

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (November 26, 2001-February 24, 2002)

November

26 The KCNA denounces US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's remarks criticizing the North during a recent news conference, asserting that the US is directly involved in terrorism and proliferating its missile technology.

The KCNA reports that two colleges, one for information science and technology and the other for engineering science and technology, were recently established at Kimchaek University of Technology in North Hamgyong Province.

The KCNA announces that NK leader Kim Jong-il has launched a new development movement, dubbed "Ranam." The new movement was prompted by "miracles" performed by workers at the Ranam Coal Mining Machine Complex in the northeastern port of Chongjin.

27 The SK Defense Ministry announces that SK rejected a recent NK demand that countries of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission withdraw their liaison officers in the UNC's Military Armistice Commission.

The SK office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announces that two or three

shots were fired from a NK guard post inside the DMZ. SK guards broadcast warnings and fired back about 15 rounds. There were no SK soldiers injured. The SK military adds that it does not appear to be an intentional attack.

28 A spokesman for the NK Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement criticizing the US, undoubtedly in response to US President George W. Bush's demand on Nov. 26 that North Korea, together with Iraq, allow U.N. inspections to find out whether they have programs to develop nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Following a TCOG meeting on Nov. 26, US, Japanese, SK officials release a joint statement urging NK to join the US-led campaign against terrorism and to address concerns about its suspected nuclear weapons program.

29 NK's UN representative Ri Hyongchol signed on Nov. 12 the two major anti-terror treaties—the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the 1979 International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, the Associated Press

reports.

- 30 A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry issues a statement blaming Japan for its actions taken against Chongryun.

The Japanese Upper House approves the dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces to the Indian Ocean to support the US-led battle against terrorism.

December

- 1 A rally is held in Pyongyang to condemn Japan for suppressing pro-Pyongyang residents in Japan.

Rodong Shinmun criticizes the US for “escalating its hardline policy to threaten and stifle NK, while persistently pushing forward its moves to establish the MD system and contemplating the deployment of anti-missile radar in South Korea.”

- 2 In Taiwan’s general election, pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) gains control of parliament from the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) for the first time.

- 3 The KEDO and North Korea sign in Pyongyang a protocol for quality assurance and another protocol for warranties.

The NK Foreign Ministry announces that NK welcomed the UN appeal for \$258 million in food aid. It adds that NK hopes the world will continue the donations, which feed a third of the state’s 23 million people.

- 4 A mission of the Foreign Ministry led by Vice-Minister Choe Su-hon leaves Pyongyang to make a round of visits to Great Britain, Spain and other European countries.

During talks with President Kim Dae-jung, British Prime Minister Tony Blair expresses support for Kim’s sunshine policy, and says that Britain has an “important role” in engaging NK.

NK launches an Internet e-mail service on Dec. 1, allowing foreigners to exchange electronic messages with NK people. The service provider is Silibank (www.silibank.com) in Shenyang, China.

The US Department of Defense submits a report to the US Congress that names NK as the third-most-threatening nation.

- 5 The chairman of the *de facto* head office of the Chogin Credit Union, Li Jong-ho, was arrested for questionable loans extended by the now-defunct Chogin Kinki Credit Union.

- 6 At the Nobel Peace Prize Centennial Symposium, President Kim Dae-jung states that he will promote his sunshine policy toward NK with patience, despite recent setbacks in inter-Korean relations.

Charles Kartman, Executive Director of the KEDO, states that the construction of light-water reactors in NK will not be completed unless NK fully complies with its obligations to open its nuclear facilities for inspection.

- 7 The SK National Assembly passes a bill that allows for the dispatching of SK non-combat troops to Afghanistan.

US ambassador to SK Thomas C. Hubbard states that the US will maintain its current visa policy towards SK.

