

CHRONOLOGY

## Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula (August 26, 2003 - February 24, 2003)

### August

- 26 SK warship fires warning shots to drive back a NK navy ship from its southern territorial waters.
- 27 SK Minister of Culture and Tourism, Lee Chan-dong, announces that the SK government will take action to prevent further anti-NK protests during Universiade Games in Daegu.

Jon Kuk-man, chief of the NK team to the Universiade states the North will continue to participate in the games, after Lee Chan-dong's announcement.

The six-party talks to defuse NK nuclear crisis begin in Beijing.

- 28 The sixth meeting of the inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee ends in Seoul after three days, with both sides agreeing to increase direct inter-Korean trade and to open an office in Kaesong or Pyongyang.
- 30 A NK spokesman for the Foreign Ministry states that the North has no interest or expectation for the six-way talks because it will have no benefit for them.

The six-party talks end without

agreement.

- 31 *Rodong Simmun* reports that the U.S. should drop its hostile policy toward the North if the nuclear weapons issue between the North and the U.S. is to be settled, and that this is a precondition and the key solution.

The 2003 Summer Universiade held in Daegu closes.

### September

- 1 China's Central Military Commission Chairman Jiang Zemin announces that another 200,000 troops will be cut from its army by 2005, reducing the overall number to 2.3 million.

China's Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi states, in an interview, that U.S. policy was the biggest obstacle to progress at the six-party talks.

- 2 A meeting of representatives of youth and students from the two Koreas is held on Mt. Kumgang.

KCNA comments that NK still wants to resolve the dispute through dialogue, marking the first indication of a conciliatory move since the six-party talks.

- 3 Japan's and China's defense minis-

ters agree on exchanges of warship visits for the first time since China's communized in 1949.

The first session of the 11th-term SPA is held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall, with the participation of NK leader Kim Jong-il. At the SPA session, Kim was reelected chairman of the National Defense Commission, while Kim Yong-nam was retained as chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, and former Chemical Industry Minister Pak Pong-ju was named as new premier of the Cabinet.

The SPA also approves a number of goals, plans, including strengthening of the nuclear deterrence force proposed by the foreign ministry regarding the six-way talks, and decides to take necessary steps in response to these actions.

- 4 Visiting SK Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan meets with US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell on NK policy.

SK Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun opposes scrapping the LWR project at a press conference. He adds that NK's threat to build up its nuclear deterrent force is a pressure tactic aimed to gain ground in future talks on the nuclear issue.

Taiwan holds its biggest ever live-fire military wargames, Han Kuang 19 (Han Glory).

The APEC Finance Ministers talks begin on the Tahiti resort island of Phuket.

The fourth round of SK-US army relocations talks, Future of the

Alliance Policy Initiative ends.

The US and ten nations participating in the PSI reach an agreement in Paris on holding the first two-day joint maritime exercise in the Coral Sea off Australia's northeast coast.

- 5 President George W. Bush expressed his intention to gradually ease sanctions on NK, a change from his hard-line approach, the New York Times reports

Secretary Powell states that US relations with China are at their highest point in more than 30 years.

- 8 A spokesman for the NK Foreign Ministry says the US media report is "a lie." It was recently reported that Washington had expressed its willingness to take some measures for the resolution of the nuclear standoff with Pyongyang during the Beijing six-party talks.

- 9 A military parade takes place in the Kimilsung Square in downtown Pyongyang to mark the 55th founding anniversary of NK, with NK leader Kim Jong-il in attendance.

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo visits Japan.

Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, visits the US.

- 10 A five-day WTO ministerial meeting is held at the Mexican resort of Cancun.

KCNA announces that if Japan continues to raise the issue of the abduction of Japanese citizens in the international community, the North has no option but to take tougher steps against it.

