

February 4, 2004

TO: Steve Cambone
CC: Gen. Dick Myers
Paul Wolfowitz
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld
SUBJECT: North Korea

We have to get ground truth on what the real facts are in North Korea.

Think about the misunderstanding about what was happening in the Soviet Union during the 1970s and their economy being weaker than assessed.

Think of the situation in Iraq and the corruption and disarray that Dr. Kay is reporting.

Everything in me says that the North Korean military may be vastly weaker than the current assessment suggests, and that the country may be in considerable decay.

I suggest that we ask the IC to try to figure out ways to get the truth. If my suspicions are correct, it could result in a significant change in contingency planning.

Thanks.

DHR:dh
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Please respond by _____

