

Conference on Disarmament

23 November 2015

Original: English

Note verbale dated 18 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the statement delivered by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 17 October 2015

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour of transmitting to the Secretariat the text of the Statement by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 17 October 2015, which clarifies its stand to replace the Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in issuing and circulating this Statement as an official document of the Conference.

GE.15-20637(E)



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Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

As already known to the world, at the recent 70th United Nations General Assembly the Democratic People's Republic of Korea re-clarified its fair and aboveboard stand to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty.

This was prompted by the urgent need to defuse the danger of a war caused by the potential threat to the Korean Peninsula and create climate for durable peace.

The situation on the peninsula in last August, when a trifling accidental case created a touch-and-go situation all of a sudden, finally proved that the present Armistice Agreement could no longer avert a conflict and defuse the danger of a war.

An agreement was reached between the north and the south with much effort thanks to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's peace-loving stand and persevering patience, but there is no guarantee that the agreement will be preserved and implemented as desired.

It is because the South Korean authorities, a party to the agreement, do not have any prerogative of command over any armed force in South Korea and are not in a position to reject any joint military drill imposed by the United States of America.

It is as clear as noonday that if a conflict occurs again in the area along the Military Demarcation Line due to the escalating tension, it will spill over into an uncontrollable all-out war.

The course of the negotiations held so far for the settlement of the issue on the Korean Peninsula proved that no issue in which the countries concerned including the United States of America are interested can be settled unless a peace treaty is concluded before anything else.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea once discussed the issue of denuclearization at the six-party talks by taking into consideration the assertion of the countries concerned that the issue of denuclearization should be discussed before anything else and simultaneously discussed both the nuclear issue and the issue of ensuring peace in the past. But all these discussions proved futile and, even when a partial agreement was reached, it was not implemented.

This was mainly because the United States of America persistently pursued its hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its military provocations such as large-scale joint military exercises and introduction of nuclear striking means into south Korea, its vivid manifestation, periodically chilled the atmosphere of all negotiations and ratcheted up the tension on the peninsula.

In order to put a definite end to the evil cycle of escalating confrontation and tension it is necessary to replace the Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty before anything else.

This is the conclusion drawn by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

There are two ways for ensuring peace on the peninsula.

The first one is the Cold War way in which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has to bolster its capability for self-defence with its nuclear force as a pivot in every way so as to cope with the United States of America increased nuclear threat and war provocations.

It is entirely thanks to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear deterrence that all-out war is averted on the peninsula in a state of ceasefire.

The other way is for the United States of America to roll back its hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and respond to the call for concluding the peace treaty with the latter so as to ensure genuine and lasting peace based on confidence.

The issue of replacing the Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty is the matter on which the United States of America should make bold decision first and there should be a principled agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, to begin with.

The United Nations, too, should positively support the conclusion of the peace treaty and thus fulfill its responsibility for putting an end to the abnormal situation where its member country is technically at war with the "United Nations Command" on the Korean Peninsula.

If the confidence building between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America helps remove the source of imminent war, it is possible to finally put an end to the nuclear arms race and consolidate peace.

The United States of America should drop the idea of groundlessly shunning the issue of concluding the peace treaty and prudently take a right option.

If the United States of America shuns the conclusion of the peace treaty or puts a conditionality on it even at this time when the situation on the peninsula has reached a crucial turning point, this attitude will clearly show the world that it has no intention to roll back its hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

If the United States of America insists on its hostile policy, it will only see the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's limitless bolstering of nuclear deterrence and the growth of its revolutionary armed forces capable of fighting any form of war to be ignited by the former.

Pyongyang, 17 October 2015
