

CHRONOLOGY

Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (August 25, 2002-November 24, 2002)

August

25 An agreement is signed in Pyongyang between the NK Committee for the Promotion of International Trade and the Rome Union of Industrialists of Italy.

26 North Korea and Japan announce in Pyongyang a joint press statement, wrapping up their two-day normalization talks.

Russian defense minister Sergei Ivanov states that Russia is supplying NK with defense systems and spare parts for tanks and fighter planes but has no intention of giving it any offensive weapons.

SK and NK exchange lists of 320 candidates for the fifth inter-Korean family reunion to be held in the Mt. Kumgang resort during Chusok, Korean Thanksgiving Day.

US ambassador to SK Thomas Hubbard states that NK's recent measures to improve economic management are the first steps to developing a market economy.

27 A NK delegation led by first deputy chief of the National Planning Committee Park Chang-ryon arrives in Seoul to resume economic talks

focused on reconnection of the railway and road across the DMZ.

A Tokyo court recognizes for the first time that Japan conducted biological warfare in China, but rejected a lawsuit for damages filed against the Japanese government by Chinese relatives of the victims.

28 South and North Korea sign agreements in the second meeting of athletic officials held on Mt. Kumgang in the North, from August 26-28.

29 NK devalued its currency in early August, slashing the value of the won to 150 against the dollar from 2.15, the *Agence France-Presse* reports. The devaluation, together with the partial abolition of rationing, is seen by foreign diplomats and analysts as part of landmark, market-based reforms aimed at breathing life into the state-planned economy.

US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton states at a seminar in Seoul that the nuclear project cannot be completed by 2005, a deadline that had been already pushed back two years from the original target, unless NK allow special inspections by the IAEA.

- 30 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry urges the US to resume talks between the two countries, criticizing US Undersecretary of State John Bolton as hard-liner against North Korea.

KCNA says that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will visit Pyongyang in mid-September to hold a summit with NK leader Kim Jong-il.

NK agrees to work with SK to reconnect the Seoul-Shinuiju railway and severed road and rail on the east coast this year. In return, SK will supply all the equipment for the construction project, and provide 400,000 tons of rice on deferred credit and 100,000 tons of fertilizer gratis.

- 31 KCNA urges the US to ease recently imposed economic sanctions against a company in NK for sales of missile parts to Yemen.

September

- 2 Former North Korean spies, who had served long-term prison terms in South Korea and were repatriated to the North on this day in 2000, hold a rally in the truce village of Panmunjom to pledge their loyalty to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

- 3 KCNA reports that Typhoon Rusa directly hit the Korean peninsula. An average of 30 millimeters of rainfall fell on the North's Gangwon Province. More than 550 millimeters of rain fell in one day, creating enormous damage, including dozens of deaths, missing and injured.

KOTRA announces that NK has adopted a new policy allowing foreign investors to own more than a 50 percent stake in joint ventures in order to boost investment.

Rodong Sinmun asks the US to drop its hard-line policy toward the North and show its will to compensate for the huge loss of electricity caused by the delayed supply of light water reactors, if the US hopes to maintain the Agreed Framework and improve bilateral relations.

- 4 The eighth Pyongyang Film Festival opens for a 10-day run until Sep. 13 with the participation of nonaligned countries and other developing countries.

Typhoon Rusa, which plowed across SK the week before, caused 2.13 trillion won (1.75 billion dollars) in property damage, SK's National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters announces. Rusa flooded 17,046 houses and 114,592 hectares of farmland, resulting in 205 dead or missing.

UNC delivers to NK a draft agreement concerning the use of DMZ for the construction of cross-border railway and highway connection.

- 5 A NK soccer team led by Ri Kwang-gun, chairman of the (North) Korean Football Association and concurrently foreign trade minister, leaves Pyongyang for Seoul to take part in an inter-Korean friendly soccer match on Sep. 7.

NK exchanges at the truce village of Panmunjom with South Korea a list of the 100 people who will participate in the fifth round of reunions of separated families to be held in Mt. Kumgang during Sep. 13-18.

