

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (August 21, 2000 - November 20, 2000)

August

21 Korean War and Vietnam War veterans call on the government to push for the early repatriation of SK POWs held in NK, stressing the need for reciprocity in inter-Korean exchanges.

SK environmentalists stage a rally to call on the Taiwanese government to revoke an agreement to dump its nuclear waste in NK in exchange for cash.

A total of 70,000 military personnel including 12,000 US soldiers participate in the annual ROK-US Ulchi Focus Lens war simulation. The total number of participants was reduced to nearly one third so as not to impede conciliation between the two Koreas.

22 NK and Japan resume talks on the normalization of bilateral relations in Tokyo. Chief negotiators are ambassadors-at-large Kojiro Takano from Japan and Jong Tae-hwa from NK.

UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura announces that a summer drought will lower NK's autumn harvest below last year's level. Matsuura adds that the NK economy appears to be recovering, helped by new policies meant to attract foreign trade and

investment, especially from SK.

Four Chinese-Americans and five Chinese nationals sue Japanese conglomerates Mitsubishi and Mitsui in Los Angeles, claiming the companies enslaved thousands of Chinese citizens during World War II.

23 SK Minister of Finance and Economy Jin Nyum announces that the government plans to take steps to set up an international fund aimed at fostering the opening of markets and the expansion of infrastructure in NK.

24 SK government formally sets up and issues a plan for the construction of Kyongui Railway which would link Seoul with Shinuiju in NK.

25 Kim Young-nam, Chairman of the Standing Committee of NK SPA, holds friendly talks in Pyongyang with Ye Xuanping, the Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of UNESCO, meets SK President Kim Dae-jung and SK Foreign Minister Lee Joung-binn to discuss his findings in NK.

SK officials say that the Seoul District Prosecutors' investigation into USFK's illegal dumping of toxic chemicals into the Han River is proceeding much slower than expected, mainly because of the US military's lack of cooperation, *the Korea Herald* reports.

- 27 A SK government official said that the government had confirmed the existence and identities of ten POWs in NK from the written testimony of four veterans who returned to SK at the end of July, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.
- 28 Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono meets his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan in Beijing, and raises concerns about China's naval activity and oceanic research excursions in waters off Japan.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono agree in principle that each side should now inform the other about its research in the disputed waters.

Desaix Anderson, executive director of KEDO, visits NK to inspect two light-water nuclear reactors in Sinpo on the eastern coast of South Hamkyong Province.

- 30 Visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono emphasizes the importance of multilateral dialogue to ensure peace and stability in Northeast Asia during his speech at the Central Party School of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing. He also reiterates Japan's proposal for the establishment of a six-way forum involving China, Japan, NK, SK, Russia and the US.

US Department of State documents,

obtained by the US National Security Archives, a private institute based in Washington DC, revealed a secret deal between Japan and the US concerning US shipment of nuclear weapons into Japan as part of the 1960 Security Treaty between the two countries, *Asahi Shimbun* reports.

- 31 FAO director-general Jacques Diouf tells a news conference in Yokohama that NK is recovering from serious food shortages but still needs international support. He adds that the needs of NK are evaluated at 4.7 million tons of grain of which only 3.4 million have been harvested.

September

- 1 In a breakfast meeting between NK leader Kim Jong-il and SK Unification Minister Park Jae-kyu, Kim Jong-il approves all high-level talks issues including the establishment of military talks, joint flood control of the Imjin river area, the exchange of letters, the site of the third ministerial meetings, and the size of tourist groups to visit each other's countries.

- 2 NK holds a grand ceremony in Panmunjom to welcome its 63 returning POWs who had refused to abandon their Communism ideology while jailed in SK.

NIS announces that five former SK POWs and a fisherman who were abducted to NK, as well as his two family members, recently escaped to NK via a third country.

- 3 Russia President Vladimir Putin officially visits Japan.

- 4 SK's opposition Grand National Party (GNP) holds a massive protest

rally against President Kim Dae-jung's management of state affairs, notably his NK policy. The GNP states that no progress was made during the minister-level peace talks on returning SK POWs and abductees still alive in the North.

- 5 NK SPA Chairman Kim Young-nam cancelled a trip to the US where he was to attend the Millennium Summit, *Chosun Ilbo* reports. Kim and his group were supposed to board an American Airlines flight from Frankfurt but were prevented from boarding the aircraft by airline officials following their refusal to undergo body and baggage searches.

The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry conducted three sub-critical nuclear tests from August 28 to September 3 in the North Sea, *Asahi Shimbun* reports. The tests were the second of their kind conducted this year.

A nine-member delegation of the Philippine Senate, led by Blas Oble, Senate vice-president, visits Pyongyang. The trip, scheduled in April, was postponed due to the June 15 inter-Korean summit talks and normalization of relations between NK and Republic of the Philippines.

