consortium refuses North Korea's demand that power transmission lines, a reprocessing plant and a training simulator be included in the deal. With regard to the repayment schedule, the two sides reportedly agree that North Korea will repay the estimated $4.5 billion interest-free over seventeen years after a three-year grace period beginning upon completion of the first reactor.

1 November 1995
In his annual report to the UN General Assembly, IAEA Director General Hans Blix claims that while North Korea has maintained the freeze on its nuclear activities, it must still allow IAEA inspectors "to verify effectively the accuracy and completeness," of the declared amount of plutonium in its possession. Until this is realized, Blix continues, "it is essential that all necessary steps be taken to preserve information that may be relevant to the eventual verification." North Korean Ambassador to the UN Pak Kil Yŏn dismisses Blix's remarks as "biased, subjective and unjustified."

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1 November 1995
The UN General Assembly passes a resolution urging North Korea to cooperate with the IAEA to allow the successful implementation of its nuclear safeguards agreement.

3 November 1995
The IAEA announces that the measurement and safe storage of 8,000 spent fuel rods in North Korea has been delayed due to the high level of radioactive contamination in the cooling pond where the rods have been stored since May 1994.

17 November 1995
The US Secretary of State and the foreign ministers Japan and South Korea issue a joint statement welcoming the progress that has been made in implementing the Agreed Framework, but at the same time expressing "concern over the delay in North-South dialogue."

24 November 1995
Canada becomes a member of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

December 1995
According to Seoul Shinmun (Taehan Maeil), about 10 director-level officials from the Russian Foreign Ministry, Atomic Energy Ministry, and others meet in secret to assess the North Korean nuclear and missile development programs. Their report concludes that the nuclear program is important for domestic political unity and therefore, North Korea will not abandon the program easily. The report also says that besides Yŏngbyŏn, North Korea has about 20 nuclear-related facilities including research institutes and facilities at military bases. Furthermore, North Korea is said to have reprocessed 7-22kg of plutonium, and is storing the plutonium in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. The report claims that North Korea has also conducted over 70 high-explosive tests in Yŏngbyŏn and nearby areas between 1991 and 1994 in an effort to test triggering devices for nuclear warheads.

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12 December 1995
IAEA Director General Hans Blix announces that North Korea is not allowing inspectors to photograph nuclear facilities in the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. According to Blix, the photographs are necessary in order to determine whether or not the facilities are being used for a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

15 December 1995
North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) officially sign a contract in New York for the provision of two light water reactors. Construction of the first light water reactor and related facilities is to begin in 1996 and go on line by 2003. The second reactor is to be completed four to five years later.

16 December 1995
The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) sends a team of experts to North Korea for a month-long survey of the proposed reactor site in [Kŭmho-chigu], Shinp'o, South Hamgyŏng Province. The 16-man team consists of fourteen South Koreans and one expert each from the United States and Japan.

1994
7 January 1994
Officials from the South Korean Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Unification announce that North Korea and South Korea will exchange special envoys to discuss nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula in the middle of this month. South Korean officials hope to use this opportunity to re-open the inter-Korean talks that were suspended in 1992.

1994
According to the Segye Ilbo, a South Korean daily, North Korea begins to acquire plutonium, uranium, other metals, and equipment from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries. According to the report, North Korea also procures uranium-235, plutonium-239, as well as osmium-187, cesium-137, and strontium, which the report

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claims are used for reducing the size of nuclear warheads. The Segye Ilbo claims this information is from a four-page Russian document acquired by the South Korean Embassy in Uzbekistan. The report also claims that North Korea later acquire 70-80 documents that contain information regarding nuclear technologies, and that North Korea smuggles 32kg of HEU from Kazakhstan in August 2001. [Note: CNS sources indicate the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade received no such document, and there is no apparent use for osmium-187, cesium-137 and strontium in reducing the size of nuclear weapons; therefore, this report does not seem credible.]


1 January 1994
President Kim Il Sung announces that North Korea and the United States have agreed on a "joint statement" which paves the way for the nuclear dispute to be "settled fairly." However, Kim says that any attempts to pressure North Korea into more concessions "may invite catastrophe." In his statements, Kim doesn't mention any details about the agreement, but in an announcement later in the day, the North Korean Foreign Ministry claims that IAEA inspectors will only be allowed to visit North Korea's seven declared nuclear facilities for a one-time inspection.


3 January 1994
US officials announce that North Korea has agreed to permit IAEA inspections of its seven declared nuclear facilities once Pyongyang comes to an agreement with the Agency on "the exact procedures." According to reports, steps involve the resumption of a North Korean dialogue with South Korea in exchange for cancellation of the 1994 Team Spirit military exercise. North Korean United Nations Ambassador Hŏ Jong confirms the agreement and says that IAEA inspections will be permitted in order to "keep continuity" of international safeguards. Ho says that the United States and North Korea have made "some very substantial progress" during negotiations in December 1993 in New York.


4 January 1994
US officials say that they are likely to make the important concession of accepting North Korea's proposal of a complete one-time inspection of its seven declared nuclear facilities, in the hope that additional inspections can be agreed upon in the future. According to the officials, the United States is also considering cancellation of the annual Team Spirit military exercise.

—Jeffrey Smith, "North Korea Agrees to Nuclear Inspection; Tentative Pact Covers Only Declared Facilities, Not

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5 January 1994

IAEA Spokesman David Kyd says that one-time inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities are unacceptable. According to Kyd, "periodic inspections would be necessary" to ensure North Korea's compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).


5 January 1994

US State Department Undersecretary Lynn Davis says that the "agreement in principle" reached between North Korea and the United States to allow IAEA inspections is one of the "interim steps" before the United States will agree to a third round of talks with North Korea. Davis denies reports that the United States is prepared to accept one-time inspections of declared nuclear facilities in North Korea. Speaking at a luncheon for newspaper reporters, President Clinton also denies the reports, saying that even if the United States was prepared to make such a concession it would have to be cleared with the IAEA.


5 January 1994

North Korean officials meet with IAEA officials in Vienna, but they make no new offer. After the meeting, IAEA Spokesman David Kyd says that the North Korean officials only came to listen to the agency's position and report back to Pyongyang. According to Kyd, the IAEA informed North Korea that talks on inspection procedures need to be resumed.


7 January 1994

Officials from the South Korean Foreign Ministry and National Unification Board announce that South Korea and North Korea will exchange special envoys to discuss nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula. The officials say that the two sides have yet to agree upon a date but stress that the exchange should take place before the United States reopens high-level talks with Pyongyang.


7 January 1994

North Korea and the IAEA hold "working-level" discussions on the procedures for nuclear inspections.

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8 January 1994
US Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar say that Washington will not accept a one-time inspection of North Korea’s declared nuclear facilities. Instead, the Senators claim, Washington will demand continued IAEA access to all declared facilities and two suspected nuclear waste sites. Speaking at the US embassy in Tokyo, the two Senators also claim that the United States, Japan, and other countries must begin preparing for the option of imposing economic sanctions against North Korea.

10 January 1994
The IAEA and North Korea hold a second round of "working-level" discussions on the scope and content of inspections. The IAEA submits a "check list" for inspections of North Korea’s nuclear facilities. Items on the "check list" include examining the fuel rods at the 5MW gas-graphite reactor, taking samples, and checking seals and surveillance equipment.

19 January 1994
The IAEA sends a report to Pyongyang outlining its demands for unrestricted access to all seven declared nuclear sites.

21 January 1994
US State Department Spokeswoman Christine Shelly announces that the United States will not consider a third round of high-level talks with North Korea until it resolves the issue of nuclear inspections with the IAEA. Shelly says, "If the North Korean agreement in principle to allow these inspections that they had related to us before does not result in specific arrangements with the IAEA, then there will be no third round of formal US-North Korea talks and we will have to look to alternate means to resolve this dispute." Shelly continues, "The possibility of tougher measures, of sanctions, of going to the Security Council, is still very much out there."
21 January 1994
The IAEA announces that North Korea has rejected its proposed inspection procedures. IAEA Spokesman David Kyd says that the proposed procedures are necessary for IAEA inspectors to verify that North Korea is not developing nuclear weapons. North Korea urges the IAEA to accept its proposal of onetime inspections, but Kyd reiterates IAEA Director General Hans Blix's statement that these inspection procedures are not negotiable and the IAEA will not send an inspection team "unless there is a full agreement."

21 January 1994
North Korea’s Foreign Ministry claims that the issue of "routine ad-hoc inspections" of its nuclear facilities should only be addressed in a third round of high-level bilateral talks with the United States.

22 January 1994
North Korea warns the United States that continued pressure on Pyongyang to accept routine IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities could lead to "catastrophe." The warning, printed in the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, also states that North Korea’s March 1993 decision to withdraw from the NPT was not revoked but merely "suspended temporarily."

24 January 1994
Thomas Hubbard, chief US negotiator for talks with North Korea, visits Seoul and reiterates the US position that it will improve relations with North Korea only if Pyongyang agrees to nuclear inspections meeting all IAEA requirements.

25 January 1994
A US official says that Washington will most likely seek sanctions against North Korea if talks with the IAEA fail to make progress soon. According to the official, if at the 22 February meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors Hans Blix reports that the IAEA cannot determine whether or not North Korea's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, the United States will likely move for economic sanctions.

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25 January 1994
CIA director James Woolsey tells the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that North Korea would probably resort to its MiG-23 aircraft as a nuclear weapon delivery system, rather than the Nodong-1 missile.

25 January 1994
The IAEA sends a report to Pyongyang explaining its demand for unrestricted access to all seven declared nuclear facilities. According to IAEA Spokesman David Kyd, North Korea still refuses "a significant number" of the agency's inspection requirements.

26 January 1994
US officials announce that preparations are under way to deploy Patriot Missiles in South Korea at the request of General Gary Luck, the senior commander of US forces in South Korea.

28 January 1994
North Korea condemns the US plan to deploy Patriot Missiles in South Korea as an "unpardonable, grave military challenge." The Korean Central News Agency says the deployment of the missiles "increases the danger of war on the peninsula" and "impedes the progress" of talks aimed at resolving the issue of nuclear inspections. The report also says that the real purpose of the missile deployment is to pressure North Korea into accepting nuclear inspections.

28 January 1994
Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian General Staff, denies allegations made by the Japanese weekly Shukan Bunshun regarding an alleged top secret Russian report. The Shukan Bunshun report claims that Russian nuclear and missile scientists have assisted North Korea in the development of nuclear bombs and ballistic missiles. But Kolesnikov says that the report's alleged issuing authority, the Center for Military Strategic Analysis at the Russian General Staff, does not exist, although the General Staff does have a "center for military strategic studies." Kolesnikov lists further discrepancies within the report, including the form used, the index number cited, the incorrect placement and terminology of the security classification, and, finally, the use of a serial number originating with the USSR Council of Ministers (a numbering system not used since 1991) rather than one used by the Ministry of Defense.

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31 January 1994
The North Korean Foreign Ministry warns of "catastrophic consequences" if the United States continues to demand that North Korea accept all IAEA conditions on nuclear inspections before it will consider a third round of high-level talks. "If the United States has no intention to hold any further round of talks, North Korea, too, will have no intention to do so," a Foreign Ministry spokesman says, warning that North Korea might once again withdraw from the NPT. He also warns that Pyongyang might reverse its "declared intention to renounce the graphite-moderated reactor system."


31 January 1994
North Korea warns that it is prepared to renege on all promises regarding nuclear inspections if the United States goes ahead with plans to deploy Patriot Missiles in South Korea.


1 February 1994
North Korean President Kim Il Sung delivers a message to US President Bill Clinton expressing a desire to improve relations with the United States and vowing that North Korea will never develop nuclear weapons. The message is delivered by US evangelist Billy Graham after a six-day trip to North Korea.


1 February 1994
Accusing North Korea of intimidating the United States with its nuclear program, the US Senate calls on the Clinton administration to take a more aggressive stance towards Pyongyang. In two non-binding "sense of Congress" statements amended to the State Department authorization bill, the Senate calls on President Clinton to seek international support for economic sanctions and prepare to reintroduce tactical nuclear weapons to South Korea if North Korea continues to resist IAEA inspections. The Senate also urges President Clinton to move forward with
plans to hold the Team Spirit joint military exercises with South Korea.

2 February 1994
Addressing the annual meeting of South Korean diplomats, Foreign Minister Han Song Ju says that the dispute over North Korea’s nuclear program should be resolved through dialogue in order to prevent its development into a "worst case" scenario.

3 February 1994
In a commentary appearing in the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, North Korea states that while it wants the dispute over its nuclear program resolved in "a peaceful way," it will not accept any pressure tactics from Washington. If the United States tries to pressure North Korea in allowing IAEA inspections, according to the commentary, Pyongyang’s "reaction will be a hundred times stronger and carried into practical action." The statement also says that North Korea has "an expedient to counter any other option of the United States. It is not the United States alone that has the expedient, and the option is not open only for a big power."

3 February 1994
French Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Catherine Colonna states that due to the lack of progress in talks between Washington and Pyongyang, it is time for the UN Security Council to consider imposing economic sanctions on North Korea. On 11 February, the North Korean Foreign Ministry condemns the French statement, accusing France of encouraging military conflict in Northeast Asia "so that it may fish in troubled waters through the massive sales of weapons of destruction."

3 February 1994
North Korea officially informs the IAEA that it completely rejects the prospect of nuclear safeguards inspections.

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4 February 1994
North Korea's ambassador to the IAEA, Yun Ho Jin, says that "North Korea cannot accept routine and ad hoc inspections."

4 February 1994
The United States, supported by Britain, France and Russia, appeals to China to put added pressure on North Korea to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. Speaking at a UN Security Council meeting, the US Ambassador to the UN Madeline Albright also informs the Chinese representative that the United States, Britain, France and Russia will begin pressing for economic sanctions if North Korea does not open its nuclear facilities to international inspections by 21 February.

11 February 1994
South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju meets with senior US officials in Washington to discuss North Korea's refusal to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. After meetings with US Vice President Al Gore and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, Han announces that the United States and South Korea have "decided to exert all available efforts to settle the nuclear question through dialogue until the regular Board of Governors' meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)." Speaking on the possibility of calling for economic sanctions in the UN Security Council, Han says that China may not oppose sanctions but is still reluctant to support such measures, believing that the international community must first give negotiations a chance.

11 February 1994
Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, meeting with President Clinton in Washington, says that Japan is ready to support economic sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang continues to refuse international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

12 February 1994
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, carries an article that warns "any US consideration

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of economic sanctions would be equivalent to a declaration of war."

14 February 1994

Vladimir Kumachev, of Russia's Institute of National Security and Strategic Research, says that North Korea has nuclear warheads. According to Kumachev, the Soviet Union learned in 1985 that North Korea was enriching "more uranium than was necessary for non-military purposes, and that secret underground bases had been set up in the mountains." Kumachev also says that Russia "still retains around 15 experts in North Korea to keep us up to date with and to monitor its nuclear program." He also claims that North Korea has "carried out tests in certain African countries under totalitarian regimes."


15 February 1994

Following two rounds of talks with the IAEA, North Korea agrees to allow inspections of seven declared nuclear facilities but not two suspected nuclear waste sites. According to IAEA Spokesman David Kyd, the goal of the inspections is "verify that nuclear material in these facilities has not been diverted since earlier inspections." As to the date of the inspections, Kyd says the inspectors will travel to North Korea as soon as the IAEA has made the necessary arrangements.


18 February 1994

US and South Korean officials reaffirm their position that the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue on the nuclear situation on the peninsula is a prerequisite for the next round of high-level talks between the United States and North Korea.

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21 February 1994
North Korea informs the IAEA that it will issue visas to inspectors once it talks with the United States. The IAEA condemns the North Korean demand as an attempt to "buy time."

21 February 1994
The North Korean Foreign Ministry announces that the scope of the upcoming IAEA inspections is only to guarantee the continuity of its safeguards agreement. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, the Foreign Ministry says that the inspections will be neither routine nor special inspections. The spokesman goes on to say that the "persistent" demand by the United States, Japan and South Korea for special inspections is "tantamount to an attempt to drive (North Korea) out of the (NPT)," and if such demands continue North Korea might rethink its decision to allow IAEA inspections.

22 February 1994
US and North Korean officials hold a working-level meeting to discuss the issuance of visas to IAEA inspectors. North Korea has said that it will issue visas once a third round of high-level talks with the United States is scheduled, but the United States continues to insist that the resumption of high-level talks with North Korea is contingent on Pyongyang first accepting IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities.

23 February 1994
At the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna, North Korean officials announce that Pyongyang will allow IAEA inspections by 1 March if the United States officially suspends the annual Team Spirit military exercise and sets a date for the third round of high-level US-North Korean talks.

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23 February 1994
In the summary statement of the Board of Governors' meeting, the IAEA urges North Korea to set a date for IAEA inspections before March.

24 February 1994
State Department officials announce that the United States has broken off working-level talks with North Korea.
According to the officials, the United States stopped the talks, which have been conducted in New York for the past week, because North Korea announced on 23 February that the United States must meet certain conditions before it would allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. US negotiator Thomas Hubbard says that he expects more talks in the near future.

26 February 1994
The United States and North Korea reach an agreement in which IAEA inspections of North Korean facilities will begin on 1 March. The United States agrees to hold a third round of high-level talks with North Korea starting on 31 March in Geneva. North Korea's representative to the UN, Pak Gil Yon, announces that on 1 March the United States and North Korea will take "four simultaneous steps" to resolve the deadlock on the issue. When asked about the visas for IAEA inspectors, Pak says that they are being granted "as we speak."

26 February 1994
North Korea issues visas to seven IAEA inspectors who will leave for Pyongyang on 27 February.

27 February 1994
Seven IAEA inspectors depart Vienna bound for Pyongyang. The seven-member team will conduct inspections of North Korea's seven declared nuclear facilities beginning on 1 March.

March 1994
Russia deports five North Koreans from Moscow "for showing too much interest in nuclear components."

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2 March 1994
General Gary Luck, commander of US forces in South Korea, announces to Congress that the joint US-South Korean Team Spirit military exercises will be cancelled. A few hours later (3 March) the South Korean Foreign Ministry announces the cancellation in Seoul. However, both the United States and South Korea state that the cancellation of the military exercises is contingent on North Korea allowing the completion of IAEA inspections at seven declared nuclear facilities and the resumption of inter-Korea dialogue regarding nuclear issues on the peninsula.

3 March 1994
The United States announces that it will resume high-level bilateral talks with North Korea on 21 March in Geneva. Undersecretary of State Robert Gallucci will head the US delegation. According to State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, the third round of high-level talks "will aim at a thorough and broad resolution of the nuclear and other issues that separate the DPRK from the US and the rest of the international community."

3 March 1994
IAEA inspectors begin inspections at one of North Korea's seven declared nuclear facilities. The inspections, to be conducted at all seven declared facilities, are the first such inspections in over one year. The IAEA continues to urge North Korea to allow inspections at two suspected nuclear waste sites, but currently Pyongyang is limiting the inspections to the seven declared facilities.

4 March 1994
North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu says that North Korea might halt IAEA inspections if the United States continues to insist on inter-Korean exchange of envoys as a precondition for canceling Team Spirit military exercises. According to Kang, "It is clear that if...the United States gives up halfway the decision to renounce the Team Spirit joint military exercises and delays the opening of the third round DPRK-US talks under an absurd pretext, we cannot satisfactorily ensure the IAEA's inspection that has already begun."

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11 March 1994
The United States and South Korea agree that Washington should postpone the third round of high-level talks with Pyongyang scheduled for 21 March in Geneva. Meeting in Seoul, Kim Sam Hun, South Korea's special ambassador in charge of North Korean nuclear issues, and US Undersecretary of State Robert Gallucci agree that the IAEA inspections currently underway in North Korea must be concluded prior to the third round of talks.

15 March 1994
North Korea threatens to boycott the third round of high-level talks with the United States if Washington continues to insist on "unreasonable preconditions." The North Korean Foreign Ministry claims that Pyongyang has fulfilled its commitments by resuming contact with Seoul and allowing IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. However, the United States insists that IAEA inspectors were not given sufficient access and the exchange of presidential envoys between North and South Korea has yet to be realized.

15 March 1994
IAEA inspectors leave North Korea without being able to complete the full scope of their planned inspections. According to IAEA spokesman David Kyd, "We were only able to partially fulfill our mission." The inspectors reportedly discovered seals that had been tampered with and were denied access to a site described by North Korean officials as a "Radiochemistry Laboratory" but is suspected of being used for plutonium extraction. According to officials from the United States, Japan and South Korea, inspectors were prevented from taking any samples from within the "glove box" of the suspected reprocessing facility.

16 March 1994
The United States cancels high-level talks with North Korea scheduled to begin on 21 March and resumes plans to conduct the annual Team Spirit joint military exercise with South Korea. The cancellation of the talks and resumption of the military exercises come in the wake of North Korea's refusal to allow IAEA inspectors to take samples at a suspected plutonium reprocessing plant during agreed upon inspections in early March.

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19 March 1994
Lee Ch'ung Kuk defects to South Korea. Lee, a former analyst and translator for the Ministry of People's Armed Forces Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau, supplies South Korean officials with information about North Korea's nuclear weapons and chemical weapons programs.

18 March 1994
North Korea claims that recently concluded IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities were sufficient. Quoting a spokesman for the General Department in Atomic Energy, the Korean Central News Agency reports that North Korea has "permitted all the activities within the scope needed for maintaining the continuity of the safeguards," and that the IAEA was "widening its partiality...in pursuing its ill-disposed political purposes under the United States' manipulation."

19 March 1994
During bilateral talks between the two Koreas, North Korean delegate Pak Yŏng Su says, "Seoul is not very far from here. Seoul can be turned into a sea of fire. We will match dialogue with dialogue, and war with war."

19 March 1994
The Clinton administration decides to ask the UN to get prepared to impose economic sanctions against North Korea. According to the Washington Post, the United States will ask for a Security Council vote on a resolution calling for complete access to North Korea's nuclear facilities. The administration also decides to reinstate joint military exercises with South Korea. North Korea has said it will consider economic sanctions an act of war.

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21 March 1994

The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a six-page statement in which it says that Pyongyang will pull out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the IAEA refers North Korea’s alleged obstruction of inspections to the UN Security Council, and if the United States and South Korea go ahead with the Team Spirit military exercise. According to the statement, "If the United States avoids the talks and...resumes the Team Spirit joint military exercise in 1994, and if the IAEA widens its partiality and resorts to strong-arm politics and pressure...we will have no alternative but to carry into practice the measures declared in March last year in order to defend the sovereignty of the nation and the security of the state."


21 March 1994

President Clinton announces that the United States will send Patriot missiles to South Korea in response to growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Speaking to reporters in Florida, Clinton says, "We have agreed that it is our national interest and in the interest of the security if the people of South Korea and the security of our armed forces there to send Patriot missiles at this time." According to a Pentagon spokesman, the missiles will be transported by sea and reach South Korea in about 30 days.


21 March 1994

The United States presents a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling on North Korea to accept additional IAEA inspections. The resolution stops short of calling for economic sanctions but leaves such an option open if North Korea does not readmit IAEA inspectors within one month.


22 March 1994

South Korean President Kim Young Sam places the South Korean military on high alert in response to a North
Korean delegate's remark that North Korea could turn Seoul into a "sea of fire." Kim is scheduled to leave for Japan and China tomorrow.


23 March 1994
IAEA spokesman David Kyd announces that it appears that North Korea will complete the construction of its 50MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun on schedule by the end of 1994. Kyd says it appears that North Korea is constructing a third nuclear reactor in T'aech'ŏn-kun, which is scheduled for completion in early 1996.


24 March 1994
According to US and European officials, North Korea may be reprocessing spent fuel through an un-safeguarded second reprocessing line at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. The revelation comes after IAEA inspections of the Yŏngbyŏn reprocessing plant [Radiochemistry Laboratory] during which inspectors were prevented from examining points that may connect the existing reprocessing line to the suspected second line. The existing line was placed under safeguards in 1993. It is believed that the existence of an un-safeguarded second line can allow North Korea to divert "plutonium-laden material in solution from the safeguarded line without detection." US officials say that the second reprocessing line, six months from completion, will double North Korea's plutonium production capacity.


27-29 March 1994
South Korean President Kim Young Sam travels to China in order to plead with Chinese leaders to place added pressure on North Korea to resolve suspicions about its nuclear program. On 28 March China's President Jiang Zemin tells Kim that the only way to resolve the issue with North Korea is through dialogue.


29 March 1994
China objects to a US proposed resolution to the UN Security Council calling on North Korea to readmit IAEA

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inspectors within one month. Objecting to language in the proposal threatening "further Security Council action," China suggests that the Security Council President issue a consensus statement urging North Korea to cooperate with IAEA inspectors. The statement would make no mention of possible actions taken by the Security Council if North Korea does not cooperate.


31 March 1994
The UN Security Council issues a presidential statement proposed by China urging North Korea to allow IAEA inspectors. The statement, read by Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee, differs from the US proposed resolution in that there is no mention of a deadline for North Korea to readmit inspectors. The threat of Security Council action is not as overt as in the proposed resolution, but the statement does warn that "further Security Council consideration will take place if necessary in order to achieve full implementation of the IAEA-North Korean safeguards agreement." [Note: China had warned that if the US resolution came to vote, it would use its veto power as one of the permanent five members of the Security Council.]


31 March 1994
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman accuses the United States of making "false promises" and resorting to pressure tactics and condemns the UN Resolution urging North Korea to reinstate IAEA inspectors.


1 April 1994
North Korea's Foreign Ministry states that the nuclear inspection dispute can be settled in direct talks with the United States, and declines a Russian proposal to resolve the matter in a multilateral forum.


3 April 1994
US Secretary of Defense William Perry, speaking on NBC's Meet the Press, accuses North Korea of lying about its nuclear program. Perry claims that the United States is not considering a preemptive strike on North Korea's nuclear facilities "under these circumstances, at this time," and declares that while the United States has no intention of triggering a war on the Korean Peninsula, direct military action is an option if North Korea continues to refuse international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

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4 April 1994
The North Korean Foreign Ministry condemns the UN Resolution calling for it to reinstate IAEA inspectors as "irrational and senseless." In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, a Foreign Ministry spokesman states that "since the United States has opted...to put pressure on the DPRK, we cannot but normalize our peaceful nuclear activities." Later in the day, US State Department spokesman Michael McCurry says that Washington is not sure what exactly "normalizing" means.


8 April 1994
North Korea shuts down its 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun in preparation to begin unloading its fuel rods in May.


13 April 1994
Speaking at the annual conference of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that it is critical that the IAEA have complete access to the two undeclared sites in North Korea suspected of being nuclear waste dump-sites in order to determine whether any nuclear materials have been diverted for nuclear weapons production. Blix stresses that gaining access to the radiochemical lab [reprocessing facility] and the 5MW gas-graphite reactor is also necessary to learn whether the lab has been used since February 1993. According to Blix, the IAEA is concerned that North Korea possesses more plutonium than it has reported. In the spring of 1993, it was concluded that North Korea had more plutonium than it had declared. Blix disclosed that North Korea is working on constructing a second [reprocessing] production line in the Radiochemistry Laboratory, which is expected to be completed in the near future.


15 April 1994
South Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Unification Lee Yŏng Tŏk announces that South Korea has withdrawn its demand for an exchange of special envoys with North Korea as a condition for the resumption of high-level US-North Korean talks.


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18 April 1994
In an interview with Prensa Latina News Agency, North Korean President Kim Il Sung says that North Korea has neither the intention nor the capability to develop nuclear weapons. He adds that North Korea will be forced to take self-defensive measures if the United States continued to place pressure on Pyongyang.

19 April 1994
North Korea notifies the IAEA of its intention to refuel its 5 MW(e) graphite-moderated reactor in Yongbyŏn-kun "at an early date."

20 April 1994
An official from the North Korean mission to the UN reiterates Pyongyang's claim that no more inspectors will be allowed into North Korea until after the resumption of high-level US-North Korean talks. The official says, "We received all the inspections needed to guarantee the continuity of safeguards that have been agreed with the United States."

20 April 1994
US Secretary of Defense William Perry announces that the Team Spirit military exercise will be postponed until at least November.

