

# City University of Hong Kong Model United Nations

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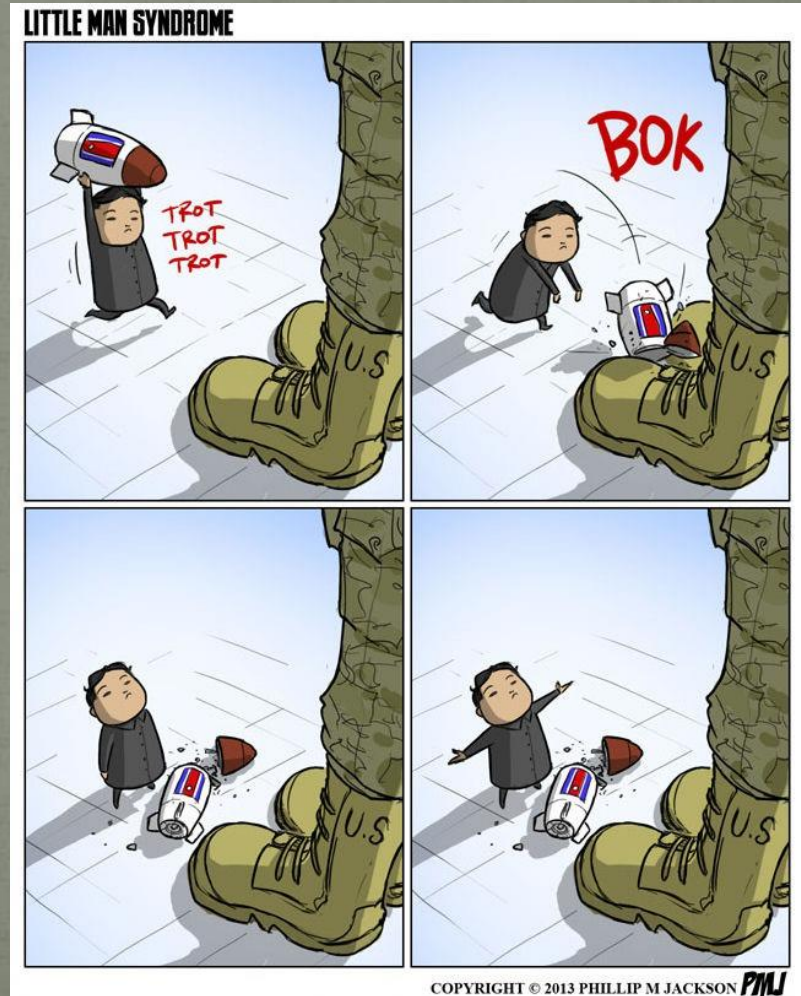
MUN Forum 1

DPRK Nuke Crisis: A WWIII?

# Warming up – What do they convey?



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# Post-Korean War

- **Korean Armistice Agreement** signed in July 1953
  - forces of the DPRK, South Korea and the U.S. conduct military patrols within the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)
  - The United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) regulates and supervises conditions of the agreement



- (September 1956) The U.S. intended to introduce nuclear weapons into South Korea
  - paragraph 13 (d) of the Agreement violated (both sides should not introduce new types of weapons into Korea)
  - U.S. decided to unilaterally abrogate the paragraph
  - U.S. Command informed North Korean representatives that it was no longer bounded by the paragraph
- The DPRK:
  - responded by digging underground fortifications resistant to nuclear attack/forward deployment of conventional forces
  - Requested China and Soviet Union for assistance in developing nuclear weapons (both rejected)

