

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (May 23, 2001 - August 23, 2001)

May

23 KCBS announces that the drought, as of the preceding day, has continued 80 days since March 4, adversely affecting various sectors of the NK economy. The previous record drought was a 63-day dry spell registered in 1928 and again in 1982.

Le Peng, chairman of the Chinese Parliament, visits Seoul.

24 China and the US agree to have the EP-3E electronic surveillance plane disassembled and shipped home from a Chinese air base where it has been held since a collision April 1 with a Chinese fighter jet.

NK becomes the 145th member of INTELSTAT, an international telecommunications satellite organization.

NK leader Kim Jong-il visits a recently constructed farm, the Youth Goat Farm in Hamhung City.

25 Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka, during a luncheon meeting with Italian Foreign Minister, criticizes US missile defense plans.

KCNA repeats its decades-old argument that US troops are occupying the southern half of Korea against

the will of the residents there.

SK Deputy Foreign Minister Yim Sung-joon, US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and Japan's Director-General of Asian and Oceanic Affairs Kunihiko Makita issue a joint statement urging NK to dispel international concern over the threat of weapons of mass destruction, after attending a meeting of the TCOG in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, dubbed Chonryon, holds the two-day 19th Congress in Tokyo and chooses So Man-sul as its chairman.

26 A ceremony is held at Kimchaek University of Technology to mark the delivery of computers to publishing houses, following the special instructions of NK leader Kim Jong-il.

27 A NK patrol boat infiltrated 1.8km south of side the NLL, 14.4km northwest of Paekryung Island in the West Sea and stayed for 47 minutes.

28 A meeting of NK political parties and social organizations is held in Pyongyang to prepare for a two-month unification campaign, which will start on June 15, on the occasion

of the first anniversary of the announcement of the South-North joint declaration.

Rodong Shinmun, in a commentary, reiterates its call for the withdrawal of US troops in SK, saying that arms reduction on the Korean peninsula first requires the pullback of US forces in the South.

The SK Bank of Korea estimates that NK's per-capita gross national income was estimated at \$757 in 2000.

- 29 A mission of the IAEA leaves Pyongyang after one week of talks with the North on the question of implementing the Agreed Framework.

NK and China sign an agreement at the end of the 40th meeting in Pyongyang of a committee they established in 1960 for cooperation in utilizing the Tumen and Yalu rivers, which flow along their border.

- 31 Officials from the Cuban Embassy in Pyongyang, including Ambassador Esteban Lobaina Romero, give helping hands to NK farmers transplanting rice at the Korea-Cuba Friendship Hwasong Cooperative Farm on the outskirts of Pyongyang.

June

- 1 Under NK leader Kim Jong-il's special instructions, the chiefs of Workers' Party chapters in all provinces, cities and counties from throughout NK gathered in Hamhung City, South Hamgyong Province, for 'study tours' of the showcase development projects in the city, highlighted by a goat-raising complex consisting of 51 branch farms.

US President George W. Bush formally asks the US Congress to extend normal trade relations with China for another year.

Unarmed commercial boats infiltrate SK waters. Of three cargo ships, one of them was sailing through the strait between Cheju Island and the southern coast, but left SK territory after the SK Navy sent a P-3C surveillance plane and patrol ships.

NK-US trade in the first quarter of the year was relatively minimal, the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency announces. US imports from NK amounted to \$22,767 while it did not export anything to NK.

The World Health Organization opens a permanent office in NK.

- 2 James Edward Hoare, United Kingdom's charge d'affaires to NK, hosts a reception in Pyongyang to celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 3 The Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency announces that NK's trade volume showed an overwhelming 33.1 percent growth last year (\$1.97 billion) compared to its previous growth of 2.6 percent. NK's export showed an 8 percent increase and imports a whopping 46.5 percent increase from the previous year, resulting in a \$515 million total.
- 4 The KCNA announces that the unusually long drought has persisted for 90 days since early March, the longest since 1927.
- 6 The Children's Union holds a ceremony in front of the statue of former NK leader Kim Il-sung on Mansudae Hill in Pyongyang to confer member-

ship on boys and girls who reached the age of 7 this year.

US President George W. Bush announces that the US would restart negotiations with NK on a broad range of issues, including NK production and export of missiles and its deployment of soldiers on the SK border.

7 A nationwide goat-raising campaign was kicked off in NK at a rally of workers at the Youth Goat Farm in Hamhung City, and produced a letter of appeal to all cities and countries throughout the North to that effect.