- 6 A ceremony is held on Mt. Paektu to ignite a torch for the 14th Busan Asian Games. The torch is handed to the South at Mt. Kumgang located in the

- eastern coast of North Korea in order to mix with the flames which are lit at the same time on Mt. Halla in South Korea.
- TCOG meeting is held. SK, US and Japan discuss the matters concerning NK-Japan summit meeting and the US envoy's visit to NK.
- The SK government approves the use of 201.4 billion won (\$156.68 million) to ship rice and fertilizer to NK.
- 8 The fourth inter-Korean Red Cross talks close at Mt. Kumgang after a three-day run, issuing a five-point agreement including the establishment of a permanent reunion center for separated families.
- 9 On the occasion of the 54th anniversary of the foundation of NK, a group of senior officials from the Workers' Party, the government and the military visits the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang where the body of the late former North Korean leader Kim Il-sung lies in state.
- 10 A delegation of the KEDO visits Pyongyang to take part in negotiations in order to implement an agreement on the provision of light water reactors.
- Visiting Taiwanese Vice Defense Minister Kang Ning-hsiang meets US Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz in Washington.
- 12 NK and the UNC sign an agreement to open the eastern part of the DMZ for construction of the inter-Korean transportation corridor.
- The second inter-Korean authorities-to-authorities talks held in Mt. Kumgang to spur the Mt. Kumgang tourist project closes after a three-day run.
- The SPA Presidium adopts a basic law of the Sinuiju Special Administrative Region, which consists of six chapters covering 101 articles.
- Two groups of NK defectors arrive in SK. The first group of 21 have trickled into the SK consulate in Beijing since late June. Another 15 asylum seekers climbed over a wall to take refuge in a German school in Beijing on September 3.
- 13 Japan and ASEAN agree to form a free trade zone within 10 years.
- The fifth reunion of separated families from South and North Korea commences on Mt. Kumgang for a five-day run until Sep. 17.
- 14 A SK Taekwondo team flies into Pyongyang as part of a plan to exchange Taekwondo teams between the two Koreas under an agreement reached at the seventh inter-Korean ministerial-level talks held in Seoul during Aug. 12-14.
- 15 The sixth round of inter-Korean military working-level talks closes at the truce village of Panmunjom. SK and NK reach a 41-point agreement on guaranteeing the safety of soldiers and workers during construction of railways and roads in the DMZ.
- 16 The Symphony Orchestra of the (South) Korean Broadcasting System led by its vice-president Kang Taeyong arrives in Pyongyang at the invitation of the North Korean National Reconciliation Council.
- 17 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits Pyongyang to hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

During NK-Japan summit talks, NK leader Kim Jong-il admits that NK had abducted the Japanese in the 1970s and 80s.

A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry issues a statement to apologize for NK's past abduction of Japanese citizens, and to express the North's willingness to take necessary steps to allow survivors to return home or visit their hometowns if they wish.

SK and NK military officials agree to install the first direct telephone line to ensure mine-clearing troops can work safely and without misunderstandings.

- 18 The two Koreas ends a meeting of working-level officials on Mt. Kumgang to deal with the proposed safety survey of NK's Innam Dam without feasible agreement.

The two Koreas hold ground-breaking ceremonies to kick-start the linking of their roads and railroads in the eastern and western sectors.

- 20 A NK government delegation returns, wrapping up a visit to Vietnam to repatriate the remains of 14 North Korean servicemen who were killed in action during the Vietnam War.

Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA, meets in Pyongyang Kim Tai-shik, vice speaker of the SK National Assembly.

- 22 Jang Ung, a member of the International Olympic Committee, is elected president of the pro-Pyongyang International Taekwondo Federation in a special general meeting of the ITF held in Pyongyang.

- 23 A basic agreement on the development and management of the Sinuiju Special

Administrative Region is signed in Pyongyang between the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation of NK and the Holland Euro-Asia International Import and Export Trade Company.