21 April 1994
US Secretary of Defense William Perry announces that North Korea is "within weeks" of removing enough fuel to make four or five nuclear weapons. Perry does not specify what evidence led the United States to this conclusion.

21 April 1994
The IAEA announces that it recently received a letter from North Korea stating that it plans to remove fuel rods from its largest reactor [5MW(e) reactor] in Yongbyŏn-kun. According to the IAEA, North Korea will allow the

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agency to monitor the removal but not to take any sample or conduct any tests.

**26 April 1994**
US Assistant Secretary of State for political and military affairs, Robert Gallucci, announces that the United States hopes to resume working-level contacts with North Korea by May. Gallucci says, "We hope that this week we'll be able to get back to North Korea—almost certainly using the New York channel."

**27 April 1994**
North Korea announces that it will not accept full IAEA inspections. Although IAEA inspectors will be permitted to witness the removal of the nuclear spent fuel rods from its 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn, they will not be allowed to take samples of the rods or to measure their radioactivity.

**28 April 1994**
North Korean Ambassador to the UN Pak Kil Yŏn accuses the United States of violating the Korean Armistice Agreement by introducing to South Korea "up-to-date military hardware, including over 1,000 nuclear weapons."

**28 April 1994**
The United States and North Korea hold working-level talks in New York. According to State Department, the United States offers to hold another round of high-level talks and suspend Team Spirit military exercises if North Korea allows additional IAEA inspections.

**29 April 1994**
The IAEA receives a letter from North Korea denying a request to take samples when fuel is removed from the 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. In the letter, North Korea reiterates that the IAEA's role will be limited solely to monitoring. According to IAEA spokesman David Kyd, North Korea's reply is "very firm.... Sampling is not in the cards at all."

**May-June 1994**
North Korea discharges the spent fuel from its nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

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2 May 1994
The US State Department says that Washington will abort all talks with Pyongyang if it removes fuel rods from a reactor without the presence of IAEA inspectors.

3 May 1994
The IAEA sends a letter to North Korea reiterating its demand that North Korea allow full inspection of the refueling of its 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. IAEA Director General Hans Blix in a letter to North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam warns that North Korea's failure to agree to IAEA inspections will be seen as evidence of North Korean efforts to develop nuclear capabilities, and will compel the IAEA to take the issue to the UN Security Council.

3 May 1994
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says that the IAEA's demand to set aside and measure spent fuel from the 5MW(e) reactor is "unreasonable," adding that North Korea will allow "the observation of the fuel rod replacement, containment and surveillance over all replaced fuel and other sufficient inspections for the maintenance of the continuity of safeguards." The spokesman adds that "selective" fuel rod sampling "can never be allowed because it means routine and ad hoc inspections that ignore North Korea's unique status" under the NPT following the "temporary suspension" of its withdrawal from the NPT.

9 May 1994
The US and North Korea hold working-level talks in New York. At the talks, the United States asks North Korea to postpone the removal of nuclear fuel rods until IAEA inspectors arrive. Washington threatens to break off all talks if the IAEA is not allowed to monitor the extraction of fuel rods from the 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

12 May 1994
North Korea notifies the IAEA that it has begun removing fuel rods from the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyŏn-kun.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
13 May 1994
The IAEA announces that it will shortly send an inspection team to North Korea to service cameras and check safeguard seals at the reprocessing plant [Radiochemistry Laboratory] and the SMW(e) nuclear reactor at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. North Korea will also conduct working-level talks with the IAEA on the removal of the fuel rods from the SMW(e) reactor. IAEA inspectors will be allowed to set aside fuel rod samples for future measurement. Inspectors will also complete some steps blocked during the March 1994 inspections, including the measurement of radioactivity and search for radioactive particles at the Radiochemistry Laboratory, but will not be able to sample "liquids from tanks used to dissolve spent fuel." The inspection team will also not be allowed to conduct formal inspections of the removal of spent fuel rods from the SMW(e) reactor.


14 May 1994
North Korea starts unloading spent fuel rods from its SMW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun before the arrival of the IAEA inspectors.


15 May 1994
Clinton Administration officials announce that if North Korea has removed or "emptied" the spent fuel from the rods, the United States will seek sanctions in the UN Security Council.


17 May 1994
US Secretary of Defense William Perry characterizes the situation in North Korea as a "very substantial near-term crisis." According to Perry, the issue of removing fuel from a SMW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn could lead to a major confrontation if Pyongyang does not allow verification that spent fuel is not being diverted to a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

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**Mid-May 1994**

IAEA inspectors complete inspections of a plutonium reprocessing plant [Radiochemistry Laboratory] in Yŏngbyŏn-kun and replace the film and batteries on monitoring equipment at a nuclear reactor at the same complex.


**19 May 1994**

IAEA inspectors confirm that North Korea has begun removing spent nuclear fuel from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. While North Korea has not yet taken any measures that would prevent tests from determining the exact amount of nuclear material that has been removed, the IAEA states that immediate implementation of safeguards is necessary in order to verify whether or not spent fuel had been diverted in the past. To this end, the agency proposes sending a team to North Korea to discuss arrangements for implementing the necessary safeguards.


**20 May 1994**

The United States decides to resume high-level talks with North Korea. The decision follows an announcement by the IAEA that North Korea has not diverted any of the spent fuel it recently removed from a 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.


**21 May 1994**

North Korea sends a message to the IAEA expressing its willingness to receive a team of specialist to discuss the implementation of safeguards on the 5MW(e) reactor currently being refueled. The IAEA team is scheduled to arrive on 24 May.


**24 May 1994**

An IAEA team of specialists arrive in North Korea to discuss the implementation of safeguards on the 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.


**Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.**
25-27 May 1994
The IAEA and North Korea hold working level talks in Pyongyang. The purpose of the talks is to make arrangements for the implementation of necessary safeguards in order to verify that spent fuel from the 5MW(e) reactor in Yongbyon-kun has not been diverted. North Korea rejects the IAEA demand that it set aside about 300 fuel rods from the core to be examined at a later date.

Late May 1994
Working-level talks between the United States and North Korea break down as North Korea rejects the US demand that it set aside some of the fuel rods currently being removed from the 5MW(e) reactor so that future tests can determine if any of the spent fuel had been diverted in 1989.

27 May 1994
IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that North Korea is now removing fuel from its 5MW(e) reactor "at a very fast pace." In a letter to Boutros-Ghali, Blix claims that "almost half of the fuel in the reactor core has been discharged and in a pattern that has precluded the agency's ability to implement the full range of the safeguards measures required."

28 May 1994
A team of IAEA officials sent to negotiate the implementation of necessary safeguards on the 5MW(e) reactor leave North Korea. The officials claim that North Korea "rejected all IAEA proposals put forward with the aim of maintaining the IAEA's ability to select, segregate and secure fuel rods for later measurements, so as to be able to verify the history of the reactor core."

30 May 1994
The UN Security Council issues a statement urging North Korea to set aside spent fuel rods necessary to determine if any plutonium has been diverted to a weapons program. The statement, adopted unanimously, carries less weight than a full resolution and makes no mention of economic sanctions if Pyongyang does not cooperate.

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31 May 1994
The IAEA Director General Hans Blix announces that due to continued North Korean non-compliance with IAEA inspections, North Korea is "no longer [officially] in compliance with IAEA safeguards." The IAEA makes a final appeal to North Korea, asking it to stop withdrawing fuel rods from the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and to allow international inspections to proceed. IAEA inspectors announce that key fuel rods have already been removed from the original 300 rods that are considered "vital to future measurement." In a telex to North Korea, the IAEA reiterates that it will accept two other methods of measuring the rods that remain, but according to Blix, North Korea has not accepted the proposals due to political constraints. North Korea's Ambassador to the IAEA, Yun Ho Jin announces that the refueling will continue. Yun says that 40 rods have been withdrawn under IAEA camera surveillance and placed in a storage site "pending an inspection agreement."

June 1994
The United States establishes a plan to bomb North Korea's nuclear complex in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

2 June 1994
UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali receives a letter from IAEA inspectors stating that they can no longer verify that North Korea has not diverted plutonium to a clandestine weapons program.

2 June 1994
Following the IAEA announcement that they could no longer verify that North Korea has not diverted spent fuel to a weapons program, the United States begins consultations at the UN on imposing economic sanctions. While most members of the Security Council support economic sanctions, China, a permanent member with veto power, is still reluctant to take such measures. In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang says, "At this time, we do not favor resorting to means that might sharpen the confrontation."

2 June 1994
Russian President Boris Yeltsin warns Pyongyang that it cannot expect Russia's protection from economic sanctions or in the event of war over North Korea's suspicious nuclear activities. Yeltsin says that while Moscow would prefer a diplomatic solution to the problem, it does not feel bound by any treaties to support North Korea in the case of

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conflict.

3 June 1994
The IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs the UN Security Council that the Agency is unable to verify whether North Korea has used the plutonium extracted from its 5MW(e) reactor to make nuclear weapons. According to Blix, North Korea has removed the 300 fuel rods of the "core fuel element" and mixed them up without marking their exact location in the reactor, thus making it impossible to determine the past activities of the reactor. There is no "technical way of knowing whether North Korea secretly removed fuel from the reactor in 1989 when it was shut down for 100 days and ...if plutonium [was extracted] from it." However, US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci says that although the IAEA's capability to substantiate the extent of North Korea's plutonium diversion has been "seriously eroded," it has not been destroyed.

3 June 1994
North Korea announces that it will view economic sanctions as a declaration of war.

4 June 1994
Delegates from the United States, Japan and South Korea issue a joint statement in Washington calling on the UN Security Council to "urgently" consider economic sanction against North Korea for defying IAEA inspectors.

5 June 1994
The Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, warns that Pyongyang may withdraw from the NPT if Washington reneges on its agreement to hold a third round of high-level talks. In May the United States agreed to a third round of talks to resolve the nuclear issue in North Korea, but upon learning that IAEA inspectors could no longer verify that plutonium was not being diverted to a weapons program, Washington cancelled plans for the talks.
6 June 1994
US officials announce that by the end of the year North Korea could reprocess the fuel it recently removed from a 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and produce enough plutonium for four to five bombs.

7 June 1994
North Korea's Ambassador to the IAEA Yun Ho Jin declares that the North Korea "will never allow inspections" of two suspected nuclear waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. One of the reasons for not allowing inspections is because the United States discovered the two nuclear sites using spy satellite imagery. IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that inspecting the two sites "is even more important" for determining if North Korea has diverted plutonium, in light of the fact that North Korea has removed spent fuel from the core of its 5MW(e) reactor without allowing the IAEA to monitor the process. According to Blix, in removing the rods without allowing the IAEA to monitor the process, North Korea's "intention must have been to destroy the possibility of the [IAEA] obtaining information about the history of the core through independent measurements and thereby maintain uncertainty about the amount of nuclear material, specifically plutonium that may be present." However, North Korea's Department of Atomic Energy Director Pak Yong Nam says that the IAEA can still determine whether North Korea has diverted material from the nuclear reactor because North Korea is "preserving the technical possibility for later measurements of the fuel rods."

8 June 1994
North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yŏng Nam says North Korea will "guarantee [IAEA] inspections...testing, measuring, and the preservation of nuclear fuel," if the United States agrees to a third round of bilateral talks. The United States declines the offer and instead asks North Korea to comply with IAEA inspections before the United States will consider reopening bilateral talks.

8 June 1994
The United States announces that at this point it is not considering a third round of high-level talks with North Korea. According to State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly, North Korea has passed the "point of no return" by removing by removing almost all of the 8,000 fuel rods from its 5MW(e) reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, thus destroying vital evidence necessary for the IAEA to determine whether or not spent fuel was diverted to a weapons program when the reactor was shut down for 100 days in 1989. Despite the strong words by Shelly, the

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State Department says later in the day that the United States "remains interested in a negotiated settlement, but it's up to the North Koreans to reestablish the basis for our dialogue."

8 June 1994
IAEA officials announce that North Korea will have discharged all of the spent fuel rods from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor by 10 June 1994. According to IAEA spokesman David Kyd, the fuel removal "has now been 90 percent completed." The fuel unloading has been faster than anticipated due to North Korea's possession of more unloading equipment than was previously indicated by IAEA inspections. IAEA officials claim that North Korea now has the ability to reprocess the spent fuel rods and separate out the weapons-grade plutonium by early August 1994. Kyd says that the IAEA has been unable to accept North Korea's proposal to supply the IAEA with a sample of 40 of the reactor's 8,000 fuel rods, instead of the 300 that are sought by the Agency. The proposal has been rejected because 40 fuel rods are insufficient to trace the 5MW(e) reactor's history.

8 June 1994
South Korean President Kim Young Sam meets with his National Security Council and decides that economic sanctions should be used to deal with North Korea's defiance of the IAEA. He says that South Koreans must prepare for Pyongyang's response to the sanctions, which could include political turmoil or even military action.

9 June 1994
According to IAEA spokesman David Kyd, North Korea has removed 6,500 of the original 8,000 fuel rods from the core of its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor. Two IAEA inspectors are monitoring the fuel rods in the cooling pond. North Korea is not allowing the IAEA inspectors to take samples from the rods. According to a Western diplomat, the ability to reconstruct North Korea's nuclear history "is now lost."

9 June 1994
Former US President Jimmy Carter announces that he will travel to North and South Korea in the coming week to discuss "important issues of the day with leaders." Carter claims that he "will have no official status relating to the US government" and thus will not be speaking on behalf of Washington.

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10 June 1994
Russia agrees to cooperate with the United States on a UN resolution calling for economic sanctions against North Korea.

10 June 1994
The IAEA Board of Governors passes a resolution suspending technical aid to North Korea. The aid is worth roughly $250,000 per year.

11 June 1994
Selig Harrison, a scholar from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, meets with North Korean President Kim Il Sung and reportedly emerges with a North Korean offer to freeze its nuclear activities in return for unspecified concessions.

13 June 1994
North Korea announces its "immediate withdrawal from the IAEA." In a Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, Pyongyang announces that it "will not be bound to any rules or resolutions of the agency hereafter." While Pyongyang once again claims a "special status" under the NPT, the statement stops short of announcing a withdrawal from the treaty. The Foreign Ministry announcement comes in the wake of an IAEA resolution suspending technical assistance to North Korea. In the statement, Pyongyang reiterates its position that any UN sanctions will be viewed as a declaration of war.

Mid-June 1994
Russian intelligence chief Sergei Stepashin reveals that three North Koreans have been detained in the Russian Far Eastern territory of Primorskye for seeking nuclear weapons components.

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15 June 1994
Former US President Jimmy Carter arrives in North Korea and begins a four-day trip in an attempt to diffuse the escalating tension on the peninsula over North Korea's nuclear program. While Carter is not officially representing the US government, KBS Radio in Seoul, quoting an anonymous US scholar, reports that the former president is carrying "an unofficial package deal" from Washington that offers diplomatic recognition if North Korea opens its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspectors.

15 June 1994
The United States presents the other four permanent members of the Security Council with a draft resolution calling for sanctions on North Korea. The resolution calls for five-phases of increasingly severe sanctions if North Korea continues to refuse IAEA inspections. The first phase would include the immediate halt to all UN technical and scientific projects in North Korea and an embargo on arms sales. Britain and France support the resolution, but China and Russia still seem reluctant to impose sanctions on North Korea. According to Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles Freeman, if the Security Council fails to adopt the resolution, the United States "is prepared to form a coalition outside of the Security Council."

16 June 1994
Russia refuses to support a US draft resolution calling for phased sanctions against North Korea if it continues to defy the IAEA. Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev says that the United States failed to consult adequately with Moscow before presenting the resolution to the Security Council.

16 June 1994
North Korea reiterates its threat to withdraw from the NPT following the United States's presentation of a draft resolution in the Security Council calling for phased sanctions against North Korea. According to the Korean Central News Agency, a North Korean official says, "Whether our special status following the temporary suspension of the withdrawal from the NPT is removed, or (whether) we completely withdraw from it, fully depends on future developments."

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16 June 1994
North Korean President Kim Il-sung, in his talks with former US President Jimmy Carter, reportedly agrees to allow IAEA inspectors to remain at the 5MW(e) gas-graphite nuclear reactor and promises that the IAEA's monitoring equipment will stay in good condition. According to Carter, Kim also expresses an interest in replacing North Korea's gas-graphite reactor with a less proliferation prone light water reactor.


16 June 1994
US safeguards experts propose that the IAEA use alternative techniques to measure the plutonium in the 8,000 fuel rods removed by North Korea from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor. According to one Western safeguards official, it is still "theoretically possible" to recreate an inventory of North Korea's fissile material "within a 90-95 percent confidence level" with North Korean cooperation.


16 June 1994
US President Bill Clinton announces that Washington is willing reopen high-level talks with Pyongyang if it freezes its suspected nuclear weapons program in a verifiable manner.


17 June 1994
Former US President Jimmy Carter informs Kim Il Sung through a videotaped message that "the sanctions process at the UN has been stopped."


18 June 1994
Former US President Jimmy Carter ends his four-day diplomatic trip to North Korea.

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20 June 1994
The Clinton administration sends a letter to North Korea saying that if it agrees to freeze "major elements" of its nuclear program and permits the IAEA to ensure the continuity of safeguards, the US will resume high-level talks and stop pursuing economic sanctions. The message is sent by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci to his North Korean counterpart Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu.


22 June 1994
President Bill Clinton announces that North Korea has agreed to freeze its nuclear program in return for the United States resuming bilateral talks. Clinton says, "...we are informing the North Koreans that we are ready to go forward with a new round of talks in Geneva early next month."


23 June 1994
North Korea confirms that it will fully comply with the NPT and its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, allow IAEA inspectors to remain in North Korea, maintain IAEA monitoring equipment in compliance with the NPT, and halt its nuclear activities.


24 June 1994
US and North Korean officials meet in New York to work out details for the upcoming high-level talks to be held in Geneva beginning 8 July. The two sides reportedly agreed on the agenda for the talks.


28 June 1994
South Korea announces that President Kim Young Sam will meet with North Korean President Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang on 25 July to discuss reducing the growing tension on the Korean Peninsula.

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1 July 1994
Delegates from the United States, Japan, and South Korea hold a third round of consultations in Washington to discuss North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. The three countries reaffirm their commitment to solving the problem through cooperation and dialogue.


1 July 1994
Diplomats from North and South Korea meet to discuss the details of the upcoming summit between the leaders of the two countries to be held in Pyongyang on 25-27 July. The South Korean delegation will be allowed to bring 100 officials and 80 members of the South Korean press.


7 July 1994
Officials in Seoul and Tokyo announce that the United States, Russia, and South Korea are currently working on a plan to supply North Korea with a light water nuclear reactor to replace its graphite-moderated reactor. Under the proposal, Russia would provide North Korea with light water reactor technology, and South Korea would pay the costs by waiving part of the $1.47 billion in loans owed by Moscow to Seoul.


7 July 1994
Georgi Kunadze, the Russian ambassador to South Korea, says that Russia would help supply a light water reactor to replace North Korea's graphite-moderated reactor if North Korea accepts full IAEA safeguards inspections.


8 July 1994
Kim Il Sung dies of heart failure at the age of 82. Kim's death comes during a period of bilateral negotiations with the United States to freeze the North Korean nuclear program, and shortly before a summit meeting with South Korean President Kim Young Sam that was scheduled to begin on 25 July 1994. His son, Kim Jong Il, later succeeds him as leader of North Korea.

8 July 1994
US and North Korean diplomats begin high-level talks aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis. However, only hours later, the two sides learn of Kim Il Sung’s death. The talks are postponed until 5 August 1994.

11 July 1994
North Korea indefinitely postpones the North-South summit scheduled for 25-27 July. In a one sentence letter sent to South Korea, Kim Yong Sun, chairman of North Korea’s Unification Policy Committee says, "Because of the unusual state of affairs on our side, which has already been made known through urgent reports, I have been instructed to inform you that the scheduled South-North summit meeting will have to be postponed."

11 July 1994
North Korea’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Kim Su Man announces that IAEA inspectors can remain at the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, and that the recently removed fuel rods will not be processed. Kim also says that the 5MW(e) reactor will not be refueled.

12 July 1994
David Kay, a former IAEA inspector, says that 8,000 fuel rods removed by North Korean technicians from the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor and later placed in a cooling pond must be removed from the pond by September. If the rods are not removed by then, the international community will very likely never know how much if any spent fuel was diverted to a nuclear weapons program. According to Kay, the magnesium oxide cladding that protects the nuclear material reacts with water, and in a matter of a couple of months the cladding will break down leaking the nuclear material into the pond.

15 July 1994
The US Senate passes an amendment to the 1995 foreign aid bill prohibiting any aid to North Korea unless the president certifies that North Korea is not pursuing nuclear weapons.
20 July 1994

During a rally held in Kim Il Sung Square in central Pyongyang, North Korea's elite pledge allegiance to Kim Jong II, son of the recently deceased President Kim Il Sung. Meanwhile, North Korea assures the United States that it will continue the freeze on its nuclear facilities and that high-level bilateral talks will resume.


21 July 1994

Diplomats from the United States and North Korea meet in New York and agree to resume the third round of high-level nuclear talks on 5 August. The United States insists that North Korea must continue to honor a freeze on all nuclear activities for the duration of the talks.


27 July 1994

North Korean defector Kang Myŏng Do claims that North Korea has five nuclear weapons and plans to build an additional five weapons. Kang said that North Korea was using the negotiations to stall while it built missiles to deliver the weapons. Kang, who is allegedly the son-in-law of North Korea’s Premier Kang Sŏng San, indicated that he had acquired his information from a "senior official at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex." Kang says he met the official at the wedding of the official’s son, and that the official revealed the information after they had been drinking alcohol. Kang also says that North Korea will announce that it has nuclear weapons after it produces about 10 bombs. This announcement comes only one week before North Korea is scheduled to meet with US officials in Geneva to discuss the North Korean nuclear program. [Note: Kang’s credibility is very suspect.]


29 July 1994

Kim Hyŏng Ki, a spokesman for South Korea’s Ministry of Unification, states that the claims of North Korean defector Kang Myŏng Do have "not been supported by solid proof." Kang claimed that North Korea has five nuclear bombs and plans to build five more.


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29 July 1994
The IAEA announces that, based on information currently available to the agency, the claims made by a North Korean defector are "not judged to be plausible." On 27 July, North Korean defector Kang Mŏng Do stated that North Korea has already developed five nuclear weapons and is in the process of developing five more.

5 August 1994
North Korea objects to the presence of South Korean envoy Kim Sam Hun at high-level talks in Geneva. According to the *Rodong Sinmun*, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, "South Korean authorities have neither a reason nor a purpose in interfering in North Korea’s negotiations with the United States."

5 August 1994
US and North Korean officials resume talks in Geneva following a delay due to the death of Kim Il Sung on 8 July. Hŏ Jong, a member of the North Korean delegation and former ambassador to the UN, says North Korea’s policy has remained consistent despite Kim’s death. North Korea claims it is urgent to reach an agreement because of 8,000 spent fuel rods sitting in a cooling pond in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. The United States has suggested that the spent fuel rods be shipped to another country. During the eight hour meeting, the two sides reportedly discussed the possibility of replacing North Korea’s graphite-moderated reactor with a less proliferation-prone light water reactor.

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10 August 1994
Delegations from the United States and North Korea try to resolve contentious issues regarding North Korea’s nuclear activities, but the two sides have yet to reach an agreement. The two sides have agreed to replace North Korea’s graphite-moderated reactor program with more proliferation resistant light water reactors, but the details of the arrangement and prerequisites for the technology transfer are not worked out at this meeting.

13 August 1994
The third round of high-level talks between the United States and North Korea ends with a joint declaration. In the declaration, the United States agrees to make arrangements to provide North Korea with light water reactors, and "upon receipt of United States assurances for the provision of light water reactors and for arrangements for interim energy alternatives, the DPRK will freeze construction of the 50MW(e) and 200MW(e) reactors, forgo reprocessing, and seal the Radiochemistry Laboratory, which will be monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency." The declaration also states that the two states are prepared to improve diplomatic relations, the United States is prepared to provide North Korea with assurances against the threat of nuclear attack, and North Korea will remain a party to the NPT. While the joint declaration is a landmark cooperative effort by the two states to resolve contentious issues relating to North Korea’s nuclear program, it makes only passing reference to the time-sensitive problem of the 8,000 spent fuel rods currently corroding in a cooling pond. The delegations agree to meet again on 23 September.

Mid-August 1994
A 34-year-old German man is arrested in Breman, Germany for trying to sale plutonium and enriched uranium. The man, Adolf Jaekle, was in possession of 0.05mg of plutonium but promised 50 times the amount if the buyers were interested. According to a report on Germany’s ARD TV, Jaekle was receiving an "operational fund" from Pyongyang. On 24 August, North Korea dismisses the accusation as groundless.
—"Bonn Expects Agreements with Russia on Nuclear Smuggling," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 19 August 1994, in

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15 August 1994
South Korea formally offers to supply North Korea with light water reactor technology if Pyongyang opens all of its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspectors. President Kim Young Sam says, "If and when the North guarantees the transparency of its nuclear activities, we are ready to support their development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including light water nuclear reactor construction, by providing them with the necessary capital and technology."

16 August 1994
South Korea suggests setting up an international consortium to organize the replacement of North Korea's graphite-moderated reactor technology with the more efficient and more proliferation resistant light water reactor technology.

18 August 1994
White House officials announce that President Bill Clinton is demanding that North Korea open two suspected nuclear waste sites to IAEA inspections before any light water reactor technology is provided.

20 August 1994
North Korea rejects the US demand that it open two suspected nuclear waste sites to IAEA inspectors. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman says, "We will never allow the inspection of military sites at the expense of our sovereignty to receive light water reactors. This is our unshakable will."

September 1994
Former President Jimmy Carter receives a letter from Kim Jong Il thanking Carter for visiting Kim Il Sung, giving his

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word that he will carry out all the promises his father had made, and inviting him to mediate the US-North Korean talks to be held in Pyongyang on 10 September.

Early September 1994
The two IAEA inspectors who remain in North Korean conduct inspections at a fuel fabrication plant and a fuel storage facility.

5 September 1994
Pyongyang informs the two IAEA inspectors who remain in North Korea that due to positive development with the United States, it will now consider accepting IAEA inspections.

6 September 1994
South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju meets with Robert Gallucci, the head US negotiator in talks with North Korea. Han insists that South Korea play a larger role in resolving the nuclear crisis in North Korea. According to Seoul, North Korea's nuclear program is a North-South issue as well as an international issue and should be dealt with accordingly. Han also conveys to the United States Seoul's concern over the speed at which Washington is normalizing relations with Pyongyang.

7 September 1994
US Secretary of State Warren Christopher assures South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju that there will be no deal with Pyongyang unless Seoul is included in the negotiations. Speaking at the State Department, Christopher says, "We can't finally resolve the nuclear issue unless and until North Korea resumes the substantive dialogue with the Republic of Korea."

10 September 1994
The United States and North Korea hold simultaneous talks in Berlin and Pyongyang. The Berlin talks address

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technical and logistic issues dealing with the proposed replacement of North Korea's graphite-moderated reactors with light water reactors. In addition, the delegations in Berlin discuss the status of the 8,000 spent fuel rods currently corroding in a cooling pond. Since no high-level officials are on the US delegation, it is not empowered to negotiate, and its task is solely to exchange information. At the Pyongyang talks, the United States and North Korea discuss logistical concerns of setting up liaison missions in each other's country. Discussions range from exchanging rental prices to whether or not liaisons will be granted diplomatic immunity.


12 September 1994
IAEA Director General Hans Blix announces that North Korea has indicated a willingness to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities. Speaking at the Board of Governors meeting, Blix says that Pyongyang would "permit the agency to perform most of the activities requested in view of recent positive developments in its bilateral talks with the US." Blix also reports that the two inspectors who remain in North Korea have recently conducted inspections at a fuel fabrication plant and a storage facility.


13 September 1994
The IAEA reports that inspections of the reprocessing facility [Radiochemistry Laboratory] in Yongbyon-kun have yielded no evidence that plutonium has been extracted there since February 1993. The conclusion is reached by analyzing nuclear samples taken from the Radiochemistry Laboratory in Yongbyon-kun during March and May 1994. There is suspicion, however, that fuel rods were processed at a second facility where inspections were not allowed. The report confirms that North Korea has not permitted inspections of two major nuclear facilities.