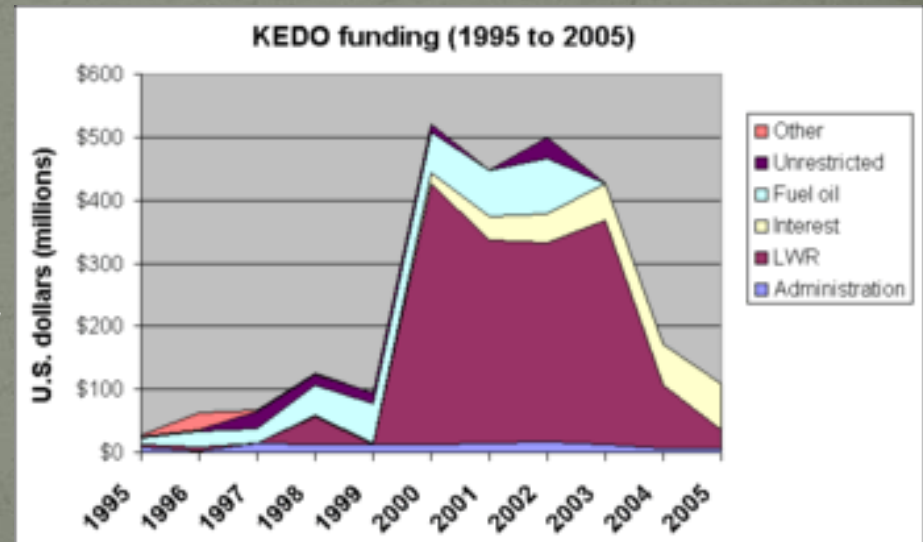
# Agreed Framework



- Between the U.S. and the DPRK
- Signed on October 21, 1994
- Objectives:
  - freezing and replacement of the DPRK's indigenous nuclear power plant program with more light water reactor (LWR) power plants
  - step-by-step normalization of relations between the 2 parties
- DPRK's graphite-moderated nuclear reactor would be replaced by 2 LWRS by 2003
- U.S. would provide 500,000 tons of fuel oil for heating and electricity production to the DPRK per year
- Spent nuclear fuel stocks would be disposed of without reprocessing
- The DPRK would remain a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty/ come into full compliance with safeguards agreement with IAEA

- U.S. Republican Senators opposed the agreement (should not appease)
- Amounts of funding not always sufficient since 1996 Congress funding
  - some of the agreed transitional oil supplies delivered late
  - a **political orphan**, rather than a means of peace-making
- Implication: Economic sanctions still not phased out
  - delays infuriated the DPRK, warning to restart nuclear research
  - increased disagreement

- Construction of first LWR began in 2002, but well behind schedule
- Halted indefinitely later that year
- Terminated the project in 2006



- (October 2002) U.S. delegation visited the DPRK, confronted the North Koreans' **uranium enrichment program** in an arrogant manner
  - U.S. believed that the DPRK admitted its existence
- DPRK: we deny such an accusation. The U.S. failed to provide any evidence, and even if we are developing nuclear weapons, as a sovereign state we have the right to do so, for defense.
- Fuel oil shipments halted in December 2002, a decision jointly made by KEDO and the U.S. Congress.
  - DPRK accused the U.S. of a “hostile policy” by delaying fuel supplies
  - **Broke down in 2003**
  - **Temporarily suspended the DPRK's plutonium production**
  - **Facilitates the drafting of another agreement adopted in 2007, making the DPRK dismantle its nuclear facilities**



**James A. Kelly**

# Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- An international treaty for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and related technology, to promote cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.
- 3-pillar system of the NPT:
  - non-proliferation
  - disarmament
  - the right to peacefully use nuclear weapons
- No. of parties: 190
- Non-parties(those who possessed nuclear weapons): India, Pakistan and the DPRK





- The DPRK withdrew from Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003, being the first state ever to withdraw from the treaty
- Possible Reasons:
  - U.S. allegations that it had started a uranium enrichment program
  - possessions of nuclear weapons for self-defense
  - discontentment over the stopping of fuel oil shipments
- (Aftermath) Pulled out of six-party talks/ declared that it possessed nuclear weapons in 2005

*“The A.Q.Khan proliferation network had provided The DPRK with a number of gas centrifuges which Are designed for uranium enrichment.”*



