

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (May 26, 2002-August 25, 2002)

May

27 NK organizes its committee for the Grand Festival for national reunification to mark the second anniversary of the June 15 inter-Korean Joint Declaration. The committee consists of 11 members and is chaired by Kim Yong-dae, who concurrently heads the North's National Reconciliation Council.

The U.N. Command announced that three North Korean soldiers had intruded into the DMZ on May 26.

28 A delegation from the NK Ministry of Agriculture (led by Minister Kim Chang-sik) left Pyongyang for Sweden.

China demands that SK's consulate in Beijing hand over several NK asylum-seekers who took refuge there on May 24.

SK President Kim Dae-jung signs on the deal with Boeing to purchase 40 F-15Ks between 2005 and 2009. The contract is worth US\$4.228 billion with offset trade valued at US\$3.561.

29 The SK government announces that it has banned more than 9,200 suspected terrorists and soccer hooligans from entering the nation to

ensure the safety of the World Cup soccer finals.

30 Prince Takamado, a cousin of the Japanese emperor, visits Seoul to attend the World Cup opening ceremony. The visit is the first official visit to SK by a member of the Japanese Imperial family since World War II.

The 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup Finals, the 17th of the international football extravaganza commences at the Sangam World Cup Stadium, Seoul with the opening match between France and Senegal.

The NK Red Cross Society notifies SK by cable that it will release water from its Geumgangsán dam downstream into SK territory.

The US Forces Korea announces that oil leaking into the number six subway line near Noksápyeong Station was found to have come from a storage tank on the US 8th Army base at Yongsán. The findings mark the first time the USFK has acknowledged responsibility for a leak.

31 Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda tells reporters that it is possible that Japan would develop

nuclear warheads, as a necessary self-defense measure.

The delegation of the Far Eastern Military District of the Russian Federal Armed Forces (led by Colonel General Yuri Yakubov) visits Pyongyang.

June

- 1 A ceremony is held at Nampo Port to deliver to North Korea over 7,000 tons of frozen beef donated by the German government.

James Edward Hoare, British charge d'affaires to North Korea, hosts a reception on a boat in the Taedong River to mark the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 4 Charles Kartman, director-general of KEDO, visits NK to attend a ceremony marking the launch of a program to train NK nuclear technicians and safety officials to operate the two reactors under construction in Sinpo on NK's northeastern coast.
- 5 A delegation of the Dutch Europe-Asia Group, which has launched a joint venture with NK for floriculture programs, flies into Pyongyang.
- 6 A ceremony to deliver to NK food donated by Russia in humanitarian aid is held in Pyongyang. North Korea received 7,000 tons of Russian beef in Nampo port on June 1, while Russian foods arrives at the Sopho Youth Railway at Pyongyang on June 6.
- 7 The USAID announces that it will donate 100,000 tons of wheat, rice and other food to NK in response to the urgent appeals by the WFP.
- 8 A delegation from the Thai parliament, led by its speaker Uthai Pimchaichon, arrives in Pyongyang.

Delegations from the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs and the Japanese publishers association for cultural exchanges fly into Pyongyang to take part in the Pyongyang International Exhibition of Scientific and Technological Books.
- 10 The Pyongyang International Exhibition of Scientific and Technological Books opens in Pyongyang for a five-day run. The exhibition features scientific and technological books from several international organizations and 19 others from eight countries.

The SK Information and Communication Ministry announces that it has reached an agreement with NK to pursue CDMA-based mobile and international phone joint service projects in NK.
- 11 A mission from the International Narcotics Control Board, a Libyan health delegation and a mission of the Chinese Communications Ministry visit Pyongyang.

Nine NK asylum-seekers, including a family of five, have entered the SK consulate compound in Beijing, the SK foreign ministry announces.
- 12 The Australian government announces it will extend AU\$7 million for aid to NK via the WFP and UNICEF.
- 13 NK father and son seeking asylum try to enter the SK consulate. Chinese guards dragged away the father from the office after punching and kicking diplomats who tried to

block them. The 13-year-old son eluded guards and is holed up with 17 other NK asylum seekers in the SK consulate.

A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman says the US must give up its hostile policy toward NK in order to resume the dialogue between NK and the US.

Two SK teenagers are killed after being struck by a US Army armored vehicle participating in a training exercise near Yangju in northern Gyeonggi Province.

- 14 NK hosts the "Grand Festival for National Reunification" at Mt. Kumgang, from June 14 and 15, to commemorate the second anniversary of the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration.
- 15 A five-member delegation from the European Union, led by Rafael Conde, director general of the Spanish foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, visits Pyongyang for the fifth round of political dialogue with NK.
- 16 North Korean leader Kim Jong-il sends a wreath to funeral of Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwondo Federation, who had died the preceding day.
- 17 The SK unification ministry announces that it planned to expand a special reception center for the rising number of defectors fleeing NK.
- 18 The KCNA announces that Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA, had sent a congratulatory message to British Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate her birthday on June 11.