The first group of North Korean athletes to participate in the 14th Busan Asian Games arrives at Gimhae International Airport near Busan, South Korea. It is the first time NK has participated in any international sports event in SK.

- 24 SK Defense Ministry sets up a hotline with the NK military for the reconnection of railways and roads through their heavily mined frontier.

The Presidium of the SPA appoints Yang Bin as the governor of the Sinuiju Special Administrative Region.

- 25 The SK Unification Ministry announces that inter-Korean trade from January to August this year increased 10.9 percent year-on-year to 288.1 million. During the same period, commercial trade increased by 24.4 percent or 164.52 million won totaling 56.8 percent of the total transactions between the two Koreas.

- 27 An art group from SK's Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC) raises the curtain in Pyongyang for the "Pyongyang Special Art Performance of MBC for 2002."

- 28 A 9,672-ton NK passenger boat, Mangyongbong 92, carrying 343 NK supporters arrives in Pusan. It marks the first time that a NK passenger boat has entered and moored in SK waters since the end of the Korean War.

Japan's fact-finding team is dispatched to NK to find Japanese citizens abduct-

ed by NK agents.

- 29 The SK and NK teams march together in the opening ceremony of the 14th Busan Asian Games.

October

- 2 A delegation of the SK Catholic Priests' Council for Justice, led by Father Kim Pyong-sang, arrives in Pyongyang. They are greeted at the airport by Jang Jae-on, chief of the state-controlled Catholics Association in the North.

- 3 The US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James Kelly visits Pyongyang as a special envoy of the US President.

The first joint event between SK and NK is held in Pyongyang to mark Kaechun-Jul, the National Foundation Day of Korea.

- 4 China News Service reports that Yang Bin, the Dutch-Chinese governor of Shinuiju Special Administrative Region, has been placed under house arrest for illegal business activities.

- 5 A meeting of railway officials concerned from North Korea and Russia closes in Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East, after a six-day run.

- 6 The Koln Classical Musical Group of Germany stages a performance at the Yunisang Concert Hall in Pyongyang.

- 7 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry denounces the US "hard-line policy" toward NK in a commentary concerning the US President's special envoy James Kelly's visit to the North.

NK is considering a plan to reduce its military concentration along DMZ and cut back its conventional forces by between 20,000 and 50,000 troops, the

Kyodo News Agency reports.

- 10 A group of senior officials visits the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang where the embalmed body of former NK leader Kim Il-sung lies in state, on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers' Party.

Rodong Sinmun urges all citizens to support the military-first politics, on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the foundation of the Workers' Party.

- 11 South Korea's silent film "Arirang" with a narration is screened in Pyongyang.

- 12 A spokesman for the Panmunjom mission of the People's Army says that the excavation of remains of US servicemen who died in the Korean War has been delayed because of the US hard-line policy against North Korea.

- 13 NK female marathoner Ham Pong-sil wins a gold medal at the 14th Busan Asian Games.

SK agrees to offer a 50-billion-won (\$39 million) aid package for NK to speed up the construction of railway and road links across the DMZ.

- 14 A meeting of students from SK and NK and abroad, held to encourage reunification and the implementation of the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration, closes on Mt. Kumgang after a two-day run.

The second round of inter-Korean working-level talks for the inter-Korean reconnection of railways and roads closes on Mt. Kumgang after a three-day run.