**Musharraf**

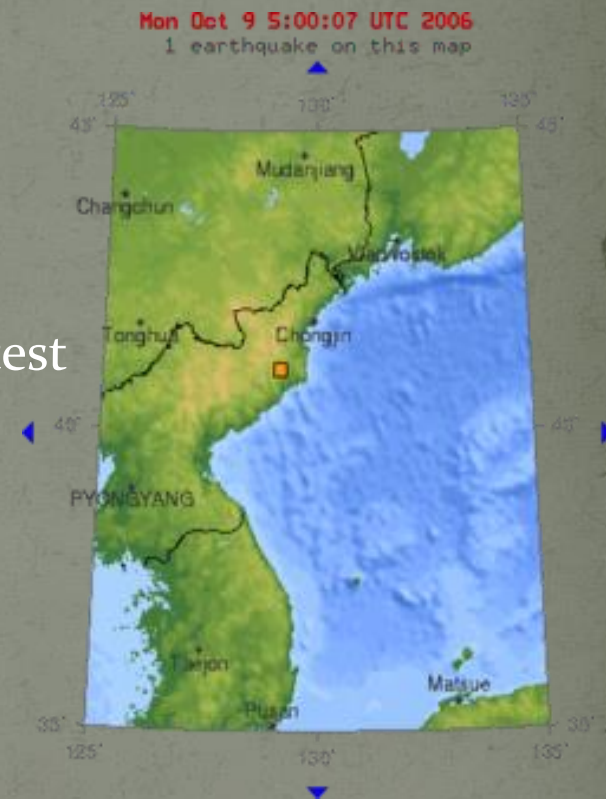
# Nuclear Tests in DPRK

- 1<sup>st</sup> Test – 2006
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Test – 2009
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Test – 2013
- A 4<sup>th</sup> one...?



# 2006 Nuclear Test

- Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2006
- Location: Punggye-ri, Kilju Country
- Yield = 0.48 kilotons
- Announcement in 3<sup>rd</sup> September (6 days prior)
- DPRK = first nation to give warning of nuclear test
- Underground nuclear denotation test
- Yield about 0.48 kilotons
- Energy of blast = 4.2 on Richter scale
- Generally regarded by nuclear professionals as “**unsuccessful test**”, just a **fizzle**
- Smallest nuclear test ever conducted by a state
- PRC government was given an advance warning



- *“The field of scientific research in the DPRK successfully conducted an underground nuclear test under secure conditions on October 9, Juche 95, at a stirring time when all the people of the country are making a great leap forward in the building of a great, prosperous, powerful socialist nation.”*
- *“The test was conducted with indigenous wisdom and technology 100 percent. It marks a historic event as it greatly encouraged and pleased the KPA and people that have wished to have powerful self-reliant defense capability. It will contribute to defending the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the area around it.”*



- (October 11) Threatened a nuclear missile launch unless U.S. can facilitate face-to-face talks / stop further sanctions imposed on them
- All 5 UNSC permanent members condemned the test
- South Korea: troops were prepared for nuclear war, but not supporting UN resolutions containing military measures against the DPRK
- United States: communist troops were boldly provoking the South Koreans
- United Nations: approved military/ economic sanctions against North Korea (UNSC Resolution 1718)
- (Oct 20) Kim Jong-Il: sorry for my country's nuclear test, I wish to return to talk with UN. If the US makes concession, we will, too. I have **no future plans to test another nuclear device**
- DPRK rejoined the six-nation disarmament talks (six-party talks: DPRK, South Korea, China, Japan, the US and Russia)



# 2009 Nuclear Test

- Date: May 25, 2009
- Location: Punggye-ri
- Underground detonation test
- Yield = 2.35 kilotons
- Recognized as a “successful” test
- More powerful than the 2006 test
- Recognized as a fully fledged nuclear power (miniaturization of nuclear warheads for medium-range missiles)
- DPRK: “to bolster up its nuclear deterrent for self-defense requested by its scientists and technicians. The test was safely conducted with higher explosive power and technology of its control, and the result helped settle the scientific and technological problems arising in further increasing the power of nuclear weapons and steadily developing nuclear technology.”



- **Motive 1: Result of succession crisis in the DPRK** (no intention of giving up nuclear weapons program even in a time of possible weakness/ establish the DPRK as a nuclear power within Kim Jong-il's lifetime )
- **Motive 2: Protest against the UNSC's condemnation on the rocket launch on 5 April 2009 as an "Intercontinental ballistic missile test"**
- DPRK conducted short-range missile tests right after the underground tests
- Suspicion of launching long-range ballistic missiles, e.g. another Taepodong-2 missile



**Kwangmyongsong-2 satellite**



**Taepodong-2 missile**

- **South Korea:**

- joined the Proliferation Security Initiative (no longer bounded by Korean war armistice)
- ROK-US Combined Forces raised surveillance condition to WATCHCON<sub>2</sub> (vital indications of threat)
- Continue to work to have the DPRK observe UNSC's resolutions

- **China:**

- The government resolutely opposed to the DPRK's actions
- Demanded that the DPRK return to tracks of six-party talks.