13 September 1994
The United States and North Korea end talks in Pyongyang. According to a joint statement, the talks, which started on 10 September and dealt with logistics of exchanging liaisons, "proceeded in a serious and cooperative atmosphere."


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15 September 1994
The United States and North Korea conclude talks in Berlin. During the five-day talks the two sides discussed issues relating to North Korea’s nuclear program including the proposed replacement of North Korea’s graphite-moderated reactors with light water reactors. The North Korean representative to the talks, Kim Chong U, says that for Pyongyang to consider such an option the United States must finance the project and North Korea must be allowed to select the type of replacement reactor. With regard to the 8,000 spent fuel rods currently corroding in a cooling pond, North Korea agrees to store the rod in a dry place where they will not be subject to corrosion but refuses to allow the United States or any other country to assist in the process.

16 September 1994
The United States announces that it along with South Korea, Japan and other countries paying for the replacement reactors, reserves the right to choose which country will supply the reactors. On 15 September, North Korea stated that it should be able to select the reactor type and the supplier.

22 September 1994
South Korea agrees to participate in an international consortium to replace North Korea's graphite moderated nuclear reactors with more efficient and proliferation resistant light water reactors.

22 September 1994
The General Conference of the IAEA adopts a resolution sponsored by France that urges North Korea to open up its nuclear facilities to inspections. In the resolution, approved by 76 states, the General Conference "expresses continuing concern over the non-compliance of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea with its safeguards agreement...urges the DPRK to cooperate immediately with the Agency in the full implementation of the safeguards agreement and to allow the Agency to have access to all safeguards-relevant information and locations." Libya is the only state to vote against the resolution while ten states abstained.

23 September 1994
The United States and North Korea resume high-level talks in Geneva. The talks originally scheduled to begin on 8 July were suspended after the death of Kim Il Sung.
24 September 1994
North Korea announces that at present it will not allow inspections of two sites suspected by the IAEA of containing nuclear waste. Kang Sŏk Chu, head of the North Korean delegation to the Geneva talks, says, "When the two sides [the United States and North Korea] create the atmosphere of confidence and establish normal relations in the future, we shall be ready to make our nuclear activities transparent."

26 September 1994
At high-level US-North Korean talks in Geneva, the United States says that North Korea must accept the South Korean light water reactor model or the talks will break down. North Korea concedes that it is up to the United States to decide.

29 September 1994
The United States announces that due to a deadlock at high-level talks with North Korea the talks will be briefly suspended. The talks to resolve the dispute over North Korea's nuclear program were resumed on 23 September, but both sides report little progress.

5 October 1994
The United States and North Korea resume high-level talks in Geneva.

5 October 1994
In a speech to the UN General Assembly, North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minster Ch'oe Su Hŏn says that talks with the United States to resolve the dispute over North Korea's nuclear program have entered a "new stage." Ch'oe also warns South Korea and the IAEA not to create obstacles to the third round of talks. In a reference to the IAEA's call for North Korea to allow inspections of two suspected nuclear waste sites, Ch'oe warns the IAEA not to use "pressure and threats against us, while peddling around arguments about so-called 'special inspections'."

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7 October 1994
South Korean President Kim Young Sam criticizes the US approach to dealing with North Korea's nuclear program as "naive and overly flexible."

12 October 1994
The United States sends a draft compromise to South Korea on resolving the dispute over North Korea's nuclear program. However, the draft resolution does not contain two keys South Korean demands: (1) North Korea must allow special inspections of two suspected nuclear waste sites before any light water reactor technology is provided; and (2) the light water reactor must be provided by South Korea. While the draft does not include language specifying the use of a South Korean reactor model, the United States assures South Korea that it would be allowed to take the initiative in all technical matters.

17 October 1994
Robert Gallucci, chief negotiator for the United States in high-level talks with North Korea, announces that the two sides have reached an agreement concerning North Korea's nuclear program. Gallucci does not mention any details of the agreement but says that "it is a broadly acceptable and very positive document."

20 October 1994
IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that the IAEA will need an expanded mandate in order to fulfill its role as spelled out in the bilateral agreement between the United States and North Korea. Speaking in Washington, Blix says, "The US-DPRK Geneva agreement foresees a freezing of the present DPRK nuclear program and a subsequent dismantling of installations. This will call for new IAEA verification responsibilities beyond what is required under the Safeguards Agreement."

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21 October 1994
The United States and North Korea sign the Agreed Framework, an accord that specifies the actions both countries will take to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue. Under the terms of the agreement, a US-led international consortium will help North Korea replace its graphite-moderated reactors with two 1,000MW light water reactors. The international consortium will compensate North Korea for the freeze on its graphite-moderated reactors by supplying 500,000 tons of heavy-fuel oil annually until the new reactors come online. Second, the United States and North Korea will make efforts to normalize their economic and political relations by reducing investment and trade barriers. Third, both countries will strive towards establishing a nuclear-weapons-free-zone on the Korean Peninsula. Finally, North Korea will help strengthen the nonproliferation regime by remaining a member of the NPT. It will also allow the IAEA to implement the safeguards agreement and monitor the freeze on its nuclear facilities. However, the United States makes a concession in allowing North Korea to retain possession of 8,000 spent fuel rods instead of sending them to a third country for storage, a condition on which the United States had earlier insisted.

In 1999, a source close to US-North Korean negotiations over a suspected nuclear facility in Kŭmch'ang-ri reveals that the 1994 agreement contains a supplementary 10-point memorandum of understanding by which North Korea agrees to forgo any future construction of graphite-moderated reactors, and agrees that once a significant portion of the two light water reactors are completed, it will allow the IAEA access to any facility and information it deems necessary. In addition, according to Flight International, which later cites a "senior US DIA official," the agreement includes a secret clause that suspends the delivery of 150 North Korean Nodong missiles to Iran. [Note: It is later confirmed that the agreement includes no clause on missile deliveries.]

21 October 1994
The United States and South Korea announce the suspension of the annual Team Spirit joint military exercise.

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26 October 1994
IAEA Director General Hans Blix states that despite North Korea's recent agreement with the United States, it is still in violation of a UN resolution calling for inspections of two suspected nuclear waste storage facilities. Speaking in London, Blix says that the Agreed Framework is a step in the right direction but it does not supersede the safeguards agreement North Korea reached with the IAEA.

November 1994
Specialists from the United States, Japan and South Korea meet to discuss the details of the project to supply North Korea with two light water reactors. South Korea proposes the Ulchin-3 and -4 reactors as reference designs.

1 November 1994
A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry says that North Korea is taking "practical steps" to implement the Agreed Framework with the United States. North Korea's Administration Council has ordered the cessation of construction on the 50MW and 200MW gas-graphite reactors. The Council has also decided to halt operation of the 5MW gas-graphite reactor and to take measures to withdraw fuel rods that were intended for refueling it. In addition, North Korea will continue to cease operations at its radiochemical lab [reprocessing facility] and other nuclear facilities.

4 November 1994
The UN Security Council endorses the nuclear accord reached between North Korea and the United States in October. Welcoming North Korea's voluntary decision to freeze its current nuclear program and comply with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, the Security Council calls on the agency to verify the "accuracy and completeness" of Pyongyang's report of all its nuclear material. The Security Council also asks the IAEA to monitor North Korea's frozen nuclear activities.

11 November 1994
The IAEA holds a closed-door board meeting and decides to send a small inspection team to North Korea to monitor the nuclear freeze.

14-18 November 1994
US and North Korean experts discuss safe storage and final disposition of the 8,000 spent fuel rods. While in North

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Korea, the US experts visit the cooling pond where the fuel rods are being stored. North Korea describes the visit as "useful and constructive."


16 November 1994
North Korean diplomats meet with IAEA officials in Vienna to discuss the implementation of the Agreed Framework. This meeting is the first time the two have met since North Korea withdrew from the agency in June.

18 November 1994
North Korea announces that it has taken steps to "totally freeze" its graphite moderated nuclear reactor program.

28 November 1994
The IAEA confirms that North Korea has frozen operations at the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor, the Radiochemistry Laboratory, and its fuel fabrication facility. It also confirms that construction has been stopped at the 50MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yongbyon-kun and the 200MW(e) nuclear reactor in Taech'ŏn-kun. The announcement follows a week-long visit of IAEA experts to North Korea.

1-3 December 1994
The United States and North Korea hold expert-level talks in Beijing to work out the details of the light water reactors to be supplied to North Korea. In the talks, described as serious and useful, the two sides discuss the type of reactor and possible construction sites.

16 December 1994
The United States, Japan and South Korea agree to form a consortium tasked with financing and constructing two light water nuclear reactors promised to North Korea in the Agreed Framework. The consortium is named the Korean Energy Development Organizations (KEDO) and will be based in New York.

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1993

Early 1993
Russia withdraws six nuclear experts from North Korea.

Early 1993
According to North Korean defector Lee Ch'ung Kuk, North Korea develops "equipment that automatically monitors nuclear explosions" (haekp'okpal chadong kwangch'ŭkki) using indigenous technology. The equipment reportedly measures an explosion's sound, light, and heat.

January 1993
North Korea responds to the IAEA's requests for "visits" of the two suspected nuclear waste sites. It says that "a visit by officials cannot be turned into an inspection," and furthermore, that inspections of non-nuclear military facilities "might jeopardize the supreme interests" of North Korea.

13 January 1993
According to David Kyd, the Information Director of the IAEA, North Korea will shut down its SMW(e) reactor around the middle of 1993 to change the core. IAEA inspectors are expected to be there when the reactor is shut down. If they are given access to the natural uranium core of the reactor, it might be possible to determine whether any material has been removed.

24 January 1993
The German weekly Focus reports that North Korea is helping Iran develop nuclear missiles and that Iran has two 40-kiloton nuclear warheads. The report also claims that a German firm supplied guidance equipment to Iran.

25 January 1993
During a meeting of the chairs of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), South Korean Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau Chŏng Tae Ik formally notifies North Korea that it will resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise in March. Chŏng claims that "the Team Spirit resumption is a clear indication of

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Washington’s continued determination to deter North Korea’s nuclear development.” The two sides left the meeting without setting a date for the next JNCC session.


26 January-6 February 1993
IAEA inspectors conduct the sixth round of nuclear inspections in North Korea. The purpose of the inspections is to clarify inconsistencies found in plutonium samples that were taken at an earlier date. One of the inconsistencies identified is that between "the composition and quantity of plutonium [North Korea] declared to the IAEA" and the IAEA’s test results. The second discrepancy is between the isotopic composition of plutonium extracted by North Korean technicians and liquid waste samples. Prior to the inspections, North Korea said that the latter inconsistency occurred when "the solution from the basic experiment of plutonium extraction in 1975 was put together in the waste tank of the Radiochemistry Laboratory." North Korea also denies access to two undeclared sites, which are suspected nuclear waste facilities. North Korean officials argue that the sites were not included in the original list of sites subject to inspection.


29 January 1993
Son Sŏng P’il, North Korea’s ambassador to Russia, warns that the US and South Korean Team Spirit joint military exercise scheduled for March 1993 may force North Korea to close its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection. Son says that North Korea views the exercises as preparation for a potential nuclear war and that they are incompatible with the basic clauses of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Additionally, the situation does not allow North Korea "to normally fulfill its commitments" to IAEA inspections.


29 January-1 February 1993
North Korea gives assurances to visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze that it will not employ Russian missile and nuclear scientists and engineers. The North Korean decision follows threats by Kunadze to suspend diplomatic relations if demands not to employ Russian technicians were not met. According to reports, Russia gives the United States a detailed report about Kunadze’s trip.

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February 1993
According to a "reliable western news source," Kim Il Sung secretly meets with China's leader Deng Xiao Ping in order to ensure China's support if North Korea withdraws from the NPT. According to the report, China promises maintain North Korea's interests while playing a mediating role between Pyongyang and the UN.

February 1993
Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service publishes a report on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The report lists both North and South Korea as countries capable of producing nuclear weapons, but concludes that neither country possesses nuclear bombs at this time.

2 February 1993
Western diplomatic sources announce that US intelligence suspects that the two undeclared sites in North Korea, which the IAEA visited in 1992, are key sites in North Korea's nuclear program. The sixth IAEA inspection team in North Korea requests access to the sites; the request is denied. According to one source, if the team returns with no new information on the sites, the United States will apply pressure to obtain the IAEA Board of Governors authorization for special inspections. The United States will take such a course of action because "no better rationale could be imagined [than for] a country suspected of clandestine non-peaceful (nuclear) activities [to deny] access to a non-declared site to the IAEA."

8 February 1993
North Korea publicly states that it might take "countermeasures of self-defense" if the United States and other countries press for inspections of certain facilities in North Korea. During the week of 1 February 1993, North Korea denies IAEA inspectors access to several of its facilities that are suspected to be part of its nuclear program. North Korea states that the sites are "non-nuclear." The denial of access marks a change in North Korea's policy towards the IAEA in which it formerly stated that IAEA inspectors could "travel anywhere in the country."

10 February 1993
IAEA Director General Hans Blix formally requests that North Korea open two undeclared sites for special

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inspections. In early February 1993, the IAEA’s sixth inspection team was denied access to the sites. According to North Korea, the team was denied access because the United States and South Korea decided to resume Team Spirit military exercises. North Korea is told that it must respond to the request by 18 February 1993. If North Korea refuses the request, the IAEA will call an extraordinary session of the Board of Governors before the regularly scheduled meeting set for 21 February 1993. According to US intelligence, it is believed that one of the sites houses drums of reprocessed waste that was separated at a date later than what North Korea has told the IAEA. If true, this will mean that North Korea has not declared its entire stock of separated plutonium to the IAEA.


12 February 1993

Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers’ Party, warns that North Korea "will take a self-defensive measure if the United States and the South Korean authorities impose any unreasonable measure on us as regards the 'nuclear problem' with a view to using the problem between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency for other military and political purposes." The report continues, "The problem of nuclear inspection must, by nature, be solved between us and the IAEA."


16 February 1993

The IAEA announces that the analysis of plutonium samples from North Korea has revealed discrepancies and that the separation had, in fact, taken place later than 1990. Western intelligence believes that North Korea separated additional amounts of plutonium in the late 1960s using Soviet expertise. Western intelligence also believes that the hot-cell separation of plutonium took place at a different location than was declared by North Korea. According to diplomatic sources in New York, IAEA Director General Hans Blix is facing opposition from China and Russia on conducting a special inspection in North Korea. However, the remaining three members of the Security Council (the United States, United Kingdom, and France) strongly support Blix's proposal. The special inspection will be conducted in an attempt to resolve the plutonium separation issue. After hearing objections and concerns from Brazil and India, Blix decides to "pursue persuasion" with North Korea and therefore, delay special inspections.

—Mark Hibbs, "IAEA Special Inspection Effort Meeting Diplomatic Resistance," Nucleonics Week, 18 February 1993, pp. 16-17.

20-21 February 1993

IAEA officials use isotopic analysis of a small batch of high-level waste provided by North Korea to determine that North Korea reprocessed spent fuel from its 5MW(e) reactor in 1989, 1990 and 1991. Officials find three different levels of americium-241 in a plutonium sample, which indicates that the material had been separated in each of

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the three aforementioned years. North Korea previously said that it separated plutonium only once in 1990.
However, following the IAEA's test results, North Korea admits that it had also reprocessed "a small quantity" of plutonium in 1975. During IAEA meetings, North Korea reportedly claims that the discrepancies between its report and the IAEA’s findings occurred due to contamination by material that was reprocessed in 1975. However, experts do not believe this to be an adequate explanation for the discrepancy.

21 February 1993
North Korean Minister of Atomic Energy Ch’oe Hak Kŭn informs IAEA Director General Hans Blix that North Korea will not allow special inspections of the two sites suspected of storing nuclear waste.

22 February 1993
Nearly one dozen US intelligence satellite photographs of North Korean installations and deception attempts at the facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun are presented to a closed session of the IAEA Board of Governors. The senior North Korean representative at the meeting, Yun Ho Jin, says that the photographs are fake.

22 February 1993
Lee Ch’ŏl, North Korea's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that North Korea has the right to "tear up" the IAEA safeguards agreement if inspectors continue to demand access to the two disputed sites in North Korea.

22-29 February 1993
During the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, the North Korean representatives are shown US satellite imagery and chemical evidence indicating that North Korea had been producing plutonium from nuclear waste for a minimum of three years beginning in 1989. The imagery depicts a Soviet-style nuclear waste dump for both liquid and solid waste. The chemical evidence shows impurities in the plutonium samples, which suggests that the plutonium had been produced in three separate amounts over three years. Diplomatic officials believe that North Korea now has enough plutonium to build at least one nuclear weapon.

25 February 1993
The IAEA passes a resolution stating that North Korea has until 25 March to grant inspectors access to two sites suspected of being part of its nuclear weapons program. The IAEA says that access to the sites is "essential and urgent." As a concession to Chinese requests, the Board provides a one-month grace period for North Korea's

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compliance on the inspection. The Board makes it clear that if North Korea does not act, it will take the issue to the UN Security Council for international sanctions or other actions.


25 February 1993

In testimony before the US Congress, newly appointed CIA Director James Woolsey states that North Korea's plutonium production capability is the United States' "most grave current concern." He claims that there is a "real possibility that North Korea has manufactured enough fissile material for at least one nuclear weapon."


26 February 1993

IAEA Director General Hans Blix sends a telex to the North Korean Foreign Ministry requesting that IAEA inspectors be permitted to travel to Yongbyon-kun on 16 March 1993 to examine the two suspected nuclear waste sites. Blix also notifies the UN Security Council of the telex.


1 March 1993

North Korean broadcast media condemn the IAEA demand that it open two suspected nuclear facilities to international inspections as a "wanton infringement" of its sovereignty. Pyongyang also claims that the IAEA is being manipulated by the United States.


8 March 1993

In a message to IAEA headquarters in Vienna, North Korea refuses once again to accept special inspections of its suspected sites, ostensibly because of the Team Spirit military exercise and the "state of semi-war" in the country. IAEA Director General Hans Blix rejects North Korea's "excuses" and repeats the inspection demand.


10 March 1993

North Korea sends a message to the IAEA that it is unable to accept special nuclear inspections because of the Team Spirit joint military exercise conducted by the United States and South Korea.

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12 March 1993

North Korea announces it is withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It cites the treaty's escape clause on defending supreme national interests. North Korea's two reasons for withdrawing are: (1) the Team Spirit "nuclear war rehearsal" military exercises, and (2) the IAEA demand for special inspection of two suspect sites. North Korea attaches a statement to its withdrawal notice that is sent to the three NPT depository states and the 154 NPT member states, in which it accuses the IAEA of violating its sovereignty and interfering in its internal affairs, attempting to stifle its socialism, and of being a "lackey" of the United States. According to North Korea, the United States influenced officials of the IAEA Secretariat and member states at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on 25 February 1993 to adopt a resolution requiring North Korea to open military sites to inspection that are not nuclear-related.


12 March 1993

Following the 7th session of the 9th Central People's Committee in Pyongyang, North Korea announces its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). North Korea says the decision is made because of IAEA efforts to conduct a special inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities, and because of the resumption of the joint Team Spirit military exercise conducted by the United States and South Korea. The NPT stipulates that a nation's withdrawal becomes effective three months after the intention to withdraw is announced.


Mid March 1993

According to a US House Republican research committee, North Korea possesses six nuclear weapons that are in "operational status."


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17 March 1993

The North Korean Foreign Ministry sends the president of the UN Security Council a letter regarding IAEA inspections. The letter states that North Korea has made "sincere efforts" to implement the IAEA safeguards agreement by providing "the IAEA with lists of those nuclear facilities exempt from the safeguards and of scientific research institutes." In 1992, North Korea invited the IAEA to inspect both safeguarded nuclear facilities, "facilities exempt from the safeguards as well as other non-nuclear-related facilities." When requested, North Korea compiled samples of highly radioactive liquid waste at the radiochemical laboratory and the measurements of the damaged fuel at the experimental nuclear power station.

With regard to the recent analysis of plutonium samples, the IAEA secretariat has stated that "inconsistencies in principle" exist between its measurements and those included in North Korea's initial report. According to North Korea, discrepancies exist because of "the IAEA's own disregard of our conditions for the operation of facilities and the characteristic features of our nuclear activities and also from the artificial fabrication by some officials of the IAEA secretariat of the result of the inspection." North Korea says that the IAEA should take into consideration the fact that the nuclear facilities "were still at the experimental stage, [and] not in regular operation."

The letter also comments on the official IAEA-North Korean talks conducted before the fourth inspection from 2-14 November 1992. North Korea claims that during the meeting, the IAEA "attempted to 'threaten' us, saying that 'more nuclear material should be declared,' that this would be 'the last chance to modify the initial report' and that 'a tragic consequence would follow if the chances were passed up.'" During the IAEA inspections in November 1992, North Korea offered the team scientific and technological explanations of how the facilities operated. It also offered the team "detailed consultations with the operators." The sixth IAEA inspection team, which was in North Korea from 26 January-6 February 1993, has said that "two inconsistencies in principle" were found in plutonium samples that required "urgent clarification." According to the IAEA secretariat, the first discrepancy was that "the composition and quantity of plutonium [North Korea] declared to the IAEA" did not correspond to the IAEA results. The second discrepancy was that the isotopic composition of plutonium extracted by the radiochemical laboratory that did not correspond to the liquid waste. North Korea says that the inconsistency occurred when "the solution from the basic experiment of plutonium extraction in 1975 was put together in the waste tank of the radiochemical laboratory."

With regard to the two undeclared facilities, North Korea says that they are not nuclear-related. The IAEA only wants to inspect the site in order "to confirm the espionage information provided by a third country." Despite the fact that the facilities were not nuclear-related, North Korea allowed inspections of the site since it was the first request IAEA Director General Hans Blix had made to North Korea. According to North Korea, the two sites are "a shop producing daily necessities" and "a military installation." After the IAEA conducted the inspection, it declared that the sites were not nuclear-related. Blix has requested additional inspections of the sites. North Korea, however, will not allow Blix to return to the sites for "formal" or "informal" visits. When North Korea requested further clarification of the legal grounds under which the IAEA may use information from a third country, the IAEA avoided the question by saying that "it takes too much time to explain it on a legal basis." North Korea objects and says that according to a "relevant article...the IAEA is not legally entitled to use 'intelligence information' from a third country in the implementation of the safeguards agreement. The IAEA is not the police and such an attempt
by the IAEA is a breach of its own statute, the safeguards agreement, the spirit of the December 1991 meeting and the February 1992 resolution of the IAEA Board of Governors, etc. According to North Korea, a member of the IAEA mission admitted that, "the use of espionage information from a third country is not stipulated explicitly in the basic documents of the IAEA."

—"March Letter and Memorandum from the UN Permanent Representative of the DPRK to the President of the UN Security Council" (United Nations Security Council Document), 17 March 1993, pp. 1-10.

17 March 1993
The IAEA Board of Governors meets to discuss North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT, as well as the line of action it should now take.


18 March 1993
The IAEA Board of Governors meets to review a resolution adopted at the 25 February 1993 meeting regarding IAEA inspections in North Korea. The resolution requests that North Korea grant the IAEA access to and information on two additional undeclared sites and that it implement the May 1992 IAEA Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/403). Based on the fact that North Korea has announced it will withdraw from the NPT "at a time when the IAEA is seeking specific clarifications regarding the correctness and completeness of the initial report on nuclear material submitted by [North Korea]," the Board of Governors approves the Secretariat's implementation of the resolution per internal document GOV/INF/683. The Board of Governors reaffirms and supports IAEA Director General Hans Blix and the Secretariat's attempt to persuade North Korea to implement the Safeguards Agreement. The Board also confirms that under document INFCIRC/403, the safeguards agreement implemented with North Korea "remains in force." The IAEA Board of Governors extends the deadline for North Korea to open two suspected nuclear waste sites to international inspections to 31 March.


18 March 1993
Hŏ Jong, North Korean Ambassador to the UN, dismisses as irrelevant the IAEA's extension of the deadline to open two suspected nuclear waste sites to international inspections. According to Hŏ, the extension to 31 March "does not matter" and North Korea will not allow the sites to be inspected "unless the continued and increases nuclear threat of the United States is removed and the impartiality of the IAEA is restored."


22 March 1993
Tadashi Ikeda, Director-General of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, announces that Japan, the United States, and South Korea are prepared to take North Korea's refusal of IAEA inspections to the UN Security Council.
23 March 1993
Newly appointed South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju leaves for talks with UN and US officials about North Korea's announcement of its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

23 March 1993
Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announces that China opposes any international sanctions placed on North Korea for withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He says that the treaty does not call for punitive measures to "punish those who stay away or pull out." According to Qian, China also opposes raising the issue before the UN Security Council.

25 March 1993
US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announces that the United States is considering punitive sanctions against North Korea for withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Christopher tells a House appropriations subcommittee that the sanctions might include the denial of oil, gas, and even food. According to Christopher, "There seems to be a number of ways in which pressure can be put on them. Perhaps we won't have to get to that point because they'll realize earlier on that they made a mistake in withdrawing from this convention." Christopher also discusses the option of sanctions with top officials from South Korea and Japan.

25 March 1993
The Tokyo Shimbun reports that North Korea begins dialogue with South Korea and the United States over its nuclear program. According to the report, the secret contacts begin during a European trip by Korean Workers' Party Secretary Kim Yong Sun. The purpose of the trip is to make contact with the United States and South Korea.

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Late March 1993
North Korea sends a letter to the UN announcing that it will not attend the UN Disarmament Conference to be held in Kyoto starting on 13 April. This will mark the first time North Korea has been absent from the conference since it began in 1990. Nonproliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the topics to be discussed at the conference.

29 March 1993
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement that says, "We will be compelled to take a powerful self-defensive measure" if the United States and other nations request that the UN Security Council impose punitive sanctions on North Korea.

31 March 1993
North Korea refuses to allow inspections of two suspected nuclear waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

31 March-1 April 1993
The IAEA Board of Governors convenes a special meeting to discuss developments in North Korea. The Board concludes that North Korea is not complying with the terms of its safeguards agreement with the IAEA and, in accordance with Article 19 of the agreement, approves a resolution to call for the UN Security Council to intervene. The resolution claims that "the Agency is not able to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material [to] nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices." Only China and Libya vote against the resolution. The United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom also issue individual statements calling on North Korea comply with its safeguards agreement and reverse its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

1 April 1993
According to Kim Kwang Sŏp, North Korea's envoy in Vienna, the IAEA resolution to refer the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council is an "unreasonable step," and will not resolve the problem but only lead to more confrontation. In order to deal with the development, according to Kim, North Korea will take necessary self-defense measures for its own security.
—South Korean News Agency (Seoul), 1 April 1993, in "North And South Korean Officials React to IAEA Vote," BBC

2 April 1993
During a defense industry conference in Seoul, Shin Sŏng T'aek, a researcher at the Korean Institute for Defense Analyses, says that North Korea is developing a nuclear warhead for its ballistic missiles. Shin says that North Korea will not conduct a full-scale nuclear test, but that North Korea has already conducted secret nuclear-related tests underground.

4 April 1993
The North Korean Foreign Ministry accuses the United States and the IAEA of applying double standards. A foreign ministry spokesman claims that the IAEA had carried out 115 inspections in South Africa without reporting any suspicions, but after only six inspections North Korea is being reported to the UN Security Council.

6 April 1993
North Korea's Foreign Ministry accuses some officials of the IAEA secretariat and some member nations of deliberately ignoring North Korea's reasonable proposal and patient efforts to settle the nuclear issues. Even after declaring its intent to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the North Korea points out that it was prepared to let the IAEA monitor its nuclear installations and prevent any diversion of nuclear materials for bomb-making.

6 April 1993
IAEA Director-General Hans Blix briefs the UN Security Council on the IAEA's inability to verify North Korea's nuclear production based on the denial of access to two suspected nuclear waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

8 April 1993
The UN Security Council expresses concern over North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Stopping short of sanctions in light of China's threat to veto any punitive measures against North Korea, Security Council President Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan calls on the IAEA to resume negotiations with North Korea.