8 SK presidential spokesman Park Joon-young announces that the SK government welcomes US President George W. Bush's decision to resume talks with NK.

11 A spokesman for NK's Foreign Ministry criticizes Japan's rejection of entry visa applications filed by members of a Pyongyang delegation to join an international Tokyo forum aimed at demanding Japan's compensation for Korean 'comfort women' victimized by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

EU and NK hold talks on human rights for the first time in Brussels, Belgium.

14 A ceremony is held in Pyongyang to mark the first anniversary of the announcement of a joint declaration made by the two Koreas.

15 A forum on the unification of Korea is held in a hotel on Mt. Kumgang with the participation of representatives of SK and NK, while a three-day international forum on the Korean question opens on Cheju

Island, SK.

17 The SK JCS announces that a NK vessel sailing toward the NLL diverted its course toward open seas after receiving a warning from the SK Navy.

18 Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka meets in Washington with US officials, including meetings with US Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, as well as a brief meeting with US President George Bush.

NK Foreign Ministry announces that NK accuses US President George W. Bush of setting the agenda for the talks unilaterally, and it reiterates a demand for the removal of US forces from SK before any discussion of NK troop deployments. It also insists that the talks should focus on US compensation for delays in the provision of two nuclear reactors.

20 SK Prime Minister Lee Han-dong meets with Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and the Chinese Parliamentary Chairman Li Peng.

21 After meeting with his SK counterpart Kim Dong-shin in Washington, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld reaffirms the importance of the US alliance with SK even though the US Defense Department is revamping a decade-old strategy that has focused on fighting nearly simultaneous wars in SK and the Gulf.

NK rejects the request of the IAEA to implement a safeguards agreement with the agency, on the pretext of the Agreement Framework.

SK Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin announces that his US counterpart Donald Rumsfeld agreed that SK should take the initiative in negotiations with NK on the reduction of conventional weapons.

A mammoth anti-US rally of Pyongyang citizens is held in Kimilsung Square, followed by a street demonstration.

A spokesman for NK Foreign ministry reiterates the withdrawal of US troops in SK, in an interview with KCNA.

The SK's JCS announces that two SK Navy gunboats fired nine warning shots at a NK fishing vessel that briefly violated SK's West Sea NLL.

To commemorate the 51st anniversary of "June 25 Anti-US Day," 200,000 people assembled at Kimilsung Square in Pyongyang.

25 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman announces that National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il's return visit to Seoul is certain.

27 NK and Turkey establish official ties.

SK calls on China to give asylum to a family of seven NK Nationals who have sought refuge at a UNHCR office in Beijing, and demands that they be given safe passage to SK.

The SK government estimates that between 10,000 and 30,000 NK refugees have fled to China, while SK activists put the figure at up to 200,000, and some estimates even reach as high as 300,000, Agence France Presse reports.

28 NK Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun

arrives in Canberra for three days of talks, becoming the first NK minister ever to visit Australia.

NK and Australia agree to establish embassies in other's capitals within two years.

The Zurich-based ABB Group opens an office in Pyongyang.

29 A family of seven NK defectors arrives in Seoul after brief stopovers in Singapore and Manila.

A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman blames the UNHCR Office in Beijing for helping a seven-member NK family seek asylum, in an interview with the KCNA.

NK historians hold a forum in Pyongyang to criticize Japanese efforts to distort the history of its colonial rule over Korea.

July

1 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi meets with US President George W. Bush at his Camp David residence.

NK leader Kim Jong-il attends an evening banquet hosted by Chinese Ambassador to NK, Wang Guozhang, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party, accompanied by a group of senior North Korean officials and army generals.

