

CHRONOLOGY

**Major Events Around the Korean Peninsula
(May 25, 2004 - August 24, 2004)**

May

- 25 In a press conference, Lt. General Charles Campbell, 8th US Army commander, states that USFK need to be redeployed to meet future requirements in the 21st century. He adds that SK-US combined forces could perform peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in Northeast Asia in the future.

Red Cross officials from the two Koreas end a two-day meeting at the North's resort of Mt. Kumgang to discuss the 10th reunion of separated families.

- 26 SK and NK military generals hold talks at NK's Mt. Kumgang resort. The talks are the first since the Korean War.

NK's Presidium of the SPA announces three sets of regulations related to the operation of the Mt. Kumgang tourist zone.

- 27 SK's defense security commander, in a conference, announces that NK is operating a crack unit specializing in computer hacking and strengthening its cyber-terror ability.

- 29 The 20th Congress of the *Chongryun* closes in Tokyo, after two days.

June

- 1 A delegation from Germany arrives in Pyongyang to attend the opening ceremony of a German information center, which was recently established in Pyongyang.

- 2 US Department of Defense announces that the US Navy will hold Operation Summer Pulse '04, demonstrating the simultaneous deployment of seven aircraft carrier strike groups, from early June to August.

- 3 The ninth round of the inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee is held in Pyongyang.

The second session of the inter-Korean general-level military talks is held on Mt. Sorak in SK.

US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld states at a press conference that the US is prepared to fundamentally change the deployment of US forces in SK and Europe, where threats have disappeared or where the US no longer needs to commit large-scale forces.

- 5 SK's Red Cross Chief Lee Yoon-gu and a delegation from the International Federation of Red

- Cross and Red Crescent Societies, led by General Secretary Markku Niskala, visit Pyongyang.
- 7 US and SK officials announce that the US plans to pull out 12,500 troops by the end of December 2005 as a part of its GPR.
- 8 Samlee Plianbangchang, director of the Regional Office for Southeast Asia of the WHO, and Peter Zuellig, chief executive of Interpacific of Switzerland, visit Pyongyang.
- 9 NK's Navy Command issues a report claiming the SK Navy is engaging in military provocations around the maritime border (NLL) in the West Sea.
- 14 Japan's Diet passes by a large majority, a law to ban port calls by ships deemed to pose a security threat.
- US lists NK in the third and lowest tier in its annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*.
- Warships of the two Koreas establish their first-ever direct radio contact around the disputed border of the West Sea, following an agreement reached during the second round of inter-Korean general level military talks June 3-4.
- 15 SK and NK stop propaganda broadcasts at the Military Demarcation Line.
- 16 An emergency team from Japan starts work in Qiqihar in China's Heilongjiang Province to dispose of a cache of mustard-gas and other toxic weapons left by the Japanese Imperial Army.
- 21 SK Foreign Ministry announces that despite a threat from Iraqi militants to behead a SK hostage, SK will go ahead with its plan to send 3,000 troops to help rebuild Iraq. The Iraqi group holding 33-year-old SK citizen, Kim Sun-il, says that SK has 24 hours from the night of June 20, to reverse its decision or they will behead him, according to an All Jazeera TV broadcast.
- 22 Al-Jazeera television reports that an Iraqi militant group has beheaded SK hostage, Kim Sun-il.
- Working-level discussions in preparation for the third round of the Six-Party Talks end in Beijing after two days.
- SK's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy announces that it will evacuate all of its nationals doing business in Iraq.
- 23 SK President Roh Moo-hyun apologizes to SK after the beheading of a SK hostage in Iraq.
- The third round of the Six-Party Talks opens in Beijing.
- Vietnam announces that it will send 1,000 tons of rice in food aid to NK in the aftermath of a massive train accident in Ryongchon in April.
- 24 On the sidelines of the Six-Party Talks, the US and NK hold a rare bilateral meeting in which US offers conditional aid and security guarantees aimed at breaking the deadlock in the nuclear crisis, the top issue on the agenda.
- SK and NK agree to march together in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 28th Olympic Games.

- 25 Anti-American rallies of about one million participants are held in Pyongyang on the anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

The second session of working-level talks on the construction of the Kaesong Industrial Complex and the second round of working-level contact on settlement banks to handle accounts between the Koreas close after two days in Kaesong.

- 26 A Chinese military delegation led by Lt. General Li Yu, assistant to the People's Liberation Army's chief of general staff, visits NK to sign a border agreement to ensure stability.

- 28 Russia sends 35 tons of food aid to NK.

SK and the US resume talks in Seoul on the realignment of USFK.

- 29 A Chinese government economic and trade delegation led by Chen Jian visits NK.

- 29 Former SK President Kim Dae-jung starts China tour that includes a series of meetings with senior Chinese officials.

SK and NK hold working-level military talks, as a follow-up to previous bilateral agreements for easing tensions on their maritime and land borders in Paju, Kyonggi Province.

The Bank of Korea announces that on the sidelines of the annual assembly of the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, the top bankers of SK and NK have held their first-ever talks and discussed possible cooperation between the two central banks.

The US Defense Department announces that ten US F-117A stealth fighters will be deployed to a US airbase in the southern part of SK to take part in military training that will last several months.

- 30 SK and NK celebrate the completion of a pilot industrial complex in Kaesong, a NK city near the inter-Korean border.

The 10th inter-Korean working-level discussions for linking cross-border railways and roads opens at the Mt. Kumgang resort.

July

- 1 SK and NK foreign ministers hold talks on the sidelines of the 11th ARF in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Two ancient sites of Korea's ancient Koguryo Dynasty (277BC-668AD) located in NK and China, are included in the UN's World Heritage List, marking the first such inclusion for NK.

- 2 KCNA says that NK recently informed British citizen David Hinton of the death of his elder brother Frederic William Hinton, a lieutenant in the British Royal Air Force, during the 1950-53 Korean War.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell meets with NK Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun on the sidelines of the ARF.

- 3 KCNA says that Sergey Mikhailovich Darikin, governor of Primorskii Krai in the Russian Far East, recently sent funds to NK for the construction of the Jongbaek Russian Orthodox Church, whose groundbreaking ceremony was held

- in Pyongyang on June 24, 2003.
- 5 Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov holds talks with NK leader Kim Jong-il.
- KCNA says that NK has no objection to the wishes of Japanese Red Army members to return home.
- 6 NK is building and deploying intermediate-range ballistic missiles capable of hitting targets up to 4,000 km away, and has been testing a new main engine for its long-range ballistic missiles, Daepodong-2, SK's Defense Ministry announces. SK's Unification Ministry announces that it will send 400,000 tons of rice to NK by the end of this year.
- 7 SK's Ministry of National Defense announces that since the Iraq War, NK has been building 80 new tunnels and reinforcing the camouflage of its army bases
- 8 US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice visits Seoul, offering "surprising compensation" to NK if it gives up its nuclear program.
- Kim Jong-il pays a midnight visit to the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang, where his father Kim Il-sung lies in state, on the 10th anniversary of the senior Kim's death.
- US House of Representatives approves a provision that calls for stopping all transfers by the US government of any nuclear technology or materials to NK, Iran and other terrorism sponsoring states.
- 9 Hitomi Soga, a repatriated Japanese abductee, meets with her husband Charles Jenkins, a former US sergeant who defected to NK, and their two NK-born daughters in Indonesia.
- 12 The first round of the 10th reunion of separated families from the two Koreas closes at the Mt. Kumgang resort after two days.
- KCNA says that the Rason International Telecommunications Center in Rajin-Sonbong recently set up a new communications network to meet growing domestic and foreign demand for communications services.
- 13 NK Minister of People's Armed Forces Kim Il-chol hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan in Beijing.
- SK's Korea National Oil Corp. announces that NK had an energy supply of 15.69 million tons of energy (coal-based energy is 72 %, water-based, 16 %, and oil-based 7 %) in 2000, as compared to the supply of 192.89 million tons of energy in SK.
- SK's National Intelligence Service announces that hackers based in China have attacked SK government computers via two viruses.
- 14 A NK patrol boat briefly crossed the NLL but retreated minutes later after warning shots were fired by the SK Navy. It was the first time NK violated the NLL since SK-NK hotline activation (June 15).
- The NK ferry Mangyongbong-92 leaves Niigata port in Japan after an overnight stay.
- 15 Inter-Korean trade jumped to \$325 million (21%) in the first half of the

year, from \$269 million in the same period last year, SK's Unification Ministry announces.

- 19 SK's Joint Chiefs of Staff announces that on July 14, a NK navel vessel crossed the NLL and retreated after warning shots were fired by the SK Navy. The ship was the Deungsangot 684, which was involved in the 2002 West Sea Naval Conflict.

US Undersecretary of State John Bolton visits Seoul for talks on NK.

- 20 SK sends 2,000 tons of rice via inter-Korean roads.

- 21 KEDO's executive board meeting is held in New York to discuss the preservation and maintenance of materials and equipment for the suspended reactor project.

SK President Roh holds a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Jeju Island.

Taiwan's military closes part of a major freeway to use it as a practice emergency runway for jet fighters. At about the same time, China rehearses coordinated air, sea and ground attacks on Dongshan island.

US House of Representatives unanimously passes the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

- 23 At the FOTA talks in Washington, SK and the US reach a formal agreement on a plan to move all USFK troops stationed at the downtown Seoul army base to bases south of the city as part of a major realignment of troops in SK.

US Department of State announces that the US will donate 50,000 metric

tons of agricultural commodities through the WFP's 2004 emergency feeding operation for the people of NK.

- 24 NK Foreign Ministry says the key solution to the dispute over the North's nuclear program is US participation in the supply of two million kilowatts of energy to the North. It adds it cannot accept the US-suggested "Libyan model" aimed at unilaterally dismantling the NK nuclear program.

- 26 SK's Joint Chiefs of Staff announces that two small NK fishing boats briefly violated the NLL this morning.

- 27 SK Defense Minister Cho Yung-kil resigns over the recent controversy surrounding inter-Korean radio communications before shots were fired near the disputed western maritime border on July 14.

- 28 About 468 NK defectors, the largest group ever to reach SK, have arrived in Seoul after a two-day airlift via a Southeast Asian country.

- 29 EU Ambassador to SK Dorian Prince announces that the EU has sent 320 million euros (US\$386 million) worth of aid to NK since 1995. EU also supplied an additional 115 million euros to KEDO.

August

- 3 NK Foreign Ministry accuses Vietnam of conspiring with SK and the US to help 468 NKs defect to the South.

The US and SK hold FOTA talks in Seoul.

- 4 Jacques Diouf, director-general of the

- FAO, visits Pyongyang.
- 5 The Chinese government erases all accounts of pre-1948 Korean history, including Goguryo history, from the website of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.
- 6 Yang Hyong-sop, vice chairman of the SPA Presidium, meets in Pyongyang with Donald Gregg, president of the Korean Association of the United States and former US ambassador to SK.
- 7 A delegation from the *Chongryun* visits Pyongyang.
- After Japan defeats China in the Asian Cup soccer finals, angry Chinese fans smash a Japanese Embassy car and burn the Japanese flag.
- 9 At a Japanese nuclear power plant, blasts of non-radioactive steam kill four workers and severely burn seven others.
- 10 US, SK and NK hold informal talks at an international seminar in New York. Participants are Joseph Detrani, Han Seung-joo, and Ri Gun, respectively.
- 11 Japan and NK open two-day working-level talks in Beijing to discuss the issue of 10 Japanese nationals abducted by NK.
- SK announces that it has chosen Yeongi-Gongju area for its new capital.
- 12 KCNA announces that the reconstruction of Ryongchon, the NK city damaged by explosions after a huge train accident, is now in the final stages.
- UNICEF announces the Japanese government donation of \$5 million to support the UN agency's work in NK.
- The US completes the 10-day airlift operations to shift its 3,600 troops from SK to Iraq.
- US Secretary of State Colin Powell states that Japan must consider revising Article 9 of its Constitution if it wants to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- 13 SK and NK Olympic teams march together at the opening ceremony of the Athens Summer Olympics.
- 14 SK's Joint Chiefs of Staff announces that an NK patrol boat crossed over the NLL, but retreated after SK vessels set out in pursuit. SK Navy sent two warnings through the hotline, but NK failed to respond to either message.
- 16 New US Ambassador to Korea Christopher Hill meets with SK Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon.
- The Korea Land Corp. announces SK and NK archaeologists have discovered thousands of artifacts and historic relics at the site of an industrial park in Kaesong. It adds the artifacts will be displayed at Kaesong Museum, but a historic dwelling site will not be preserved as it was heavily damaged in the Korean War.
- The US President announces the removal of more than 20,000 troops from bases in East Asia over the next decade as part of a reduction of 70,000 US personnel based overseas, in line with its Global Posture Realignment plan.

- 17 Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer pays a rare visit to NK.
- Regarding the US President's Aug. 16 remarks on USFK reduction, SK Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon dismisses fears of a security vacuum on the Korean peninsula.
- SK's Unification Ministry announces that NK paid \$70 million to China for 301,000 tons of crude oil in the first half of this year.
- 18 Radio Pyongyang demands SK return the recent NK defectors to NK saying that SK should repatriate "kidnapped" NKs.
- SK sends the last aid shipment to help rebuild Ryongchon. SK has shipped 36.5 billion won (\$31 million) worth of construction equipment and materials to help the city.
- US presidential candidate John Kerry expresses his opposition to the plan for overseas US troop reduction.
- 19 NK accuses the US of blocking Kaesong Industrial Complex by restricting the inflow of high-tech computers and machinery.
- SK's ruling Uri Party leader Shin Ki-nam resigns after admitting that his father had served with the Japanese military police during the colonial period.
- 20 SK's Air Force announces that it had completed production and deployment of 140 KF-16 fighter jets, a project launched in 1991.
- 23 NK Foreign Ministry denounces US President Bush for calling leader Kim Jong-il a tyrant during a campaign rally, and rules out attending new Six-Party working-level talks.
- The US and SK begin the annual 12-day joint military exercise, Ulchi Focus Lens, continuing through September 3.
- 24 A SK journalist posts on his web site that Kim Jong-il's wife, Koh Young-hee has died of illness.

ABBREVIATIONS

Chongryun	pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan	KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
DMZ	demilitarized zone	NK	North Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	NLL	Northern Limit Line
FOTA	Future of the Alliance	PSI	Proliferation Security Initiative
GPR	Global Posture Review	SK	South Korea
KCNA	(North) Korean Central News Agency	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
		UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
		USFK	US Forces Korea
		WFP	World Food Programme