The White House

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Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 10/5/2016

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:36 P.M. EDT

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/05/press-briefing-press-secretary-josh-earnest-1052016>

Q    Is there any additional sanctions, except the Chinese oil company?  Do you have any update?

MR. EARNEST:  I don’t.  And the reason is simply that we refrain from discussing publicly any plans we have to put in place additional sanctions.  And the reason for that is a common-sense one:  We don’t want to telegraph our intentions because we don’t want to give the potential targets of those sanctions the opportunity to take actions that would evade the sanctions.

So we’re not going to be in a position to talk publicly about what plans we may have in the future, but for more detailed understanding of what kind of sanctions have already been implemented, I’d encourage you to check with the experts at the Treasury Department and they can work with that -- work through that with you.

Q    A THAAD missile deploy in South Korea.  Do you have any particular date for the THAAD deploying in Korea?

MR. EARNEST:  I’m not aware of a deadline that has been set for the implementation or the installation of the THAAD battery.  The United States will work in close coordination with our allies in South Korea to determine the most effective location and date for the installation of that system that will significantly enhance the safety and security of our allies in South Korea.

Q    How did you convince China?  Because Chinese is opposing THAAD.

MR. EARNEST:  I think they’d probably tell you they’re not convinced.  But the argument that we have made that is rooted in fact is that the system is oriented to the threat that South Korea faces from North Korea.  And it should in no way inhibit or destabilize the situation with regard to China’s capabilities.

And this is a -- there’s been a more technical explanation that’s been provided at a variety of levels by U.S. officials to their Chinese counterparts.  Chinese officials remain unconvinced.  But South Korea has a legitimate threat that they need to counter, and they’re turning to the United States, one of their closest friends and allies in the world, to offer up additional resources that can be used to protect their country.  And while the threat from North Korea is so urgent, it makes sense that South Korea would look for a way to further enhance their security.  And the United States is glad that we can be there to support our ally in a time of need and that we can provide this sophisticated system to enhance their national security.

Q    And when they continue (inaudible)?

MR. EARNEST:  Well, no.  We will maintain an open dialogue with the Chinese, and that will include regular offers of technical explanations about why this is something that they should not be unduly concerned about.

**John Kirby**

**Spokesperson**  
**Daily Press Briefing**

**Washington, DC**

**September 28, 2016**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2016/09/262560.htm#SOUTHKOREA>

**QUESTION:** Also another one. North Korean embassy in Russia reported yesterday that North Korea has completed the development of nuclear weapons. So that how you response of this, their statement that they already have nuclear?

**MR KIRBY:** I’m not going to speak to intelligence matters from this podium. We continue to be, obviously, deeply concerned about the constant pursuit of the DPRK for nuclear weapon capabilities. Where exactly we think they are in that process, I’m simply not going to get into.

But what I will say is that with each test, and with each new provocative action, they only further galvanize the international community to take the steps necessary to put additional pressure on the regime. I understand that even with the most strident sanctions regime now in place that they still prove able and willing to continue these activities. Sanctions take time. And as the Secretary has said, Ambassador Power has said, we’re going to continue to consult with our partners at the UN on the potential for additional sanctions regimes for going forward. Now, but I just don’t have anything new to announce at this stage, and I’m certainly not going to speak to our views of where they are on the capability spectrum. Okay?

# Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room

Press Operations

Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook  
Oct. 4, 2016

<http://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/964251/department-of-defense-press-briefing-by-pentagon-press-secretary-peter-cook-in>

Q:  Secretary Carter recently he mentioned about nuclear deterrent.  So what is the exact -- (inaudible) -- nuclear deterrent?  How they can -- (inaudible) -- for if North Korea using nuclear first, then U.S. can using -- (inaudible)?   
  
MR. COOK:  I think you've heard the secretary speak often, and he spoke most recently on our trip visiting U.S. nuclear facilities, and part of the nuclear enterprise here in the United States.  And I think he made clear our view of the importance of the nuclear deterrence; maintaining that deterrence, not just for the United States, but for our allies as well.  
  
And it's something that he feels strongly about and something that's been U.S. policy for some time.  And North Korea and others should realize that that deterrence is real and will continue to be.

# Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room

Press Operations

Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook  
Oct. 6, 2016

<http://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/967335/department-of-defense-press-briefing-by-pentagon-press-secretary-peter-cook-in>

MR. COOK:  That diplomacy has run its course?  Is that your question?  
  
Q:  Yes.  So, what will the U.S. take military action to North Korea -- (inaudible) -- or any military -- (inaudible)?  
  
MR. COOK:  I think you know our position on this, and that the United States continues to work shoulder to shoulder with our South Korean allies, and our other allies in the region, to defend against the threat posed by North Korea.  
  
And we and our State Department colleagues will continue to encourage the North Koreans to take the steps necessary to reduce the tensions on the Korean peninsula.  And in the meantime, given the actions we've seen from the North Koreans, we'll continue to take the necessary steps we need to to protect the American people and protect our allies in the region.  
  
And I'm not going to get into military movements or decisions in the future, but this is the position we've had as allies of South Korea for years and we'll continue to stand by our allies in that part of the world.  
  
Q:  Are there any scenario for beheading North Korean Kim Jong Un like beheading of – Osama Bin Laden?  
  
MR. COOK:  I'm sorry.  This is a very serious topic, and again, I'm just going to reiterate our intention here, our goal has always been to reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula; that there are steps that the North Koreans can take to do that.  We certainly encourage a diplomatic resolution of this situation.  And there have been ample opportunities for the North Koreans to pursue diplomacy, and there still are.  
  
But in the meantime, the Department of Defense will continue to take the steps we need to to ensure the safety of the American people and also, of course, ensure the safety of our allies in the region.  
  
Q:  Do you remember two days ago of vice president debates -- (inaudible) -- they mentioned about the preemptive strike in North Korea.  So -- (inaudible) -- special forces in South Korea, so you -- (inaudible).  
  
MR. COOK:  I'm going to leave the political debate to the campaign season, and again, I'll leave it to the candidates to speak to their own views on this issue.  But I'll speak on behalf of the Department of Defense, and I think it's clear where we are with regard to this issue.