- 13 Australia, Japan, France and the US begin a joint maritime drill "Pacific Protector" in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland.
- Caroline Anne Cox, vice president of the House of Lords of Britain, visits Pyongyang.
- SK announces that Typhoon Maemi caused at least \$1 billion in damage, and left more than 117 people dead or missing.
- 14 The Cancun WTO conference collapses without an agreement.
- The White House announces that the US will provide \$3.72 million to KEDO for administrative expenses for fiscal year 2003. No part of the FY 2003 US contribution will be used for construction of the LWRs in NK nor financing heavy fuel oil shipment.
- 15 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman claims some countries, including the US and Japan, are obstructing UN aid to NK in order to pressure the North.
- 16 A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry issues a statement stressing that the improvement of relations between NK and Japan depends on whether or not Japan compensates the North for its colonial rule over the Korean peninsula during 1910-1945, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the summit between two countries.
- China successfully test-fires its first four-stage solid-fuel rocket capable of putting small satellites into space on short notice.
- The 8th US Army announces that the US deployed an enhanced anti-missile system including a PAC-3 system in July.
- 17 The two Koreas hold a working-level military meeting, and agree to open main roads on the east and west coasts.
- 19 The IAEA urges NK to completely dismantle its nuclear program and to accept comprehensive IAEA safeguards.
- 20 Korean Sharing Movement, a SK NGO, visits Pyongyang.
- The eighth reunion of separated families from SK and NK commences on Mt. Kumgang for a six-day run.
- 22 A group of SK youth and students arrives in Pyongyang for tour.
- 23 US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, at the US-Korean Business Council, states that the US plans to boost its military potential on the Korean peninsula over the next four years, and to make a concerted effort to strengthen its security alliance with SK.
- 25 KCNA complains that some UN organizations are now putting on hold or shelving the approval of regular aid projects for NK due to pressure from the US and Japan.
- 27 NK's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee issues a statement denouncing the SK judiciary, which convicted six SK businessmen who were indicted for their involvement in the illegal remittance of funds to NK shortly before the June 2000 inter-Korean summit.
- SK protestors march in downtown Seoul to protest against a controver-

- sial US request to send troops to Iraq.
- 28 President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin begin a two-day summit at Camp David presidential retreat to discuss the NK nuclear standoff and postwar aid to Iraq.
- 29 A symposium to probe the truth behind the “Ukishima-Maru” incident is held in Pyongyang. The Ukishima-Maru, a Japanese passenger ship carrying about five thousand Koreans en route to Busan, Korea, was sunk in waters off Kyoto Port in August 1945.
- Officials from the US, SK and Japan hold two-day closed-door meetings on NK policy in Tokyo.
- Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan states that seeking a regime change in NK will only heighten military tensions and compel NK to hold on to its nuclear option.
- 30 Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun states that there is little possibility that NK would act on its threats to test a nuclear weapon or formally declare itself a nuclear state.
- October**
- 1 Radio Pyongyang announces regulations on taxes and labor regarding the Kaesong Industrial Zone were adopted by the Presidium of the SPA on Sep. 18.
- SK’s Federation of Korean Industries announces that the proposed dispatch of combat troops to Iraq should be determined from the perspective of the national interest, indirectly indicating its support.
- 2 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman announces that NK successfully finished the reprocessing of some 8,000 spent fuel rods and switched from processing to using plutonium to increase deterrent ability.
- SK Vice Unification Minister Cho Kun-shik states that NK’s announcement about spent fuel rods was meant as a threat and a negotiating tactic.
- 3 An inter-Korean joint function to commemorate the Foundation Day of Korea takes place in front of King Tangun’s Mausoleum, located in the suburbs of Pyongyang. Tangun is the legendary founder of ancient Korea.
- 5 *Rodong Sinmun* stresses that the only way to settle the North’s nuclear weapons issue is for the U.S. to sign a non-aggression treaty with the North, abandoning its hostile policy against it.
- 6 A 1,100-member SK delegation visits Pyongyang to participate in the opening ceremony of the Ryugyong Chungjuyung Gymnasium, built by the Hyundai Group.
- US and SK military officials hold talks on the proposed realignment of US troops.
- 7 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman issues a statement that it will not allow Japan to participate in any form of talks for resolving the North’s nuclear weapons issue.
- Glyn Ford, member of the European parliament from the British Labour Party, visits Pyongyang.
- 8 Leaders of China and ASEAN sign a Joint Declaration on Strategic

- Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Bali, Indonesia.
- 9 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman issues a statement that Japan should send back Japanese abductees, who had been allowed to visit their homes temporarily in October 2002, if it is sincere about resolving the issue of Japanese abductions by NK agents.
- Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun urges the US to ease its tough line towards NK, saying that NK is still interested in dialogue.
- The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency in Seoul issues a report that isolation caused by a prolonged standoff over NK's nuclear weapons drive has forced NK to rely further on trade with China.
- 10 Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi orders the House of Representatives be dissolved.
- The House of Councilor of the Japanese Diet approves a bill to extend by two years its logistical support for a US-led military coalition in Afghanistan.
- Secretary of State Colin Powell states that the US is drafting a sample agreement designed to be acceptable to NK.
- 11 KCNA announces that implicating Korean-German Professor Song Du-yul, in pro-North Korean activities, with NK is an act against the North.
- 12 The third round of meetings for inter-Korean economic cooperation and the third talks for marine cooperation under the inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee close in SK's Munsan City.
- 14 Uton Muchtar Rafei, regional director of the Southeast Asia Regional Office of the WHO, visits Pyongyang.
- 15 The 12th round of inter-Korean cabinet-level talks opens in Pyongyang.
- 16 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman states that at the appropriate time, North Korea will unveil the full deterrent ability of its nuclear program to the public.
- Shenzhou V, China's first manned space flight, returns safely to earth after a 21-hour flight that orbited the earth 14 times.
- 17 President George W. Bush starts Asian tour. He will visit Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia until Oct. 23.
- 20 KCNA complains that the US destroyed the Agreed Framework by delaying the construction of the LWRs and suspending the supply of heavy oil, on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the signing of the agreement.
- President Roh Moo-hyun and his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi agree to start formal negotiations this year toward a free trade agreement.
- President Roh and his US counterpart George W. Bush discuss the NK nuclear crisis on the sidelines of the APEC forum in Thailand.
- President Bush offers security assurances within a multilateral security guarantee in return for NK abandoning its nuclear program.

- 21 KCNA reports NK leader Kim Jong-il's tour on a military-run farm. The leader has been out of the media spotlight since Sep. 9.
- 23 A delegation, headed by Kim Yong-dae, chairman of the NK's National Reconciliation Council, arrives on SK's Jeju Island, to participate in the inter-Korean Sports and Cultural Festival for National Reunification and Peace.
- 25 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman states that NK is "ready to consider US President George W. Bush's proposal of last week on 'written assurances of non-aggression.'" 25 NK test-fires a short-range anti-ship missile into the East Sea for the third time in a week.
- 26 Kim Yong-sun (69), NK's top official in charge of inter-Korean relations, dies following a traffic accident.
- 27 Hwang Jang-yop, the highest-ranking NK official to defect to SK so far, embarks on a 10-day US trip.
- NK has suspended tours of Pyongyang for SK citizens via direct flights between Seoul and Pyongyang, the Pyeonghwa Air Travel Agency announces. Only nine of 15 tours have been completed, with 1,016 tourists making the trip.
- 28 British lawmaker Gari Nicholas Streeter and German lawmaker Hartmut Koschyk visit Pyongyang. 28 SK Ministry of Unification announces that since 1996, SK's cumulative private-sector investments in NK amounted to \$1.15 billion as of August.
- Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meets for the first time in Washington with Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.
- 29 Visiting chairman of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo and NK leader Kim Jong-il agree in principle to hold a new round of six-party talks.
- 30 KCNA announces that the Chinese government has decided to provide a grant-in-aid to the North.
- The SK navy fires warning shots after a NK patrol boat entered SK waters in the West Sea.
- The WFP appeals for more food aid for NK, saying the country faces a shortfall in its harvest, and that supplies to feed children and pregnant women are running out.
- 31 The Dalai Lama arrives in Japan for a 12-day visit.
- November**
- 4 *Rodong Sinmun* urges the US to accept the North's proposal for a package solution based on the principle of simultaneous actions, if it is truly ready to provide a written assurance of security to the North.
- The fifth inter-Korean Red Cross meeting opens on Mt. Kumgang.
- 5 An informal KEDO executive board meeting opens to discuss the suspension of NK's LWR project.
- SK Defense Ministry announces that next month it will begin deploying US-made missiles, the Army Tactical Missile System Block 1A, which can strike most of NK.
- 6 NK Foreign Ministry announces that the North will never allow the US to