- 8 New Canadian Ambassador to North Korea Joseph Caron, who is concurrently serving as ambassador to China, arrives in Pyongyang.
- 9 The SK Defense Ministry announces that it will postpone its two-trillion-won SAM-X military procurement project until next year because price negotiations failed.
- 11 NK's grain harvest increased by 400,000 tons this year, but due to chronic food shortages, NK is struggling to raise funds in foreign countries for "food aid" on the two biggest national holidays in 2002, the 60th birthday of Kim Jong-il on February 16 and the 90th birthday of late Kim Il-sung, the *Korea Herald* reports.
- 12 A Maritime Self-Defense Forces ship, the 5,650-ton minesweeper tender *Uraga*, arrives in the Pakistani port of Karachi on a mission to deliver relief supplies for Afghan refugees.
- US and SK resumes bilateral talks on the relocation of Yongsan base for the first time since June 1993.
- US President George W. Bush gives formal notice that the US will withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
- 13 Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian hold talks with SK National Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin in Beijing.
- North Korea holds in Pyongyang an exhibition of British inventions and science books published in Britain to mark the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Britain.
- 14 Japanese Defense Agency chief Gen Nakatani states that the National Security Council endorsed a proposal to buy four B767 mid-air refueling tankers from Boeing Corporation over the next five years.
- The Pyongyang OCHA office says in a report for November that the UNDP, with funding of 237,000 dollars from the Swedish government, is launching a project aimed at providing support to the staff of the Disarmament and Peace Institute (DPI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Under NK leader Kim Jong-il's instruction, NK communications authorities are pushing for the introduction of mobile phones by the birth date of the late Kim Il-sung, April 15, 2002.
- 16 Twenty NK nuclear experts, led by Cabinet-level official Kim Hui-moon, arrive in SK for a two-week tour of SK nuclear power plants.
- 17 The *Asahi Shinbun* reports that Chongryun ordered the Chogin Credit Union to send at least 2.5 billion yen to false-name bank accounts.
- The North Korean Red Society issues a press statement to publicize its decision to totally suspend the investigation of the "missing persons" requested by Japan.
- 18 SK Defense Ministry issues a report concluding that although NK has extracted enough plutonium to build one or two nuclear bombs, it will need "at least several years" to complete its first nuclear weapons.
- 19 The SK Unification Ministry

announces that inter-Korean trade during the first 11 months of this year totaled \$362.67 million, down 9.3 percent from a year ago.

- 21 The party media, *Rodong Shinmun* and *Kulloja* (The Workers), issues a joint editorial, entitled, "Let us accelerate the Juche cause of socialism under the uplifted banner of the army-first policy."
- 23 A suspected NK ship sank after an exchange of gunfire with Japanese patrol boats.

The KCBS says a North Korean handicraft exhibition was held in Nice, France, between Dec. 3-17.
- 26 The KCNA reports on the "mystery" ship that sank after an armed clash with Japanese Coast Guard ships in the East China Sea on Dec. 23, blaming Japan.
- 29 A high-ranking official of the British foreign ministry denounced North Korea's obstruction of a British diplomat's activities in Pyongyang.
- 30 The KCNA reports at least 200,000 workers in North Korea visited health resorts and vacation spots at state expense in 2001.
- 31 *Chosun Ilbo* reports that in a bid to stop defectors and economic refugees from fleeing the famine-racked country, NK has been reinforcing its guards along China and Russian borders since 2000.

The SK Ministry of National Defense releases its annual "Major Defense Issues in 2001" report which concluded that there had been no major change in the strength of NK military which continues to

stand at 1.17 million active soldiers and 7.48 million in reserve. The NK tank force has fallen from 3,800 to 3,700 units and armored cars from 2,300 to 2,200.

January 2002

- 1 On New Year's Day the newspapers of three major institutions, the Workers' Party, the People's Army and the Kimilsung Socialist Youth League, carry a joint editorial, entitled, "Let us glorify this year that greets the 90th birthday of President Kim Il-sung as a year of a new surge in the building of a Kangsong Taeguk."

On the occasion of New Year's Day, a group of senior officials visits Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay their respects to former North Korean leader Kim Il-sung whose embalmed body lies in state there. They include Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the SPA Presidium and Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee.
- 2 The KOTRA announces that North Korea exported about 80,000 articles of clothing to Canada last year.
- 3 The SK Ministry of Unification announces that the government will deliver some 100,000 tons of maize in food aid to NK through the WFP starting at the end of February.
- 4 The German foreign ministry announced that it appointed Doris Hertrampf as its ambassador to North Korea.
- 5 The SK Defense Ministry announces that it signed a contract with Lockheed Martin last month to buy 111 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) Block IA Units. The new

surface-to-surface 300-kilometer-range missiles cover most of NK within range and will be deployed in 2004.

- 6 Kim Jong-il visits the Russian embassy in Pyongyang, together with Vice Marshal Kim Yong-chun, chief of the General Staff of the Army; People's Armed Forces Minister Kim Il-chol; Yon Hyong-muk, chief of the Workers' Party chapter in Jagang Province; two secretaries of the WPCC: Jong Ha-chol, Kim Gi-nam; three full generals: Li Myong-su, Hyon Chol-hae, Pak Jae-gyong; and Ji Jae-ryong, deputy chief of the International Department at the WPCC.

- 7 Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman for the IAEA, announced that an IAEA delegation would visit North Korea on Jan. 12 to inspect its nuclear facilities on Jan. 15.

The KCNA reiterates that the US troops in SK should withdraw before talks can resume between the US and NK.

- 10 NK, having lost sources of hard currency funding, has stepped up drug-smuggling activities, *Reuters* reports. NK produced some 40 tons of opium on 7,200 hectares in 1996, it adds.