The TCOG talks opens in San Francisco.

- 19 A key ceremony is held in Pyongyang to mark the day the current North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, began working at the Workers' Party Central Committee 38 years ago, at the age of 22.
 - 20 About 50 people demonstrate outside a US military base in anger over the deaths of two SK teenagers who were struck by a US armored vehicle.
- Inter-Korean trade from January to May totaled US\$186.22 million, up 7.9 percent from the same period last year, the SK Unification Ministry announces.
- 21 Chung Soon-taek, chairman of the SK Asian Games organizing committee, sends a letter via Panmunjom inviting NK to take part in the games in Pusan.
 - 22 Delegations from the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, the Finland-North Korea Association, and the Chinese World Knowledge Publisher, arrive in Pyongyang.
 - 23 KCBS TV televises a World Cup match in which South Korea beat Italy 2-1 to advance to the quarterfinals.
 - 24 The biennial Rimpac multinational naval exercise begins off Hawaii with participation of ships from the US, Japan, Canada, Australia, SK, Chile and Peru.

The 26 NK refugees who had sought asylum in the SK and Canadian embassies in Beijing arrive in SK after China allowed them to go to a

- third country.
- 26 KCNA reports that NK had used more than 50 percent of the funds from the UNDP during 1979-2000 for the sectors of manufacturing, agriculture and transportation. It did not, however, reveal the amount of money funneled by the UNDP to NK during the 22-year period.
- 27 Anti-US rallies are held in various areas in NK to mark the “month of the anti-US imperialists” (June 25-July 27).
- 28 NK naval vessels intrude into SK waters by up to 4.8 km south of the NLL at 9:54 a.m. One of the NK warships fired, hitting the steering room of one of the four South Korean vessels. Three other South Korean warships returned fire in self-defense along with another two patrol boats and two bigger naval ships which had come to their aid. Four SK seamen were killed, 19 wounded and one is missing, the SK Joint Chiefs of Staff announces. The 156-ton SK patrol boat with 27 servicemen aboard sank after a 21-minute engagement in the West Sea.
- 29 Regarding the naval clash in the Yellow Sea around Yonpyong islet, NK argues that its navy had no choice but to take a self-defense measures in response to the South Korean navy’s preemptive strike against its patrol boats.
- KCNA announces 85 percent of the rice fields in the country had been hard hit by harmful insects *lis-sorhoptrus oryzophilus* that appeared across the country in mid-April due to the lack of pesticides.
- 30 Li Kwang-gun, chairman of the (North) Korean Football Association, sends a message to his South Korean counterpart Chung Mong-jun, congratulating the South for making the World Cup a success, and for the strong showing in the tournament by the South Korean national team.
- July**
- 1 A ceremony is held in Pyongyang to mark the “Canada-Day.”
- 2 Taiwanese police authorities reported that NK was involved in a drug smuggling case in which a drug ring was caught shipping 79 kilograms of heroin.
- The SK National Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff issues a new guideline that allow the navy shoot first, after as little as a single warning round, at enemy ships in SK waters.
- Twenty-five NK nuclear experts arrive in Seoul for three weeks of training at the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety.
- 3 On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the July 4th South-North Joint Declaration, the NK government announces a lengthy memorandum to reaffirm its formula for Korean unification.
- 8 NK leader Kim Jong-il, accompanied by members of the National Defense Commission, visits the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the death of his father, Kim Il-sung.
- 9 A spokesman for the People’s Army Mission in Panmunjom asks SK to relay to NK detailed information on the salvage of South Korea’s patrol

boat sunk in the naval clash on June 29.

- 10 Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA, leaves Pyongyang for Indonesia, Libya and Syria. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun, Foreign Trade Minister Li Kwang-gun, President of the Academy of Sciences Li Kwang-ho and Mun Jaechol, acting chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

SK asks the US military to hand over jurisdiction of the two US soldiers whose vehicle fatally struck two SK teenagers last month.

Wu Donghe, Chinese ambassador to NK, hosts a banquet in Pyongyang to mark the treaty for cooperation and mutual assistance between China and North Korea concluded 41 years ago.

- 11 North Korea and Indonesia sign two agreements: one on preventing double taxation and tax evasion on income, and the other on scientific and technological cooperation.
- 13 Japanese Defense Agency chief Gen Nakatani announces a shift in basic policy that will integrate the Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces' operations so the three branches can perform their duties promptly and effectively.
- 15 KCBS denounced the Rimpac training exercise, a US-led joint military training exercise of eight Pacific-Rim countries including Japan and South Korea, held from June 25 to July 23.

Rodong Shinmun urges the US not to exaggerate missile threats from NK in order to rationalize the missile

defense project that is being vigorously promoted by the Bush administration.