- remove facilities, equipment and materials for LWR construction and technical documents now in the Kumho area unless the US pays a penalty.
- 7 SK's Korea Land Corp. announces that it is planning to build a model industrial park in Kaesong during the first half of next year.
- 8 The seventh round of the inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee closes in Pyongyang after a four-day run.
- The US CIA confirms that NK has produced one or two nuclear weapons, and has validated the designs with high explosive tests, which fall short of full atomic tests.
- 9 Japan holds general elections for the lower house.
- 12 US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly pays a three-day visit to Japan and SK to discuss NK nuclear issue.
- 13 Secretary Donald Rumsfeld begins a six-day Asia trip which includes stops in Japan and SK.
- 14 Russia Petroleum unveils a giant 17-billion-dollar project to supply Siberian gas to China and SK markets. It signed a feasibility study with its Chinese and SK partners to build the 4,887-kilometer pipeline project.
- KCNA comments that South Korea's deployment of 300 km-range missiles violates the basic spirit of the June 15, 2000 Inter-Korean Joint Declaration.
- Working-level military officials of SK and NK meet at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss the operation of guard posts in the DMZ.
- 15 Charles Kartman, executive director of KEDO visits Pyongyang.
- 16 NK Foreign Ministry states that North Korea is ready to abandon its nuclear program, if the US halts its hostile policy against Pyongyang and stops threats against the North.
- 17 A political dialogue between delegations from the foreign ministries of NK and Switzerland is held in Pyongyang.
- SK Defense Minister Cho Young-kil and his US counterpart Donald Rumsfeld issue a joint communique urging NK to dismantle its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable and irreversible manner.
- 18 Secretary Rumsfeld states that if the two Koreas are unified, the US forces based in SK would not likely remain on the Korean peninsula. His statement marked the first time a high-ranking US official hinted of a US troop withdrawal from SK after unification.
- 19 US chief negotiator on NK James Kelly, after visiting Japan and China, starts three-day visit to Seoul.
- 20 Mongolian Prime Minister Nambariin Enkhbayar leaves Pyongyang, winding up a two-day visit to North Korea.
- Nam Sung-u, vice chairman of Chongryun visits Pyongyang.
- KCNA announces that a treaty between NK and China to cooperate in the enforcement of civil and criminal laws was signed in Beijing on