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9 April 1993
Kim Jong Il is named chairman of North Korea's National Defense Commission. As the head of the commission, Kim will now oversee North Korea's military affairs.

10 April 1993
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman expresses Pyongyang's opposition to the IAEA's having brought the issue of North Korean compliance before the UN Security Council. The spokesman claims that the issue is one to be dealt with through US-North Korean bilateral talks.

14 April 1993
Speaking at an annual meeting of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix reiterates the call on North Korea to open the two suspected nuclear waste sites to international inspections. However, taking a softer stance than he has in the past, Blix claims that if North Korea is refusing inspections for national security reasons, the IAEA will consider excluding military facilities from inspections.

15 April 1993
A Japanese Foreign Ministry official announces that North Korea has rejected Japan's offer for bilateral talks on North Korea's nuclear program and its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

17 April 1993
A South Korean government official announces that South Korea and the United States have agreed to consider high-level US-North Korean talks in order to persuade Pyongyang not to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities.

20 April 1993
South Korea announces that it will not resume dialogue or economic cooperation with North Korea until the suspicions of its nuclear activity are resolved.

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21 April 1993
General Robert Riscassi, Commander US Forces Korea, tells the US Senate Armed Services Committee that North Korea is unstable politically and economically, and that North Korea could launch an invasion of South Korea. Riscassi says that North Korea considers its nuclear weapons program as the key to state survival, and that North Korea appears to be selling missiles, missile technology and chemical and biological weapons to countries in the Middle East for oil and hard currency.


22 April 1993
The IAEA acquiesces to limited inspections of the North Korean nuclear installations.


22 April 1993
In a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Bangkok, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Song Ju says that Seoul would drop its long-standing opposition to Washington-Pyongyang talks if China, in return, agrees not to veto a UN Security Council resolution calling on North Korea to comply with international nuclear inspections and remain a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).


22 April 1993
US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff announces that the United States and North Korea will soon begin high-level talks to discuss Pyongyang’s nuclear activities and decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Tarnoff announces that he will represent Washington at the talks, but he does not indicate the date and location at which the talks are to be held.


22 April 1993
In a telephone interview with South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency, an anonymous North Korean official at the North Korean Embassy in Cairo says that North Korea has already decided to cancel its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The South Korean media also report that a diplomatic source in Hong Kong has recently met North Korean officials in China who have also made this statement.

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22 April 1993
North Korean Ambassador to the UN Pak Kil Yŏn denies reports that North Korea has decided to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Pak says, "There is no change in [North Korea's] position."

23 April 1993
Kono Yohei, a "top Japanese government spokesman," says Japan does not see any evidence that North Korea is preparing a military attack against South Korea. The statement is in response to General Robert RisCassi's testimony before the US Senate Armed Services Committee on 21 April 1993.

24 April 1993
Vice Marshall Ch'oe Kwang, chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, claims that North Korea will take a "countermeasure for self-defense" if the UN imposes sanctions for its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

27 April 1993
The five permanent members of the UN Security Council hold informal consultations to discuss drafting a resolution to call on North Korea to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities and reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

29 April 1993
The IAEA announces that North Korea has expressed its intention to allow IAEA inspectors to return, but the exact date of the visit has not been decided. An IAEA source claims that the purpose of the visit will be limited to checking "the cameras and other inspection equipment" installed at declared nuclear facilities.
May 1993
According to North Korean defector Lee Ch’ung Kuk, North Korea begins construction of "the Nuclear Watch Guard Post" at Solbong in Man’gyongdae-kuyŏk, Pyongyang. "The Nuclear Watch Guard Post" is reportedly completed in November.

May 1993
Negotiations between North Korea and Iran over the sale of up to 150 Nodong missiles reach "an advanced stage" before the flight-tests of the Nodong on 29-30 May. However, a DIA official claims the sale is scrapped as part of a secret side agreement when the United States and North Korea sign the Agreed Framework in October 1994.

1 May 1993
A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman claims that Pyongyang will not accept any resolution drafted by the UN Security Council calling on North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). According to the spokesman, any such resolution would be an intolerable infringement upon North Korea’s sovereignty.

1 May 1993
North Korea accepts the proposed visit of IAEA inspection team comprising of two inspectors and one technician, to carry out maintenance work on the safeguard equipment installed at the North Korean nuclear facilities. North Korean Minister of Atomic Energy Ch’oe Hak Kŭn said that refueling of the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor would not take place soon because refueling was still in "the stage of technical and practical preparation."

2 May 1993
North Korea informs the United Nations that it will participate in the NPT Preparatory Committee scheduled to begin on 10 May.

3 May 1993
North Korean Information Minister Kim Ki Yong announces that North Korea will rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the following conditions are met: (1) the IAEA must remain neutral; (2) the IAEA must give assurances that military facilities will remain closed to foreign inspections; (3) the United States must guarantee that it will not use nuclear weapons against North Korea; and (4) the United States must withdraw all

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nuclear weapons and facilities from South Korea.

**Early May 1993**

About one month before the 12 June deadline for North Korea's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) withdrawal to become effective, a North Korean diplomat at Pyongyang's UN Mission in New York telephones Kenneth Quinnones, the US State Department's country officer for North Korea, and asks for a US-North Korea meeting. On further consideration, the State Department takes the North Korean initiative as a hopeful sign of eagerness to avoid a confrontation over the nuclear issue. The administration later decides to move ahead with talks.

**5 May 1993**

United States and North Korean emissaries meet in Beijing to lay the groundwork for high-level bilateral talks dealing with North Korea's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

**6 May 1993**

State Department Spokesman Joe Snyder says, "The United States is willing to meet with North Korea to help resolve the current situation involving actions North Korea has taken in the nuclear area," but he refuses to comment on the details of the meeting.

**6 May 1993**

North Korea strongly denounces the proposed UN resolution that urges North Korea to stay within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). North Korea threatens unspecified additional measures if the UN passes the resolution and the IAEA identifies a violation by North Korea.

**7 May 1993**

France, the United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom present a resolution to the UN Security Council calling on North Korea "to honor its nonproliferation obligations under the treaty and comply with its safeguards agreement with IAEA." Brazil and Pakistan, both nonparties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), express concern over the language and propose amending the resolution. China has opposed any consideration of North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT in the Security Council, but according to diplomatic sources, the backers of the resolution had gained Beijing's assurance that it would abstain from the vote and not veto the resolution. Due to lack of support for the document as it is, the Security Council decides to defer action on the resolution.

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8 May 1993
North Korea approves a visit by three IAEA officials.

10-14 May 1993
An IAEA ad hoc inspection team visits North Korea to perform technical work related to maintenance and replacement of the safeguards equipment installed at North Korean nuclear facilities. When questioned about when fuel rods would be removed from the 5MW(e) reactor, North Korean officials claim that they cannot determine the specific date due to "technical problems." Samples from the fuel rods are necessary to determine how many times spent fuel has been removed from the reactor core for possible plutonium reprocessing.

11 May 1993
The UN Security Council passes a resolution calling on North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The resolution passes by a vote of 13 to 0, with China and Pakistan abstaining. The resolution urges North Korea to "honor its nonproliferation obligations under the treaty and comply with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA as specified by the IAEA Board of Governors' resolution of February 12, 1993," which calls on North Korea to accept special inspections at two suspected nuclear waste sites not included in Pyongyang's initial list of declared facilities. While the resolution stops short of imposing sanctions on North Korea, it states that the Security Council will consider further action if necessary.

12 May 1993
North Korea's Foreign Ministry issues a statement condemning the UN Security Council resolution calling on North
Korea to rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). According to the statement, if the Security Council "puts unjust pressure on us in the form of sanctions and so forth, we can only regard this as a declaration of war." North Korea insists that the issue can only be resolved through bilateral talks with the United States.


13 May 1993

In a telephone interview with South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, Hŏ Jong, North Korea's deputy ambassador to the UN, says North Korea and the IAEA will soon discuss the resumption of North Korea's nuclear facilities.


13 May 1993

Speaking before the NPT Preparatory Committee, North Korean Ambassador to the UN, Pak Kil Yŏn claims that the United States has been using the IAEA to spy on North Korean military facilities. He also states that any international sanctions will be met with "effective self-defense measures."


14 May 1993

South Korea's top intelligence agency, the Agency for National Security Planning, submits a report to the National Assembly's National Defense Committee in which the agency claims North Korea could possess two or three nuclear bombs by 1994 or 1995 unless the international community blocks its nuclear activities.


25 May 1993

US State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher announces that the United States and North Korea will hold high-level meetings beginning 2 June in an attempt to persuade Pyongyang to rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The US and North Korean delegation will be headed respectively by Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs Robert Gallucci and First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok Chu. Pyongyang announced on 12 March that it will withdraw from the NPT after the three-month waiting period required by the treaty.


25 May 1993

According to a senior State Department official, the United States has not ruled out the use of sanctions against North Korea. Although the United States has agreed to hold high-level talks with North Korea, the official says that

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there will be "absolutely no discussion" about improving relations "until the North Koreans comply fully with the demands with regard to the NPT, the inspection regime of the IAEA, and the North-South denuclearization agreement."


26 May 1993
Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Robert Gallucci says that in the upcoming high-level talks with North Korea, the United States might be willing to offer concessions if Pyongyang rejoins the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allows IAEA inspectors to return. Without mentioning details, Gallucci says, "What we're prepared to do is to address concerns that we regard as legitimate security concerns that they have raised to date," but, Gallucci continues, "There is nothing on the table that would affect the security of South Korea."


2 June 1993
After three lower-level exchanges to set up the US-North Korea talks on the nuclear issue, Robert L. Gallcci, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs, and North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu meet at the UN headquarters in New York on 2 June 1993. The meeting remains inconclusive, and according to the State Department, the two sides make "no significant progress." However, Kang describes the talks as "sincere" and the two sides agree to meet again on 4 June 1993.


4 June 1993
The United States and North Korea meet at the US mission to the UN for the second meeting of high-level talks dealing with North Korea's nuclear program and decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The meeting ends without any agreement, but the head of the North Korean delegation Kang Sŏk Chu says that "the talks haven't failed yet," and he expects the next round of talks before 12 June, the date at which North Korea's announces withdrawal from the NPT becomes effective.


7 June 1993
US officials led by Kenneth Quinnones, the North Korea country officer in the State Department, resume unofficial

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dialogue with North Korean officials in a New York coffee shop on 7 June 1993.

7 June 1993
US State Department Spokesman Mike McCurry announces that the United States and North Korea will resume high-level talks on 10 June.

10 June 1993
The United States and North Korea resume high-level talks after the held on 2 and 4 June failed to produce an agreement. According to Kang Sŏk Chu, head of the North Korean delegation, the "negotiations were serious but not conclusive." The two sides agree to meet for a fourth round of talks on 11 June.

11 June 1993
Robert Gallucci and Kang Sŏk Chu decide on a six-page joint statement. The key points of the statement are American security assurances, an agreement to continue their official dialogue and, in return, a North Korean decision to suspend its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) for "as long as it considers necessary." [Note: According to North Korea, this decision does not return North Korea to IAEA safeguards. North Korea characterizes its position as somewhere between full-member and non-member status. However, the IAEA considers North Korea subject to full safeguards.]

12 June 1993
The United States responds to the North Korean decision to suspend withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) through a unilateral statement on 12 June 1993, saying that it would regard additional reprocessing, any break in the continuity of nuclear safeguards or a withdrawal from the NPT as harmful and inconsistent with the US efforts to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue.

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17 June 1993
North Korean ambassador to China Chu Ch’ang Chun says that North Korea will reopen its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection when the agency proves that it is impartial and not a tool of the United States.

24 June 1993
South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju says that the UN Security Council will impose sanctions against North Korea unless North Korea resolves the problem of allowing IAEA inspectors to return.

28 June 1993
The United States and North Korea agree to resume high-level talks on North Korea's nuclear activities on 14 July in Geneva. Robert Gallucci and Kang Sŏk Chu will be the respective heads of the US and North Korean delegations.

28 June 1993
The IAEA receives a letter from North Korean Minister of Atomic Energy Industry Ch’oe Hak Kŭn that says that North Korea will not negotiate with the IAEA until after high-level talks with the United States scheduled for 14 July.

2 July 1993
US Secretary of State Warren Christopher warns North Korea that if it is using ongoing talks with the United States as a stalling tactic in order to further develop its nuclear weapon program the talks will be broken off. In a press briefing, Christopher says, "The discussion will continue only as long as they appear to be productive."

6 July 1993
While on a visit to Japan, President Bill Clinton says, "The United States has no intention at this moment or in the future of weakening its security ties in the Pacific." Clinton continues, "The United States will maintain troops in South Korea and keep providing nuclear deterrence to its allies."

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14 July 1993
The United States and North Korea hold high-level talks in Geneva. Robert Gallucci, head of the US delegation, says that the seven hour meeting was "useful". The two sides agree to meet again on 16 July. While neither side comments on the details of the negotiations, it is believed that, during this meeting, North Korea proposes replacement of its gas-graphite nuclear reactors with comparatively less proliferation-prone light water nuclear reactors.

16 July 1993
The United States and North Korea hold a second round of high-level nuclear talks. Robert Gallucci and Kang Sŏk Chu, the heads of the delegations, agree that the talks were productive. The two sides agree to meet again on 19 July.

19 July 1993
The United States and North Korea reach an agreement and draft a joint statement on North Korea's nuclear program. In the joint statement, the United States pledges to consider ways to replace North Korea's gas-graphite nuclear reactors "as part of a final resolution of the nuclear issue, and on a premise that a solution to the provision of light water nuclear reactors is feasible." Kang Sŏk Chu, head of the North Korean delegation, says the proposal to replace the graphite moderated reactors is to demonstrate to the international community that North Korea "has no intention to develop nuclear weapons."

22 July 1993
South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju warns North Korea that if it does not allow international inspections within two months the United Nations will impose sanctions.

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3-10 August 1993
IAEA inspectors return to North Korea for the first time since North Korea's 12 March declaration that it was withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The three-member team replaces monitoring equipment and conducts other unspecified routine inspections, but they are not allowed to visit the two suspected nuclear waste sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

4 August 1993
The South Korean Prime Minister proposes to his North Korean counterpart that the two countries resume meetings of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, which was tasked with setting up an inter-Korean bilateral nuclear inspection regime. Hwang proposed the meeting be held on 10 August at the truce village of Panmunjom.

4 August 1993
South Korean Unification Minister Han Wan Sang says that South Korean will not assist North Korea in acquiring light water nuclear reactors until the suspicions about its nuclear activities are resolved.

9 August 1993
North Korea rebuffs South Korea's proposed resumption of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) talks. Citing the joint US-South Korean Team Spirit military exercise as the obstacle to resuming the JNCC talks, a Pyongyang spokesman says, "If the South side has the intention to resolve the nuclear problem through dialogue with us, it must discontinue nuclear war exercises incompatible with this."

13 August 1993
The IAEA announces that during the recent trip to North Korea inspectors were only allowed to service monitoring equipment. According to IAEA Spokesman David Kyd, "the overall degree of access granted is still insufficient for the agency to discharge its responsibilities." He also says that the IAEA has made no progress in gaining access to two suspected nuclear waste sites located in Yŏngbyŏn-kun.

17 August 1993
The United States and South Korea commence the joint military exercise "Ulchi Focus Lens." The exercise will last ten days and involve approximately 12,000 US and South Korean troops. North Korea condemns the exercise as

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"nuclear war games."

19 August 1993
The IAEA sends a letter to Pyongyang in response to North Korea’s acceptance of an offer to begin negotiations over the reinstitution of nuclear safeguards inspections in Korea. The IAEA proposes that it send a five-member delegation, headed by the deputy director of the agency’s Nuclear Safety Management Bureau, to Pyongyang for talks.

1-3 September 1993
The IAEA and North Korea hold consultations on nuclear safeguards as part of an agreement reached earlier between the United States and North Korea in Geneva. North Korea says they will address the issue of inspections of two suspected nuclear waste sites once the question of IAEA neutrality is resolved.

10 September 1993
David Kyd, a spokesman for the IAEA, says that the Agency has finished its internal discussions of the North Korean nuclear problem, and has decided to draft a report for submission to the IAEA Board of Governors and the UN Security Council in case North Korea refuses to allow inspections.

15 September 1993
North Korea is currently building facilities for six SA-2 surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) near its Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. There are already 47 SAM positions within a 6km radius of the complex.

15 September 1993
At a counselor-level meeting in Beijing, the United States informs North Korea that high-level bilateral talks will not resume until North Korea resumes dialogue with South Korea and cooperates with the IAEA.

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20 September 1993
At secret working-level talks in New York, the United States strongly urges North Korea to resume negotiations with the IAEA.

17 September 1993
The State Department announces that North Korea has not met the conditions necessary to resume bilateral talks. The United States had previously set the conditions that North Korea must reopen dialogue with South Korea and cooperate with the IAEA.

22 September 1993
The South Korean media report that a Russian nuclear specialist believes North Korea is incapable of producing a nuclear weapon within "one or two years." According to reports, Mikhail Ryzhov, chairman of Russia's Committee for International Relations of the Ministry of Atomic Energy, delivered this information to the South Korean Embassy in Moscow. Ryzhov said, "North Korea, having no capability of producing nuclear weapons, pretends to the outside world that the North Korean development of nuclear weapons is pending. The Russian nuclear specialists are of the general opinion that North Korea is trying to use this as a bargaining chip for negotiations with the United States." [Note: The FBIS translation says within "a few years" while the Korean press reports say within "one or two years."]

22 September 1993
North Korea warns that it might once again decide to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Describing the preconditions set by the United States for the resumption of bilateral talks as "unilateral" and "self-opinionated," North Korea says that if the preconditions remain, "we will have no alternative but to reconsider all the measures we have taken, presupposing negotiations with the United States."

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25 September 1993
North Korea's Atomic Energy Minister Ch'oe Hak Kŭn informs IAEA Director General Hans Blix that North Korea is rejecting the IAEA's offer to restart consultations in October 1993 due to efforts to put North Korea's nuclear program on the agenda of the IAEA's General Conference.

25 September 1993
South Korean President Kim Young Sam, speaking in Japan, says that sanctions against North Korea will be "unavoidable" if Pyongyang fails to resolve suspicions about its nuclear activities.

27 September 1993
Addressing the opening session of the IAEA general assembly, IAEA Director General Hans Blix puts North Korea's refusal to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities at the top of the agenda. He says that "as long as our suspicions are not met with credible findings and additional inspections of sites, the IAEA cannot rule out that some nuclear material has been diverted."

30 September 1993
North Korea accuses the IAEA of being impartial with regard to its inspections and of trying "to open up our military installations under the manipulation of a superpower." North Korea continues, "We reject any attempt to make inspections on the basis of fabricated intelligence information provided by a third country."

1 October 1993
The IAEA General Assembly passes a resolution that calls on North Korea to "cooperate immediately with the Agency in the full implementation of the safeguards agreement." The resolution notes the IAEA's "grave concern that North Korea has failed to discharge its safeguards obligations and has recently widened the area of non-compliance by not accepting scheduled Agency ad hoc and routine inspections as required by the safeguards agreement." The resolution receives 72 votes in favor, 11 abstentions, and negative votes by Libya and North Korea.

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2 October 1993
North Korean Prime Minister Kang Sŏng San sends a letter to his South Korean counterpart proposing working-level talks at the border village of Panmunjom. [Note: This sudden proposal is possibly a reaction to the preconditions set forth by the United States before it will reengage Pyongyang in bilateral talks.]

4 October 1993
The North Korean Foreign Ministry rejects the resolution passed by the IAEA general assembly on 1 October calling on North Korea to resolve all suspicions about its nuclear program. The Foreign Ministry says that North Korea "decidedly rejects the 'resolution' ... as wanton encroachment on the sovereignty of the DPRK." North Korea reiterates that it believes the only way to resolve the nuclear problem is through bilateral talks with the United States.

6 October 1993
In a closed-door meeting held in New York, senior officials from the United States, South Korea, and Japan discuss the option of using economic sanctions against North Korea in order to persuade North Korea to clear up suspicions about its nuclear weapons program.

10 October 1993
KBS-1 Radio in Seoul reports that France believes North Korea has developed nuclear weapons. According to the report, the South Korean Embassy has revealed that France has analyzed satellite imagery of North Korea's nuclear facilities, and concluded that North Korea has developed nuclear weapons because the nuclear facilities do not have electrical transmission lines. The ROK Embassy reportedly received the information from the Foreign Security General Bureau, a French military intelligence agency.

11 October 1993
US Congressman Gary Ackerman meets with North Korean President Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang to discuss North Korea's refusal to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities. Upon arriving in Seoul the following day, Ackerman says that Kim listened "very strongly and clearly" when he conveyed the US position. Ackerman also says that the North Korean leader condemned the IAEA for pressuring it to accept ad hoc inspections of its nuclear facilities.
12 October 1993
North Korea's Atomic Energy Minister accuses the IAEA of forging a letter from the UN Secretariat calling for international pressure to be placed on North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspections. The minister claims that UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had no knowledge of the letter which was, as he described, a conspiracy by some officials in the IAEA and UN Secretariat "for the purpose of doing harm to the DPRK." According to the minister, this action destroys the credibility of the IAEA, and thus shows that the "nuclear problem" can only be resolved through bilateral talks with the United States.

15 October 1993
IAEA Spokesman David Kyd announces that the monitoring equipment set up in North Korea's declared nuclear facilities will run out of film in November and the IAEA has not been allowed to service all of the equipment. Kyd states, "We are coming up on something of a technical deadline, and North Korea has not been responsive at all. At this point, we have no access to the sites at all."

17 October 1993
IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that since North Korea has continued to delay IAEA access to check monitoring equipment, any assurance that North Korea is not diverting nuclear materials to weapons purposes has been diminishing. In the spring of 1993, the IAEA's main concern was the presence of undeclared plutonium and North Korea's non-acceptance of special inspections. The concern now is that the declared facilities and materials could also be diverted from peaceful purposes.

Mid-October 1993
Peter Hayes, an Australian nuclear expert, conducts a 15-day visit to North Korea, during which he meets with several high ranking officials about North Korea's nuclear program. After the visit, Hayes says that "North Korea's main aim in challenging the International Atomic Energy Agency is to normalize or at least upgrade its political and economic relations with the United States."

19 October 1993
North Korea and the United States allegedly hold secret talks to discuss the resumption of IAEA's ad hoc inspections. The ongoing talks are reportedly held between North Korea's Deputy Ambassador to the UN Hŏ Jong and Kenneth Quinones, the State Department's North Korea Desk Officer. North Korea agrees to negotiate on the nuclear issue in exchange for US diplomatic recognition. The United States hints that it may consider suspending

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Team Spirit military exercises with South Korea if North Korea "shows a positive attitude" and accepts IAEA inspections before the end of October 1993.


20 October 1993
According to North Korean defector Lee Ch’ung Kuk, North Korea tests a nuclear warhead triggering device. Approximately 50 personnel from the Nuclear Defense Bureau observe the test explosion in Yŏms’o-gol, Sŏg’am-ri, P’yŏng’wŏn-kun, South P’yŏng’an Province.


24 October 1993
The United States and North Korea reportedly reach an agreement in which North Korea will allow full inspections of its nuclear facilities in exchange for diplomatic recognition from the United States. Reportedly, the agreement was reached through secret working level talks in New York between Hŏ Jong and Kenneth Quinones. As a first step, North Korea is expected to allow IAEA inspectors to service monitoring equipment by 1 November. However, disagreements remain as to whether all of North Korea’s suspected nuclear facilities will be open to inspection or just those which have been declared.


Late October 1993
IAEA cameras set up to monitor North Korea’s declared nuclear facilities run out of film.


27 October 1993
South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sŏng Ju denies reports that South Korea and the United States are considering canceling Team Spirit military exercises. Han says, "There is no decision on it, there is no discussion at the moment between the Republic of Korea and the United States." South Korea and the United States are expected to make a decision concerning the joint military exercise in the 25th annual US-South Korean Security Consultative Meeting scheduled for 3 and 4 November.

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29 October 1993
The IAEA announces that North Korea will allow inspectors to conduct routine maintenance of surveillance equipment but that it continues to block more thorough inspections of its suspected nuclear facilities.

November 1993
The United States offers to assist North Korea with monitoring personnel and technical support for the upcoming refueling of the North Korean SMW(e) gas-graphite reactor in Yongbyŏn-kun. It also offers to replace North Korea's gas-cooled reactors with US light water reactors if the latter provides the IAEA with blanket access to its nuclear facilities.

1 November 1993
The UN General Assembly passes a nine-point resolution urging North Korea to "cooperate immediately with the IAEA in the full implementation of the safeguards agreement." The resolution is passed with 140 in favor, North Korea voting against, and nine abstentions.

1 November 1993
A senior Pentagon official states that the United States believes that North Korea is not currently converting fuel for use in a nuclear weapon. Although the IAEA cameras that were monitoring a declared nuclear facility ran out of film in late October, according to the official, "US intelligence agencies have determined that the North Koreans are not processing plutonium."

1 November 1993
According to US Ambassador Rick Inderfurth, "Unless the continuity of safeguards is maintained, the US will not continue its discussions with North Korea and will be forced to return this issue to the UN Security Council for

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further action."

2 November 1993
The IAEA announces that the Agency will not send an inspection team to North Korea following the latter's refusal to permit full-scope inspections. IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that a country "cannot pick and choose which aspects of inspection programs it would permit to go ahead." He informs the UN General Assembly that "it remained possible that [North Korea] was trying to build a nuclear bomb."

3 November 1993
US Secretary of Defense Les Aspin says that the United States will not hold any more talks with North Korea until it opens two suspected nuclear waste sites to international inspections and reopens dialogue with South Korea. Speaking while on a diplomatic trip to Japan, Aspin says, "We will not have a third round of our dialogue with the North Koreans unless they play by the rules."

3-4 November 1993
The United States and South Korea hold the 25th annual Security Consultative Meeting in Seoul. At the meeting the two sides express "serious concern" about North Korea's military buildup and nuclear activities, but they agree not to make a final decision for the present on whether or not to hold the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises scheduled for spring.

7 November 1993
In a television interview, President Bill Clinton says that "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb." When asked if the United States is considering a preemptive strike against North Korean nuclear facilities, President Clinton responds, "I don't think I should discuss any specific options today."
9 November 1993
The United States and North Korea meet in New York to discuss resuming high-level talks about North Korea's nuclear program. A US official present at the talks does not comment on the details of the meeting but says that the date of the third round of high-level talks has yet to be decided.

11 November 1993
North Korea proposes a "package deal" to the United States for resolving suspicions about its nuclear activities. The deal states that when the United States renounces its "nuclear threat and hostile policy" towards Pyongyang, North Korea will "fully comply" with its IAEA safeguards agreement and accept inspections. North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sŏk Chu accuses the United States of always "demanding [North Korea] to move first," and states that under the "package deal" both sides will take steps simultaneously.

12 November 1993
South Korea rejects North Korea's proposed "package deal" claiming that North Korea must allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities and reopen dialogue with Seoul before the United States makes any concessions.

15 November 1993
The United States and South Korea begin the annual "Foal Eagle" military exercise despite warning from Pyongyang the day before that the exercises would jeopardize efforts to resolve questions about its nuclear activities.

23 November 1993
US President Bill Clinton meets with South Korean President Kim Young Sam to discuss Clinton's announces "new approach" to dealing with North Korea's nuclear program. After the meeting, Clinton states that if Pyongyang meets its demands, "the door will be open on a wide range of issues." At the request of President Kim, Clinton does not publicly announce the details of his proposed new approach. According to reports, the United States is prepared to call off the Team Spirit joint military exercise if North Korea allows IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities.

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24 November 1993
The United States and North Korea meet in New York for what is described as "low-level working" talks aimed at resolving Pyongyang's continuing reluctance to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. According to reports, the United States offers North Korea a package of incentives to allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities, including financial assistance and cancellation of Team Spirit military exercises.

29 November 1993
North Korea's Foreign Ministry suggests that North Korea will withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the United States does not agree to third round of negotiations on the nuclear issue. A Foreign Ministry spokesman says that "if the US intends to nullify the principles of the North Korea-US joint statement and discontinue talks, there will be no need for us to suspend and longer the effectuation of our withdrawal from the NPT."