- 16 KCBS says NK recently decided to extend once more the mass gymnastic and artistic extravaganza, "Arirang." Earlier, on June 22, the North extended the performance until July 15. Arirang opened on April 29 at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang for a two-month run.

North Korea and Libya sign an agreement to encourage and protect investments, an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, and an executive plan for informational and cultural agreement 2002-2004.

- 18 NK and Syria sign in Damascus an inter-governmental agreement on scientific and technological cooperation.
- 20 A delegation of KEDO leaves Pyongyang after participating in negotiations with NK to implement an agreement on the provision of light water reactors, wrapping up a five-day visit to the North.

A new air route linking NK's Sondok Airport and SK's Yangyang Airport in Gangwon Province, is opened to transport SK workers and materials for the construction of light-water reactors in NK.

- 23 A series of economic reforms take place in NK: the replacement of the rationing system with a new market-based food purchase system; a tenfold raise in wages, based on performance, to enhance buying power, the *Korea Herald* reports.

An economic delegation from Spain and a US delegation from the Federation of Methodist Churches

- visit Pyongyang.
- 24 On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement, a spokesperson for the North Korean Foreign Ministry argues for the withdrawal of US troops stationed in Korea and the dissolution of the UNC.
- 25 Kim Ryong-Song, the chief of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks, sends a telephone message to the South expressing "regret" for the Yellow Sea clash and proposing working-level meetings to prepare for the seventh round of Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks to be held in Seoul.
- Lim Dong-won, SK presidential adviser on national security and foreign policy, states that NK seems to be taking the right path to a market economy, following the example of China.
- 26 A spokesperson for the NK Foreign Ministry announces that NK is willing to reopen dialogue with the US and Japan.
- 27 KCNA announces that a 2002-2003 protocol on scientific and technological cooperation was signed between the North Korean Nation Academy of Sciences and the Tesco International Cooperation and Consulting Services Company of Hungary in Budapest on July 24.
- 28 Immediately following a three-day trip to SK, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov flies into Pyongyang to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun.
- 30 A delegation of the Senate of Thailand, headed by Pcihet Pattnanchote, first vice president of the Senate, flies into Pyongyang.
- KCNA says that the eighth Pyongyang film festival of non-aligned and other developing countries will be held September 4-13.
- Kenzo Oshima, undersecretary-general of the UN, visits Pyongyang.
- 31 NK and Japan release a joint press statement, highlighted by an agreement to resume their government-level talks in August for diplomatic normalization between the two countries, along with Red Cross talks to deal with humanitarian issues pending between them.
- NK Foreign Minister Paek Nam-Sun attended the ARF after a two-year hiatus, during which he held talks with the foreign ministers of China, Japan, the EU and Australia. He also holds face-to-face meeting with US Secretary of State Colin Powell on the sidelines of the ARF.

August

- 1 Talks between Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun and European Union Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana are held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

The Committee for the Peace Unification of the Fatherland insists in a white paper that the NLL is not the demarcation line between SK and NK on the Yellow Sea.

- 2 *Choson Sinbo*, the newspaper published by Chongryun, reveals that NK farmers at cooperative farms were paying rent for the land that they had previously owned collec-

tively. The paper had reported on July 26 that NK increased state-purchased rice from 80 jon to 40 NK won per kilogram while rice sold at state stores rose from 8 jon to 44 won per kilogram (One won is 100 jon).

- 3 An exhibition is being held in Pyongyang to display new consumer products under a campaign called "August Third People's Consumer Goods," the KCBS announces. The term originated in a campaign reportedly launched under the instructions given by NK leader Kim Jong-il on August 3, 1984.

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan pays a courtesy call on SK President Kim Dae-jung.

- 4 Following working-level contacts for the seventh round of inter-Korean ministerial talks held on Mt. Kumkang from August 2 to 4, North Korea unveils a joint press release (which included agreements on the provision of support for August 15 civic unification events, etc.) and a timetable and agenda for inter-ministerial talks. It also announces the North's participation in the Busan Asian Games in the South.

Rodong Sinmun urges the implementation of guidelines for "North-Korean-style economic management" which include such initiatives as the modernization and informatization of the people's economy.

- 5 The North Korean Christian Federation, led by its chief Kang Yong-sop, returns home, after a visit to Japan.
- 6 An art exhibition opens in Pyongyang to display the works of

well-known NK artist, Han Gyongbo, who has taught at the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts for the past 25 years.

At a ceremony in Hiroshima, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reiterates that Japan will not allow nuclear arms on its soil.

The UNC and NK military hold a military generals' meeting at Panmunjom and agree to make joint efforts to prevent a recurrence of incidents such as the June 29 inter-Korean sea battle.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kenzo Oshima announces that NK is short 1.36 million tons of foods this year alone.