- 6 President Kim Dae-jung, at the opening session of the three-day UN Millennium Summit, appeals to world leaders to support the Korean initiative for promoting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The SK Defense Ministry announces that a total of 351 SK POWs are presumed to be still alive in NK.

- 7 US State Department confirms that a letter of "regret" was sent to NK on September 5 regarding a US airline

search of a NK delegation.

SK President Kim Dae-jung and US President Bill Clinton agree in New York to establish a permanent peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula in conjunction with NK and China.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party approves a special 17.2 billion yen loan package for China despite Japanese protests over recent China naval activities near Japanese waters.

- 8 President Kim Dae-jung, in a dinner speech at the Korea Society in New York, states that he wants the SOFA governing US troops in SK to be revised quickly and reasonably.

The Russian Defense Minister declares that Russia is planning to reduce 350,000 troops from its force between 2001 and 2003.

USFK announces that it would punish two US civilian employees involved in the illegal dumping of toxic chemicals into a sewer that leads to the Han River. In the announcement, the USFK states that early this year it drained 91 liters of formaldehyde embalming fluid from the Yongsan Mortuary into the Han River.

- 10 President Kim Dae-jung has mapped out a new plan, the "two-plus-two formula" to establish a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The plan calls for SK and NK to first reach an agreement and for the US and China to endorse it later, *the Korea Herald* reports.

A ranking SK military official stated that negotiations are under way with the UNC on the joint control and management of areas in the DMZ

- that separates the two Koreas where the planned inter-Korean railway and highway projects will be carried out, *the Korea Herald* reports.
- 11 US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono sign an agreement extending for five years Japan's financial support for US troops based in Japan.
- NK Workers' Party secretary Kim Yong-sun visits Seoul with 300 gift boxes of pine tree mushroom, worth 900 million won, for SK officials and media heads who visited Pyongyang in June and August.
- Japanese foreign ministry announces that China research vessel Haijian 49 was spotted September 5 off the southern island of Amami Oshima within Japan's 200-nautical-mile EEZ and remained there until September 7.
- 12 JDA Director General Kazuo Torashima and US Secretary of Defense William Cohen agree to set up a framework to mutually discuss Japanese mid-term defense planning for 2001 and US quadrennial defense review.
- 13 Top NK officials have agreed to arrange a visit by NK leader Kim Jong-il to SK next spring, *the Yonhap News Agency* reports.
- 15 Japan and China hold the first working-level meeting in Beijing to discuss setting up a framework to deal with Chinese naval activities in the Japanese EEZ.
- 17 SK ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) decides to revise or abolish six to seven clauses in the National Security Law, during the forthcoming regular session of the National Assembly, *the Korea Times* reports.
- 19 SK Defense Ministry proposes decreasing the Munsan-Kaesong highway, the eight-lane highway designated by the National Security Council standing commission meeting, to four lanes, citing problems in removing landmines.
- SK President Kim Dae-jung told visiting leaders of Japan's ruling coalition that he strongly hopes to see the passage of a bill giving permanent foreign residents in Japan the right to vote in local elections.
- 20 NK's propaganda leaflets severely berating opposition Grand National Party President Lee Hoi-chang and calling for the withdrawal of US troops from the Korean peninsula discovered in Seoul. Some 300 flyers were even discovered at the Shilla Hotel in downtown Seoul on September 14, where NK delegation stayed, *the Korea Herald* reports.
- A delegation from New Zealand's Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry headed by Director-General Tony Brown visits NK.
- 21 US Defense Secretary William Cohen and SK Defense Minister Cho Sung-Tae announce after annual security talks that NK remains a military threat despite the thaw on the Korean peninsula and that both countries must take substantial measures to reduce tension.
- NK's KCNA reports that NK has proposed to establish diplomatic ties with several European countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain and Britain and the external

