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## Spokesperson for DPRK FM Releases Press Statement

Pyongyang, January 20 (KCNA) -- A spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Saturday released the following press statement:

The UN Security Council, at the brigandish demand of the U.S. and its vassal states, convened a closed-door negotiation to discuss the hypersonic missile test-fire which was conducted as a part of the DPRK's regular efforts for bolstering up its defence capability.

As already clarified, the test-fire conducted by the DPRK was a part of the regular development research work in the field of national defence science and gave no harmful affect to the security of neighboring countries and it had nothing to do with the present regional situation.

Nevertheless, the U.S. brought up it into discussion of the UNSC, taking issue with the regular and legitimate activities of sovereign state. Moreover, it, again, dispatched the nuclear carrier task force into the waters around the Korean peninsula and staged provocative and threatening joint military drills together with its vassal forces.

This is a wanton violation of the sovereignty of the DPRK, an unpardonable provocation and an irresponsible act of deliberately escalating the critical situation on the Korean peninsula.

We deeply regret that the UNSC has brought the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's sovereign right to the discussion without any expression of concern, far from detention and restraining of the grave military threat of the U.S. and its vassal states that breaks peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and strongly denounce it.

The first issue to pay the closet attention to and be dealt with by the UNSC at the present time is the situation in the Middle East where unprecedented humanitarian disaster is taking place due to the illegal infringement upon the sovereignty, interference in internal affairs and armed attack of aggression by the U.S. and its followers.

If the UNSC truly feels responsibility for international peace and stability, it should take issue with the intentional and premeditated military provocations of the U.S. and the Republic of Korea that are driving the security environment in the Korean peninsula and the surrounding area to the brink of a crash and put it in question.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will never tolerate the abnormal repeated practice of the UNSC which illegally brands the efforts for bolstering up its own capabilities to be certainly necessary for defending itself as an illegal one but will firmly safeguard its sovereign right and legitimate interests through stronger and more obvious action choice. -0-

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