



U.S. Hit for Bringing Clouds of War to Hang over Korean Peninsula

Pyongyang, February 25 (KCNA) -- The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK issued the following press statement on Sunday:

Respected Supreme Leader Comrade **Kim Jong Un** affirmed his will in his New Year Address to make strenuous efforts to improve inter-Korean relations, create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula and ensure a successful holding of Phyongchang Winter Olympics.

Thanks to our supreme leadership's noble love for the nation and strong determination for peace, long-awaited inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation have been realized and the Olympics took place successfully by the inter-Korean collaboration.

However, on the eve of closing of the Olympics, United States is running amok to bring another dark cloud of confrontation and war over the Korean peninsula by announcing enormous sanctions against the DPRK.

Trump has announced new sanctions, the core of which is to completely block the DPRK's maritime trade with other countries, and he openly threatened us by making wild remarks that if the said sanctions do not work, "very rough phase 2" will be operated.

Trump group's attempt itself to threaten us by such sanctions or wild remarks only reveals its ignorance about us.

We came to possess nuclear weapons, the treasured sword of justice, in order to defend ourselves from such threats from the United States.

As we have stated on numerous occasions, we will consider any type of blockade an act of war against us, and if U.S. has indeed the guts to confront us in "rough" manner, we will not necessarily take the trouble to stop it.

If U.S. ignores all of our sincere efforts for improving inter-Korean relations and for preserving peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, as desired by the nation, and doggedly persists instead in provocation against us, we will have a tight grip on U.S. and deal with it with our own way of counteraction, no matter how rough and hysterical the U.S. moves are.

If tension on the Korean peninsula escalates into a brink of war due to the U.S. reckless actions, all the catastrophic consequences resulting therefrom will be borne by the United States.

KNPC Spokesman Blasts U.S.-Japan War Drills Pyongyang, February 22 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Korean National Peace Committee in a statement Thursday accused the U.S. and Japanese warmongers of staging "combined air-defence and missile-shielding drill" from Feb. 16 under the pretext of tackling "threats" from the DPRK's ballistic rocket and fighters.

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The exercises which will last until Feb. 23 reportedly include the inspection of the system for joint detection, tracking and interception of the DPRK's ballistic rockets and fighters through the coordinated operation of the air-defence network of the U.S. and Japan, and also the interception drill of Patriot missile units under the Japan Air "Self-Defense Force" and the emergency sortie drill of its fighters.

The recent drill assumes greater bellicosity and danger as its scope has been expanded as never before with the involvement of the Japan Air SDF and U.S. marines and air force units as well as the Japan Maritime SDF and units of the U.S. navy.

Branding this as a ferocious gangster-like act aimed to tarnish the hard-won atmosphere for the improvement of the north-south ties and for peace on the Korean peninsula, and as a dangerous military provocation to ignite the train of a war, the statement said:

The American empire is a heinous rogue state which seeks to maintain a military edge and achieve its hegemonic ambition under the signboard of "defence of allies" in Asia-Pacific. The islanders of Japan are crafty men eyeing militarist revival and the materialization of their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" with the help of the U.S. master.

The reckless war hysteria of the U.S. and Japan proves who the chieftain standing against Korea's reconciliation and unity and harassing peace on the Korean peninsula is.

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We will never remain an onlooker to the gangsters about to brandish swords.

The U.S. and Japanese reactionaries should not run wild, mindful that if they dare provoke the DPRK which has towered as a nuclear power in the East, a world-level strategic state, not properly facing up to the changed world, that will only endanger their security and existence.

U.S. Blasted for Hurling Stream of Abuse

Pyongyang, February 25 (KCNA) -- The Trump group is going frantic with the anti-DPRK smear campaign, much upset by the daily-increasing climate of the improvement of inter-Korean ties. U.S. Vice-President Pence said at a conservative group meeting in Maryland State on Feb. 23 that an era of strategic patience for the DPRK ended and the U.S. would show its decisive will until the DPRK stops threatening the U.S. and its allies and totally abandons the nuclear and missile program.

What is more intolerable is that he dared to describe the first vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, who attended the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in south Korea as a congratulatory mission, as "center of vicious regime" or "pillar of oppressive regime".

In this regard, a spokesman for the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee on Feb. 24 issued a statement condemning Pence's disgraceful behavior as an act of rogue without an equal in the world.

Unpardonable are that Pence dared to defame the inviolable DPRK government, terming it "dictatorial regime", and absurdly slandered our congratulatory missions including the first vice department director of the WPK Central Committee, the statement said, adding:

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It is the mettle of our army and people sharing their destinies with their leader and their social system to find out and punish without mercy those insulting the dignity of the supreme leadership and the social system of the DPRK no matter whoever and wherever they are.

Pence will have a wearing time, witnessing what quagmire his crazy remarks threw the U.S. and himself into.

Trump, who is taking such bete noire as Pence under his wings, should be well aware that we will never beg for dialogue in any case and, particularly, have no dealings with those viciously slandering the dignity of our supreme leadership and government.

We will never have face-to-face talks with them even after 100 years or 200 years. This is neither an empty talk nor any threat. The U.S. will have to pay dearly for stupid and wild vituperation.

KAPPC Urges Japanese Authorities to Prevent Terrorism against Chongryon and Koreans in Japan

Pyongyang, February 25 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee (KAPPC) Sunday issued a statement as regards the fact that in recent days the Japanese authorities and right-wing reactionaries are getting very serious in their hysteria against our Republic and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

Around 03:50, Feb. 23 two Japanese right-wingers with arms committed the heinous terrorist crime, firing several bullets at the hall in which Chongryon headquarters.

The Chongryon Central Standing Committee speaks for the dignity, right and interests of Chongryon organizations and Koreans in Japan and is playing the role as a diplomatic mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the present situation that the diplomatic ties have not been established between the DPRK and Japan.

The statement said that from the formation of Chongryon up to this date the successive Japanese governments and right-wing reactionaries have made all sorts of misdeeds against Chongryon organizations and Koreans in Japan, but they did not fire at the Central Hall of Chongryon, the inviolable area in which the DPRK's sovereignty is exercised.

It went on:

The Japanese right-wing gangsters' terrorism against the Central Hall of Chongryon is not merely an accident but a deliberate politically-motivated provocation and heinous crime against the DPRK and Chongryon committed by the Japanese reactionaries with the sinister intention to extremely strain the situation on the Korean peninsula and revive militarism and realize their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" taking advantage of it.

The Japanese authorities are misleading public opinion as if the recent incident happened by an individual body and person while investigating the criminals arrested but it is little short of a clumsy excuse to cover up their sinister intention.

It is an open challenge to the DPRK and a prelude to overall crackdown upon Chongryon that the Japanese authorities made right-wing gangsters fire at the hall, not content with making desperate efforts to realize their impossible pipedream.

The more desperately the Japanese reactionaries go in their moves against the DPRK and Chongryon, the more clearly they reveal their despicable true color as disturber of peace and war servant before the world.

The Japanese authorities would be well advised to disclose the background and truth behind the shooting spree to the end, mete out a stern punishment to the chief culprits and accomplices and take a special measure to prevent the reoccurrence of violent crime and terrorism against Chongryon and Koreans in Japan.