- **Japan:**

- The test was "unacceptable" and violated UNSC's resolutions
- Considered tightening sanctions

- **Russia:**

- The DPRK escalated tensions in Northeast Asia/ endanger regional security and stability/ violated UNSC Resolution 1718
- Still thought that nuclear problem can only be resolved by six-nations

- **The United States:**

- Condemned the test (The DPRK challenged international community)
- The DPRK would not find "international acceptance"
- Further sanctions as the price of their action
- Delivered a stark warning to the DPRK on 30 May (policies remained unchanged: complete and verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK, and would not accept it as a nuclear weapons state)



# UNSC Resolution 1874

- Adopted right after the test
- Imposed further economic sanctions on the DPRK
- Authorized UN members states to inspect North Korean cargo, and destroy those that may be involved in nuclear weapons program.
- DPRK spokesman, ‘we would begin “weaponizing” plutonium stockpiles, start uranium enrichment, and would view any US-led attempts to stop them as an act of war.’



# 2013 Nuclear Test

- Date: 13 Feb, 2013
- Location: Punggye-ri Nuclear Test Site
- Underground denotation test
- Yield: 6-7 kilotons
- Energy of blast: 5.1 in Richter Scale



- A DPRK spokesman, ‘The DPRK had successfully conducted a third underground nuclear weapon test, using a miniaturized nuclear device with greater explosive power.’
- (April 8, 2013) South Korea observed activity at Punggye-ri  
→ Suggesting another nuclear test being prepared.....

- “strategic patience” = isolating the DPRK, not offering any diplomatic rewards for its provocations
- direct negotiations / offers of aid to Pyongyang withheld unless the DPRK leadership shows “positive, constructive behavior” and willingness to negotiate over the dismantling of its nuclear weapons program.
- Adopted since 2009 by U.S. President Barack Obama, still in use
- Under process of approach calibration in responding to Kim’s behaviour



# Overview

Countries	Reactions
South Korea	Condemned the nuclear tests, and sided with the US in conducting military drills
China	Firmly opposed the nuclear tests, but did not prefer imposing financial sanctions
Russia	Condemned the tests for violating peace arrangements, but still believed in resolving the conflict through six-party talks
Japan	Condemned the tests, and considered economic sanctions against the DPRK
United States	Defined the tests as provocative actions, demanded the DPRK in giving up its nuclear weapons, and urged sanctions against it

# Conclusion

- The DPRK is not stopping/ giving up the development of nuclear weapons
- Existence of a nuclear threat
- Trend: Threat grows as time passes (escalating aggression of the DPRK/ hostility)
- War might break out if no sound solutions are suggested, other than military actions



# Economic sanctions

- Financial sanctions (reduced funding/ financial assistance)
- an embargo on military and technological materials and luxury goods
- Devastated the DPRK's economy
- Worsened after the dissolution of the Soviet Union
- Less financial aid injected to the agricultural sector
  - Famine (e.g. 1 in every 4 children suffers from acute malnutrition )
  - suspected cannibalism since 2003...



- Son'gun = the DPRK's "Military First" policy
  - a guiding ideology, prioritizes KPA in the affairs of state and allocates national resources to the army first
  - the military would get food first, while other people starve to death
- Not feeding its people with food, but its military power



- **Less financial resources** for the DPRK
- **More military spending** to enhance military power (more nukes)
- Even less resources allocated to the people, the agricultural sector

However, the government...

- Admitted famine as “food shortages”, due to bad weather and failure to implement Kim's teachings
  - Claimed that the situation in the DPRK unquestionably better than situations outside North Korea.
  - Urges the use of non-nutritious “food substitutes (e.g. sawdust)
- **Famine and other economic problem would be prolonged by the nuclear affair.....**



# National Pride

- Launching of Kwangmyongsong – 3, an Earth observation satellite
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7J2Nnl7Ano&list=FLU9zNes7WO WP36YO4JgkuHg&index=2>



# A Charismatic Leadership

- DPRK = hereditary dictatorship regime
- Ruled by the Korean Workers' Party, under a Great Leader
- stiff penalties for those who do not show "proper" respect /criticize the regime
- Example 1: Do not fold or stain images of dear leaders in newspaper articles/ magazines
- Example 2: Must include the whole body of the Leaders when taking pictures of them



# Ideologies

- Yanggakdo International Hotel
- 50-storey hotel in Pyongyang
- Empty.....
- Floor no. 5 missing, no access to Floors no. 4 and 6 for the American tourists
- North Koreans live on Floor no.5 under heavy surveillance



**WHY??**



# Question

Answer: To make sure that the North Koreans don't get corrupted by Western ideas, when no interaction is possible.