- Nov. 19. to organize and move forward).
- 21 KEDO announces that it will suspend the LWR Project in NK for a period of one year, beginning Dec. 1, 2003.
- 24 A political dialogue between the NK foreign ministry and Sweden is held in Pyongyang.
- 26 Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, new Austrian ambassador to NK, presents his credentials to chairman of the Presidium of the SPA Kim Yongnam.
- 28 NK's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee issues a statement thanking the UN for its decision, announced at an event held in New York Nov. 18, raise \$220 million in international aid for the North.
- 29 Japan's lower house re-elects Junichiro Koizumi prime minister.
- KCNA reiterates that North Korea will never allow Japan to participate in the next six-party talks.
- Two Japanese diplomats are killed en route to Tikrit, Iraq, where an aid conference was taking place.
- 30 Two Koreans are killed and two others injured in a terrorist attack in Iraq.
- December**
- 1 KEDO suspends the construction of the two LWRs in Kumho.
- 2 US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly states, at a press conference after US-SK-Japan consultations on NK, that diplomatic negotiations in the second round of six-party talks is like "herding cats," (difficult
- 5 NK and China sign a resolution in China during the 55th board meeting of the North Korea-China Hydro-power Company.
- SK and NK agree to start building the signal, communication and electricity systems for the cross-border railway in the second quarter of next year.
- 7 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao begins a four-day visit to the US.
- 8 UN OHCA announces that of the funds requested by UN organizations to support NK, only about half were raised, causing the WFP to halt donations to 700,000 people in Nov. and approximately three million people starting this month.
- 9 A delegation from the European Union, led by Guido Martini of Italy, visits Pyongyang.
- A delegation, headed by Kim Yongdae, vice president of the Presidium of the SPA, leaves Pyongyang to participate in the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Geneva.
- A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman calls on the U.S. to take the following measures if it wants another round of six-way talks: the removal of North Korea from the list of terrorism sponsors, the lifting of political, economic and military sanctions and a blockade, and, together with neighboring countries, the resumption of energy aid, including the supply of heavy fuel oil and electricity in exchange for the North's freeze of nuclear activities.

- Indonesian Presidential Special Envoy Nana Sutresna visits Pyongyang.
- Japan's cabinet formally approves a controversial plan to send up to 600 troops to Iraq on a humanitarian mission.
- 10 A SK human rights group, the Commission to Help NK Refugees, releases a report estimating that China is forcibly repatriating 100 refugees to NK each week.
- At a news conference with China's Premier Wen Jiabao, US President George W. Bush rejects NK's Dec. 9 offer.
- Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun announces that SK provided \$125 million in direct economic and other aid to NK in the first eleven months of the year.
- NK establishes diplomatic relations with Ireland.
- 11 Leaders of Japan and ASEAN members hold two-day summit in Tokyo.
- An EU delegation, led by Guido Martini, director general of the Italian Foreign Ministry, ends a three-day Pyongyang visit.
- 14 The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reveals that it has confirmed the existence of an oil pipe line connecting Daching oil field in China and Ahnju in NK.
- 15 *Rodong Sinmun* reports that if the US fully accepts the NK-proposed simultaneous package solution, though belatedly, NK is ready to respond to it with the elimination of all its nuclear weapons.
- 16 Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Romyantsev states, during a visit to Tokyo, that NK is capable of making nuclear weapons, and certain technological features indicate NK has the nuclear material and necessary elements for such activities.
- 17 KCNA says the Presidium of the SPA on Dec. 11 adopted a set of regulations on the operation of the Kaesong Special Industrial Zone.
- SK government announces its final decision to send a contingent of 3,000 troops to support US-led stabilization efforts in Iraq.
- 18 SK Unification Ministry announces that 1,117 NK defectors have entered during Jan.-Nov. this year, 10 percent more than the same period last year.
- Yang Hyong-sop, vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, attends a banquet to celebrate New Year's Day hosted by Wu Donghe, Chinese ambassador to North Korea.
- 20 The fourth meeting of the legislative panel for inter-Korean economic cooperation, the first meeting of an inter-Korean working panel for the settlement of accounts and transactions, and the first inter-Korean working meeting on confirmation of origin of goods, close in Pyongyang after a four-day run.
- 23 Various ceremonies are held to celebrate the 12th anniversary of NK leader Kim Jong-il's taking office as Supreme Commander of the People's Army.
- The US State Department names Joseph De Trani as a new special envoy for negotiations with NK and