- relations commissioner of the European Commission.
- 25 Defense Minister Cho Sung-tae and Kim Il-chul, minister of the People's Army of NK hold their first-ever defense ministers' talks on Cheju island. They agree to set up a working committee to deal with issues related to the clearance of land mines in the corridor through which the Seoul-Shinuiju railroad and Munsan-Kaesong highway will pass.
- The IAEA issues a resolution during its 44th general conference held in Vienna reiterating its concern over NK's nuclear programs and noting it cannot conclude whether NK is diverting nuclear materials for weapons.
- 27 A 22-member NK delegation, led by a senior cabinet counselor, Jon Kum-jin, arrives Cheju island to hold another round of high-level talks aimed at coordinating the progress of inter-Korean rapprochement.
- NK's official *Rodong Shinmun* calls for the withdrawal of the USFK calling the US desire to maintain troops on the peninsula immoral and sly, given the atmosphere of reconciliation.
- 28 Officials at the SK Unification Ministry state that SK will offer 500,000 tons of food aid to NK in the form of a long-term loan. The food aid will include 300,000 tons of Thai rice and 200,000 tons of Chinese corn.
- October**
- 1 *Asahi Shimbun* reveals that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori sent a personal letter to NK leader Kim Jong-il asking for Japanese-NK summit talks.
- 2 Navies from the US, Japan, SK and Singapore begin the 13-day exercise Pacific Reach 2000, the first combined submarine rescue exercise in the Pacific.
- 3 NK invites ranking SK officials, political party leaders, and social and religious group leaders to attend the 55th anniversary of NK's ruling Workers' Party on October 10.
- 6 Japanese government announces that it will dramatically increase food aid to help NK and encourage its government to continue improving relations with other countries. The 500,000 tons of rice promised by Japan will be a fivefold increase in its shipments to NK.
- US State Department expresses willingness to take the state off its list of nations supporting terrorism following a joint anti-terrorism statement.
- 7 SK Deputy Foreign Minister Jang Jai-ryong, US State Department counselor and recently-appointed NK policy coordinator Wendy Sherman, and Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Policy Yukio Takeuchi hold the TCOG meeting in Washington to coordinate their positions on the upcoming landmark visit by Cho Myong-rok to the US.
- 8 KCNA reports that NK leader Kim Jong-il has ordered a military shake-up, promoting 44 generals ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Workers' Party. It was the second military reshuffle since Kim was officially named supreme leader of the state two years ago.
- NK's Committee for the Peaceful

- Reunification of the Fatherland accused SK of stepping up an arms buildup behind the curtain of reconciliation and peace. The accusation came after SK decided to increase defense spending for next year 6.5 percent over the 2000 budget, to 15.3 trillion won (\$13.7 billion).
- SK government welcomes NK's official position on the unification formula based on the "lower stage of federation" reported by a top NK official at a rally on October 6.
- NK leader Kim Jong-il dispatches Vice-Marshal Cho Myong-rok, his second in command, to the US for key talks. Jo is to meet US President Bill Clinton and other top US officials during his four-day stay. He is the most senior NK official ever to visit the US.
- 9 Despite domestic criticism, forty representatives of religious, labor, arts and civic groups and scholars leave for NK to attend the 55th anniversary of the founding of NK's ruling Workers' Party on October 10.
- 10 *Chosun Ilbo* reports that NK leader Kim Jong-il's special envoy Cho Myong-rok formally proposed a plan to abandon its long-range Daepodong missile development project if the international community provides the financial assistance needed for launching of satellites in a third country during meetings with US President Bill Clinton.
- 13 SK President Kim Dae-jung wins the Nobel Peace Prize for efforts toward reconciliation with NK.
- Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji meets with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in Tokyo.
- 14 PRC President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin, with over 100 other military generals, watches the latest show of People's Liberation Army military training achievements since its 1964 grand-scale exhibit of military skills.
- 17 Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji visits SK for talks with SK President Kim Dae-jung and for the third Asia-Europe Meeting summit in Seoul later this week.
- The UN announces that SK and NK have jointly submitted a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly reaffirming their goals for lasting peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula.
- 18 Inter-Korean working-level economic talks, scheduled to hold October 18, delayed as NK asked for the meeting to be postponed.
- 19 British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook announces in Seoul that Britain would establish relations with NK.
- 20 The ASEM member countries adopt the "Seoul Declaration for Peace on the Korean Peninsula," and have agreed to revise a document which guides the ASEM process to allow NK to participate in its projects.
- A protocol on exchange of certificates of ratification for the RF-NK Treaty on Friendship, Good-neighborliness and Cooperation was signed in Moscow.
- 21 North Koreans have a total of 2.7 million TV sets or 1.15 sets per 10 persons, *the Korea Herald* reports, based on statics compiled in 1996.
- 23 Secretary of State Madeleine