- 15 Five Japanese nationals kidnapped by

- NK in the 1970s arrive in Tokyo for their first visit in 24 years. The abductees' children and one husband were not allowed to accompany them.
- The direct inter-Korean flight route established in July 2002 officially begins operations to transport people working on the light-water construction project in NK.
- 16 The US State Department announces that during a meeting with Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly on Oct. 4 in Pyongyang, NK acknowledged that a uranium enrichment program had been under way for several years.
- 17 US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld states that he believes NK already has a small number of nuclear weapons although US intelligence had not confirmed it.
- 19 The eighth round of inter-Korean ministerial-level talks opens in Pyongyang.
- 21 Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the SPA, meets in Pyongyang with South Korean Unification Ministry Jeong Se-hyun and Lennart Bage, president of the IFAD.
- US President George W. Bush states that NK's admission to having a secret nuclear development program was "troubling, sobering news." But he expresses optimism in solving the issue peacefully by working closely with Asian allies, including China and SK.
- 22 US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard states that the US government seeks a peaceful resolution to the NK nuclear issue through dialogue, and that NK must suspend development to demonstrate it will follow good faith with international agreements.
- 23 A 41-member NK taekwondo delegation visits Seoul for an exhibition as part of sports exchanges between SK and NK.
- 25 NCNA announces that NK is ready to seek a negotiated settlement of the recent crisis if the US agreed to the non-aggression pact and two other conditions—recognizing NK sovereignty and agreeing not to interfere in the country's economic development.
- The NK Foreign Ministry spokesman issues a statement proposing the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty with the US as a precondition to solve the problem of North Korea's nuclear development program.
- US President George W. Bush meets Chinese President Jian Zemin at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.
- 26 A 18-member NK economic study group, led by Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the State Planning Commission, leaves Pyongyang to visit SK.
- After a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the APEC session in Los Cabos, Mexico, US President George W. Bush, SK President Kim Dae-jung and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi issue a statement calling on NK to dismantle its nuclear program in a prompt and verifiable manner.
- 28 In testimony to the SK National Assembly's Intelligence Committee, Shin Kun, director of the National Intelligence Service, state that NK is believed to have a stockpile of between 2,500-4,000 tons of biochemical weapons.
- 29 Japan and NK hold talks on diplomatic relations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Japan demands that NK abandon its

nuclear program; and requests that the five abducted Japanese, who had returned home two weeks ago, be allowed to live in Japan permanently with their children. NK rejects the demands that it abandon its nuclear weapons program and demands Japan's economic aid and an apology for its war-time actions.

Russian Railways Minister Gennadiy Matveyevich Fadeyev arrives in Pyongyang.

A Canadian group led by Stephen Endicott, honorary professor at York University in Canada, arrives in Pyongyang to uncover the facts alleged US troop atrocities during the Korean War.

- 30 A group of SK officials arrives in Pyongyang to discuss with their NK counterparts the issues of building an industrial complex in Kaesong, a North Korean city immediately north of the truce line, and joint prevention of floods in the lower Imjin River, which flows through an inter-Korean border area.

The NK-Japan normalization talks, the first in two years, ends with no tangible results after a two-day run.

The NK Red Cross Society issues a statement calling on Japan to send back to NK the five Japanese citizens had been allowed to visit their hometowns for 10 days starting October 15.

- 31 OPEC announces that NK will receive a \$10 million agricultural development loan for construction of an irrigation system in North Pyongan Province.

November

- 2 A ceremony is held at Nampo Port on the west coast of NK to deliver thou-

sands of tons of frozen beef in aid from the German government.

A memorandum of understanding on connecting the Trans-Korean Railway and the Trans-Siberian Railway and modernizing the railways is signed in Pyongyang by NK Railways Minister Kim Yong-sam and Russian Railways Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev.

Former US ambassador to Seoul Donald Gregg visits NK through the truce village of Panmunjom. He was invited by NK Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan before the revelation of NK's secret weapons program.

NK Foreign Ministry states that NK rejects US demands that it scrap its nuclear weapons program, and stresses the importance of reaching a non-aggression treaty between the two countries.

Rodong Sinmun says that North Korea's proposal for concluding a non-aggression treaty between the North and the U.S. is the most reasonable and realistic way to peacefully and impartially bridge over and settle the grave situation and nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The fifth meeting of inter-Korean Red Cross talks closes on Mt. Kumgang after a three-day run.

The first round of inter-Korean working-level talks for the construction of the Kaesong industrial park closes in Pyongyang after a four-day run.

The second round of inter-Korean working-level talks to prevent flooding on the Imjin River that flows across the border of the two Koreas, closes in Pyongyang after a four-day run.