2 Hyundai Asan pays \$22 million to NK to settle an overdue payment account concerning the Mt. Kumgang tourist project.

5 The SK government refuses to allow

- former NK Workers' Party Secretary Hwang Jang-yop to accept an invitation to visit the US to testify before Congress.
- 6 NK's official news media, Radio Pyongyang and Korean Central Television Station, reports that NK sent fighter jet pilots to combat US forces during the Vietnam War. It was NK's first official confirmation that its pilots participated in the Vietnam War.
- 7 A spokesman for NK Foreign Ministry blames the efforts of some members of the US Congress for inviting a high-level North Korean defector to SK, Hwang Jang-yop, to testify before congressional committees about NK, calling Hwang a "renegade" in an interview with KCNA.
- 8 NK leader Kim Jong-il visits the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang to pay respects to his late father Kim Il-sung, who died seven years ago. The junior Kim was accompanied by members of the National Defense Commission and a group of other army generals.
- SK President Kim Dae-jung refuses to meet a special delegation from Japan's three-party ruling coalition, which had arrived the day before. The delegation bore a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pledging his country's continued efforts to develop ties with SK.
- 10 On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the NK-China Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Cooperation. NK leader Kim Jong-il, jointly with Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA; and Premier Hong Song-nam, sends a congratulatory message to three Chinese leaders, President Jiang Zemin; Li Peng, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; and Premier Zhu Rongji. The Chinese leaders also send a similar message to NK leaders.
- 11 Teenage boys and girls, who were forcefully returned after escaping to China, are reportedly being trained for special duty as spies and are being sent to find other NK defectors, Chosun Ilbo reports.
- The Taiwan Affairs Office of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee holds talks with the visiting Taiwan "New Party Mainland Affairs Committee Delegation" in Beijing, reaching six items of common understanding.
- 12 Rodong Shinmun reports that NK will construct 123 small- and medium-sized power stations with a combined generating capacity of about 120,000KW in North Hwanghae Province in the next several months.
- SK adopts sanctions in response to Japanese history textbooks, which are said to whitewash wartime atrocities, after Japan's refusal to revise eight textbooks.
- 13 China wins bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games.
- 16 Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Vladimir Putin sign the 25-point Good Neighbor Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.
- 17 A rally of 100,000 Pyongyang citizens is held in the Kimilsung Square

to pledge their loyalty to their ruler Kim Jong-il, their respect for his “army-first” philosophy and their devotion to North Korea’s economic development programs. During the rally, they launched another campaign to promote greater efforts in the workplace.

The US military could start closing and consolidating bases in SK as early as next year, handing back to the country a substantial amount of land the US has been using for decades, Joongang Ilbo reports

- 18 About 1,300 farmers from SK and NK gathered on Mt. Kumgang in NK for a two-day meeting aimed at “promoting the unification of Korea.” The participants in the meeting, the first of its kind, represented the Union of Agricultural Workers in the North, and the Korean Farmers League and an association of female farmers, both from the South.

The 22nd plenary session of the Central Committee of the Kimilsung Socialist Youth League is held in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, with an agenda aimed at developing the information industry and computerizing informations in all economic sectors.

The SK Defense Ministry announces that the US will close at least 15 major US military installations and numerous training facilities in SK over the next 10 years.

- 19 The US Defense Department confirms for the first time that it holds regular secret talks with Taiwan military officials to discuss “the defense of Taiwan.”
- 20 US Secretary of State Colin Powell

starts his visit to five Asia-Pacific countries, China, Japan, SK, Vietnam, and Australia.

- 22 SK spent a total of \$8.97 billion for weaponry purchased from the US for during the past 10 years, Joongang Ilbo reports

SK Unification Minister Lim Dong-won announces that the government has decided to supply aid in the form of electricity to NK. The government will use transmission towers between SK’s Munsan and NK’s Kaesong City, 20 kilometers apart from each other.

- 24 A spokesman for NK Foreign Ministry renews Pyongyang’s decades-long call for a peace treaty between NK and the US and the withdrawal of US troops from SK.

- 25 NK and European Union issue a joint press statement on establishing diplomatic relations, at the eighth ARF held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Inter-Korean trade during the first half of this year decreased to \$197.3 million, down 2.7% from a year earlier, the SK Ministry of Unification announces.

- 26 NK leader Kim Jong-il leaves Pyongyang for Moscow aboard a trans-Siberian train.

- 27 Various functions are held in Pyongyang to mark the 48th anniversary of the signing of the truce agreement on July 27, 1953, which halted the three-year Korean War.

- 28 Christopher Hum, deputy under-secretary of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, arrives in Pyongyang for a four-day visit.

US Department of Defense Vice Secretary Paul Wolfowitz says in a CNN news program that he views NK as the biggest military threat to the US.

- 29 NK female judo expert Kye Sun-hui wins a gold medal in the 52kg division at the 2001 World Judo Championships held in Munich, Germany.

- 30 NK is expected to avoid severe food shortages for the time being, thanks to food aid from international organizations like the UN, but it is likely to face a food crisis this winter, as well as and next year, because of the unusually long drought that hit the country in the spring, the Korea Herald reports.