29 November 1993
CIA Director James Woosley says that the United States cannot rule out the possibility that North Korea has already developed a nuclear weapon.

2 December 1993
North Korea issues the following six demands the must be met before it will allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities: (1) the United States must give a written assurance that it will not use nuclear weapons against North Korea; (2) the United States must permanently remove all nuclear weapons from South Korea; (3) the annual "Team Spirit" military exercises must be cancelled for good; (4) the current armistice on the Korean Peninsula must be replaced with a permanent peace treaty; (5) the United Nations must stop referring to North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism; and (6) the United Nations must back the North Korean proposal calling for the reunification of the two Koreas.

2 December 1993
IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs the IAEA's Board of Governors that unless North Korea permits the IAEA to inspect the 40 seals affixed in 1992, the Agency will be unable to verify that North Korea's nuclear materials have

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not been modified or removed. Photographic records of activities at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex are incomplete, as the surveillance cameras have run out of film. The IAEA tells North Korea that it needs to verify the complete physical inventory, reconcile the discrepancies, put new film in cameras, count the number of fuel rods, and design a method for safeguarding the refueling of the core of the 5MW(e) gas-graphite reactor. Director General Blix says that Pyongyang's continuing refusal to allow IAEA inspections raises suspicions about North Korea's "peaceful uses" of nuclear power.


3 December 1993
The United States and North Korea meet in New York for working level talks dealing with inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities. State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly refuses to mention specifics of the meeting, but describes it as "an informal exchange." Reportedly, at the meeting, North Korea said that IAEA inspectors could have unlimited access to most of its nuclear facilities.


3 December 1993
Quoting a Defense Department official, the Washington Post reports that even if IAEA inspections immediately resumed in North Korea, the international community would never know the exact amount of plutonium in North Korea's possession. The official refers to the classified National Intelligence Estimate, in which the CIA also claims that there is a "better than even" chance that North Korea already possesses a nuclear bomb.


3 December 1993
North Korea offers the IAEA unlimited access to five of its seven declared nuclear facilities and limited access to the other two—a 5MW(e) gas-graphite nuclear reactor and a reprocessing facility [the Radiochemistry Laboratory]. North Korea says that the IAEA can replace the film and batteries in the cameras but not check the seals at these facilities.

6 December 1993
As part of the sixth high-level delegation to North Korea in 15 months, Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad Fourouzndeh visits North Korea to discuss technological cooperation. The visit is for a meeting of a joint commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation established in 1992. According to reports, there is extensive cooperation between the two countries in the areas of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

6 December 1993
US President Bill Clinton and the IAEA announce that North Korea's offer to allow the IAEA access to some of its nuclear sites is inadequate and unacceptable. The North Korean proposal denies access to two sites, a nuclear reactor and a suspected reprocessing plant, which, according to the IAEA, are the sites that most likely to be used in a clandestine nuclear weapons program. IAEA spokesman David Kyd says that "there must be unrestricted access to all declared sites" and that "restrictions on the two facilities are not negotiable."

10 December 1993
US and North Korean officials meet in New York to discuss the continuing dispute over international inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities. At the meeting, the United States reiterates its position that North Korea must open all of its nuclear facilities to international inspections and resume dialogue with South Korea.

10 December 1993
The North Korean Foreign Ministry warns that bilateral talks with the United States will fail unless Washington accepts North Korea's proposal of limited access to its nuclear facilities.

12 December 1993
US Secretary of Defense Les Aspin says that North Korea might have succeeded in making a nuclear bomb. Speaking on the news program "Meet the Press," Secretary Aspin suggests that North Korea may have the

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technical capabilities to fashion a crude nuclear weapon. Secretary Aspin continues to say that there is no evidence that North Korea has or is currently constructing a nuclear weapon.


20 December 1993

US and North Korean officials meet in New York to discuss Pyongyang's continuing refusal to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities. According to a North Korean official, the two sides discuss "simultaneous steps" the two sides can take in order to overcome the impasse in negotiations. US officials announce on 24 December that at the meeting North Korea agrees to allow IAEA inspections of all seven of its nuclear facilities. However, North Korea insists that it must still work out the details of the inspections in a separate agreement with the IAEA.


24 December 1993

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali visits North Korea "to explore whether the UN might be of assistance (and) to help defuse any escalation of the crisis." North Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam tells Boutros-Ghali that there is no need for UN intervention since Pyongyang is engaged in direct talks with the United States.


27 December 1993

The Clinton administration says that it will seek international economic sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang refuses to allow IAEA inspections of all its nuclear facilities.


29 December 1993

Tom Hubbard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, meets with North Korean Ambassador Hŏ Jong at the UN headquarters in New York. The two discuss ways in which to overcome the impasse in resolving the issue of IAEA inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities. According to a North Korean Foreign Ministry announcement on 30 December, the two sides are close to reaching an agreement. The Foreign Ministry spokesman says that the United States expressed a willingness to cancel Team Spirit military exercises in exchange for North Korea allowing IAEA inspections of all its nuclear facilities.

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According to Im Yŏng Sŏn, a former North Korean Army lieutenant who defected to South Korea on 11 August 1993, North Korea attempts to hide a dismantled nuclear reactor from IAEA inspectors. Im says he heard that hundreds of North Korean engineers died in the underground accident.


North Korea reportedly shuts down its Pakch’ŏn Uranium Milling Facility located in P’akch’ŏn-kun (博川郡), North P’yŏng’an Province (平安北道). The facility, also known as the "April Industrial Enterprise," reportedly has the capacity to produce 210 metric tons of uranium per year.


North Korean Ambassador Chŏn In Chan informs IAEA Director General Hans Blix that North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement before the end of January 1992.


US President George Bush and South Korean President Roh Tae Woo announce that they will cancel the Team Spirit joint military exercises if North Korea "fulfills its obligation" to the IAEA and South Korea for inspections of its nuclear facilities.


North Korea formally expresses its intention to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement. North Korean Ambassador

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Chŏn In Ch'an says Pyongyang will sign the agreement by the end of the month.

7 January 1992
South Korea's Ministry of Defense announces that the joint military exercise Team Spirit will be cancelled this year.

21 January 1992
US-North Korean high-level political meetings commence at the US Mission to the United Nations in New York. The North Korean delegation is headed by Korea Workers Party Secretary for International Affairs Kim Yong Sun. The US delegation is lead by Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Arnold Kanter. Kanter's "talking points" have been approved in advance by a US State Department interagency committee, as well as by the South Korean and Japanese governments. These points include urging North Korea to permit IAEA inspections and to give up its nuclear weapons option. North Korea responds by agreeing to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement.

30 January 1992
North Korea signs the IAEA safeguards agreement. North Korea's Deputy Minister for Atomic Energy Industry Hong Gŭn P'yo says that North Korea will abide by the agreement fully. [Note: North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly does not ratify the agreement until 9 April 1992. The IAEA inspections process comprises four distinct phases. The first requires North Korea to submit an official report of its existing nuclear facilities. During the second phase, the IAEA will conduct a series of ad hoc inspections to verify the aforementioned list, as well as gather some initial data about the nuclear program. Third, North Korea and the IAEA will sign various subsidiary agreements and attachments to the accord describing inspection procedures for specific facilities. And fourth, the IAEA will begin routine inspections designed to ensure that the nuclear facilities are not being used for military purposes.]

February 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix presents his three-year campaign to achieve "universal adherence to treaties blocking additional countries from obtaining nuclear weapons" to the UN Security Council.

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February 1992
US satellite imagery reveals that North Korea is digging "deep tunnels" around the nuclear complex in Yŏngbyŏn. Some analysts believe this is part of a program to harden the facility against possible South Korean or US attacks. Others believe the tunnels may be part of a program to hide materials or components from IAEA inspectors. South Korea’s ambassador to the United States, Hyŏn Hong Chu, cites North Korea’s extensive missile production as "corroborative evidence" that North Korea is determined to develop nuclear weapons.


February 1992
According to a US expert, "the North Korean missile development program proceeded in parallel with the nuclear development program," and "therefore, we assume that a weapon ultimately would be mated with a missile delivery system." Some Bush administration officials believe North Korea may be only months away from acquiring a nuclear bomb. Some also believe that North Korea might export it.


February 1992
Nuclear Engineering International reports that, following a tip-off from the CIA, the German BND intelligence service is investigating engineering company Leybold AG for allegedly supplying five specialized industrial furnaces to North Korea for use in its suspected nuclear weapons program. Two furnaces are electron beam furnaces, two are "laboratory furnaces," and the fifth is described as a "small laboratory furnace." The BND suspects that the first four furnaces reached North Korea via India or Pakistan while the fifth is believed to have arrived through East Germany.


3 February 1992
North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil Yŏn says that North Korea will likely ratify the IAEA safeguards agreement within six months.


5 February 1992
North Korea officially approves the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" that was signed by the North and South Korean Prime Ministers in December 1991.


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Mid-February 1992
US officials meet with North Korean diplomats in Beijing. It is believed that the United States informs North Korea that it has until June 1992 to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

18 February 1992
The North Korean Standing Committee agrees that the IAEA safeguards agreement should be ratified.

24 February 1992
Douglas H. Paal, a senior advisor to President George Bush, meets with South Korean government officials to discuss North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program. He announces that the United States has set June 1992 as the deadline for North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international inspections. US Congressman Stephen Solarz suggests that the United States may have to use force to coerce North Korea to allow international inspections. In a commentary printed in Rodong Sinmun, North Korea writes off Congressman Solarz's remarks as "absurd remarks" meant to aggravate tension over the nuclear issue.

25 February 1992
An IAEA official announces that the IAEA is close to reaching an agreement with North Korea to allow a team of experts to visit North Korea's nuclear facilities. Although North Korea has not ratified the IAEA safeguards agreement, O Ch'ang Rim, North Korean Ambassador to the IAEA, says, "There is no possibility that it will be rejected." O says that North Korea will ratify the agreement in early April and inspections will probably be able to begin in June.

25 February 1992
CIA Director Robert Gates announces that North Korea's nuclear program is so advanced that it could produce a nuclear weapon in as little as two months. Speaking to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Gates claims that North Korea is already operating a nuclear facility with the apparent sole purpose of producing plutonium, and a fuel reprocessing plant capable of separating weapon-grade plutonium is nearing completion.
—Rupert Cornwell and Michael Wise, "Pyongyang 'Months off Nuclear Bomb'," The Independent (London), 26

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26 February 1992
The IAEA Board of Governors reaffirms its right to conduct special inspections of undeclared nuclear sites. It says that inspections will only occur on "rare occasions." The IAEA has not yet performed such an inspection. IAEA spokesman David Kyd announces that the Board has agreed on a plan that requires all nations with full-scope safeguards agreements to begin submitting preliminary designs of nuclear facilities to the IAEA once the decision to construct them is made. At its next meeting in June 1992, the Board will discuss a plan for mandatory reporting of imports and exports of nuclear material and sensitive non-nuclear equipment.


27 February 1992
A "US official" says that "large trucks have been 'hauling things away' from a facility that US intelligence officials believe is designed to make plutonium." [Note: This is probably a reference to the "Radiochemistry Laboratory" in Yongbyon-kun.]


28 February 1992
According to North Korean Ambassador to IAEA O Ch'ang Rim, international inspectors may start examining North Korean nuclear facilities by May 1992. The United States believes that North Korea is removing items from its plutonium production facility.


3 March 1992
While talking with South Korean soldiers, US Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg suggests that North Korea might be relocating nuclear installations from Yongbyon-kun. Gregg states, "Some satellite pictures show trucks and trains coming in and out of Yongbyon. It would be easier to hide things in North Korea than in Iraq."


4 March 1992
During a three-day visit to Seoul, US Assistant Secretary of Defense James Lilley says that the UN may have to become involved if North Korea does not allow IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities by June. In a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ok, Lilley reiterates the US position that it will not remove any troops from the Korean Peninsula until North Korea resolves the issue of nuclear inspections. He also claims that North Korea should allow South Korea inspections of its nuclear facilities.

—"Seoul Accuses North Korea of Stalling Nuclear Inspections," Associated Press, 4 March 1992, in Lexis-Nexis,
7 March 1992
North Korea announces that its Supreme People's Assembly will ratify the IAEA safeguards agreement in April 1992. North Korean Ambassador to IAEA, O Chang Rim, says that international inspections will begin "most probably at the beginning of June 1992."

11 March 1992
In a press release given at the United Nations, North Korea reiterates that it has "neither the capacity nor the intention to develop nuclear weapons." North Korea also states that it will ratify the nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA and allow inspectors at the earliest possible date.

14 March 1992
North and South Korea reach an agreement to conduct mutual inspections of their nuclear facilities. The agreement, reached after three months of negotiations at the border village of Panmunjom, marks the first time North Korea accepts a specific timeframe for the implementation of inter-Korean nuclear inspections. The agreement stipulates that the two countries will create a Joint Nuclear Control Commission on 19 March at which they will "make joint efforts" to work out the details and procedures for mutual inspections by 19 May. According to the agreement, the two countries will commence mutual inspections within 20 days of finalizing a document on the procedures.

14 March 1992
Quoting a 1990 top secret KGB document submitted by Former KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, the Russian Weekly Argumenty i Fakty reports that in 1990, the KGB received reliable information that North Korea had successfully developed a nuclear detonative device at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. The KGB document also stated that all nuclear development was conducted under the direct command of Kim Jong Il.

Mid-March 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix says, "In a place like North Korea with no nuclear power stations, it's hard to see a
legitimate use for a reprocessing plant. It's also hard to see, anywhere, a legitimate economic reason for building uranium enrichment plants. Adding such capacity adds to the proliferation risk."


16 March 1992

The United States informs North Korea that it will impose sanctions if North Korea does not allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities. The United States and South Korea believe that North Korea is stalling inspections in order to move its nuclear facilities underground. According to the United States, several convoys of trucks have left Yŏngbyŏn.


17 March 1992

South Korea announces that it will urge North Korea to accept expanded powers of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) when the commission convenes for the first time on 19 March. South Korea wants the JNCC to be able to conduct forced inspections of facilities suspected of hiding nuclear-related material or technology even if the facility is not declared.


18 March 1992

During a visit to Seoul, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev confirms that Russia has halted all financial and technical support to North Korea for nuclear plants.


19 March 1992

North and South Korea hold the first meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) at Panmunjon. The commission, consisting of seven delegates from each country, is headed by North Korean Foreign Ministry Ambassador at large Ch'oe U Jin and South Korean Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security Chancellor Kong Ro Myŏng. At the meeting, South Korea presents a proposal calling for regular inspections of declared nuclear sites in addition to challenge inspections of undeclared sites. The North Korean proposal focuses on getting international guarantees for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and calls for inspections of US military bases located in South Korea. The two sides fail to reach an agreement on the procedures of mutual inspection and decide to meet again on 1 April.


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26 March 1992
According to South Korean Prime Minister Chŏng Wŏn Shik, the issue surrounding international inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities cannot be resolved solely through pressuring North Korea; countries must also engage Pyongyang through dialogue.

April 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs North Korea that if it does not declare its "radiochemical facility," he will request the UN Security Council to demand special inspections of the site. [Note: This is a reference to the "Radiochemistry Laboratory."]

1 April 1992
North and South Korea hold the second meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC). South Korean Co-Chairman Kong Ro Myŏng claims that South Korea cannot accept the North Korean demand that in return for inspections at its facility in Yŏngbyŏn, North Korean inspectors should have full access to US military bases located in South Korea. Kong says, "We have already offered the North a comprehensive idea on mutual nuclear inspection that the North could easily agree to if only it really meant to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula."

3 April 1992
North Korea's envoy to the United Nations, Han Shi Hae, informs Japanese reporters that North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) will ratify the IAEA safeguards agreement soon.

9 April 1992
North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly ratifies the IAEA safeguards agreement. According to IAEA regulations, North Korea is required to allow international inspections of its facilities within 90 days. It is also required to list all of its nuclear facilities within 30 days of the last day of the month after it ratifies the safeguards agreement. William Dirks, IAEA Deputy Director General, says that the IAEA will go to the UN Security Council if North Korea fails to list all of its nuclear facilities for inspection.

10 April 1992
North Korea presents the safeguards agreement to IAEA Director General Hans Blix at the Agency's headquarters

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in Vienna.

11 April 1992
The Korean Central News Agency reports that Russian scientists have assisted North Korea’s Institute of Atomic Energy in constructing a nuclear cyclotron, a device used for accelerating and separating charged subatomic particles.

12 April 1992
In a rare interview with an American reporter, North Korean President Kim Il Sung claims that North Korea "does not have any nuclear weapons . . . And, what is more, we don’t need nuclear weapons." He also says that North Korea is willing to receive international inspectors at its nuclear facilities and all that needs to be arranged is the procedural formality of informing the IAEA.

14 April 1992
According to Ch’oe Chong Sun, head of the North Korean Ministry of Atomic Energy’s Foreign Affairs Bureau, three nuclear facilities in North Korea will be opened for international inspection. The facilities include a 5MW research reactor built in 1986, and the 50MW and 200MW reactors, which are currently under construction. Ch’oe denies that North Korea has a reprocessing plant. On 9 April, IAEA Director General Hans Blix suggested that if North Korea does not declare the facility, "then the [IAEA] can turn to the United Nations Security Council for help."

Mid-April 1992
North Korean television shows parts of the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex and reports that three nuclear plants will be open for IAEA inspections. The report, however, denies that there is a reprocessing plant at the complex.

21 April 1992
A meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) between North and South Korea breaks down without even an agreement on when to meet next. According to a South Korean official, the North Korean delegation

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"opposed our offer for inspections based on reciprocity and demanded unilateral full inspections. They further refused special inspections." The official also claimed that the North Korean delegation introduced the demand that the two countries "jointly cope with external nuclear threats." The North Korean delegation did not respond to the South Korean proposal for more JNCC meetings to be held on 24 and 28 April.


4 May 1992
Twenty-five days ahead of schedule, North Korea provides the IAEA with a 150-page "initial declaration" of its nuclear facilities and materials. The report says "gram quantities" of plutonium were separated from damaged spent-fuel rods in 1990 at an industrial-scale reprocessing facility still under construction. Although the IAEA does not release the report, it reportedly includes the following facilities and materials: nuclear material and design information; a research reactor and critical assembly at the Institute of Nuclear Physics (under IAEA safeguards); a sub-critical facility at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang; a fuel rod fabrication plant and storage facility in Yongbyŏn-kun; a 5MW(e) nuclear reactor; a "Radiochemistry Laboratory" under construction in Yongbyŏn-kun; a 50MW(e) nuclear plant under construction in Yongbyŏn-kun; a 200MW(e) plant under construction in Taechŏn-kun, North P'yŏng'an Province; and a plan to build three 635MW(e) nuclear reactors. Two uranium mines and two facilities for uranium milling are also listed. This list closely matches Western estimates of the scope of North Korea's nuclear program.


7 May 1992
As a means of ensuring that the IAEA team does not "miss anything" during inspections, US officials provide IAEA Director General Hans Blix and his top aides intelligence briefings in September 1991, March 1992, and 7 May 1992. During the last briefing, Blix is given a "virtual reality" tour of the Yongbyŏn nuclear complex. US officials place a great deal of emphasis on the reprocessing facility, which North Korea has identified as a "radiochemical laboratory."


11-16 May 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix arrives in Pyongyang prior to the IAEA inspection team to meet with North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk, Minister of Atomic Energy Ch'oe Hak Kŭn and first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sŏk Chu. Blix is reassured that the inspectors will be allowed access to any site in North Korea.

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regardless if it is listed in the initial declaration submitted on 4 May 1992 to the IAEA. In the course of the meetings, Blix visits the unfinished nuclear reprocessing laboratory in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. After seeing the site, he reports that North Korea is building a nuclear reprocessing facility capable of processing spent fuel into plutonium. He says that North Korea has already produced a "tiny quantity" of plutonium. However, the quantity is much less than what is required to build a nuclear weapon. According to North Korea, the reprocessing plant will be used to produce mixed-oxide fuel for future fast-breeder reactors. North Korea also expresses interest in building gas-graphite reactors because it can do so indigenously.


12 May 1992

The Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) meets for the fourth time. Unlike past meetings, North and South Korea make progress in finalizing a document of procedures for mutual inspections by the set date of 19 May. North Korea withdraws its demand that the two sides adopt a separate protocol based on the pledges to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula before negotiating an inspections regime. South Korea agrees to alter the language regarding the subjects of inspections from "sites suspected of nuclear capabilities" to "nuclear weapons and nuclear bases." The two sides agreed to begin drawing up the text of the agreement on 15 May.


Mid-May 1992

Following a meeting between IAEA Director General Hans Blix and North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk and Minister of Atomic Energy Ch’oe Hak Kŭn, North Korea says that it is willing to consider eliminating certain elements of its nuclear program if foreign countries provide "the required assistance." Blix says that he is concerned about North Korea’s nuclear program and the possibility that it will develop a nuclear bomb with special emphasis on reprocessing spent reactor fuel into plutonium. Yon denies that North Korea is interested in nuclear weapons. However, he says that North Korea is interested in using modern light water reactors rather than the heavy water reactors (whose by-products can be more easily reprocessed to produce plutonium).


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13-15 May 1992
During North Korean-Japanese normalization talks, Japan demands that North Korea immediately implement IAEA inspections. A deadlock in the talks arises from Japanese demands over the reprocessing facility in North Korea. The talks are conducted by North Korean chief negotiator Lee Sam Ro and Japanese Ambassador Noboru Nakahira. Following the talks, IAEA Director General Hans Blix travels to Japan to prepare for the 25 May 1992 inspections of North Korea's facilities. While in Japan, Blix informs officials that North Korea used hot cells to separate plutonium in 1990. He tells Japanese Science and Technology Minister Kanzo Tanigawa that the IAEA team will verify whether North Korea actually used the cells. North Korean officials have told Blix that the "Radiochemistry Laboratory" was completed in 1987 and that a "very small amount" of plutonium had been separated there. According to Blix, the reprocessing lab that he saw during his earlier visit was missing some equipment. However, no facilities were under construction during his visit.


15 May 1992
North and South Korea hold working-level talks on drafting an agreement on the procedures for a inter-Korean nuclear inspection regime but fail to make any progress. Reneging on the concession it made earlier in the week, North Korea once again insists that the two sides must finalize an agreement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula before negotiating an inspection regime. According to Pan Ki Mun, the chief South Korean delegate, North Korea "also insists on a detailed report on where and how many US nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea, if indeed they have been pulled out."


25 May – 7 June 1992
IAEA inspectors conduct the first round of nuclear inspections in North Korea. During the inspections of facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, the team is able to verify the location of fissionable materials as stated in North Korea's "initial declaration," which was submitted to the IAEA on 4 May 1992. In doing so, they visit the "Radiochemistry Laboratory." The team discovers that the building is only 80 percent complete, and that the equipment inside is only 40 percent ready for full-scale production. According to one IAEA official, "the works inside the building are 'extremely primitive' and far from ready to produce quantities of plutonium needed for a stockpile of atomic weapons." The IAEA team also inspects a 5MW(e) research reactor that came online in 1986, and a 50 MW(e) power plant under construction. According to Blix, earlier reports, which stated that there is electrical equipment around the nuclear reactor, are false. Rather, he saw "poles on which lines could be mounted." The North Koreans informed him that they are attempting to develop a civil nuclear power program using natural uranium and graphite. IAEA inspectors discover an isotope production laboratory, which was not included in North Korea's initial declaration to the IAEA. North Korean officials, saying that the laboratory is used solely to separate isotopes for medical purposes, allow the IAEA to inspect the facility. Inspectors discover seven hot cells within the facility.


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27 May 1992
The fifth meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission fails to produce any agreement between North and South Korea on mutual nuclear inspections. The two sides even fail to set the date for the next meeting, making it practically impossible to conduct mutual inspections by the original deadline of mid-June. The South Korean delegation proposes that the next meeting be held on 29 May in order to keep alive the possibility of conducting mutual inspections by mid-June. The North Korean delegation, however, rejects the proposed date because of the on-going IAEA inspections, and proposes the next JNCC meeting be held on 16 June. South Korea does not agree to this, and the two sides decide to set the date through contacts between the inter-Korean liaison offices in Panmunjom.

Summer 1992
North Korea constructs a third nuclear waste storage facility at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex.

June 1992
Defector Kim Tae Ho reportedly hears that North Korea has used "red mercury from the Soviet Union" to reprocess 6-10kg of plutonium. Kim, who defects in April 1994, says he heard this information from the "import-export director (輸出入課長)" of the "Korea Sixth Equipment Trading Company (朝鮮第6設備輸出入會社)," which Kim says imports materials and equipment for North Korea's nuclear program. [Note: Kim made no mention of this until three years after he defected in 1994, and there are inconsistencies in Kim's testimony.]

June 1992
At the IAEA annual meeting, the North Korean representative informs the IAEA that North Korea's reprocessing facility should be retained "for the sake of the country's prosperity and economic growth."

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1 June 1992
During US-North Korean consular-level talks in Beijing, North Korea claims that it has produced a small amount of plutonium, but it will stop reprocessing plutonium if the IAEA provides light water reactor technology and enriched uranium to be used solely for industrial uses. According to a North Korean official, Pyongyang made the same offer to IAEA Director General Hans Blix.


10 June 1992
Reporting on his May trip to North Korea and the results of IAEA inspections, IAEA Director General Hans Blix claims that the nuclear fuel reprocessing facility under construction in North Korea is a factory, not an experimental laboratory. Blix quotes a North Korean official as saying that "without a guarantee for the introduction of advanced technology from abroad and stable supplies of nuclear fuel, we cannot give up our present nuclear policy." According to Blix, North Korea "responds favorably" to the IAEA's proposal that it switch its nuclear program from graphite-moderated to light-water reactors. Blix also says that "the North Korean side had explained that the Radiochemistry Laboratory, which is at issue, is aimed at the completion of the nuclear fuel cycle for the purpose of supplying their own nuclear fuel and that it had already started research on a fast-breeding reactor and composite nuclear fuel."


11 June 1992
South Korea announces that it is willing to share nuclear technology with North Korea if Pyongyang accepts South Korean nuclear inspectors and abandons its reprocessing facility. According to Kim Chae Sŏp, director-general of international organizations at the Foreign Ministry, "The Government policy is that Seoul will promote exchanges and cooperation with Pyongyang depending on the progress of inter-Korean relations and nuclear negotiations."


15 June 1992
At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, member states discuss North Korea's nuclear situation. The Board agrees that all nuclear-related facilities must be reported at least 180 days prior to construction. Previous regulations required 60 days prior notice.


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15 June 1992
According to IAEA spokesman David Kyd, the North Korean technology that the IAEA saw in Yŏngbyŏn-kun was "30 years old." North Korea's nuclear facilities have shoddy designs, and the radiation shielding systems, cranes, protective devices, waste disposal sites and safety control systems are "seriously defective." Therefore, the IAEA disagrees with CIA reports that North Korea will be able to produce a nuclear weapon in the very near future. However, before making an accurate assessment, the IAEA must conduct additional inspections.

15-19 June 1992
At the IAEA Board of Governor's meeting in Vienna, 22 of the 35 Board members support South Korea's demand that North Korea allow inter-Korean inspections of nuclear facilities.

16 June 1992
The IAEA reports that there is a possibility of conducting special inspections on undeclared nuclear facilities in North Korea. The report follows statements given by IAEA director General Hans Blix at the Board of Governors' meeting that he had obtained North Korea's agreement to accept inspectors at unreported nuclear facilities.

16 June 1992
The South Korean government decides not to provide light water reactor technology with North Korea because Pyongyang's establishment of a reprocessing capability at the "Radiochemistry Laboratory" is in violation of the "Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsular."

18 June 1992
At a press conference following the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, O Chang Rim, head of the North Korean delegation, advocates continued bilateral negotiations between the North and South as stipulated by the Joint Nuclear Control Committee (JNCC). According to O, the major obstacle to the North-South talks is South Korea's refusal to allow North Korean inspections of US military bases in the South. North Korea fears that these bases may house nuclear weapons. O also says that North Korea will continue to cooperate with the IAEA on inspections, but that construction of the Yŏngbyŏn Radiochemistry Laboratory will continue despite international concern.

