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of
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presents

“Negotiations Are Not Capitulation”

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United Nations sanctions, although a justified response to a February 2016 nuclear test and January 2016 missile launch, will not unilaterally resolve the nuclear issue with North Korea. Unconditional exploratory negotiations with North Korea could be productive, ideally hosted by China, with South Korea joining the U.S. to determine if the Six Party (nuclear) Talks should be resumed. Reflecting on the history of the Korean Peninsula and developments with North Korea for the past seventy years, it should be apparent that the nuclear issue and regional security concerns will continue to deteriorate if we are unable or unwilling to further explore a negotiated path to issues involving North Korea.

In its 2000 years of recorded history, Korea experienced 900 invasions with periods of foreign occupation—by China, Mongolia and Japan, which occupied Korea until the end of World War II. In 1945, the U.S. selected the 38th parallel as the divide between U.S. troops occupying the area south of the parallel and Soviet troops occupying the area north of the parallel.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea, with Soviet and Chinese backing, invaded the South in an effort to reunify the country. The United States, South Korea and fifteen other nations, under the flag of the United Nations, repulsed the invasion. The war ended in 1953 with estimates that 900,000 Chinese and 520,000 North Korean soldiers were killed or wounded, as were 400,000 UN troops (mostly South Koreans). U.S. casualties were 54,000 dead and over 100,000 wounded. It's estimated that 3 million civilians were killed.

Since 1953, North Korea's economy deteriorated significantly. Its military and security services during this period behaved recklessly. The 1966 commando attack on Seoul's Presidential Blue House, the 1983 commando attack on a visiting senior South Korean delegation in Rangoon, Burma and the 1988 downing of a KAL airplane are just a few of the atrocities perpetrated by North Korea. In 1993, North Korea reacted to IAEA suspicion of anomalies at its Yongbyon nuclear facility, threatening to quit the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and make Seoul a sea of flames. After former President Jimmy Carter, with the aid of Billy Graham, met with Kim Il Sung, nuclear negotiations with the U.S. were established. These meetings in Geneva resulted in the 1994 Agreed Framework, with the North agreeing to freeze its nuclear activities at Yongbyon, in return for two 1000 megawatt light water reactors and the provision of heavy fuel until the reactors were operational.

With Kim Il Sung's death in 1994, his son, Kim Jong Il, took over. When North Korea was confronted in 2002 with information about its clandestine uranium enrichment program, they admitted to the program

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and in January 2003, the North quit the NPT and reactivated its reactor at Yongbyon and started to reprocess plutonium spent fuel rods for nuclear weapons. The U.S. halted construction of the two light water reactors and stopped shipping heavy fuel. The situation was tense.

In April 2003, China convened a meeting in Beijing of the U.S., North Korea and China, in an effort to defuse the situation. The countries agreed to the establishment of Six Party Talks, to negotiate the nuclear issue with North Korea.

In September 2005, the six countries agreed to a Joint Statement that halted and eventually would dismantle North Korea's nuclear programs in return for security assurances, a peace treaty, economic and energy assistance and eventual discussion for the provision of light water reactors. Literally at the same time, the U.S. Treasury, using Section 311 of the Patriot Act, sanctioned Macao's Banco Delta Asia, which then froze \$25 million of the North's money. The North's reaction was missile launches on July 4, 2006, followed by a nuclear test in October 2006. Once the frozen funds were returned to North Korea in 2007, implementation of the Joint Statement ensued. This came to a halt in late 2008, when North Korea refused to sign a nuclear monitoring agreement with the U.S. permitting monitors to leave Yongbyon to inspect any other suspect nuclear site.

Since then, in 2009, and in 2012 and 2016, when Kim Jung Un replaced his deceased father, Kim Jong Il, North Korea has conducted three additional nuclear tests and numerous missile launches, putting two satellites in orbit.

The recently-imposed UN sanctions on North Korea are comprehensive and intrusive. If implemented, especially by China, it will significantly affect the flow of all military goods and luxury items to North Korea. The North's reaction was predictable—bombast and threats.

For many who have dealt with North Korea and its leaders, it's apparent that sanctions alone will not get North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons.

North Korea wants to be accepted as a nuclear weapons state and wants normal relations with the U.S. They know this is an impossible goal, for obvious proliferation reasons.

China could host the U.S., South Korea and North Korea for exploratory talks, to include any and all subjects, to determine if the Six Party Talks should be resumed. Ideally, North Korea would agree to halt all nuclear tests and missile launches during these talks. It's worth a try, given current tension.