- 4 SK Prime Minister Kim Suk-soo, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji hold an informal meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN 10+3 summit.
- 5 A Canadian group probing alleged US atrocities during the Korean War leaves Pyongyang, wrapping up eight-day visit.
- Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and leaders of the ASEAN sign a joint declaration to negotiate a framework by the end of 2003 for a comprehensive economic partnership.
- NK Foreign Ministry blames Japan for the lack of progress on normalization talks, and states that NK may reconsider its self-imposed moratorium on ballistic missile testing.
- 6 China deports a Japanese activist, Hiroshi Kato, claiming he had helped NK asylum-seekers to dash into foreign embassies in China.
- NK is planning to reduce its armed forces by about 10 percent to free up labor needed for its economic reform measures. About 100,000 members of the Second Economic Commission, a part of NK's armed forces assigned to logistics and civil engineering, will soon be discharged, *Joongang Ilbo* reports.
- 7 Fifteen NK asylum-seekers who sought refuge at an SK consulate in Beijing arrive in Seoul.
- The third meeting of the inter-korean Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation begins in Pyongyang for four-day run.
- 8 In the third inter-Korean Economic Talks, SK delegation led by Vice Finance and Economy Minister Yoon Jin-sik refuses to expand inter-Korean economic cooperation beyond what has already been agreed on unless NK promptly addresses international concerns about its nuclear program.
- KCNA urges Japan to compensate for its colonial rule over the Korean peninsula during 1910-45.
- 9 *Rodong Sinmun* reiterates that concluding a non-aggression treaty between NK and the US is the most realistic way of defusing tensions on the Korean peninsula caused by the U.S. hostile policy toward the North.
- 11 SK Foreign Minister Choi Sung-hong and his Japanese counterpart Yoriko Kawaguchi agree that KEDO should try to keep a 1994 accord with NK in order to help persuade NK to give up its nuclear weapons program.
- 12 James T. Morris, executive director of the WFP, visits Pyongyang.
- 13 The Presidium of the SPA adopts a decree setting up the Kaesong industrial zone.
- 14 The KEDO announces that would suspend heavy fuel oil delivery starting in Dec. to condemn NK's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program.
- 15 Hu Jintao is elected as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the 16th Congress of the CPC. Jiang Zemin keeps his post as head of the Central Military Commission.
- 16 A NK economic study group led by Pak Nam-gi, chairman of the State Planning Commission, returns home, after visits to South Korea, Indonesia,

- Malaysia and Singapore starting on October 26.
- The SK Joint Chiefs of Staff announces that a NK patrol boat had violated the NLL in the Yellow Sea for 13 minutes. The border violation is the first since the June 29 naval skirmish between SK and NK. The boat was reportedly chasing Chinese fishing boats operating illegally in the NK zone at the time.
- 18 KCBS announces that to safeguard its sovereignty and right to exist, they are "entitled" to have powerful military countermeasures, including nuclear weapons, correcting the Pyongyang Radio statement that it has nuclear arms the day before.
- 19 A SK navy vessel fired two warning shots to repel a NK patrol boat which had violated NLL, the SK Joint Chiefs of Staff announces. After the June naval clash along the NLL, the modified rules of engagement allow the navy to fire warning shots earlier after an intrusion is sighted.
- 21 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman issues a statement denouncing the decision of the KEDO to stop supplying heavy oil to NK from the beginning of Dec.
- The NK People's Army Navy Command issues a press statement criticizing the SK Navy for firing at a NK patrol boat which had crossed the NLL in the West Sea.
- 22 A US Army court-martial, on charges of negligent homicide in the death of two 14-year-old girls on June 13, acquits Sergeant Mark Walker. Two days before Sergeant Fernando Nino, the track commander of the vehicle, had also been acquitted.
- The Voice of Russia reports that North Korea recently decided to use euros instead of US dollars, beginning Dec. 1.
- 23 The Presidium of the SPA adopts a decree to set up the Mt. Kumgang Tourist Zone.

ABBREVIATIONS

DMZ	Demilitarized Zone	NK	North Korea
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	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