The CIA reveals in a report to the Senate intelligence committee that North Korea will likely test fire a missile called Taepodong 2.

- 13 Richard Armitage, US deputy secretary of state, noted that the United States may scrap its Geneva agreement with North Korea if North Korea refuses international nuclear inspections.

- 14 *Chosun Ilbo* reveals that a US soldier present at the Nogun-ri massacre, where a retreating US army unit opened fire on civilians killing many of them, wrote in a letter to surviving victim Seo Jeong-gab that a squad commander ordered troops to fire on the villagers.

In his New Year's address, President Kim Dae-jung calls for the US to change its policy on NK to help resume bilateral talks.

- 15 The first German ambassador to North Korea presented his credentials to Kim Yong-nam, president of the SPA.

- 16 NK is building tank traps and establishing anti-tank positions on the eastern and western fronts of the DMZ, *Agence France-Presse* reports.

- 17 The SK Unification Ministry announces that SK provided \$135.39 million worth of aid to NK in 2001, up 19% from a year ago. A total of 384 representatives from various civic organizations visited NK to verify the fair distribution process.

- 18 Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visits the North Korean Embassy in Moscow under Putin's instructions. It is a return visit for North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's visit to the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang.

- 21 The Thai commerce minister said that Thailand would ship rice to North Korea in Jan.

- 22 The National Railroad Administration announces that the construction of the four kilometer section from the Imjin River Station to Dorasan Station, part of the inter-Korean Seoul-Shinuiju railroad, is complete.

- 23 North Korea and the United States began negotiations in Bangkok on the issue of returning the remains of the US MIAs from the Korean War.
- 24 SK and Japan agree on terms for a criminal extradition treaty at the fourth round of working-level talks on the subject, in Seoul.
- The US Commission on International Religious Freedom held a hearing on the North Korean crackdown on religion, in Washington.
- 25 An agreement to reinforce the friendly relations between Pyongyang and Moscow is signed in Moscow.
- Middle East Newline reported that Syria and North Korea are strengthening their cooperation in developing their strategic weapons.
- The TCOG hold talks to discuss their coordinated policy towards NK.
- 27 A travel agency said that fees for package tours of North Korea, including tickets to the "Arirang" performance, range from 170,000 yen to 190,000 yen.
- 29 In his State of the Union address, US President George W. Bush states that Iran, Iraq and NK form an "axis of evil."
- NK sent 480 economic officials and scholars abroad to study the capitalist economy last year, *Joongang Ilbo* reports.
- 31 A NK spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, in a statement, denounces US President Bush's remarks in his first State of the Union address which called North Korea part of "an axis of evil," saying: "This is, in fact, little short of declaring a war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."
- SK Prime Minister Lee han-dong states that the government will continue to offer humanitarian aid to NK, despite the current lull in inter-Korean relations.
- February**
- 1 Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright criticizes the Bush administration's labeling of Iran, Iraq and NK as an "axis of evil," stressing it was dangerous to lump the three countries together.
- Roxley Pacific of Thailand announced that it would roll out mobile phone service in North Korea in July, this year.
- The North's State Bureau for Quality Control and the Russian State Committee for Standardization and Metrology sign in Pyongyang, a plan for cooperation for 2002-2003 in the area of standardization, metrology and quality.
- 2 Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov expressed his opposition to President Bush's naming of North Korea, Iran and Iraq as the axis of evil.
- 4 Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, said that the United States should tighten its guard against North Korea's missile threat.
- Three weeks after US President George W. Bush's remark calling NK a part of an "axis of evil," NK leader Kim Jong-il has resumed public activities, paying consecutive visits to military compounds.

Thousands of tons of frozen beef donated by the German government are delivered to North Korea at Nampo Port.

- 5 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry criticizes the US for dealing harshly only with the missile programs of hostile countries such as North Korea, and for supporting the missile programs of its allies such as Japan.

Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ryozo Kato expressed his understanding of President Bush's "axis of evil" remark.

- 6 CIA Director George Tenet testified to a congressional hearing that North Korea still sells missiles to Iran and Syria.

SK civic religious groups issue statements opposing Bush's planned visit to Seoul on Feb. 19 saying it will increase tension on the Korean peninsula.

- 7 Andrei Karlov, Russian ambassador to North Korea, holds a press conference in Pyongyang on the occasion of the second anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighborliness and Cooperation between Moscow and the North.

Russian Ambassador to North Korea Andrei Karlov said that it was urgent for Russia and North Korea to reconstruct North Korean industrial facilities and connect a railway between them.

- 8 A ceremony is held on Mt. Kumgang to unveil a huge rock on which a phrase praising NK leader Kim Jong-il was carved. Each carved letter of his name is 35 meters high and 25

meters wide, and each of the other letters 27 meters high and 20 meters wide.

