



Background Paper

Committee: Security Council

Topic A: Nuclear Provocation in the Korean Peninsula

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After the Second World War, the Korean Peninsula was divided into two parts, where the Soviet Union's communist Government established itself in the north while the American capitalist Government established in the south. Kim Il-Sung, the founder and first dictator of North Korea, had the ambitious objective of having total control of the whole peninsula and building a nuclear warhead. Today, North Korea is ruled by Kim Jong-Un, Kim Il-Sung's grandson, who follows his grandfather's aims of controlling the peninsula. In 1985, North Korea joined the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) where countries agreed to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and promote peaceful cooperation on nuclear energy furthermore it signed a peace treaty with South Korea with the objective of denuclearizing the peninsula. After signing these treaties, North Korea secretly continued to improve its missile capability and develop its nuclear weapons. After this was discovered, in 2001, North Korea withdrew from the NPT and reactivated nuclear plants in the country. This has created political conflicts between the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's formal name) and other countries and has created tension among them, therefore this is a constant cause of concern for the United Nations. Today, North Korea possess a huge arsenal full of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons that are threatening international peace and could cause a global catastrophe. As the United Nations Security Council, it is our task, through debate, to find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution for the usage and possession of nuclear weapons not only in the Korean Peninsula, but globally.

North Korea shocked the world with their first nuclear test in 2006. From then until to today, North Korea has carried out uncountable missile tests. According to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, in 2017 alone, there have been 19 missile tests. Countries have already taken action regarding the Pyongyang nuclear plan: the U.S. has insisted the UN impose stricter sanctions on the DPRK. Donald Trump, during his presidency, has consistently

met with Kim Jong-Un to try to get to an agreement, but the two leaders remain far away from a formal solution where both of them keep criticizing and threatening each other. While the North threatens to bomb the GUAM territory of the U.S., Trump has threatened raining "fire and fury" on the North.

Japan has been repeatedly calling the UN for more punishments and acquiring missile defense systems, and has taken a huge role in this debate after North Korea carried out a nuclear test that flew over Japanese territory in 2017. Kim Jong-Un warned of more to come. China, number one trading partner of the DPRK (but also has done business with India, Pakistan, Russia and Thailand but the country has become independent in acquiring nuclear equipment), approved UN sanctions against the Korean regime. China believes that sanctions are not a reliable solution because they could lead to other consequences such as a mass exodus. They proposed a freeze for freeze agreement where the U.S. stops mobilizing troops in South Korea and North Korea "freezes" the nuclear program, but it was rejected by both nations. Other countries such as the UK and France believe that diplomatic talks are the key solution for solving this issue.

Finally, the most vulnerable target, South Korea has received diplomatic and military support from their allies. The U.S. established American soldiers and missile defense systems such as Thaad but diplomatic leaders are concerned that it would not be enough to stop North Korea's nuclear arsenal. Meanwhile, in early 2018, the two Korean leaders met in South Korea to sign an agreement to denuclearize the Peninsula and later on, a summit in Singapore with Donald Trump with the same purpose. Analysts suggest that Kim Jong-Un's idea of "denuclearized" is not clear and that actions taken in the past could take place again (NPT). The United Nations Security Council has passed several resolutions regarding nuclear non proliferation and sanctions against North Korea that has carelessly ignored and avoided.

It is of vital importance to reach a peaceful resolution to this conflict. Nuclear proliferation is a problem that countries have attempted to control for decades, but failed to accomplish. The United States and other countries involved are concerned about where this conflict could lead. Any military strike could begin a series of bombing between countries, causing many deaths and a global disaster. As the United Nations Security Council, we must guarantee that this will not happen through debate. After almost thirty years of evading and ignoring sanctions, it is time to apply an effective and diplomatic resolution in order to avoid this conflict becoming a global catastrophe.

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