19 June 1992
South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ok announces that until North Korea accepts inter-Korean bilateral nuclear inspections, South Korea will not give it any nuclear-related technical assistance. "Pyongyang's acceptance of ad hoc inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is positive, but it must accept inter-Korean inspection as well in order to completely dispel the global suspicion and concern about its nuclear arms development."

19 June 1992
A South Korean source claims that South Korea is considering omitting military facilities as subjects of challenge inspections in the proposed inter-Korean nuclear inspections regime. According to the source, South Korea will present a revised proposal at the upcoming meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC).

21 June 1992
An anonymous South Korean official announces that Russia has informed the United States and South Korea that it is considering a plan to stop supplying North Korea with any military equipment, including defensive weapons. According to the official, Russia is taking this measure in order to put more pressure on North Korea to resolve questions about its nuclear capabilities and allow inter-Korean inspections. The official also claims that Russia is considering completely abandoning its military alliance treaty with North Korea.

30 June 1992
North and South Korea meet for the sixth JNCC talks and once again fail to make any progress on an inter-Korean nuclear inspection regime. Insisting that suspicions of North Korean nuclear activities had grown since IAEA inspections, the South Korean delegates claim that inter-Korean relations cannot improve until North Korea resolves remaining questions about its nuclear program. The two sides do agree to meet again on 21 July.

July 1992
According to Lee Ch’ung Kuk, a North Korean defector who worked at the Ministry of People’s Armed Forces Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau, three North Korean military officers visit Russia and Ukraine. The officers visit

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nuclear and chemical warfare facilities and observe three nuclear explosions. According to Lee, who claims to have prepared a report of the team's observations, the nuclear tests are used to test the performance of North Korean-made "equipment for automatically monitoring nuclear explosions." [Note: President Yeltsin had ordered a freeze on all nuclear tests in light of improving diplomatic relations with the United States, so this report is dubious].


4 July 1992
In an interview published by Yonhap News Agency, US Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg says that the United States would open military bases in South Korea to inspections if North Korea reciprocates. Gregg states, "We Americans would open our military bases to North Korean inspection in return for their opening installations in the North to South Koreans." Gregg's statement marks the first time the United States indicated that it might open its military bases to North Korean inspectors.


5 July 1992
IAEA inspectors arrive to begin a second round of international inspections of North Korea’s nuclear facilities. The inspections will focus on the reprocessing facility in Yongbyon-kun. The team will also investigate the status of North Korea’s plutonium production, storage operations, and reactor safety. The second round of IAEA inspections will continue through 17 July.


6-16 July 1992
IAEA inspections conduct the second round of nuclear inspections in Yongbyon-kun.


10 July 1992
North Korea accepts a subsidiary arrangement to the April safeguards agreement with the IAEA. North Korea has not yet approved attachments to the agreement. The purpose of the attachments is to specify the facilities that will be routinely inspected and the length and frequency of the inspections.


21 July 1992
The seventh meeting of the JNCC fails to make any progress in establishing an inter-Korean nuclear inspections regime. North Korean delegates continue to complain about the South’s insistence on resolving the suspicions of the North’s nuclear activities, but Kong Ro Myŏn, South Korean Chairman to the JNCC, states that South Korea will not alter its principle of "nuclear solution first, economic cooperation later." This issue is highlighted by the fact that North Korean Deputy Premier Kim Dal Hyŏn is currently touring industrial facilities in the South. The next JNCC

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meeting is set for 31 August.

**22 July 1992**

IAEA Director General Hans Blix informs the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs that the IAEA "would not have any hesitation" in identifying North Korea's reported Radiochemistry Laboratory as "a reprocessing plant in the terminology of the industrialized world."

**August 1992**

IAEA Director General Hans Blix, testifying before the US Congress, says that North Korea has "emphatically denied" separating additional amounts of plutonium.
—Mark Hibbs, "IAEA Special Inspection Effort Meeting Diplomatic Resistance," Nucleonics Week, 18 February 1993, pp. 16-17.

**23 August 1992**

South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ok meets with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Beijing. According to Qian, China has repeatedly asked North Korea to allow IAEA inspections.

**28 August 1992**

A South Korean Foreign Ministry source says that China has informed South Korea that Beijing will not provide North Korea with any support for the development of nuclear energy or nuclear weapons.

**31 August 1992**

The eighth JNCC meeting fails to make significant progress towards a mutual nuclear inspections regime on the Korean Peninsula, but the North Korean delegation changes its position and agrees to discuss inspection regimes before anything else. The North Korean delegation also expresses interest in inspections of military installations. However, disagreements persist over the reprocessing plant located in Yongbyŏn-kun. South Korea continues to demand that North Korea dismantle the facility immediately, but North Korea claims that recent IAEA inspections have cleared up any remaining suspicions.
IAEA inspectors conduct the third round of inspections in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. IAEA spokesman David Kyd says that the IAEA's inspections will focus on North Korea's plutonium reprocessing program. In preparation for the visit, North Korea hurriedly installed transmission lines and other related equipment at the 5MW(e) nuclear reactor. During the inspection, the team is given limited access to two suspected nuclear-related sites in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. North Korea had not declared the sites in the initial declaration submitted to the IAEA in May 1992. One of the sites is a two-story building that has been partly covered by large mounds of earth and landscaping prior to the inspectors arrival so as to appear as a one-story building. However, US satellite imagery captured the construction of the building prior to the inspection, and it revealed that the first-story of the building contained thick-walled vaults made of reinforced concrete, which is suitable for nuclear waste storage. When the IAEA inspection team requests access to this portion of the building, the North Koreans inform them that it does not exist. They are permitted limited access to the second-story of the building, which is found to house heavy weapons, including tanks and missiles on mobile carriages. The North Koreans refuse to allow a formal and thorough inspection of the building based on grounds that it is a military site and thus exempt from inspection. The IAEA, however, does not accept such exemptions. [Note: The building has been designated as "Building 500" by US intelligence, and reportedly contains large nuclear waste storage cells on the first floor.] During the inspection, the North Korean government denies access to some facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, and also blocks direct communication between IAEA headquarters and its representatives in North Korea.


At a press conference in Vienna, North Korean ambassador-at-large O Ch'ang Rim refuses to answer questions about the status of the reprocessing plant in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. When asked whether the facility has been test-operated, O replies only that it is "under construction" without elaboration.


A South Korean official announces that Seoul is willing to go ahead with limited economic cooperation with North Korea before the two countries resolve the issue of mutual nuclear inspections. This announcement signifies a change in the previous South Korean principle of "nuclear solution first, economic cooperation later."


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16 September 1992
O Ch'ang Rim, North Korean Ambassador to the IAEA, claims that North Korea will agree to inter-Korean nuclear inspections only if US military facilities in South Korea are also subject to inspection. He also states that North Korea will continue construction on a reprocessing plant.

18 September 1992
According to IAEA Director General Hans Blix, North Korea has agreed to allow IAEA inspections of all nuclear facilities. Regardless, verification that North Korea is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program will be difficult to attain. The IAEA believes that construction at an alleged nuclear reprocessing plant has been stopped. However, the IAEA Board of Governors says that "suspicion of nuclear development remains."

October 1992
According to the Chelyabinski Rabochij newspaper, over 60 Russian researchers attempt to leave for North Korea, but they are detained at the Sheremetyevo-2 Airport near Moscow. The group includes over 40 researchers from the Machine Design Bureau in Miass. The paper quoted officials in the Russian security ministry as saying the group was able to design a nuclear warhead for a missile. The Christian Science Monitor later reports the number of scientists is 64. The Hankook Ilbo later reports the engineers are nuclear specialists that have been approached to design a nuclear warhead for ballistic missiles.

8 October 1992
At a press conference following the US-South Korean Security Consultative Meeting held 7-8 October in Washington, DC, US Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney says that there is intelligence of "sufficient quality" to suggest that North Korea is close to developing a nuclear weapon. Cheney adds that the United States will not remove any more of the 37,400 troops from South Korea until the North stops developing nuclear weapons. After Cheney's statements, South Korean Lieutenant General Kim Chae Ch'ang says that previous IAEA inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities have raised "serious and clear" suspicions that North Korea is nearing completion of a reprocessing plant that would supply enough nuclear material for a bomb.

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14 October 1992
A working-level meeting of the JNCC fails to make any substantive progress on inter-Korean nuclear inspections. The two sides continue to disagree on what type of facilities will be subject to inspections. According to a South Korean official, Seoul is prepared to take other measures if Pyongyang continues with its "delaying tactics."

22 October 1992
A meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) fails to make any progress on setting up a mutual nuclear inspection regime between North and South Korea. According to the Chairman of the South Korean delegation Kong No Myong, the two sides do "not even mention" specifics about the inspections regime. Instead, discussions focus on the US-South Korean decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercises. The North Korean delegation demands that South Korea cancel Team Spirit before it will discuss mutual inspections, and the South Korean delegation insists that they will continue to make preparations for the military exercise unless the JNCC makes substantial progress in setting up an inter-Korean inspections regime.

29 October 1992
During working-level talks of the JNCC, North Korea reiterates the threat to withdraw from all inter-Korean dialogue unless Seoul cancels preparations for the Team Spirit military exercises by December. Due to this impasse, the two sides fail to make any progress on setting up a bilateral nuclear inspection regime on the Korean Peninsula.

November 1992
The Bulletin of The Atomic Scientists reports that IAEA officials are unenthusiastic about the prospects of North and South Korean bilateral inspections. They fear that a mutual inspection regime, with inferior technical information, could eventually be considered as an alternative to IAEA safeguards. The report quotes a senior German official,

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who supports the IAEA’s position and is against any proposed inter-Korean regime that would ban plutonium reprocessing, as saying, "Both uranium enrichment and plutonium [separation and] recycling are legitimate civil nuclear activities. It should suffice to put any such facilities [in both Koreas] under IAEA safeguards." The report also states that IAEA experts believe North Korea is capable of processing "much larger amounts of nuclear material" than it is currently admitting. In order to verify the declared amount of reprocessed plutonium, the IAEA has requested samples of nuclear fuel from North Korea. North Korea, however, denied the request because it reportedly cannot provide any samples until the fuel is unloaded from the reactors in early 1993.


2 November 1992

3 November 1992
South Korea announces that it will consider canceling the upcoming Team Spirit military exercises scheduled for Spring 1993 if inter-Korean nuclear inspections occur before the December round of prime ministers’ talks. According to Kong Ro Myŏng, the South Korean spokesman for negotiations with North Korea, "if mutual nuclear inspection is realized before the coming round of the South-North [sic] Prime Ministers’ talks scheduled to start in Seoul on 21 December, we could consider shelving Team Spirit again next year. If the deadline is to be met, regulations for mutual inspection must be worked out by the end of this month. If the North does not respond it will be inevitable for us to conduct the exercise."


12 November 1992
During the fourth round of IAEA inspections, IAEA Director General Hans Blix telephones chief inspector Willi Theis at the Yŏngbyŏn nuclear complex. According to Blix, the IAEA possesses indisputable evidence that a trench had been dug and later covered up between the reprocessing plant and the "one-story building" whose basement is believed to be a nuclear waste storage facility. He also informs Theis that there is clear evidence that North Korea has attempted to camouflage a nearby outdoor nuclear waste facility. He instructs Theis to inform the North Koreans that they must declare these sites as nuclear facilities and permit inspections. Theis immediately summons two senior nuclear officials at the Yŏngbyŏn complex and attempts to work with them on amending

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North Korea’s initial declaration to the IAEA. They cooperate with the intention of including the waste sites in the report with as little admission of error as possible.


13 November 1992

The North Korean senior nuclear officials who have been working with IAEA chief inspector Willi Theis accuse him of being "an agent of the CIA" and performing inspections "on the basis of instructions from the US State Department." They then refuse to cooperate further with Theis.


18 November 1992

The Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) once again fails to make any progress on mutual nuclear inspections between North and South Korea. North Korea continues to threaten suspension of all negotiations between the two countries, including the prime ministers’ talks in December, if South Korea does not cancel the Team Spirit military exercises scheduled for spring 1993.


28 November 1992

During a meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), North Korea repeats its demand that South Korea cancel the US-South Korean joint military exercise Team Spirit before Pyongyang will discuss any specifics on a inter-Korean nuclear inspection regime. Chairman of the South Korean delegation Kong Ro Myŏng insists that North Korean must open at least one site to inspections before Seoul will consider cancellation of the military exercises.


30 November 1992

North Korean Minister of the Atomic Energy Ch’oe Hak Kŭn, Ambassador O Ch’ang Rim, and other North Korean officials meet with IAEA Director General Hans Blix to discuss North Korea’s implementation of its nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA. Blix is believed to notify North Korea that it has not declared all of its nuclear facilities and asks the North Korean officials to "sincerely implement the nuclear agreement." [Note: Many analysts suspect that North Korea has hidden nuclear facilities because it refused to allow an IAEA special inspection team to enter the country right after the fourth round of inspections was completed.]


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December 1992
The IAEA team conducts its fifth inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities.
—Cha Man Sun, KBS-1 Television Network (Seoul), 4 December 1992.

December 1992
North Korea's Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau begins constructing a nuclear/chemical warfare training site in Onjŏng-ri, Sŏngch'ŏn-kun, South P'yong'an Province. [Note: In 1991, the Bureau began annual training exercises for senior officers to deal with a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula.]

December 1992 to March 1993
According to North Korean defector Lee Ch'ung Kuk, the director of the Machine Supplies Department of the Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau, and the chief of the Machine and Equipment Manufacturing Section of the "Anti-Nuclear/Anti-Atomic Analysis Team" travel abroad to observe nuclear facilities and purchase parts necessary for North Korea's nuclear program.

Early December 1992
According to North Korean defector Lee Ch'ung Kuk, Marshall Ch'oe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, announces the decision to construct a "Nuclear Watch Guard Post" in Solbong and an "Integrated Command Post for Nuclear Warfare" at Mt. Chidang.

Early December 1992
Kim Dal Hyŏn leads a delegation to Iran for the signing of a military agreement worth several hundred millions of dollars to develop a new missile that is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The agreement stipulates that Iran will provide North Korea with $500 million to "jointly develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles." The agreement also provides for missile flight tests in Iran, and the cooperation of Libya in order to obtain western electronics systems from Libya's al-Fatah program. The al-Fatah program is reported to have the support of German firms and technical experts.

2 December 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix presents the fourth inspection report to the Board of Governors. The report suggests that several nuclear sites in North Korea were not originally disclosed. Blix states that the inspection team inspected seven reported nuclear sites, two nuclear storage sites, and two unreported sites that were selected at
random.

4 December 1992
At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, 17 countries including the United States, Russia, and Britain urge North Korea to accept unconditional IAEA inspections and simultaneous mutual inspections with South Korea. Referring to a statement issued by the North Korean Foreign Ministry in November, the countries also stated that they would not accept any attempt to link nuclear inspections with the Team Spirit military exercises. North Korean Ambassador at large Ch'oe Chang Im assures the IAEA that North Korea will accept inspectors even if Team Spirit is not cancelled. The Board of Governors decides unanimously to discuss the North Korean nuclear situation as a separate agenda item at the next board of Governors meeting to be held in February 1993.

8 December 1992
Russian special forces board a jet before it is to take off from a Moscow airport, and arrest 36 "senior weapons scientists" as they attempt to travel to North Korea. The scientists are said to be from a "number of nuclear weapons research institutes, including the top secret Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70 facilities in the Urals." North Korea offered to pay the scientists between $1,500 and $3,000 a month. [Note: No author and no article title on SCMP piece.]

10 December 1992
The twelfth session of the JNCC fails to produce any progress towards mutual nuclear inspections on the Korean Peninsula. The US-South Korean decision to resume Team Spirit in spring 1993 continues to be the main point of contention. The North Korean delegation insists that Seoul and Washington cancel Team Spirit by 15 December, while the South Korean delegation claims that Team Spirit will be cancelled if Pyongyang agrees to allow the first mutual inspection before the prime ministers' alks scheduled for 21-24 December.

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14 December 1992
IAEA inspectors arrive in North Korea for the fifth round of nuclear inspections.

17 December 1992
The thirteenth session of the JNCC fails to make any progress on an inter-Korean nuclear inspections regime due to contentious debates over the Team Spirit military exercises scheduled for spring 1993. The North and South Korean delegations fail to even agree on the date of the next meeting.

Late December 1992
IAEA Director General Hans Blix requests "visits" to clarify the nature of the two suspected nuclear waste sites in Yongbyŏn-kun and to conduct tests.

Late 1992
According to Im Yŏng Sŏn, a former North Korean Army lieutenant who defected to South Korea on 11 August 1993, North Korea executes 10 general officers for a failed coup attempt. The Security Bureau of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces reportedly discovered the coup plans.

1991

1991
Russian nuclear physicists secretly travel to North Korea. According to defector Lee Ch’ung Kuk, the physicists are accommodated in P’ot’onggang-kuyŏk (普通江區域), Pyongyang and stay for an unknown amount of time.

1991
North Korea's Nuclear-Chemical Defense Bureau begins annual training exercises for senior officials on how to cope with a nuclear war.

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1991-1993
Kim Il Sung sends special envoys to meet with former President Jimmy Carter. The envoys invite Carter to visit Pyongyang because the US government will not recognize or negotiate with Kim Il Sung. Carter continues to ask the White House for approval to visit, but is denied until the nuclear crisis in June 1994.

9 January 1991
During summit talks in Seoul with President Roh Tae Woo, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu says that Japan will formally request that North Korea sign an IAEA safeguards agreement when Japanese and North Korean delegations meet later in the month to discuss the normalization of diplomatic relations.
—"Il, Pukhan'e 'Haek Hyŏpchŏng' Ch'okku'k'i/Han-il 1 Ch'a Chŏngsanghoedam," Taehan Maeil, 10 January 1991, p. 1, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

10 January 1991
During a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ok, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama says that Japan will not compromise over the issue of nuclear inspections when Tokyo holds talks to normalize bilateral ties with Pyongyang.

17 January 1991
US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Richard Soloman says the United States has no thoughts or intention of threatening North Korea with nuclear weapons.

26 January 1991
North Korea’s Foreign Ministry condemns the joint US-South Korean military exercise "Team Spirit" as a "test nuclear war against the northern half of Korea." The exercise has been held since 1976.

30-31 January 1991
During a two-day meeting between Japan and North Korea at which the two countries begin negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations, chief Japanese delegate Noboro Nakahira urges North Korea to accept IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. The North Korean delegation reiterates its position that it will not allow inspections until the United States removes all nuclear weapons from South Korea.

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February 1991
Radio Havana reports that Cuba has signed new nuclear cooperation agreements with Mexico and North Korea.

February 1991
At an IAEA council meeting, South Korea requests that the IAEA "take punitive measures against North Korea" for failing to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement. Australia then proposes a resolution asking North Korea to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement.

21 February 1991
During a North Korean diplomatic mission to Japan, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama urges North Korea to conclude a nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA. Kim Yong Sun, the Korean Workers Party Secretary for International Affairs, states that South Korea must simultaneously allow international inspections of the nuclear facilities on its territory before North Korea will allow any inspections. Former Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa urges North Korea to hold bilateral talks with the United States in order to overcome the impasse in allowing IAEA inspections.

22 February 1991
In Japan, Kim Yong Sun, the Korean Workers Party Secretary for International Affairs, says that North Korea will accept nuclear inspections only if US military bases in South Korea also receive inspections.

26 February 1991
At the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, 16 of the 35 governors call on North Korea to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement. North Korea claimed that it would not sign an agreement until the United States promised not to launch a preemptive nuclear attack.

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6 March 1991
US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Carl Ford hails Japan's moves to improve relations with North Korea, but states that Japan should not normalize relations until Pyongyang consents to IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities.

11-12 March 1991
In Tokyo for the second round of normalization talks, the North Korean delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Chŏn In Ch'ŏl rejects a Japanese request that North Korea sign an IAEA safeguards agreement before normalizing diplomatic relations and receiving compensation for Japanese colonialism.

18 March 1991
According to a senior Japanese official, the United States urges Japan to press North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities. Japan and North Korea are currently conducting talks on normalizing their diplomatic relations. According to the Japanese official, "the US asked us to be firm" on making the issue a precondition of normalizing relations.

19 March 1991
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, publishes an editorial that declares North Korea will not submit to IAEA safeguards inspections unless the United States withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

April 1991
The Korea International Chemical Joint Venture Company begins operations. [Note: The plant in Hamhŭng is suspected of being a dual-use facility that processes monazite and other rare earth metals.]

12 April 1991
South Korean Defense Minister Lee Chong Ku says that South Korea is prepared to respond with force if North Korea does not accept nuclear safeguards inspections. He says North Korea is expected to acquire nuclear

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May 1991
Mid-level North Korean diplomat Ko Yong Hwan defects to South Korea and reports that North Korea has "vast underground plants" for the manufacture of missiles and the testing of nuclear weapons.

May-June 1991
South Korean intelligence claims that North Korea conducts tests on a triggering device for a nuclear bomb in Yongbyon.

2 May 1991
The Korean Central News Agency strongly criticizes the United States for trying to force North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

9 May 1991
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, publishes an article that says North Korea does not have nuclear weapons and that North Korea has had no intention of acquiring nuclear weapons since signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on 12 December 1985.

20-22 May 1991
During Japanese-North Korean normalization talks held in Beijing, Noboru Nakahira, Japan's special ambassador, says that North Korea must accept full-scope safeguards before Japan will normalize relations. Japan withholds $600 million in economic assistance and possible payment of war reparations for its occupation of Korea during the Second World War. The North Korean delegation, which includes Vice Foreign Minister Chŏn In Ch'ŏl, rejects Japan's demand. According to Chŏn, diplomatic relations between the two countries are necessary before North Korea will consider inspections of its nuclear facilities.

23 May 1991
Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaly Churkin states that the USSR strongly believes that North Korea should fulfill its obligation as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and promptly sign a safeguards agreement with the IAEA. Churkin claims that North Korea's stated precondition that the United States remove its nuclear presence on the Korean Peninsula is a demand "which is not directly related to the NPT." However, Churkin states that the USSR believes that the United States and North Korea should compromise in order to "create a more favorable and constructive atmosphere" for the signing of a safeguards agreement.

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24 May 1991
Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Taizo Watanabe reiterates Japan's demand that North Korea accept IAEA safeguards.


30 May 1991
An IAEA spokesman reports that in a letter to IAEA Director General Hans Blix, North Korea expressed a willingness to resume talks on a safeguards agreement. The letter noticeably lacked any reference to US nuclear weapons in South Korea. [Note: In the past North Korea has stated that the removal of US nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula is a precondition for concluding a safeguards agreement with the IAEA.]


1 June 1991
According to Kyodo News Service, Kim Il Sung tells a group of visiting Japanese journalists that both North Korea and South Korea should have nuclear inspections. "Inspections should be made simultaneously, not only on our
side, which does not have nuclear weapons, but in South Korea, which has them."

7 June 1991
A delegation of senior North Korean diplomats led by Chin Ch'ung Kuk meets with IAEA Director General Hans Blix in Vienna. North Korea says it will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement and allow international inspections of all of its facilities, including facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun that the United States suspects are being used to build nuclear weapons. Officials from both sides are scheduled to meet in July 1991, and the agreement should be ready for approval by 1 September 1991. According to IAEA representative Hans Friedrich Meyer, North Korea will sign an inspection agreement as soon as technical matters, such as inspections scheduling and procedures, are negotiated.

8 June 1991
North Korea insists on altering some of the wording in the standard IAEA safeguards agreement before signing it.

10 June 1991
South Korean officials announce that South Korea will seek an IAEA resolution calling on North Korea to sign a safeguards agreement "immediately" despite Pyongyang's recent pledge to sign an agreement by 1 September 1991. The officials claim that there need to be further diplomatic effort at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting beginning on 17 June because "there remain some problems that make it hard to trust North Korea."

10 June 1991
A senior South Korean Foreign Ministry official denies as "unfounded" a 7 June Los Angeles Times report that the United States is consulting with Seoul about removing its nuclear weapons from South Korea in order to entice North Korea into allowing international inspections of its nuclear facilities and giving up any possible nuclear weapons capabilities. The official claims that the position of South Korea is to deal with the issue of US nuclear weapons separately form "North Korea's liability as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty."

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10 June 1991
Twenty political parties and public organizations in North Korea release a joint statement calling for the removal of the nuclear threat from the Korean Peninsula. In the statement, the organizations claim that the presence of over 1,000 nuclear weapons deployed by the United States in South Korea "constitutes the main cause which creates dangers not only for the existence of the Korean people, but also to the peace and security of Asia." They also state that if North Korea allows nuclear inspections, the United States must open its nuclear bases in South Korea to international inspections at the same time. First Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Vladimir Tolstikov expresses his support of the joint statement and reiterates the demand that the United States remove its nuclear weapons from South Korea.


10 June 1991
The North Korean delegation abruptly leaves an IAEA meeting after Japanese Ambassador Tetsuya Endo begins questioning North Korea as to why it has been so reluctant to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement. Endo had also asked the North Korean delegation to clarify a few points regarding their responsibilities as a signatory of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). Endo asked whether North Korea would allow IAEA inspections of all its nuclear facilities. Representatives from Australia, Canada, and other countries support Endo's line of questioning.


11 June 1991
North Korean Ambassador Chin Chong Guk, speaking to South Korean journalists, claims that North Korea will sign a safeguards agreement with the IAEA without insisting, as it had in the past, that the United States remove all nuclear weapons from South Korea. He claims that North Korea has dropped the precondition because of the stated possibility of bilateral negotiations with the United States on the issue of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula.


11 June 1991
The North Korean ambassador to Geneva demands that the United States remove all nuclear weapons from South Korea even if North Korea signs a safeguards agreement with the IAEA. Claiming that the removal of nuclear weapons is of vital importance even though it is no longer stated as a precondition for signing a safeguards agreement.
agreement, the ambassador says, "One should not look at this issue unilaterally. We are also hoping the US will move."

11 June 1991
Pak Kil Yŏn, head of North Korea’s observer mission to the UN, calls for simultaneous inspections of nuclear facilities in North Korea and South Korea.

14 June 1991
The Japanese government welcomes North Korea’s announcement that it will allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities. However, Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe says that it remains unclear whether North Korea will sign the safeguards agreement unconditionally.

14 June 1991
North Korean special envoy to the IAEA Chin Chung Kuk announces at the Board of Governor’s meeting that North Korea is ready to sign a safeguards agreement opening its nuclear facilities to international inspections. According to Chin, a North Korean delegation will travel to Vienna in mid-July to meet with the IAEA in order to finalize the text of the agreement. In September, the text of the agreement is to be submitted to the board for approval. North Korea dropped the long-standing precondition that the United States remove all of its nuclear weapons from South Korea because, as Chin indicated, the presence of US nuclear weapons in South Korea is a bilateral issue to be dealt with in separate talks between the United States and North Korea.

14 June 1991
Lee Kye Paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, issues a statement reiterating the demand, made in the joint statement by 20 political parties and organizations, that the United States remove the nuclear threat on the Korean Peninsula before North Korea will allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

15 June 1991
Asahi Television in Japan reports there are about 20 North Koreans studying at the Soviet Union's Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna. The report cites sources at the institute.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
20 June 1991
According to North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam, North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement soon. However, North Korea will not allow inspections until: (1) inspections are conducted to verify the removal of US nuclear weapons allegedly stationed in South Korea, and (2) North Korea receives "legal assurances" that the United States will not pose a nuclear threat against it.

26 June 1991
A South Korean "military intelligence official" says that evidence of high explosives tests for nuclear weapons has been discovered in the area around Yongbyon.

July 1991
North Korea begins a three-year development plan for science and technology. The plan is placed under the direction of Kim Jong II and includes a national meeting of North Korean scientists in October 1991. The scientists draft a plan with targets for 2000 that include the development of advanced technologies in the fields of computers and atomic energy.

10 July 1991
The Soviet Union informs South Korea that it has suspended all technical support for North Korea's nuclear program, including the supply of nuclear fuel rods. [Note: The fuel rods are for the IRT-2000 research reactor, which requires enriched uranium.]