- US representative to KEDO.
- 24 NK Foreign Ministry criticizes the US' annual report on international religious freedom, which stated that the North's Constitution provides for "freedom of religious belief," however, in practice the government discourages organized religious activity.
- US State Department announces 60,000 tons of US food will be sent to NK after a WFP appeal.
- 25 Chinese Foreign Vice Minister Wang Yi visits Pyongyang.
- 26 KCNA announces that NK on Dec. 25 drew lots for public bonds issued by the government last May, in a step to repay them.
- 30 Buddhist prayer services to pray for national reunification on the anniversary of Buddha's attainment of Great Wisdom are held at temples throughout North Korea.
- January**
- 1 Three major newspapers, published by the Workers' Party, the People's Army and the Kimilsung Socialist Youth, publish an editorial, entitled "Let's glorify this year as a year of proud victory through a revolutionary offensive on all fronts of building a great, prosperous and powerful nation under the Party's leadership."
- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits the Yasukuni Shrine honoring Japan's war dead.
- 5 The first satellite office of the European Union chamber of commerce opens in Pyongyang.
- 6 A rally of 100,000 Pyongyang citizens is held in Pyongyang to carry out the assignments proposed in the joint editorial on New Year's Day.
- KCNA reiterates that if the US does not accept the first-phase measure of simultaneous actions for resolving the nuclear issue, the resumption of the six-way talks will be impossible.
- The NK Red Cross Society proposes to its SK counterpart that inter-Korean working-level Red Cross talks be held to inspect and measure the site for facilities to be built for meetings of Korean separated families, Jan. 15-17 on Mt. Kumgang. The proposal came following the South's proposal to hold the talks Jan. 8-10.
- Wu Donghe, Chinese ambassador to NK, hosts a banquet in Pyongyang on the occasion of New Year's Day, inviting Vice Minister of the People's Armed Forces Kim Sang-ik and Colonel General Ri Byong-sam.
- 9 A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry says that NK will not be influenced by Libya's recent decision to dismantle its WMD development programs.
- SK government orders a heightened security alert to protect SK airlines, diplomatic missions and residents overseas, after a terrorist threat was mailed to its embassy in Thailand on Jan. 8.
- The SPA Presidium announces a decree to reorganize Nampho City, formerly administered directly by the central government, into a special city.
- 10 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman states that NK showed its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, North

- Pyongan Province, to an unofficial US delegation visiting the North during Jan. 6-10. The delegation included John W. Lewis, a Stanford University professor emeritus, Charles L. Pritchard, a former State Department official, and Dr. Sig Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico.
- 12 KCNA says that NK is ready to freeze its nuclear activity if the US agrees to provide "compensation for the freezing," as the first phase of a package solution to its nuclear issue, under the principle of simultaneous actions.
- 13 A delegation from the Japanese Foreign Ministry visits Pyongyang to discuss the kidnap issue.
- 14 Expert talks between NK and KEDO are held in Hyangsan, North Pyongan Province.
- US chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers visits Beijing.
- 15 President Roh Moo-hyun accepts the resignation of Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan, a day after launching an attack on officials accused of obstructing his foreign policy towards the US.
- 16 SK's Korea Post releases a postage stamp featuring the islets of Dokdo. It was protested by Japanese government.
- 20 Amnesty International releases a report urging the NK government to ensure that food shortages are not used as a tool to persecute perceived political opponents.
- 21 US, SK and Japan officials hold a two-day meeting in Washington on NK's nuclear issue.
- 22 *Choson Sinbo*, an organ of Chongryun, reports that NK recently recognized the issue of intellectual property rights.
- 23 *Rodong Sinmun* reports that the relocation of the Yongsan Garrison of the US Armed Forces stationed in Seoul is part of a US plan to attack the North.
- 25 Some 4,000 Japanese demonstrators stage a rally against sending Japanese troops to Iraq.
- 26 China files a formal application to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- SK Defense Ministry announces a study until the end of 2005 on the feasibility of developing 3,500-ton submarines, which would be electric- and diesel-powered.
- 27 China's President Hu Jintao begins a four-day state visit to France.
- SK Defense Minister Cho Young-kil states that SK and the US have negotiated the cost of relocating the US Army's Yongsan base at \$3 billion to \$4 billion, and it will try to lower the costs.
- WHO calls for all-out global efforts to combat bird flu and warns the virus could kill millions if it mutates, as China became the 10th Asian country to be hit. Outbreaks of the virus, H5N1, have been confirmed in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan and SK, with weaker strains detected in Pakistan, Taiwan and Laos.
- 28 The Nigerian government announces

that NK has agreed to share missile technology with Nigeria.