- Albright, the first high-ranking US official to visit Pyongyang, meets with NK Leader Kim Jong-il at Baekhwawon Guest House.
- 25 A 10-day exercise, code-named "Foil Eagle," an annual ROK-US combined field maneuver exercise that has been conducted annually since 1961, begins.
- 26 A top SK unification policymaker states that NK has sent a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the ROK, proposing that they slow down the pace of inter-Korean rapprochement.
- 27 The US military command in the ROK said on Friday that two US military aircraft inadvertently crossed the border into the DPRK air space on October 26 but were safely brought back by emergency radio calls to the pilots.
- A Japanese delegation led by former Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto meets Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing.
- 28 The UNC, during its talks at Panmunjom with NK, expresses regrets over the accidental incursion of two US military aircraft into the DPRK's airspace.
- The TCOG is held in Nara, Japan attended by Choi Young-jin, deputy foreign minister, Morton Halperin, director of policy planning at the US state department, and Yukio Takeuchi, deputy vice minister for foreign policy.
- 29 The SK's KNRC announces that it has confirmed the whereabouts of 161 separated family members on a list of 200 sent by NK's Red Cross
- for the second round of exchange visits.
- 30 Japan and NK hold the 11th round of normalization talks between the two countries in Beijing.
- Taiwan's opposition Kuomintang party begins a push to impeach Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian after his government cancelled construction of a US\$5.6 billion nuclear power plant.
- November**
- 1 The US and NK hold talks on NK's missile program in Kuala Lumpur. The missile talks are attended by Jang Chang-chon, director-general for American affairs at NK's Foreign Ministry, and Robert Einhorn, US assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation.
- 2 NK has printed a commemorative stamp of the meeting between ROK President Kim Dae-jung and DPRK leader Kim Jong-il in June.
- Talks are held between the Chinese People's Liberation Army Deputy Chief of the General Staff Xiong Guangka, Japanese Administrative Vice Defense Minister Ken Sato and JDA Director General Kazuo Torashima, and they agree to begin exchanges of naval ship visits next year.
- Visiting Russian Railway Ministry official Alexander Tzerinko revealed in Pyongyang that Russia and NK agreed to link the Siberia Railway to the Kyongui Railway, now under construction by NK and SK, in the future, *Yomiuri Shimbun* reports.
- The JDA announces that Japan and the US have launched large-scale

military maneuvers in and around Japan for a 17-day exercise, which is designed to test the readiness of the two allies for emergencies in areas surrounding Japan. The exercise involves 21,000 service members from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the US military stationed in Japan. About 20 warships and some 310 military aircraft will be used in the drills, staged for the first time under new legislation that Japan enacted last summer on military cooperation between the two countries.

Newly-appointed Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda announces that Japanese Cabinet ministers will contribute 100,000 yen each to a semi-public fund set up to pay compensation to wartime “comfort women” from other parts of Asia.

6 The UNC and NK hold a meeting to discuss preparations for the construction of the inter-Korean railway and adjacent road passing through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

7 Since 1990, NK has sent the remains of 285 US MIAs (missing in action) from the Korean War back to the US, *the Korea Times* reports. The US paid NK \$6,277,000 in compensation for the joint searches.

NK is systematically involved in manufacturing drugs, growing a vast amount of poppies and selling them, according to recent testimony by two DPRK refugees who fled last year, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.

8 SK-NK working-level economic talks resume in Pyongyang.

9 NK Red Cross proposes in a letter

to his SK counterpart that both sides limit the amount of cash and gifts to be exchanged between relatives when they meet on November 30.

11 SK and NK sign the first working level inter-Korean economic pact to reduce the risk and cost for SK firms opening businesses in NK.

12 The SK Korean Confederation of Trade Unions announces that the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) and the (SK) Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) will accept the (NK) General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea’s offer on October 29 for an inter-Korea forum.

13 The KNRC finalizes the list of 100 separated family members who will visit Pyongyang for the second round of inter-Korean family reunions from November 30-December 2.

For the first time, NK allow SK officials to inspect some of its food storehouses located near Pyongyang and Kaesong, to prove that it was not diverting outside aid to its military.

14 Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer visits NK. His three-day visit is the first by an Australian foreign minister since 1975, and the first ministerial visit since Australia resumed ties with NK in May.

SK National Assembly suspended after Grand National Party MP Kim Yong-kap accused President Kim Dae-jung’s ruling party of “acting like an agent of NK’s Communist Workers’ Party.”

NK’s KCNA reports that four SK navy patrol boats, escorting a number of fish-

- ing boats, penetrated deep into its waters in the West Sea earlier in the day.
- 15 Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and SK President Kim Dae-jung agree during talks on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Brunei that the US, Japan, and the SK should coordinate their policies on NK to ensure peace and stability in the region.
- 16 Jeong Il-young, a former parliamentarian of the United Liberal Democrats (ULD), claimed that at least 50 POWs and other ROK citizens abducted by DPRK agents are now living in the Russian Far East, *the Korea Herald's* reports.
- The UNC and NK tentatively agree to transfer the administrative rights over a section of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to the ROK military for the planned inter-Korean railway and highway projects.
- 20 A nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Tokaimura near Tokyo reopen for the first time since an accident in 1997.
- The European Union will increase its contribution to the project to construct nuclear power plants in NK, *the Korea Herald* reports. The 15-member EU plans to contribute 150 million euros (\$130 million) to KEDO over the next five years.

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	NK	North Korea
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting	NMD	National Missile Defense System
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone	POWs	Prisoners of War
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SK	South Korea
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization	SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
JDA	Japanese Defense Agency	TCOG	Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group
KCNA	NK's Central News Agency	UNC	United Nations Command
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization	UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
KNRC	SK's National Red Cross	USFK	US Forces Korea
NIS	SK National Intelligence Service		