10 July 1991
North Korea says that it wants an additional clause in the IAEA safeguards agreement that will release it from mandatory inspection if: (1) there are nuclear weapons in South Korea, and (2) there is a nuclear threat against North Korea.

10 July 1991
South Korean Defense Minister Lee Chong Ku tells the National Assembly that if North Korea accepts international inspections of its nuclear facilities and proves that it has abandoned its nuclear weapons program, South Korea will
consider simultaneous inspections of both countries’ military facilities.

10-15 July 1991
North Korea holds talks with the IAEA to determine the terms of the safeguards agreement.

16 July 1991
North Korea initials a safeguards agreement with the IAEA but has yet to officially sign it. According to the head of the North Korean Foreign Ministry working delegation to the IAEA, although the draft of a nuclear safeguards agreement has been completed, implementation may still remain a problem. The fact that the United States poses a "nuclear threat" to North Korea could create problems in implementing the IAEA safeguards agreement.

26 July 1991
Admiral Charles R. Larson, Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Command, says that it is difficult to predict the outcome of North Korea's nuclear program but that most intelligence estimates indicate North Korea will be able to produce an atomic bomb by 1995. He describes North Korea's nuclear program as, "My greatest security concern in the region."

30 July 1991
The North Korean Foreign Ministry proposes the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In the proposal it suggests that Seoul and Pyongyang jointly declare the peninsula a nuclear-weapon-free-zone and call on the nuclear weapons states to guarantee the nuclear-free status.

August 1991
Ko Yong Hwan, a mid-level North Korean diplomat and former interpreter for Kim Il Sung who defected in May 1991, identifies underground missile manufacturing plants where nuclear weapons tests are conducted. One is the January 18th Machine Plant in Kagam-ri, Kaech’ŏn-kun, South P’yŏng’an Province. Another is at Man’gyŏngdae, where ground-launched anti-ship missiles are produced.
—"Defector on North’s Nuclear Development," Seoul Shinmun, 9 October 1991, p. 5, in JPRS-TND-91-017, 7

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1 August 1991
Responding to the 30 July North Korean proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free-zone on the Korean Peninsula, South Korea indicates, for the first time, that it will consider talks on nuclear nonproliferation with North Korea only after North Korea accepts full international inspections of all its nuclear facilities including those at Yŏngbyŏn.

3 August 1991
South Korea announces a three-step plan that includes asking North Korea to sign a joint declaration to make the Korean Peninsula a nuclear-weapons-free zone. First, North Korea would accept inspections of its nuclear facilities, and then North and South Korea would jointly issue a declaration to establish a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. The third step would include high-level talks and multilateral support from countries in the region. The proposal may suggest simultaneous IAEA inspections, or a system by which the two Koreas may conduct bilateral inspections.

5 August 1991
South Korean Foreign Minister Lee Sang Ok says that South Korea has no plan to develop nuclear weapons, and no plan to use military force against North Korean nuclear facilities, even if Pyongyang refuses to accept full nuclear safeguards inspections.

7 August 1991
The Yomiuri Shimbun reports that in bilateral normalization talks later this month, the Japanese government will link financial compensation to North Korea for past Japanese colonialism with North Korea's completion of an IAEA safeguards agreement.

7 August 1991
A "high-level official in the South Korean government" says that the United States is seriously considering the withdrawal of its tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea in order to encourage North Korea to accept nuclear

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safeguards inspections.

**Late August 1991**

An anonymous North Korean defector says North Korea has been building a "major reprocessing facility to reprocess plutonium" in Yŏngbyŏn. The defector also claims that North Korea had previously built a small-scale experimental reprocessing facility, and may have already reprocessed some plutonium. According to Joseph Bermudez, the defector worked for 20 years at North Korea's Ministry of Public Security, and was the president of the Taeyang Trading Company under the Korean Workers Party when he defected in May 1988. He was reportedly the deputy director of the Ministry of Public Security's Supply Section, Third Engineering Bureau, from 1983 to 1987. During this time, he was "responsible for supplying materials to major construction projects, especially projects under the nuclear program."

**September 1991**

Twenty-three IAEA member states adopt a strong resolution to allow the IAEA to conduct "special" inspections (inspections on demand) in addition to ones regularly scheduled. The resolution is partially aimed at North Korea, whose continued refusal to allow IAEA inspections is causing real concern at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. North Korea calls the resolution a hostile act and delays efforts to cooperate with the IAEA. According to North Korean defector Ko Yŏng Hwan, the North Korean government never had any intention of allowing international inspections; rather it only signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to buy time for its nuclear weapons program. Ko says North Korea's program is only "one or two years away from producing a crude enriched-uranium bomb." Ko also claims North Korea has an underground nuclear research facility at Pakch'ŏn. [Note: The underground facility may be at Pakch’ŏn Air Base.]

**3 September 1991**

At the Defense Ministry in Seoul, 12 US government officials, including members of the CIA, brief the South Korean government on North Korea's nuclear program. This reportedly is the first time that the United States formally shares this intelligence with South Korea. The 89-member South Korean delegation includes representatives from a number of government agencies.

**Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.**
12 September 1991
IAEA Board of Governors passes a resolution calling on North Korea to quickly ratify the safeguards agreement and move without delay from signature to actual implementation. The resolution, spearheaded by Japan, Australia and 15 other countries, including the United States and USSR, passes with a vote of 27 to 1, with only Cuba voting against it. In response to this resolution, North Korea's ambassador to the IAEA, O Chang Rim, refuses to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement. A few days after the resolution passes, the North Korean Foreign Ministry denounces the resolutions as a "wanton encroachment" on North Korean sovereignty. In the statement the Foreign Ministry claimed that North Korea would sign the accord "if pressure put upon us is removed."

Mid-September 1991
IAEA Director General Hans Blix meets with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to suggest plans to pursue more aggressive inspections of nuclear states suspected of violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). He says he would like to create a unit of the IAEA that would analyze information gathered from national intelligence operations, such as images from spy satellites, in order to inspect sites within a country even if they have not been placed under IAEA safeguards. During the meeting, US Energy Secretary James Watkins says that the United States supports a more aggressive inspection regime to uncover clandestine nuclear weapons programs as sanctioned by the NPT. The Soviet Union and European Union also support the proposal.

Late September 1991
According to KBS-1 Television in Seoul, North Korean President Kim Il Sung claims that North Korea will accept IAEA inspections of its facilities if US facilities in South Korea are also inspected. [Note: This is the first time that Kim Il Sung has spoken personally about international inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities.]

27 September 1991
US President George Bush announces that the United States will withdraw all short-range land- and sea-based tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea. However, there is no precise schedule for their removal. According to North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk and Vice Foreign Minister Chŏn In Ch'ŏl, North Korea will sign a safeguards agreement after all nuclear weapons are removed from South Korea.

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29 September 1991
According to Korean Workers Party Secretary Kim Yong Sun, in order for North Korea to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement, the United States should guarantee that it will never use nuclear weapons against North Korea.

October 1991
North Korea convenes a national meeting for scientists as part of a three-year development plan for science and technology that began in July 1991. The scientists draft a plan with targets for 2000 that include the development of advanced technologies in the fields of computers and atomic energy.

2 October 1991
North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk tells the UN general Assembly in New York that once all US nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea in accordance with President Bush's declaration that the United States would withdraw it nuclear weapons from overseas, it will be possible for Pyongyang to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement.

4 October 1991
South Korean President Roh Tae Woo warns North Korea that if it continues with its nuclear weapons program and refuses international inspections, international sanctions may be imposed on North Korea.

21 October 1991
Addressing the UN General Assembly in a review of his annual report, IAEA Director General Hans Blix reiterates that the IAEA needs means other than inspections of declared nuclear facilities to determine whether a state is developing a clandestine nuclear weapons program. "If a state fails to declare nuclear installations—as Iraq did—the inspectors must learn through other sources where to look." Speaking of the ability of Iraq to work clandestinely on a nuclear weapons program, he said, "What we can learn from these lessons is that the ability of the regular inspections under the NPT to uncover possible undeclared nuclear installations and material would increase drastically if the IAEA were to be routinely provided with relevant information available to member states—that is, through satellites."

**21 October 1991**
A South Korean official announces that North Korea is likely to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement when the IAEA Board of Governors meets in February 1992.

**22 October 1991**
North Korea informs the United Nations that all nuclear weapons must be removed from South Korea before it can sign the IAEA safeguards agreement. The European Union, Australia, United States, Poland, Austria, Japan, Romania, New Zealand, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and South Korea agree that North Korea should immediately sign the agreement and allow inspections of its nuclear facilities. South Korean Ambassador No Chang Hŭi expresses "serious concern" that North Korea is delaying signing the IAEA safeguards agreement.

**22 October 1991**
In Pyongyang, North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk says that North Korea will not yield to pressure to allow nuclear inspections.

**23 October 1991**
In a meeting with South Korean Prime Minister Chŏng Wŏn Shik, North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk presents a new set of conditions that must be met in order for North Korea to allow international inspections of its facilities. These conditions include: (1) South Korea's renunciation of the US "nuclear umbrella"; and (2) discontinuation of US flights over Korea and port calls to South Korea by planes and ships containing nuclear weapons.

**Late 1991**
North Korea begins concealing its nuclear waste storage activities at "Building 500" by burying pipes connecting the building to the nearby radiochemical laboratory, and later by building up the earth around the facility to conceal the entire lower level, which is suspected of housing large waste storage cells. [Note: When IAEA inspectors visit the two-story "Building 500" in 1992, the building appears to have only one level.]

**1983-November 1991**
North Korea conducts about 80 high explosives tests that are believed to be part of its nuclear weapons

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development program.

1 November 1991
The Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, publishes a commentary that says even if the United States withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea, Pyongyang will still feel threatened if Seoul remains under the protection of the US "nuclear umbrella."

8 November 1991
South Korean President Roh Tae Woo declares that South Korea will not manufacture, possess, or use nuclear and chemical weapons. Roh also urges North Korea to make the same pledge.

10 November 1991
In response to Roh Tae Woo's anti-nuclear declaration, the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers Party, says the declaration is insignificant because it did not mention US nuclear weapons in South Korea. The commentary, which was carried by the Korean Central News Agency, claims that Roh "intends to reduce the Korean nation to a nuclear hostage of the United States."

12 November 1991
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement that says Roh Tae Woo's anti-nuclear declaration is "nothing new." The ministry spokesman says that the only way to create a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula is for the United States to hold direct talks with North Korea "instead of trying to avoid its responsibility by manipulating its junior agent [South Korea]." The statement criticizes Roh's declaration for not mentioning the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons in South Korea.

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25 November 1991
North Korea’s Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement as soon as the United States begins to remove its nuclear weapons from South Korea. North Korea proposes a direct meeting with the United States to discuss simultaneous inspections of North Korean facilities and US nuclear sites in South Korea.

27 November 1991
North Korean Ambassador to China Chu Chang Chun reiterates the proposal initially made on 25 November 1991, which stated that North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement following the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from South Korea.

28 November 1991
Citing unnamed Bush administration officials, the Washington Times reports that North Korea is strengthening air defenses around the nuclear facilities located in Yŏngbyŏn-kun in anticipation of a possible US or South Korean air strike. The caliber of the anti-aircraft guns is not specified.

December 1991
During the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, Director General Hans Blix suggests that the IAEA create a separate agency or department to collect and analyze intelligence data from member states to help monitor undeclared nuclear activities. His suggestion is met with little enthusiasm. In the past, the United States has refused to give the IAEA intelligence information for security reasons. The IAEA prepares to make another request for intelligence information at the next Board of Governors meeting scheduled for 24 February 1992. If the request is granted, only two IAEA staff members will have access to the information. During the meeting, South Korean representatives reportedly ask the Agency to cease technical support for North Korea’s nuclear program. Support for the North’s nuclear program was granted in connection with ongoing IAEA inspections of the small reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun. The IAEA currently has plans to spend more than $300,000 in North Korea on five major projects in 1992, and will assist North Korean scientists in areas ranging from uranium ore exploitation to finding industrial uses for radioactive isotopes.
11 December 1991
The Prime Ministers of North and South Korea make separate proposals for a nuclear-free Korea. The proposals are the first to be introduced at an official meeting and are more similar than any past proposals. Both call for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and a ban on manufacture, possession or deployment of nuclear weapons. There remain, however, some points of contention. The South Korean proposal calls for the destruction of nuclear reprocessing plants and uranium enrichment facilities in North Korea. The North Korean proposal demands a ban on US nuclear protection of South Korea and calls for the withdrawal of all US troops and a halt to the annual Team Spirit joint military exercises. Despite the differences, North Korean Prime Minister Yŏn Hyŏng Muk describes South Korea's willingness to denuclearize as "a step forward."

12 December 1991
North and South Korea sign an historic accord in which the two nations pledge non-aggression and officially recognize each other's existence. The two nations remain divided on the nuclear issue, but both have stated as goals a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons. Bilateral talks on nuclear issues are set for later in December.

Mid-December 1991
North Korea informs visiting US Congressman Stephen Solarz that it is ready to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement and allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

18 December 1991
South Korean President Roh Tae Woo announces that South Korea is nuclear-free, effectively confirming the withdrawal of US tactical nuclear weapons.

19 December 1991
North Korean President Kim Il Sung announces that North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement as soon as it is assured that US nuclear weapons have been removed from South Korea, and that inspections of North Korean facilities will be conducted simultaneously with those of US facilities in South Korea.

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20 December 1991
North Korea ignores South Korean President Roh Tae Woo's announcement two days earlier that South Korea is free of nuclear weapons. A commentary in Rondong Sinmun, the newspaper of the ruling Workers Party, says, "If the United States truly wants peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Asia and the rest of the world, it should show this by practical deeds for denuclearization of the peninsula."

23 December 1991
The North Korean Foreign Ministry issues a statement saying that North Korea will sign the IAEA safeguards agreement as soon as the United States confirms it has removed all nuclear weapons from South Korea.

23 December 1991
South Korean President Roh Te Woo says he is opposed to the United States and North Korea holding direct talks over North Korea's nuclear program.

26 December 1991
According to North Korean UN Ambassador Hŏ Jong, North Korean officials have begun negotiating with the IAEA on the nature and timing of inspections. Ho indicates that North Korea believes ratification of the IAEA safeguards agreement is inevitable. However, if the IAEA adopts more condemnatory resolutions, as it did in the September 1991 Board of Governors meeting, "this issue will be ruined." Hŏ also states that while Pyongyang welcomes South Korean President Roh Tae Woo's statement that South Korea was free of nuclear weapons, he says he cannot "100 percent believe this."

26 December 1991
South Korean spokesman Lee Dong Bok says that during North-South Korean talks, North Korea promised to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement and permit international inspections of its nuclear facilities "at an early date." South Korea demands that the North do so by 15 January 1992. North Korea is no longer demanding that the...
United States officially confirm the withdrawal of its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

27 December 1991
North Korea's chief delegate to the Joint Nuclear Control Commission talks with South Korea, Ch'oe U Chin, comments on the South's demand that it sign the safeguards agreement by 15 January 1992, saying that the "imposition of a timetable on [North Korea] is an interference with [its] national integrity."

1990
Early 1990s
North Korea begins to develop a new uranium mine in the area of Shinp'o (新浦市), South Hamgyŏng Province (咸鏡南道).

Early 1990s
The second nuclear waste storage facility at the Yŏngbyŏn Nuclear Complex becomes operational. The facility, designated as "Building 500" by the US Central Intelligence Agency, has two primary levels, the upper consisting of a large warehouse and the lower housing large waste storage cells.

Early 1990s
North Korea constructs and begins to operate a uranium milling facility in Pyŏngsan-kun (平山郡), North Hwanghae Province (黃海北道). The milling facility is reportedly near the P'yŏngsan Uranium Mine. [Note: The milling facility is later reported to be an asset of the Namch'on Chemical Complex (南川化學聯合企業所).]

Early 1990
North Korea obtains US military manuals related to defense against nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare. The manuals are reportedly entitled: NBC Handbook, NBC Ground Influence, and NBC Flame Influence. The manuals were published in 1986, 1988, and 1989 respectively. The manuals are stored at a Korean Workers Party archives storage site near the Koryo Hotel in Pyongyang. Defector Lee Chung Kuk begins to work on translating the manuals.
around September 1992. [Note: The Koryo Hotel is located on Changgwang Street (蒼光거리), Tonghŭng-dong (東興洞), Chung-kuyŏk (中區域), Pyongyang.]


1990s
Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan, head Pakistan’s Khan Research Laboratory in Kahuta, visits North Korea at least 12 times. [Note: In October 2002, reports reveal that North Korea and Pakistan cooperate in a barter deal trading Nodong missiles for uranium-enrichment materials and technologies.]


1990
The Soviet Union halts exports of nuclear equipment and fuel to North Korea after warning it to accept full-scope IAEA safeguards.


1990
The "uranium refinement facility" in P’yŏngsan-kun, North Hwanghae Province becomes operational. The facility can reportedly convert uranium ore into UO2. [Note: According to Bermudez, some sources claim the facility becomes operational in 1986, while others claim 1990.]


1990
"An official" from the German firm Leybold is reportedly in North Korea. [Note: North Korea acquired a Leybold annealing furnace in 1987.]


1990
Kim Il Sung reportedly says, "Since we do not know when the United States may ignite a nuclear war, we should make thorough preparations against this."


1990
Kim Jong Il reportedly says, "We, too, should prepare against emergency nuclear warfare by introducing the advanced countries’ nuclear technologies at an early date."


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5 January 1990

Representatives from the United States and North Korea meet in Beijing to discuss security issues. At the meeting, the US representatives urge North Korea to sign an agreement with the IAEA in order to remove any suspicions about a clandestine nuclear program. North Korea contends that such an agreement is a matter only to be discussed with the IAEA. The North Korean representatives also invite the United States to join in trilateral talks with the two Koreas to discuss a nuclear weapons free zone on the Korean peninsula. According to the North Korean delegation, the United States was not prepared to discuss such an issue. The North Koreans ask the United States to cancel the Team Spirit military exercise and to withdraw US forces from South Korea.


11 January 1990

According to sources in the South Korean Ministry of Defense, the South Korean government will propose a four-step disarmament program with North Korea that would include the suspension of any North Korean nuclear weapon production, as well as North Korea joining and adhering to nuclear safety agreements.


1 February 1990

Moscow Radio reports that North Korea recently began construction of a nuclear power plant project in the northern part of the country with Soviet assistance. The project is to include four nuclear reactors capable of producing a total of 1,760MW(e) (440MW(e) per reactor). [Note: The site is at Shinpo, South Hamgyŏng Province, but only preliminary work is conducted before the project is abandoned. The site is later selected for the two light water reactors provided under the Agreed Framework.]


February 1990

The IAEA Board of Governors advises North Korea to sign the Full-Scale Safety Measure Agreement by June 1990. If signed, the agreement will be able to confirm whether North Korea has the capability to develop nuclear weapons.


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February 1990

North Korea selects Shinp'o, South Hamgyŏng Province as the site for light water reactors to be provided by the USSR under a deal that was signed in December 1985 as a quid pro quo for Pyongyang's signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). [Note: The USSR later abandons the deal, but the site later becomes the location for two light water reactors under the Agreed Framework.]

February 1990

Professor To Sang Rok, the so-called “father of the North Korean nuclear program," dies at the age of 87. To is buried in a national patriots' cemetery in Pyongyang.

7-9 February 1990

While meeting with US Secretary of State James Baker, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze announces that North Korea is very close to concluding a nuclear safeguards agreement with the IAEA. However, North Korea has not wavered from its position that that it will not sign the agreement until the United States removes nuclear weapons from South Korea. The United States rejects this demand due to North Korea's larger conventional forces on the Peninsula. Baker expresses US concern over North Korea's refusal to allow IAEA inspections.

8 February 1990

Tokai University Professor Toshifumi Sakata announces that he and fellow researchers have discovered proof of large nuclear facilities being constructed near Yŏngbyŏn. By comparing photos taken by a French satellite in June 1986 and September 1989 of the same area surrounding Yŏngbyŏn, Sakata and his associates discovered the construction of several large concrete buildings, believed to be a reactor, staff housing, and possibly a reprocessing plant.

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**9 February 1990**

Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe, in a meeting with foreign correspondents, urges North Korea to sign an agreement with the IAEA as soon as possible in order to verify the peaceful use of reported nuclear facilities. This statement comes after Tokai University scientists discover the construction of a large nuclear complex, believed to include a reprocessing plant, near Yŏngbyŏn. [Note: This is a reference to the Radiochemistry Laboratory.]


**9 February 1990**

North Korean broadcast media report that the North Korean government "regrets" it will have to suspend all dialogue with South Korea because of the Team Spirit military exercise.


**15 February 1990**

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reports that North Korea is calling for removal of nuclear weapons from South Korea as a condition for accepting IAEA inspections. The newspaper quotes an unidentified North Korean source as having said, North Korea has a right to self-develop nuclear for the peaceful purposes. Nuclear weapons in South Korea are different."


**22 February 1990**

According to the newspaper Izvestia, Vladimir Kryuchkov, head of the KGB, issues a memo to the Soviet leadership that says North Korea "has completed the development of its first atomic explosive device." According to the memo, the development was completed at the nuclear research center in Yŏngbyŏn.


**23 February 1990**

While in Japan, a spokesman for the USSR's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that North Korea is an independent state in which the Soviet Union cannot exercise its influence, and the USSR has no intention to do so.

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23 February 1990

In Tokyo, US Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney says that it would be helpful if the USSR encourages North Korea to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation agreements.


23 February 1990

South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jŏng Hun tells the National Assembly's National Defense Committee that North Korea is building nuclear facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun on a large scale and that North Korea could produce nuclear weapons in the mid-1990s. Minister Lee also says that North Korea is extending the range of its Scud missiles to over 500km.


23 February 1990

At the IAEA Board of Governors, North Korea clarifies that it will not sign a safeguards agreement because of nuclear weapons in South Korea, and because of the Team Spirit joint military exercise in South Korea.


26 February 1990

North Korea admits building nuclear power plants, but denies reports that it is developing nuclear weapons. The Korean Central News Agency says that North Korea is constructing nuclear power plants to meet the rapidly growing domestic demand for electricity, but that all research is conducted for peaceful purposes according to IAEA guidelines.


March 1990

North Korea later reports that it reprocesses 90-100 grams of plutonium from damaged fuel rods that were removed from its 5MW(e) nuclear reactor in Yŏngbyŏn.


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1 March 1990
Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov says that when North Korea signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on 26 December 1985, the Soviet Union agreed to provide North Korea with technical assistance to build four nuclear power reactors.

2 March 1990
The Tokyo Shimbun quotes Japanese government sources as having said that North Korea will allow IAEA inspections if US troops are withdrawn from South Korea. The report says North Korea’s attitude takes into account the removal of US nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

15 March 1990
China’s Energy Minister says there is no evidence that North Korea is building facilities that will enable it to produce nuclear weapons.

15 March 1990
A radio broadcast in Moscow reports that USSR geologists will participate in the construction of nuclear power plants in North Korea.

26 March 1990
Media reports announce that South Korea and the USSR will accelerate moves to establish full diplomatic relations. The announcement follows a week-long trip to the USSR by Kim Young Sam, co-chairman of South Korea’s Democratic Liberal Party.

28 March 1990
The US Department of Commerce announces that the West German company Degussa A.G. will be fined $800,000 for exporting to countries, including North Korea, nuclear sensitive materials without US approval. US officials believe that between 15 September 1986 and 15 October 1987, Degussa A.G. made several shipments of US-origin zirconium to North Korea, Czechoslovakia, and Italy. [Note: Zirconium is used in the manufacture of uranium fuel.

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rods.]

1 April 1990
The Japanese newspaper Nihonkeizai Shinbun reports that North Korea is now considering whether it should accept IAEA safeguards inspections of facilities in Yŏngbyŏn. The report cites European sources that claim Pyongyang is thinking about joining the international inspections regime later this year.

5 April 1990
On a second day of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, US Secretary of State James Baker asked for the USSRs cooperation in encouraging North Korea to halt its nuclear development. Both sides agree that North Korea should sign an IAEA safeguards agreement.

12 April 1990
Henry Rowen, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs in the US Department of Defense, tells reporters that the United States believes North Korea is building a reprocessing facility to separate plutonium for nuclear weapons.

15 April 1990
Tetsuya Endo, representative of the Japanese Mission in Vienna, urges North Korea to comply with IAEA agreements, but North Korea demands that nuclear-weapon states sign a treaty with non-nuclear weapon states forbidding the use of nuclear weapons against the latter. North Korea says that in return for this treaty, it will allow inspection of its facilities. International experts believe that North Korea's request is merely a delaying tactic to allow it to develop nuclear weapons.

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18 April 1990
During the fifth annual joint conference of the Korean Atomic Industrial Forum held in Seoul, Boris Semenov, Deputy Director General of the IAEA, says that North Korea will probably sign the IAEA safeguards agreement by September 1990. Semenov says that the IAEA and North Korea have been negotiating over the agreement and that three or four paragraphs have been completed to the satisfaction of both parties.

26 April 1990
The United States and North Korea hold diplomatic talks in Beijing, the eighth round of talks between the two sides since December 1988. The sides discuss the return of the remains of US soldiers from the Korean War, an improvement in relations between the United States and North Korea, and an improvement in relations between Seoul and Pyongyang. According to the Donga Ilbo, a South Korean daily, the United States urges North Korea to comply with IAEA safeguards commitments.

9 May 1990
According to the South China Morning Post, some foreign diplomats in Pyongyang doubt reports that North Korea will be able to produce nuclear weapons within two years using its facilities at Yongbyŏn. The diplomats say that North Korea could be building bogus facilities that appear to be a nuclear power plant and a reprocessing facility to use as bargaining chips.

15 May 1990
The United States and North Korea hold a ninth round of diplomatic talks in Beijing. According to a source in the South Korean Foreign Ministry, the agenda includes North Korea's compliance with the IAEA safeguards.

19 May 1990
During an interview following an academic conference in Washington, Choe U Jin, deputy director of North Korea's Institute of Disarmament and Peace [under the Foreign Ministry] says that North Korea cannot comply with IAEA

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safeguards unless the United States assures that it will not threaten North Korea with nuclear weapons. Choe strongly denies that North Korea is developing of nuclear weapons.

**22 May 1990**

A "Japanese government source" says that as a condition for signing an IAEA safeguards agreement, North Korea is seeking a written assurance from the United States that Washington will not attack North Korea with nuclear weapons. In return, North Korea will agree to accept IAEA inspections.

**24 May 1990**

"A high-ranking US official" says that North Korea is threatening to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The official also says that Pyongyang's threat to withdraw will be discussed during US-USSR summit talks next week, and that the United States will ask the Soviet Union to exert its influence on North Korea to help resolve this issue.

**4 June 1990**

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo meets with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco, where they agree in principle to establish diplomatic relations, and "to expand economic, scientific, and technical links." The meeting infuriates the North Korean leadership, and seriously worsens already deteriorating North Korea-USSR bilateral relations. North Korean media later criticized Roh for his "flunkeyist, submissive and traitorous trip," and also say, "Our people cannot but have a doubt about the attitude of the Kremlin which sat face-to-face with such a dictator." Gorbachev emphasizes that North Korea's nuclear development should be stopped.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
14-15 June 1990
During his visit to Washington on his way back from the IAEA Board of Governors held in Vienna, South Korea's Minister of Science and Technology Chŏng Kŭn Mo says that North Korea has notified the IAEA that it will send a delegation to the IAEA in mid July 1990 to discuss signing the IAEA safeguards agreement. He estimates that North Korea is likely to sign the safeguards agreement before August when the NPT Review Conference is to be held in Vienna. He also announces that the USSR cancelled the sale of four nuclear reactors to North Korea.


16 June 1990
Fred Ikle, undersecretary of defense for policy in the Reagan administration, says that Korea can become a nuclear power after unification by taking over North Korea's current nuclear program.


17 June 1990
The Sunday Times reports that the USSR has recently informed the United States that East Germany and Romania have sold "enriched uranium and sensitive nuclear materials to North Korea. The report also says that the Soviet Union has estimated that North Korea could have nuclear weapons within six months.