- 29 An academic symposium on Kokuryo, an ancient Korean dynasty(B.C. 37-A.D. 668) is held in Pyongyang.

Japan's lower house approves a bill, the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law, that will make it easier to block cash remittances to NK.

The two Koreas sign an "agreement on entry and stay in the Kaesong Special Industrial Zone and the Mt. Kungang Tourist Zone" in a meeting held in Kaesong City.

- 30 The NK Foreign Ministry issues a statement denouncing a law on the management of foreign exchange and foreign trade which was recently passed in the Japanese Diet, aimed at imposing economic sanctions against the North.

KEDO executive members agree to protest NK's refusal to allow removal of trucks and construction equipment from the site of the LWR project.

SK President Roh Moo-hyun replaces national security and defense advisers.

US Department of Defense announces the Bush administration will ask Congress to boost spending on missile defense by \$1.2 billion next year and nearly double funding to modernize the Army in the \$401.7 billion US military budget for 2005.

**February**

- 1 US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly visits Seoul.

- 2 Talks between NK's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il and Murray McLean, head of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's North Asia Division, are held in Pyongyang.

The founder of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, Abdul Qadeer Khan, has confessed to leaking nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and NK, Agence France-Presse reports.

The two-day Japan-US Strategic Dialogue begins in Tokyo.

- 3 The 13th round of the inter-Korean ministerial-level talks starts in Seoul. 03 KCNA says that the second round of six-party talks aimed at solving the nuclear standoff with the US will be held in China on Feb. 25.

The first troops of a main Japanese army contingent left for Iraq.

- 4 A spokesman for the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee issues a statement threatening the suspension of the Mt. Kungang tours, which started in Nov. 1998, because of Hyundai Asan's delay in payments to the committee and an ever decreasing number of tourists to the site.

SK's Defense Ministry announces that it will buy four military radar jets for 2 trillion won by 2011 to increase air surveillance.

The 13th round of the inter-Korean ministerial-level talks opens in Seoul.

- 5 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman denies NK's alleged killing of political prisoners in chemical experiments, saying the Jan. 30 report by the BBC is an absurd story made up

by the US. The BBC documentary had reported that the North had carried out the experiments at a prison in northeastern NK, near the Russian border.

- 9 Japan's upper house of the Diet passes a law that allows Japan to impose sanctions on countries without a UN resolution.

A spokesman for the North Korea-Japan Amity and Friendship Association calls for the exclusion of Japan from six-way talks on the North's nuclear weapons program to be held in Beijing on Feb. 25, denouncing Japan's passage of the amendment of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law.

WFP made a last-ditch appeal for help to feed millions starving in NK. The WFP has targeted 485,000 ton of commodities valued at 171 million dollars for 2004, but so far, has only secured commitments for 140,000 tons and little of this has actually been delivered.

- 10 A NK Foreign Ministry spokesman states that China recognized NK's proposed "reward in return for the freezing" of its nuclear program as a first-phased measure of a package solution to its nuclear issue under the principle of simultaneous actions, and agreed to collaborate with NK to make progress in the next round of six-way talks, during a meeting between Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi states that he feels no aversion to the enshrinement of all war dead at the Yasukuni Shrine.

US and China open 6th annual round of defense consultations.

- 11 A Japanese delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanaka visits Pyongyang for repatriation of abductees' family members.

SK Foreign Ministry expresses regret over Prime Minister Koizumi's remarks on the enshrinement of Class A war criminals at Yasukuni.

- 12 A spokesman for the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland says that NK has no option but to strengthen its nuclear deterrent power to counter the US military contingency plan 5026 for the Korean peninsula, calling it a war plan for a preemptive attack against the North.

