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THE WHITE HOUSE

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March 4, 2003

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WHITE HOUSE SECTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
 THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
 THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
 THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
 THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
 CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT  
 DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
 CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: North Korea Policy Points

For your review is a set of points based on input from State and Defense describing U.S. policy on North Korea (Tab A). Please provide your comments/concurrence by noon on Thursday, March 6, 2003.

Condoleezza Rice  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

Attachment  
Tab A North Korea Policy Points



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NORTH KOREA POLICY POINTSThe Problem

- North Korea's nuclear weapons program poses a serious threat to the United States and our allies, undermines regional stability, and challenges the international nonproliferation regime.
- This program violates the NPT, IAEA Safeguards Agreement, the Agreed Framework and other international agreements.
- North Korea could take further escalatory steps, such as reprocessing, launching a long-range missile, or conducting a nuclear test, in an effort to blackmail and threaten the world.
- North Korea's program to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons and actions to restart nuclear facilities at Yongbyon present us with another danger: the possibility that this desperate regime -- the world's foremost proliferator -- could sell plutonium, enriched uranium, or even nuclear weapons to rogue states and terrorist organizations.
- This clearly is not just a bilateral issue between the United States and North Korea, but an issue between North Korea and the international community.
- North Korea's neighbors and the international community as a whole do not, and will not, accept its nuclear weapons program.
- In addition to its nuclear weapons program, the United States and other nations have other long-standing concerns, including North Korea's:
  - Threatening conventional force posture;
  - Chemical and biological weapons programs;
  - Development and deployment of long-range ballistic missiles;
  - WMD and ballistic missile proliferation activities;
  - Human rights violations; and
  - Sponsorship of terrorism.



U.S. Policy

- Any resolution must remove the tools of blackmail (nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons capability) from North Korea's hands.
  - We seek the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.
  - We seek to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the international non-proliferation regime.
  - A durable resolution will not be achieved quickly or easily, but we must not settle for an incomplete resolution that merely papers over this longstanding problem.
- The United States seeks a peaceful, diplomatic solution. The President has said that while all options remain on the table, the United States has no intention of invading North Korea.
- The United States maintains a military presence in the region and strong alliances with neighboring countries to maintain deterrence and resist aggression, as we have for the past 50 years on the Korean Peninsula.
- The United States is working with the rest of the international community to make clear to North Korea that continued pursuit of its nuclear ambitions will not be rewarded, is counterproductive to its own interests, and will result only in its further political and economic isolation.
- We have proposed multilateral talks to North Korea and we remain prepared to engage in such talks. In this multilateral format, we are prepared to discuss all issues, including DPRK interest in security assurances.
  - We will work closely with regional powers, allies, and friends that have a strong interest in a de-nuclearized Korean Peninsula.
  - We will pursue this issue at the U.N. Security Council, the IAEA, and other multilateral fora.
  - Because this is an issue affecting the interests of many states, the United States will not engage in bilateral talks with North Korea regarding its nuclear weapons program.



- The onus remains on North Korea to refrain from further provocations, to dismantle in a verifiable and irreversible manner its nuclear weapons program, and to fulfill all of its international obligations.
- Should North Korea verifiably eliminate its nuclear weapons program and take responsible steps toward greater engagement with the international community, it will find that the international community, including the United States, is prepared to respond.
- North Korea's economy is shattered; it needs help from the outside world just to feed its people.
- The President has expressed his concern for the plight of the North Korean people and stated that we will continue to help feed them in spite of our differences with the North Korean Government.
- However, help and engagement -- beyond humanitarian assistance -- is made impossible by North Korea's recent behavior.



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Donors' ability to access all vulnerable groups and monitor distribution in North Korea is not satisfactory. The US calls on North Korea to enable the international community to feed its people by meeting international standards of monitoring and access.