18 June 1990
The US State Department denies reports that North Korea will be capable of producing nuclear weapons within six months.


18 June 1990
The Kukmin Ilbo, a South Korean daily, reports there are about 3,000 nuclear physicists and technicians working in North Korea's atomic energy field.


Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
20 June 1990
South Korea's Minister of Science and Technology Chŏng Kŭn Mo says that from a technological perspective, it would seem difficult for North Korea to produce nuclear weapons before the end of this year. Chŏng says he is skeptical about this possibility.

20 June 1990
A Japanese official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that neither North Korea's acceptance of the IAEA safeguards agreement nor progress in inter-Korea talks are necessary for normalizing Japan-North Korea diplomatic relations.

21 June 1990
At a symposium sponsored by the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., Selig Harrison of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says that the United States has 60 nuclear weapons for F-16s fighter-bombers stored at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea. Harrison says the United States has also deployed 21 "nuclear mines," 40 eight-inch nuclear artillery pieces, thirty 155mm nuclear artillery pieces, and 20 Lance missiles with nuclear warheads in South Korea.

22 June 1990
In a report submitted to the National Assembly's National Defense Committee, Defense Minister Lee Sang Hun says that he expects North Korea to complete construction of its plutonium reprocessing facility in Yŏngbyŏn by the end of the year, and that North Korea will be able to produce nuclear weapons by the mid-1990s.

25 June 1990
General Louis C. Menetrey, Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, and Commander, United States Forces Korea, says that North Korea is still at the early stages of nuclear weapons development and production, but it is highly probable that North Korea has deployed chemical and biological weapons.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
26 June 1990
South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong Hun tells the National Assembly that South Korean nuclear experts are skeptical about the possibility of North Korea being able to produce nuclear weapons by the end of the year. Kang also said that he would do his best to find out the possibility of North Korea acquiring nuclear weapons, and cooperate with the IAEA.

3 July 1990
South Korea's National Unification Board submits a report to the National Assembly that says the Board is working to pressure North Korea into signing a full-scope IAEA safeguards agreement.

10 July 1990
At the G-7 meeting in Houston, Texas, the participants issue a statement requesting North Korea to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement.

13 July 1990
In Honolulu, Admiral Huntington Hardisty, Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command, tells Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama that he is concerned that North Korea could be independently developing a production facility for nuclear weapons. Hardisty made his remarks in a discussion about North Korea's construction of a plutonium reprocessing facility.

15 July 1990
In response to US demands that North Korea sign the IAEA safeguards agreement, North Korea says that it is prepared to sign the agreement if the United States removes its nuclear threat to North Korea. Pyongyang claims it signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under the assumption that it would lead to a nuclear weapons free zone on the Korean Peninsula.

21 July 1990
The Yomiuri Shimbun cites a "US nuclear expert" as having said that the Soviet Union has recently suspended its...
support to North Korea for the construction of nuclear power plants. The plants were part of a quid pro quo for North Korea signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in December 1985.

21 July 1990
A Japanese Foreign Ministry source says North Korea would like to propose direct talks with the United States as a precondition for agreeing to IAEA on-site inspections. According to the source, North Korea claims that it will sign the IAEA's safeguards agreement if the United States: 1) promises not to launch a nuclear attack against it, and 2) withdraws nuclear weapons from South Korea.

30 July 1990
US government sources say the United States has rejected a North Korean request that the United States negotiate the withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from South Korea as a precondition for North Korea's acceptance of IAEA safeguards inspections.

15 August 1990
Leonard Spector of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says that North Korea will be able to produce weapon-grade plutonium within five years. Spector says that North Korea has the nuclear reactors and is now building a reprocessing facility to produce the plutonium.

22 August 1990
At the Nuclear Nonproliferation Review Conference, Japanese envoy Mitsuro Donowaki, in a clear reference to North Korea, expresses "major concern" that some signatories of the treaty have failed to sign safeguards agreements with the IAEA.

2-3 September 1990
During Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Pyongyang, North Korea warns the USSR that Pyongyang is prepared to produce nuclear weapons if Moscow establishes diplomatic relations with Seoul.
—Vladimir Nadashkevich and Georgi Shmelev, "Visit by Soviet Foreign Minister to People's Korea," ITAR-TASS

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17-21 September 1990
The IAEA holds the 34th session of its General Conference in Vienna. During the conference, 15 countries including the United States, the USSR, and Japan demand that North Korea sign an IAEA safeguards agreement.

18 September 1990
North Korea’s broadcast media accuse the United States of "slandering North Korea and making absurd accusations in connection with the safeguards agreement pursuant to the NPT." North Korea says it is willing to sign the safeguards agreement if the United States ceases its nuclear threats.

26 September 1990
While meeting with Japan’s former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and Vice Chairman of the Japanese Socialist Party Makoto Tanabe, North Korean President Kim Il Sung declines to discuss North Korea’s refusal to sign the IAEA safeguards agreement. However, Kim claims that North Korea has no intentions of manufacturing nuclear weapons, and if North Korea is to be subject to inspections, so should South Korea.

7 October 1990
A "high-level source" in the South Korean government says that China has recently been strongly encouraging North Korea to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement.

18 October 1990
Soviet sources say the USSR has suspended all assistance for the construction of nuclear power plants in North

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Korea until Pyongyang is willing to accept IAEA safeguards inspections.

22 October 1990

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says it will request North Korea's agreement to inspections of its nuclear facilities in Yŏngbyŏn-kun by Japanese officials if North Korea continues to refuse IAEA inspections.

25-26 October 1990

During a regional IAEA seminar in northern Japan, IAEA Director General Hans Blix says that North Korea is likely to sign the safeguards agreement within the next six months because there is "nothing left to discuss" in the ongoing negotiations. However, Blix also says that Pyongyang is seeking a guarantee that the United States will not attack North Korea with nuclear weapons.

Late October 1990

According to a "source in Japan's Foreign Ministry," US military intelligence officials brief Japanese officials on the North Korean nuclear weapons program. The US officials say that North Korea has a large nuclear reactor and reprocessing facility in Yŏngbyŏn-kun that will give North Korea the capability to produce three-six nuclear weapons per year by 1995.

2 November 1990

A spokesman for Japan's Foreign Ministry says that North Korea and the IAEA agreed on the terms for on-site nuclear inspections in July, but says he believes North Korea has yet to accept inspections because the United States has yet to meet its demand not to use nuclear weapons against North Korea.

3 November 1990

The South Korean Foreign Ministry says the South Korean government believes there is no foundation to reports that North Korea and the IAEA have concluded an agreement for the inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
8 November 1990

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense releases its annual White Paper. The report says North Korea will probably be able to produce nuclear weapons by 1995. Furthermore, the reprocessing facility under construction in Yŏngbyŏn-kun should be able to reprocess large quantities of plutonium within one or two years.


9 November 1990

North Korea's Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, calls for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula. The article says North Korea has no nuclear weapons and that Pyongyang has always pursued anti-nuclear and anti-war policies.


16 November 1990

According to a North Korean Foreign Ministry statement released by the North Korean Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, North Korea will accept the IAEA safeguards agreement after the Korean peninsula is transformed into a nuclear weapons-free zone, and the United States withdraws its nuclear forces from the region. The statement also says that North Korea "can sign a nuclear safeguards agreement only on condition that the United States gives legal assurances that it would not resort" to the use of nuclear weapons against North Korea.


24 November 1990

Following a US-IAEA-North Korean meeting in China, US Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon receives a report that states North Korea may sign the IAEA safeguards agreement in order to improve relations with the United States and Japan.


14 December 1990

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo meets with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. In response to a question about North Korea's refusal to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement, Gorbachev says the Soviet Union is
completely against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

26 December 1990
The Sankei Shimbun, a Japanese daily, reports that a facility under construction in Yŏngbyŏn is undoubtedly a nuclear reprocessing facility for the production of nuclear weapons.

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1989-1941
1970s
North Korea begins geological surveys in North P’yŏng’an Province, South P’yŏng’an Province, North Hamgyŏng Province, and North Hwanghae Province. Survey teams are later able to confirm the existence of uranium deposits in Musan-kun, North Hamgyŏng Province; P’yŏngsan-kun, North Hwanghae Province; Sunchŏn, South P’yŏng’an Province; and P’yŏngwŏn-kun, North P’yŏng’an Province.

15 April 1969
The North Korean Air Force shoots down a US Navy EC-121 reconnaissance plane in international air space over the Sea of Japan, killing all 31 crewmembers.

1968
The USSR supplies North Korea with a 0.1MW critical assembly. The critical assembly is installed in Yŏngbyŏn.

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18 January 1968
Thirty-one North Korean commandos secretly cross the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on a mission to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung Hee. The commandos approach within about 800m of the presidential residence, but fail to assassinate Park. All but one of the commandos are eventually killed or commit suicide. Thirty-one South Koreans die in the fire fights, and 44 are wounded. North Korea later denies it is responsible for the attack, claiming the perpetrators are South Korean citizens rising up against the government.

23 January 1968
North Korea captures the USS Pueblo off Wŏnsan on North Korea's east coast. North Korea claims the ship was in North Korea's territorial waters, but the United States claims it was in international waters. One American crewman dies and 82 are captured by the North Korean Navy. North Korea releases the crew exactly 11 months later.

1966-67
Kim Il Sung issues directive to develop nuclear warheads for missiles.
—Interview with North Korean defector by CNS senior research associate Daniel A. Pinkston, 1 November 2001, Seoul.

1967
The Soviet-supplied 2MW(th) IRT-2000 research reactor begins regular operation. The reactor is used to produce radioactive isotopes for medicine, industry, and scientific research.

Mid 1967
The total number of US nuclear weapons deployed in the Pacific theater peaks at about 3,200 weapons, with about 2,600 of them in South Korea and Okinawa.

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Late 1960s
North Korea procures a "25 Mev Betatron."
—Joseph S. Bermudez, Jr., "Exposing North Korea’s Secret Nuclear Infrastructure—Part Two," Jane’s Intelligence Review, August 1999, p. 44.

1965
North Korea establishes the "Nuclear Physics Research Institute," which is also known as the "Atomic Energy Research Institute and College of Physics." [Note: According to South Korea’s Atomic Energy Research Institute, this institute was established in 1964.]

1965
According to Joseph S. Bermudez, Jr., who cites a South Korean report, North Korea establishes the "Radioactive Isotope Utilization Research Institute" in Ch’ŏngjin, North Hamgyŏng Province. [Note: This is probably a reference to the "Isotope Production Laboratory (同位原素生產加工研究所)" in the Yongbyŏn Nuclear Research Center, or possibly the "Nanam Branch of the Atomic Energy Research Institute (原子力研究所)," which is in Nanam-kuyŏk (羅南區域), Chŏngjin, (淸津市).]

1965
North Korea begins to operate its IRT-2000 nuclear research reactor that it received from the Soviet Union.

May-June 1965
North Korea completes the installation of a Soviet-supplied IRT-2000 nuclear research reactor in Yŏngbyŏn-kun (寧邊郡), North P’ŏng’an Province (平安北道). The 2MW(th) IRT-2000 research reactor is a pool-type reactor that has the capacity to use highly enriched uranium as fuel. At about the same time, the USSR also supplies North Korea with a small 0.1MW critical assembly for the same location. The reactor undergoes two years of testing before beginning regular operations in 1967. [Note: North Korean engineers later increase the reactor’s capacity from 2MW(th) to 4MW(th), and then to 8MW(th).]

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June 1965
Dr. Lee Sŭng Ki (이승기) is named the director of the Atomic Energy Research Institute. [Note: Lee is best-known for his work in chemistry, and he is the inventor of the synthetic fabric "vinalon." Lee is named director of the Academy of Sciences, Hamhŭng Branch in April 1984. This branch of the academy is a suspect chemical weapons R&D facility.]

15 August 1965
The Soviet-supplied IRT-2000 research reactor in Yŏngbyŏn goes critical. The reactor’s capacity is 2MW(th). [Note: The date is noteworthy as the 20th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.]

Mid-1960s
According to Ko Yŏng Hwan, who defected from North Korea in 1991, Pyongyang obtains nuclear equipment from Austria and France for its underground nuclear facility in Pakch’ŏn-kun, (博川郡), North P’yŏng’an Province (平安北道). [Note: Pakch’ŏn-kun is also the site of a North Korean air base.]

1964
China assists North Korea in conducting a uranium mining survey of the entire country, revealing large deposits of commercial grade uranium ore near "Unggi-kun (웅기郡)," North Hamgyŏng Province (咸鏡南道); Hamhŭng (咸興市), South Hamgyŏng Province (咸鏡南道); Haegŭmgang-ri (海金剛里), Kosŏng-kun (高城郡), Kangwŏn Province (兩江道), and P'yŏngsan-kun (平山郡), North Hwanghae Province (黃海北道). [Note: According to North Korea, the survey revealed four million tons of commercial grade ore, but Bermudez believes the claim to be "undoubtedly exaggerated." "Unggi-kun" is an old name for a section of what is now known as the "special administrative city of Nasŏn (羅先直轄市), which borders on Russia.]

1964
North Korea constructs and opens its "Nuclear Physics Research Institute (核物理學研究所)" in Yŏngbyŏn-kun (寧邊郡), North P’yŏng’an Province (平安北道). The institute begins research on nuclear materials and fuel,
physics, and engineering with a specific focus on nuclear reactors.

1964
The Kim Chaek University of Technology (金策工業大學) establishes courses related to nuclear technology.

February 1964
The nuclear research complex in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, North P'yŏng'an Province is completed.

April 1964
With the assistance of Soviet nuclear specialists, North Korea opens its Nuclear Research Complex in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, North P'yŏng'an Province.

1963
Construction of the Soviet-supplied IRT-2000 nuclear research reactor begins in Yŏngbyŏn under the supervision of Soviet nuclear scientist Vladislav Kotlov.

1963
North Korea establishes a nuclear engineering department at the National Defense College in Hyesan, Yanggang Province. [Note: This report is unsubstantiated.]

1963
The P’yŏngsŏng Institute of Science begins to offer a course in nuclear physics.

5 October 1963
During the graduation ceremony for the 7th class of the Kim Il Sung Military College (金日成軍事綜合大學), Kim Il
Sung says, "We don't have nuclear weapons. But we can stop [the attack of] nuclear weapons by digging and going underground."


**January 1962**
North Korea establishes atomic energy research institutes in Yŏngbyŏn-kun and Pakch’ŏn-kun, North P’yŏng’an Province.


**January 1962**
North Korea procures an IRT-2000 research reactor from the USSR.


**1962**
North Korea begins construction for the installation of a Soviet-supplied IRT-2000 nuclear research reactor.


**4 December 1962**
Kim Il Sung says the whole nation should be "turned in to a fortress...as a guarantee of survival against nuclear attack."


**December 1962**
The Central Committee of the Korean Workers’ Party adopts a policy to strengthen the military along "four lines." The party seeks to: 1) improve political and technical discipline in the military; 2) modernize the military; 3) "arm" all the people with "class conscientiousness and military technology"; and 4) fortify the "whole country." The military modernization program is a response to the modernization program in South Korea that followed the 1961 military coup d'état. The North Korean military modernization program includes expanded missile procurement and import substitution plans for arms production in general.


**1961**
North Korea begins construction of the Yŏngbyŏn Nuclear Research Complex in Yŏngbyŏn-kun (寧邊郡), North
P'yŏng'an Province (平安北道).

6 July 1961
In Moscow, Nikita Khrushchev and Kim Il Sung sign the "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Article One of the treaty provides that "Should either of the Contracting Parties suffer armed attack by any State or coalition of States and thus find itself in a state of war, the other Contracting Party shall immediately extend military and other assistance with all the means at its disposal."

11 July 1961
In Beijing, Chou En Lai and Kim Il Sung sign the "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Article Two of the treaty provides that "In the event of one of the Contracting Parties being subjected to the armed attack by any state or several states jointly and thus being involved in a state of war, the other Contracting party shall immediately render military assistance by all means at its disposal."

11-18 September 1961
During the Korean Workers' Party Fourth Party Congress (第4次大會), Professor To Sang Rok, the so-called "father of the North Korean nuclear program," emphasizes that North Korea should conduct research and develop specialists in the field of atomic energy.

1960s-early 1970s
North Korean technicians learn plutonium-reprocessing techniques while receiving training at Soviet plutonium separation facilities and laboratories. At the same time, the Soviet Union provides a number of hot cells as part of the agreement to supply the IRT-2000 research reactor.

1960
According to the Rodong Sinmun, which cites "an official US document," the Japanese government approves the deployment of US nuclear weapons on Japanese territory.

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Circa 1960-1961
Near the end of the Eisenhower administration, the United States has about 600 nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. There are about 800 at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

1960s
North Korea begins basic research and experiments in the field of atomic energy.

1960s
The split in Sino-Soviet relations encourages North Korea to increase domestic production and to implement import substitution programs for weapons. North Korea establishes factories in sectors with extensive defense applications such as metallurgy, machine tools, precision machinery, automobiles, tractors, communications equipment, and shipbuilding. [Note: Indications of deteriorating Sino-Soviet relations first begin to emerge in 1960.]

1959
North Korea and the Soviet Union sign a nuclear cooperation treaty whereby the USSR agrees to provide technical assistance in the establishment of a nuclear research center in North Korea. [Note: The center is later established in Yŏngbyŏn-kun, North P'yŏng'an Province.]

1959
The US Air Force deploys a squadron of Matador nuclear cruise missiles to South Korea. The missiles have a range of 1,100km.

29 January 1959
The United Nations Command in Seoul reveals that the United States has stationed nuclear weapons in South Korea.

September 1959
North Korea signs a nuclear cooperation agreement with China, and additional protocols on the peaceful use of nuclear energy with the USSR.

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7 September 1959
North Korea concludes an agreement with the USSR on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

January 1958
The United States deploys 288-mm nuclear artillery and Honest John nuclear missiles to South Korea.

January 1958
The USSR helps North Korea establish the "Atomic Weapons Training Center" in or near Kilchu-kun, North Hamgyŏng Province, under the Korea People’s Army.

Early 1958
The United States deploys nuclear weapons to South Korea for the first time. The weapons are in the form of "atomic artillery, Honest John missiles, bombs, and atomic demolition munitions."

August 1957
The Eisenhower administration approves NSC 5702/2, which includes a provision for the stationing of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

1956
North Korean nuclear specialists begin training in the USSR. Most of the specialists study at institutes of higher education including the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, the Bauman Higher Technical School, and the Moscow Energy Institute. The most qualified of the North Korean specialists work at the nuclear scientific research facilities in Dubna and Obninsk. Over 300 nuclear specialists, including 20 with doctorate degrees, and more than 150 advanced specialists are believed to have been trained during the period of cooperation between North Korea and the USSR.

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1956
North Korea establishes the "Radiochemistry Research Institute" (放射化學研究所), which is also known as the "Radioactive Chemistry Institute" or the "Radioactive Chemistry Research Institute."

1956
The United States begins to deploy nuclear weapons to bases in Guam, Hawaii, and Okinawa.

February 1956
North Korea signs the founding agreement and charter of the USSR's "United Institute for Nuclear Research," which is established in the city of Dubna to serve as an international research center for socialist countries. [Note: The official name of the institute is the "Joint Institute for Nuclear Research."]

March 1956
North Korea and the Soviet Union sign an agreement on the organization of "joint nuclear research (聯合核硏究所組織에 關於 的協定)." The agreement enables about 30 North Koreans to go to the USSR for training in nuclear technology. Pyongyang also decides to establish the Radiochemistry Research Institute (放射化學研究所). [Note: One source, Kim Wŏn Hong of the Taehan Maeil, says the agreement was signed in February 1956.]

26 March 1956
North Korea becomes a participating member of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, which opens in Dubna, near Moscow.

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**April 1955**
During the second plenary session of the North Korean Academy of Sciences, the decision is made to establish the "Atomic and Nuclear Physics Research Institute (原子核物理研究所)."

**June 1955**
Six representatives from the North Korean Academy of Sciences participate in an Eastern European scientific conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

**Late 1955**
North Korea conducts national nuclear defense exercises for military forces in rear areas.

**Early 1953**
According to the *Pyongyang Times*, which cites "newly declassified documents," President Dwight Eisenhower "insists on the use of nuclear weapons in the Korean War."

**31 March 1953**
During a Special National Security Council Meeting, President Eisenhower outlines two goals if atomic weapons are to be used during the Korean War. Despite the lack of good tactical targets, using atomic weapons will be worth the cost if the US can "achieve a substantial victory over the communist forces, and get to a line at the waist of Korea." President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles agree that the taboo surrounding nuclear weapons would have to be destroyed.

**8 April 1953**
According to a Special Intelligence Advisory Committee Estimate, the communist forces would recognize the use of nuclear weapons.

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atomic weapons as "indicative of Western determination to carry the Korean War to a successful conclusion." However, the report is unable to conclude whether or not this would be sufficient to coerce the communist forces to make the concessions necessary for reaching an armistice arrangement. The report says, "We believe the communist reaction would be in large part determined by the extent of damage inflicted."


13 May 1953
During a National Security Council Meeting, Generals Bradley and Hull recommend that the use of atomic weapons would be necessary if military operations are expanded outside of Korea. President Eisenhower expresses his belief that using tactical atomic weapons against Chinese Communists in dugout bunkers will be more cost effective than current conventional weapons.


20 May 1953
During a National Security Council Meeting, President Eisenhower concludes that if the US wishes to pursue a more positive action on North Korea, the war will need to be expanded beyond Korea and it will be necessary to use atomic weapons. Eisenhower expresses concern about the Soviet response, but dismisses any Chinese retaliation as "the blow would fall so swiftly and with such force as to eliminate Chinese Communist intervention."


21 May 1953
US Secretary of State Dulles meets with Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. During talks, he says that if the Korean armistice negotiations fail, "the United States would probably make a stronger, rather than a lesser military exertion, and that this might well extend the area of conflict." This veiled threat is expected to be relayed to the Chinese.


27 July 1953
The Korean War Armistice is signed, but South Korean President Rhee Syngman refuses to sign the document. Some people believe that President Eisenhower's implicit threats to use nuclear weapons result in the armistice. North Korea later accuses the Eisenhower administration of developing "22 plots to use atomic weapons against North Korea and other socialist countries." [Note: The armistice fails to define the military demarcation line off the west coast, and the UN Command later unilaterally extends the line between western islands controlled by the UN Command and South Korean forces, but North Korea has not officially recognized this line. This disputed area has witnessed several naval clashes between the North and South Korean navies.]

—"Agreement between the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, on the One Hand, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, on the Other

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1952
China sends scientist Wang Gan Chang to North Korea to "collect radioactive material."

27 January 1952

18 May 1952
In a private hand-written memorandum, President Truman addresses his concerns over the failure of the Korean truce talks. "Now do you want an end to hostilities in Korea or do you want China and Siberia destroyed? You may have one or the other; whichever you want, these lies of yours at this conference have gone far enough. You either accept our fair and just proposal or you will be completely destroyed." This memo becomes publicly available in 1972.

Mid-1952
The Joint Chiefs of Staff ask President Truman to authorize the deployment of "non-nuclear components to forward areas" in Pacific theater bases under US control (Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, and Okinawa) in case the security situation worsened in East Asia.

October 1952
North Korea establishes the Academy of Sciences (朝鮮科學院).

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November 1952
North Korea’s Academy of Sciences holds its first general meeting.

1 December 1952
North Korea’s Academy of Sciences holds its opening ceremony.

December 1952
North Korea establishes the Atomic Energy Research Institute (原子力研究所) under the Academy of Sciences (朝鮮科學院). The institute begins to conduct research on radioactive isotopes for use in industry, agriculture, and medicine. The institute is placed under the administrative control of the Cabinet’s Atomic Energy Bureau (原子力總局) in January 1974.

1951
China sends scientist Wang Gan Chang to North Korea to "collect radioactive material."

12 January 1950
Secretary of State Dean Acheson delivers a speech before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and says that South Korea is outside the US defense perimeter in East Asia. Many people have interpreted the speech as a signal that the United States would not intervene in the case of a southward invasion on the Korean peninsula, and thus a "green light" to Kim Il Sung to launch the Korean War.

May 1950
According to the Pyongyang Times, which cites "newly declassified documents," President Harry Truman "reveals his intention to use atomic bombs in Korea."

25 June 1950
The Korean People's Army crosses the 38th parallel to start the Korean War.
—Bruce Cumings, "Who Started the Korean War? Three Mosaics," Chapter Eighteen in The Origins of the Korean

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7 July 1950
According to the Pyongyang Times, which cites "newly declassified documents," General Douglas MacArthur "stresses the need to use atomic bombs in a secret phone call to President Truman."

17 July 1950
General Douglas MacArthur tells US Army Department officials in Tokyo about his plan for an amphibious invasion behind enemy lines and to "destroy North Korea." MacArthur also says he sees "a unique use of the atomic bomb—to strike a blocking blow" in case China entered the war.

20 November 1950
According to the Pyongyang Times, which cites "newly declassified documents," the "US National Security Council meets in a special session and discusses the use of atomic bombs in Korea."

30 November 1950
During a press conference, President Truman is asked if the United States would consider using the atomic bomb in Korea, and he replies, "There has always been active consideration of its use. I don’t want to see it used. It is a terrible weapon, and it should not be used on innocent men, women and children who have nothing to do with this military aggression—that happens when it’s used." The statement is very controversial, and draws strong international criticism, even from US allies.

9 December 1950
General Douglas MacArthur "requests commander’s discretion to use atomic weapons."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.
24 December 1950
General Douglas MacArthur sends a list of targets to the Pentagon and asks for 34 atomic bombs to create "a belt of radioactive cobalt across the neck of Manchuria so that there could be no land invasion of Korea from the north for at least 60 years."

1949
Ch’oe Hak Kŭn (최학근) departs to study at Moscow University. Ch’oe also studies later at the United Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna. Ch’oe is appointed minister of the Ministry of Atomic Energy Industry in December 1986.

April 1949
According to the Pyongyang Times, which cites "newly declassified documents," President Harry Truman "reveals his intention to use atomic bombs in Korea."

September 1948
The Pyongyang Engineering College is established. In January 1951, the name is changed to "Kim Chaek University of Technology (金策工業大學)." The school later establishes departments in nuclear engineering, precision machinery, and nuclear electronics. A research academy and graduate school are established at the university in 1956.

1947
The USSR surveys North Korea’s monazite mines with the assistance of "Dr. Chao Yang." Soon the Soviets expanded the mines and began to import large quantities of monazite. Production was suspended during the Korean War, but is believed to have restarted after the armistice was signed in 1953.

1947-June 1950
The Soviet Union sends engineers and technicians to North Korea to conduct surveys for uranium deposits. North Korea ships about 9,000 tons of uranium to the USSR during this period.

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6 August 1945
The Enola Gay, a US Army Air Corps B-29 bomber, drops the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima.

8 August 1945
According to Korean Central Television in Pyongyang, Japan tests an atomic bomb off the coast of Hŭngnam (興南市), South Hamgyŏng Province (咸鏡南道), which is now part of North Korea. [Note: The North Korean media often cite a nuclear threat from Japan, which could be used as a pretext for North Korea's development of nuclear weapons. The City of Hŭngnam was incorporated into the City of Hamhŭng (咸興市) in 1950.]

9 August 1945
Bock's Car, a US Army Air Corps B-29 bomber, drops the atomic bomb "Fat Man" on Nagasaki.

15 August 1945
Japan unconditionally surrenders to the United States, ending World War II. Korea is liberated from Japanese colonial rule. General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, later issues General Order Number One, which includes a provision for Soviet and US military forces to accept Japanese surrender on the northern and southern sides of the 38th parallel. Although the surrender arrangements are intended to be temporary, two separate states emerge on the divided peninsula.

May 1941
According to Korean Central Television in Pyongyang, Japan mobilizes about 100 physicists to develop nuclear weapons. [Note: The North Korean media often cite a nuclear threat from Japan, which could be used as a pretext for North Korea's development of nuclear weapons.]
—Cho Chŏng Chin, "Il P'aemangjŏn Hŭngnamsŏ Wŏnp'okshil'ŏm," Segye Ilbo, 22 December 2001, p. 31, in KINDS,

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