- 7 Executives of KEDO, including SK's Chang Sun-sup, the US ambassador to KEDO Jack Pritchard, Japan's Katsunari Suzuki, the EC's Jean-Pierre Leng, and 130 reporters, participate in the ceremony to mark the start of main construction on the reactor project in Kumho district in South Hamgyeong Province, NK.

KCBS says NK and Japan will hold Red Cross talks in Pyongyang Aug. 18-19 to deal with the investigation into the whereabouts of Japanese citizens who have been listed as missing and that of home-visit by Japanese women who emigrated to the North along with their Korean husbands.

- 8 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry says that the US must drop its hostile policy toward NK, noting that even if dialogues are held, no positive outcome can be expected without a change in US policy.

KCNA reports that sudden torrential

- rains claimed dozens of lives and inundated many hectares of farmland, houses and public buildings in the western provinces of South and North Pyongan and South Hwanghae on August 3-5.
- 9 North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-Sun visits Mongolia from August 7 to 9, the first such trip in 14 years, and signed a new Treaty for Friendly Relations and Cooperation to improve bilateral relations, which have been strained for years.
- 10 NK devalues the official exchange rate for its currency, *the Associated Press* reports. The official value of the won dropped from 46 US cents to just two-thirds of a cent.
- 12 The 29-member NK delegation headed by Senior Cabinet Councilor Kim Ryong-song arrives at Incheon International Airport on Koryo Airlines via a direct air route over the Yellow Sea to participate in resumed high-level talks in Seoul.
- 13 In response to US requests for nuclear inspections, the NK Foreign Ministry spokesperson issues a statement, demanding that the US first consult with the North on how to compensate for power losses resulting from the delayed construction of the light-water reactors.
- 14 A 116-member North Korean civilian delegation arrives in Seoul to join SK a two-day joint celebration of the two Koreas' August 15th Liberation Day.
- In the seventh round of South-North ministerial talks held August 12 to 14 in Seoul, both sides reached a 10-point agreement, which included a timetable for a second meeting of the Committee for the Promotion of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation.
- 15 Chairman Kim Jong-Il enjoys the closing performance of Arirang and a performance of the Merited Choir of the Korea People's Army. There have been 90 Arirang performances during its run, from April 14 to August 15.
- Civic representatives from the two Koreas officially open a two-day joint celebration of Liberation Day at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel in Seoul.
- 17 A delegation from the Peace Boat, a Japanese non-governmental organization, arrives in Wonsan, Kangwon Province.
- A Japanese delegation arrives in Pyongyang to participate in the sixth round of Red Cross talks between North Korea and Japan.
- Three-day working-level meetings for the Busan Asian Games and for a South-North friendly football match are held in Pyongyang.
- Rodong Shinmun* states that SK and NK should make an effort to implement the agreements reached in the seventh round of the inter-Korean ministerial-level talks held in Seoul August 12-14.
- KCNA announces that NK hopes to normalize and develop relations with Japan.
- 19 In a highly unusual move, *Rodong Sinmun* underscores the implementation of the agreements of the 7th round of inter-Korean ministerial talks on August 17. It called on the South to cease military operation

“Ulji Focus Lens” and seek, rather to cooperate with its compatriots.

The sixth round of the NK-Japan Red Cross talks end in Pyongyang with the announcement of a 4-point joint press release, outlining the agreement on the fourth hometown visit by Japanese wives of North Koreans.

The KCNA says that the US should meet North Korea’s demand for compensation for the loss of electricity caused by delayed construction of the light-water reactors.

Annual 12-day US-SK operation, Ulchi Focus Lens, begins.

- 20 NK leader Kim Jong-il leaves Pyongyang to visit Russia’s Far Eastern region, accompanied by Vice

Marshal Kim Yong-chun, chief of the General Staff of the People’s Army; Yon Hyong-muk, a member of the National Defense Commission; Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Workers’ Party Central Committee; First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju; two first deputy chiefs of departments at the WPCC, Jang Song-taek and Ju Gyu-chang; Railway Minister Kim Yong-sam; and Park Nam-gi, chairman of the State Planning Committee, among others.

- 23 NK leader Kim Jong-il holds summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

SK President Kim Dae-jung and Chinese President Jiang Zemin exchange letters to celebrate 10 years of diplomatic ties and vow to boost relations further.

ABBREVIATIONS

ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	SK	South Korea
CDMA	code division multiple access	SPA	Supreme People’s Assembly
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone	TCOG	Trilateral Coordination and Oversight Group
KCBS	(North) Korean Central Broadcasting Station	UNC	UN Command
KCNA	(North) Korean Central News Agency	UNDP	UN Development Programme
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
NK	North Korea	USAID	US Agency for International Development
NLL	Northern Limit Line	WFP	World Food Programme