KCNA warns in a commentary that NK will take self-defense measures to counter Japan's earlier passage on Feb. 9 of an amendment of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law, regarding the law as a preliminary declaration of war against the North.

- 12 Yang Hyong-sop, vice chairman of the SPA Presidium, returns home after wrapping up his visit since Jan. 20 to four African countries: Uganda, Nigeria, Guinea and Senegal.

- 13 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi visits Seoul for discussions ahead of the six-party talks.

SK's National Assembly approves the dispatch of more than 3,000 troops to Iraq.

SK officially proposes to NK to hold agreed high-level military talks on Feb. 23.

- 14 A delegation from the Japanese Foreign Ministry, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Hitoshi Tanaka leaves Pyongyang after completing talks with NK officials on the abduction issue.
- The US and SK fail to wrap up talks on relocating US army bases in SK, and postpone the signing of a deal until April, SK Defense Ministry announces.
- 15 On the occasion of Kim Jong-il's 62nd birthday on Feb. 16, various events are held in NK.
- 16 North Korean leader Kim Jong-il receives a congratulatory message on his birthday from Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- US Undersecretary of State John Bolton, who is visiting Beijing, states the US will not offer concessions to NK before next week's six-party talks.
- 18 Japan-US Commission on Arms Control, Disarmament, Nonproliferation and Verification is held in Tokyo.
- SK President Roh Moo-hyun states that he will invite NK leader Kim Jong-il for a summit in Seoul if the six-party talks produce results.
- KCBS announces that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf recently sent a birthday message to Kim Jong-il.
- 19 Radio Pyongyang announces that the US' new contingency plan 5026 against NK will negate any positive results made at the six-party talks.
- SK Unification Ministry announces that SK-NK trade declined by 21.5 percent to \$37 million in the first month of this year compared with the same period of last year, mainly due to the drastic decline in non-trade transaction over the suspension of the LWR project.
- 20 A spokesman for the Panmunjom Mission of the People's Army says that NK refused, for security reasons, US requests to transport by military aircraft equipment and materials to be used for exhumation of US soldiers' remains, but allowed overland transport via the truce village of Panmunjom, in bilateral talks on the issue of repatriating the remains of US soldiers, held in Bangkok on Feb. 11.
- SK Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun states that results of the six-party talks are likely only through an agreement that allows NK to give up its nuclear ambitions while also "saving face."
- 21 A delegation from the EU led by Jacques Santer, former president of the European Commission, visits Pyongyang.
- 22 KCNA lashes out, accusing Japan of disturbing the international community by raising the Japanese abduction issue ahead of six-party talks aimed at solving the North's nuclear crisis.
- 23 Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun hold talks in Pyongyang with Jacques Santer.
- US, Japan and SK negotiators for the six-party talks, James Kelly, Hitoshi Tanaka, and Lee Soo-hyuck, respectively, hold a strategy session in Seoul.

24 A delegation led by Foreign Vice Minister Kim Kye-gwan leaves Pyongyang to take part in the six-party talks to be held in Beijing.

A South Korean delegation, led by Kang Man-gil, president of the Sangji University, visits Pyongyang to attend an inter-Korean symposium on the impropriety of designating the East Sea of Korea as the "Sea of Japan," and an inter-Korean joint exhibition to urge Japan to return

cultural treasures plundered by Japan during its 1910-1945 colonial rule.

NK Foreign Ministry announces that only if the compensation issue is settled can the NK freeze plan be achieved.

On the eve of the second round of six-party talks, participants of the talks hold separated bilateral meetings, including talks between NK-China, NK-SK, and SK-US.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

Chong-ryun	Pro-Pyongyang Association of Korean Residents in Japan	NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency	OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	PSI	Proliferation Security Initiative
KCNA	(North) Korean Central News Agency	SK	South Korea
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
LWR	Light Water Reactor	WFP	World Food Programme
NK	North Korea	WHO	World Health Organization
		WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction