

CHRONOLOGY

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

August

- 25 Jia Qingling, chairman of China's CPPCC visits Seoul to discuss NK's nuclear program and the dispute over the history of Koguryo.

NK announces real estate regulations for the Kaesong Industrial Complex, adopted on July 29 by the Presidium of the SPA.

- 26 Tokyo's school board adopts the *New History Textbook* which faced protests from SK and China for omitting Japanese wartime atrocities.

- 27 Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the UNEP, announces that NK needs immediate investments to deal with severe environmental problems.

SK Unification Minister Chung Dong-young visits Washington to discuss the NK nuclear issue.

KCNA announces that the Bush administration should not desecrate the term "human rights," referring to Iraqi victims of US army missile attacks in Najaf and Falluja, Iraq.

- 28 NK's Red Cross sends a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, calling for a stop to NK refugees' entry into SK.

- 29 An IAEA team visits SK to investigate SK's nuclear fuel experiment.

- 30 SK's Supreme Court upholds the controversial National Security Law.

- 31 Delegations from the German Meteorological services visit NK.

NK boycotts economic talks (slated for Aug. 31-Sep. 3) with SK on Kaesong industrial site and cross-border railways.

NK recalls its ambassador from a Southeast Asian country "A" to protest its role in the secret airlift of more than NK refugees to SK, *Yonhap News Agency* reports.

September

- 1 SK and Taiwan resume an aviation pact that was abrogated in 1992.

The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry denies its role in the airlifting of NK defectors to SK in July.

- 2 A group of SK Uri Party representatives delivers a joint statement to the US Embassy in Seoul, expressing concern over the North Korean Human Rights Act.

At the Republican National

- Convention, US President Bush named Japan and Australia among nations that have sent troops, omitting mention of SK.
- NK and China have agreed to link special economic zone projects in Shinuiju and Dandong, *Yonhap News Agency* reports.
- Three members of SK's opposition Democratic Labor Party visit Mt. Kumgang.
- 3 A group of lawmakers of SK's National Assembly submits a resolution to nullify the Gando Convention, signed by China and Japan in 1909.
- Kim Yong-nam, SPA Presidium chairman, meets with a Chinese CPPCC delegation.
- 4 KCNA announces that if SK wants to resume inter-Korean dialogue, SK should repeal its National Security Law.
- 6 SK's National Assembly committee announces that until 1989, there were only 607 NK defectors, but that figure has dramatically increased to 5,546 as of Aug. 2004.
- KCBS announces that the ancient kingdom of Koguryo always maintained its independence, breaking its silence on the controversial issue.
- Rodong Sinmun* calls on SK to prevent US meddling in the construction of the Kaesong Industrial Complex, based on the Wassenaar Arrangement.
- 7 Jang Ung, the president of the International Taekwondo Federation, visits NK to participate in the first International Martial Art Games.
- 8 SK's Unification Ministry endorses seven garment and other labor-intensive businesses to move into Kaesong Industrial Complex.
- 9 A massive explosion occurred in Kimhyongjik county, Ryanggang Province, which borders China.
- SK admits that it extracted a minimal amount of plutonium during a research experiment in 1982.
- 10 The US, Japan and SK (in Tokyo) agree to try to arrange a new round of Six-Party Talks on Sep. 22.
- 11 A British delegation led by Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell arrives in Pyongyang.
- NK's Foreign Ministry announces that NK has no choice but to link SK's nuclear experiments in 1982 and 2000 to the issue of the Six-Party Talks.
- 12 Hong Kong holds general elections.
- The ninth Pyongyang Film Festival opens at the Pyongyang International Cinema House in Pyongyang.
- 13 NK leader Kim Jong-il meets in Pyongyang with Sergei Mikhailovich Mironov, chairman of the Federation Council of Russia.
- SK officials say that the US has provided details of its \$11-billion weapons upgrade program for SK's defense, which include the deployment of an advanced Global Hawk air reconnaissance system.
- KCNA reports there was no accidental explosion in NK recently, saying that "blasting at hydro-power station construction sites in the north (of

- NK).”
- 14 SK’s civic activist groups present a written statement to the US Embassy in Seoul, calling for eased restrictions on transport of strategic materials to the Kaesong Industrial Complex.
- 15 The first International Martial Arts Games open in Pyongyang with the participation of about 400 members from 40 countries.
- The first shipment of 5,000 tons of SK rice aid (purchased in Thailand) arrives at a NK port.
- The US State Department issues annual report on religious freedom, accusing NK and seven other countries of failing to guarantee religious rights.
- 16 A group of Pyongyang-based diplomats visit the Sep. 9 blast site in Kimhyongjik County, NK.
- The NK Foreign Ministry announces that NK will never sit at the negotiation table on its nuclear weapons program unless the truth about SK’s nuclear experiments is revealed.
- 17 SK’s Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon states that SK stopped NK from acquiring 70 tons of toxic chemical, sodium cyanide in Sep. 2003.
- The UNC in SK rejects NK’s renewed Sep. 16 demand for UNC’s dissolution.
- 19 Hu Jintao replaces Jiang Zemin as chairman of China’s Central Military Commission.
- 20 NK and Cuba sign a commodity exchange agreement in Pyongyang.
- SK charity groups and an Internet portal site send a Chuseok (Korean thanksgiving) present to NK. Funds for the gift (coal for heating) were raised by collecting one won for every email sent by Internet users since Dec. 2003.
- SK President Roh Moo-hyun and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev hold talks.
- 21 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visits New York seeking support for a UN Security Council seat. He holds talks with US President Bush.
- President Roh and Russian President Vladimir Putin hold talks.
- SK and Russian state-owned oil firm Rosneft sign an MOU on oil project in the Sakhalin and Kamchatka areas.
- 22 KOTRA announces that China became Korea’s largest trading partner for the first time. Trade volume between SK and China in the first seven months of 2004 stood at \$43.89 billion, exceeding Korea’s trade volume with the US (\$40.2 billion) and Japan (\$39.28 billion).
- About 2,800 SK troops have been deployed to Irbil, Iraq to become the third-largest coalition partner after the US and Britain, SK’s JCS announces.
- 23 Following signs that NK is preparing to launch a Rodong missile, Japan dispatched an Aegis-equipped destroyer and an EP-3 to the East Sea, *Yomiuri Shimbun* reports.
- NK and China sign a cooperation agreement for a hydrological project on the Aproz and Tuman rivers.

- SK's JCS announces a NK patrol boat crossed the West Sea NLL, remained in SK waters for ten minutes, and did not respond to a radio warning.
- 24 China and Russia sign a communiqué on strategic economic cooperation in Moscow.
- 27 Choe Su-hon, NK's deputy foreign minister claims that it has "weaponized" all of its spent plutonium rods because of US hostile policies in the UN general assembly.
- Japan announces it unearthed 2,000 war-era Japanese weapons, including 67 chemical weapons, in Northeast China.
- SK announces figures for inter-Korean travel totaled 191,749 in 2003, down 60% from 2000.
- Rodong Sinmun* blames failure to launch the fourth round of Six-Party Talks before the end of September on the hostile policy of the US toward NK and its double standard in the dispute.
- 28 A delegation of Italian lawmakers visits NK.
- 29 The US Senate unanimously passes the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.
- 30 KCNA announces the US has collapsed the foundations of the Six-Party Talks by building up its military strength around the Korean peninsula.
- October**
- 1 Al-Jazeera television broadcasts an audiotape that specifically names SK as a terrorist target.
- NK's Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland criticizes the conclusion of the SK-US Mutual Defense Treaty as a stumbling block in the improvement of inter-Korean relations.
- 3 A SK lawmaker, Chung Moon-heon, discloses SK plans for coping with NK's possible collapse and mass defection, code-named "Chungmu 9000" and "Chungmu 3300."
- 4 NK has trained more than 500 computer hackers capable of launching cyber warfare against the US, *Yonhap News Agency* reports.
- SK and the US have agreed to gradually withdraw USFK troops by 2008, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.
- 5 SK's JCS estimates that China would deploy some 400,000 troops in support of NK in case of war with SK.
- SK President Roh in India for summit with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- 6 Of about 1,800 NK defectors residing in Seoul, 77.5% of them live below the poverty line, receiving government subsidies, *Yonhap News Agency* reports.
- 7 SK and NK military officials meet to discuss cross-border land routes, following a three-month hiatus.
- 11 China has deployed 30,000 troops near the Arok River and 10,000 near the Tuman, *Donga Ilbo* reports.
- 13 NK and Russia have agreed to modernize the railroad between Rajin and Hasan, SK's Unification Ministry announces.
- SK Defense Ministry announces that

- the SK Navy launched a massive submarine-search exercise off the east coast on Oct. 10.
- 14 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi states that he wants Bush to stay as US President.
- Two NK refugees entered the US via Los Angeles International Airport, requesting political asylum, *Donga Ilbo* reports.
- 15 KEDO tentatively decides to continue the suspension of the project.
- Russia's Maritime Territory and NK sign an agreement on trade and economic agreement.
- 17 NK's Cabinet publication, *Minju Joson*, denounces the US-SK decision to extend the deadline for reduction of USFK troops until 2008, as a plot to build up US military power.
- 18 Kim Yong-nam, chairman of NK's SPA Presidium, visits Beijing.
- SK's Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung states SK can defeat NK long-range artillery strikes in 6-11 minutes, marking first official mention of response time to a NK artillery threat.
- NK and China sign the minutes of talks on cooperation in oceanic science and technology.
- 19 UNESCO's Assistant Director-General Mounier Bouchenaki visits Pyongyang.
- 20 SK Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon announces that he wants to keep the NK Human Rights Act separate from the Six-Party Talks.
- 21 A ceremony is held in Kaesong to inaugurate the Office for Land Development in the Kaesong Industrial Zone, attended by SK legislators and businessmen.
- SK's Incheon International Airport has raised the security level after treats against SK on a terrorist website.
- SK's Supreme Court rules that the Special Law on Capital Relocation is unconstitutional.
- Two NK submarines have repeatedly trespassed into SK's territorial seas starting on Oct. 10, *Donga Ilbo* reports, citing *Asahi Shinbun*.
- 22 NK Foreign Ministry states three pre-conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks: Agreement by the US to drop its hostile policy toward the North; provision of rewards for Pyongyang's freeze of its nuclear facilities; and inclusion of SK's past nuclear experiments in the talks.
- SK's Unification Ministry announces that NK has been selling international food aid on its domestic market.
- 23 US Secretary of State Colin Powell starts an Asia tour (Japan, China and SK).
- 26 A joint maritime exercise, PSI, is held in waters southwest of Tokyo.
- Chief delegates of SK, Russia and the US to Six-Party Talks hold talks in Seoul.
- SK goes on high alert over possible infiltration by NK agents after border guards found a hole cut in a fence earlier the same day.

- 27 China detained 62 NK asylum-seekers and two SK human rights activists in Beijing, *Yonhap News Agency* reports.
- NK leader Kim Jong-il has made 580 inspection trips to military installations over the past 10 years, KCNA reports.
- SK and Russia sign an agreement to build a rocket-launch facility in Goheung by 2007.
- SK Unification Ministry announces NK defectors to SK reached 1,511 (Jan-Sep, 2004), up 72% compared with the same period of 2003.
- SK, the US and Japan are closely monitoring a missile base in Jeongju, NK, after it moved mobile missile launch stations a few days before, *Chosun Ilbo* reports.
- 29 KCNA reports that Kim Jong-il recently sent US\$100,000 in relief funds to pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan who were affected by the Niigata Prefecture earthquake.
- 30 Austria's special envoy to the foreign minister, Nikolaus Scherk, visits Pyongyang.
- 31 The decapitated body of a Japanese tourist, kidnapped by an Iraqi militant group, is found in Baghdad.
- UNESCO declares Mt. Kuwol in NK the 2nd NK's Biosphere Reserve following Mt. Paekdu (chosen in 1989).
- November**
- 1 SK's JCS announces SK naval ships fired warning shots to drive away three NK patrol boats that crossed over the NLL.
- SK troops take over patrol duties from the UNC in the Joint Security Area.
- A delegation from Japan arrives in Pyongyang to monitor the distribution of food supplied to NK by Japan.
- 2 A NK delegation led by Kim Sang-ik leaves Pyongyang to participate in the first vice defense ministerial-level talks of the ASEAN Regional Forum to be held on Nov. 5 in Beijing.
- 3 The EU announces that it will raise 6.2 million euros to fund clean water and sanitation in NK.
- (South) Korea National Oil Corp. announces that it is starting commercial production of liquefied natural gas at an East Sea site near Ulsan.
- 4 Democratic Party's Presidential candidate John Kerry congratulates Bush on his re-election via telephone.
- 5 *Chosun Sinbo*, Japan-based *Chongryun's* organ, mentions the US Presidential election indirectly.
- 8 KCNA calls on the Japanese ruling Liberation Democratic Party to withdraw the approval of a report on five-stage economic sanctions against NK.
- 9 A Japanese delegation led by Mitoji Yabunaka, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau visits Pyongyang to hold working-level talks on the abduction issue.
- Rodong Shinmun* indirectly mentions President Bush's reelection for the first time in NK.
- 11 IAEA reports that SK nuclear experi-

- ments, revealed earlier this year, produced minute amounts of plutonium and near-weapons grade uranium but there was no evidence linking them to an attempt to make nuclear arms.
- SK Navy has begun building its first Aegis-equipped destroyer, SK Defense Ministry announces.
- 12 NK and Ukraine sign an extradition treaty in Pyongyang.
- On the occasion of the APEC forum in Santiago, SK President Roh embarks on a 12-day tour of Chile, Brazil and Argentina.
- The NK government sets Nov. 15-17 as a mourning period following the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Nov. 11.
- 13 A delegation from the European Union and KEDO's Charles Kartman arrives in Pyongyang.
- 16 Talks are held in Pyongyang between Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun and President of the UN General Assembly Jean Ping.
- US Secretary Colin Powell resigns.
- 17 SK's Ministry of Information and Communication announces that it has blocked access to NK's 31 Internet sites.
- 20 A NK military delegation headed by Vice Marshal Kim Yong-chun visits Cuba.
- US President Bush and SK President Roh hold a summit in Chile.
- 21 The annual APEC summit closes in Santiago, Chile.
- 23 SK and Taiwan agree to resume regular flights in January.
- SK's Cabinet Meeting decides to extend its troops in Iraq by one year until the end of 2005.
- The UN announces that it has requested SK to send a contingent of engineering troops to Haiti.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPPCC	China's People's Political Consultative Conference	KOTRA	(South) Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	NK	North Korea
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff	NLL	Northern Limit Line
KCNA	(North) Korean Central News Agency	SK	South Korea
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization	SPA	Supreme People's Assembly
		UNC	United Nations Command
		UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
		USFK	US Forces Korea