The British embassy opens in Pyongyang.

- 31 Didier Cherpitel, general secretary of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, arrives Pyongyang, leading a delegation of the federation.

SK's efforts to provide NK with electricity aid was put on hold by US request.

August

- 2 The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan decides to inaugurate an association to promote trade with NK.

- 3 KCNA reports a downpour recently hit most areas of NK, so leaving 10,000 homeless and extensive farmland submerged.

KCNA reports that NK is urging Japan to take sincere measures to

pay for the damage caused by an accident when the NK cargo ship, Myonggwang No. 3, collided with a Japanese cargo ship, Koshumaru No. 11, in the West Sea, some 3.7 miles from Okinoshima, Wakayama Prefecture, in Japan, on July 14.

- 4 Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA, meets Didier Cherpitel, general secretary of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

NK leader Kim Jong-il holds summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. The two leaders agree with the eight points in the NK-Russia declaration.

- 6 In an interview with SK's KBS, former US President Jimmy Carter says that the late NK leader Kim Il-sung approved of the presence of US forces in SK.

- 8 A business partner of inter-Korean IT project, Ntrack Co., holds a joint press conference with its other business groups in SK to announce the likely completion of the IT complex in Pyongyang within this year.

A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman announces that Pyongyang will not resume talks with the Bush administration unless it continues the same policy as the Clinton administration.

NK leader Kim Jong-il meets again Russian President Vladimir Putin before he leaves Moscow for Pyongyang.

The US Department of Defense announces that the issue of US troop withdrawal is strictly between SK and the US, and is not be determined by outside demands, responding the

- joint statement issued by NK leader Kim Jong-il and Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 4.
- 11 The US Senate delegation led by Chairman Joseph Biden meets SK President Kim Dae-jung.
- 12 A delegation of SK's National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, dubbed Pomminryon, visits Pyongyang to participate in the 2001 Grand Festival for National Reunification.
- 13 KCBS announces that NK will not talk with the US unless Washington drops the agenda item concerning NK's conventional forces.
- 14 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits Yasukuni Shrine.
- Russian railway authorities announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin and NK Chairman Kim Jong-il had agreed on the signing of the agreement during summit talks on August 4, adding that concrete steps could now be taken to link railways between the two Koreas, Chosun Ilbo reports.
- 15 KCNA reports that heavy rains since late July hit most areas of the North, causing at least 10 fatalities, and inundating thousands of homes and much farmland.
- The last event of North Korea's two-month campaign for Korean reunification, called the 2001 Grand Festival for National Reunification, opens in a Pyongyang ceremony attended by thousands of Koreans from SK, NK and foreign countries, most of them North Koreans.
- 16 The International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development decide to give up its initial plan to invite NK as a special guest for the upcoming annual meeting slated from September 29-30 in Washington.
- Round-table talks are held between members of the National Reconciliation Council of the North and members of the All-people's Council for National Reconciliation and Cooperation of the South in Pyongyang.
- 17 The UN Subcommittee on Human Rights calls on Japan to compensate women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II.
- 18 Catherine Bertini, executive director of the World Food Program, and her party visit Pyongyang.
- Kim Jong-il returns home, wrapping up his 24-day visit to Russia. NK issues a joint press statement in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, the Party Central Military Committee and the National Defense Commission, to mark the return home of NK Leader Kim Jong-il from Russia.
- 21 SK prosecutors detain 16 members of a delegation of SK civic leaders, suspected of violating the National Security Law by engaging in pro-NK activities during a trip to Pyongyang.
- 22 A NK spokesman for the Foreign Ministry issues a statement critical of the annual SK-US joint military exercise, which began on August 20. The exercise, Ulchi Focus Lens, is largely a computer-simulated war game that has been conducted annually since 1976.

Seoul District Court arraigns US citizen Albert McFarland on charges of ordering subordinates to dump toxins into a sewer drain in February last year at the Eighth US Army Yongsan Garrison. The US Forces Korea rejects the court order.

- 23 About 800 members of the Korean Employees Union of the U.S. Forces Korea held a rally demanding that their working conditions be improved and that the US military stop using cheaper subcontractors to replace full-time local employees.

ABBREVIATIONS

ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	NLL	Northern Limit Line
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	SK	South Korea
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
KCBS	(North) Korean Central Broadcasting Station	TCOG	Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group
KCNA	(North) Korean Central News Agency	UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
NK	North Korea		