The *Asahi Shinbum* reported that North Korea and the United States had covert contacts in New York after President Bush's "axis of evil" remark.

The KCNA responds to President Bush's "axis of evil" comment by calling the US an "empire of (the) devil," commenting on its defense budget increase.

The SK Ministry of Defense officials state that the government decided to increase its budget to buy \$3.2 billion project to buy 40 fighter jets. The competing planes are US Boeing's F-15K, French company Dassault's Rafale, the Eurofighter consortium's Typhoon 2000 and the Russian Sukhoi firm's Su-32.

- 9 NK cancels a visit by former diplomats, organized by Robert A. Scalapino, who wished to expand informal dialogue between the US and NK. The delegates include Donald Gregg, Richard Walker, and Stephen Bosworth.

- 10 Konstantin Borisovich Pulikovski, plenipotentiary representative of President Putin, arrived in Pyongyang and expressed his support for a self-reliant inter-Korean dialogue.

- 11 A special envoy of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Konstantin Borisovich Pulikovski, the plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation to the Far East Federal District, meets Kim Jong-il.

The Palestine ambassador to North Korea delivers to Choe Tae-bok, a

secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee, a basket of flowers sent by Palestine President Yasser Arafat to the North's leader Kim Jong-il in celebration of his 60th birthday of Feb. 16.

- 12 A delegation of Chongryun, led by "Responsible" Vice Chairman Ho Jong-man, arrives in Pyongyang to celebrate Kim Jong-il's birthday. Also arriving are a delegation of the pro-Pyongyang Korean businessmen from Japan and a delegation of the international Taekwondo association led by Choe Hong-hee.

A Japanese citizen, Takashi Sugishima, a former *Nihon Keizai Shinbun* reporter, who had been detained in NK since 1999, returns to Japan.

SK briefly reopens Dorasan Railway Station, the northern-most station of the southern portion of the Seoul-Shinuiju Line, which had been closed since the Korean War.

- 13 Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi says he will not close the door of dialogue to North Korea.
- 14 A loyalty rally is held on Mt. Paektu on the occasion of the 60th birthday of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, with the participation of Cho Myong-rok, chief of the General Political Bureau of the People's Army; Premier Hong Song-nam; Vice Marshal Kim Yong-chun, chief of the General Staff of the People's Army; Kim Il-chol, people's armed forces minister, and Kye Ung-tae, secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee, among others.

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice says the United States does not

want a dialogue with North Korea for the sake of dialogue.

The SK Ministry of National Defense announces that more than 98 trillion won (\$75 billion) will be allocated to enhance national defense between 2003 and 2007. It states that 36 trillion won would be spent to develop and purchase weaponry, and 62 trillion won would be invested in military administration.

US Ambassador to Korea Thomas C. Hubbard proposed the division of roles between the United States and South Korea in dealing with North Korea.

- 15 President Putin indirectly denounces US President Bush's "axis of evil" in a joint press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Chretien in Moscow.
- 18 Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi holds a summit talk with US President Bush.

The 700 representatives from civic, social and religious groups in SK release a peace declaration and urge US President to seek dialogue with NK.

US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz states at the US-Japan Business Conference that North Korea was the world's biggest missile-exporting country.

- 19 US President George W. Bush and his wife Laura hold talks with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Voice of Russia reports that it will be possible for Russia to supply electri-

- cal power to North Korea from this fall.
- 20 A delegation of the Holland Euro-Asia Group visits Pyongyang.
- President Kim Dae-jung and US President George W. Bush hold summit talks.
- Rodong Shinmun* denounces US President George W. Bush and his policies toward North Korea in its commentary under the heading, "No Menace Frightens Us."
- 21 Chinese President Jiang Zemin holds a summit meeting with US President Bush.
- North Korea and Australia sign in
- Pyongyang a memorandum of understanding on joint soil research on the basis of the memorandum of understanding on joint agricultural research and a development programme concluded by the two governments.
- US President George W. Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin hold summit talks.
- 22 A NK spokesman for the Foreign Ministry releases a statement rejecting US President George W. Bush's proposal made during his visit to Seoul February 19-21 for talks with North Korea.

ABBREVIATIONS

Chongryun	Pro-Pyongyang Association of Korean Residents in Japan	MIA	Missing in Action
DMZ	demilitarized zone	NK	North Korea
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
KCBS	North Korean Central Broadcasting Station	SK	South Korea
KCNA	North Korean Central News Agency	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization	TCOG	Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group
KOTRA	Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency	UNC	United Nations Command
MD	Missile Defense	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		WFP	World Food Programme
		WPCC	Workers' Party Central Committee