# Use of Propaganda

- North Korean Propaganda and Agitation Department controls most arts and literature in the DPRK, to promote and preserve local ideas
- Artwork designed under “Socialist Realism”
- **Anti-Americanism**
  - Demonizes the US and capitalism
  - Demonstrates how weak the U.S. army is
  - Means: Posters, videos, education in schools





**Children buy guns to kill each other... Drug addicts everywhere...**



**People live in tents...**



**The government subsidizes meals of hot snow...**

# The Pueblo Incident

- Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1968 (Cold War)
- Research ship Pueblo boarded and captured by North Korean forces, with 70 men on board
- Became a primary tourist attraction in Pyongyang
- More than an attraction...
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24R8JObNNQ4&list=FLU92Nes7WOWP36YO4JgkuHg> (12:40-13:20) (14:00- 17:15)



*USS Pueblo (AGER-2)*

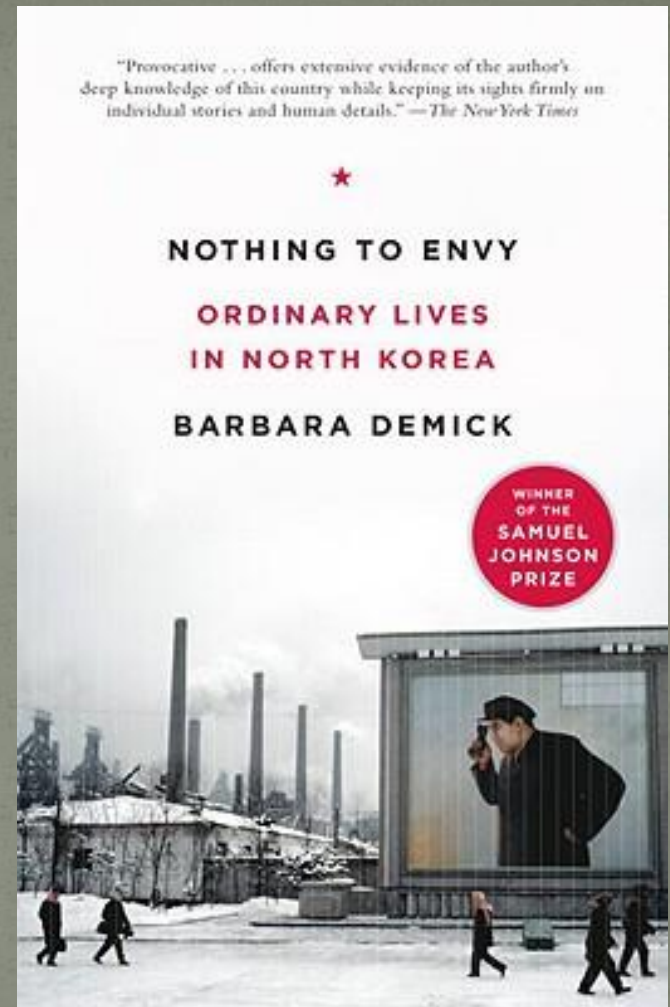
# Discussion

- Suppose the DPRK is going to conduct the 4<sup>th</sup> nuclear test. As delegations of **4 different countries (the DPRK, the United States, China and South Korea)**, try to have an open discussion with each other. Argue for your own country's stance towards the test with concrete and convincing arguments, and respond to the other delegation's arguments. Each speaker will have **2 minutes** to make his/her speech. Each country will then have **3 mins** to wrap up everything.



# Useful Source

- Name: Nothing To Envy (2009)
- Author: Babara Demick
- A part-novelization (2009) of
- interviews with refugees from Chongjin, North Korea



THANK YOU!!!!!!!