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Guo Shuxian

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**China tells Japan not to abandon dialogue over North Korea**

REUTERS

September 23, 2017 at 11:10 JST

BEIJING--Japan talking only about sanctions on North Korea rather than dialogue will be seen as going against United Nations resolutions, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Japanese counterpart.

Tensions have continued to rise since North Korea carried out its sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3, prompting a new round of U.N. sanctions.

Wang told Japan Foreign Minister Taro Kono on the sidelines of a United Nations meeting in New York that the situation on the Korean peninsula was getting increasingly serious and all sides needed to remain calm.

Resuming peace talks was just as much a part of the U.N. resolutions as enforcing sanctions, Wang said, according to a statement issued by China's Foreign Ministry late on Friday.

"If the Japanese side only talks about sanctions and does not bring up talks, or even goes against talks, it will be seen as contravening Security Council resolutions," the ministry cited Wang as saying.

China hoped that Japan talked and acted cautiously and played a constructive role on the nuclear issue, he said.

Beijing has repeatedly expressed concern about the rise of tensions over North Korea and, while it too has signed up for the increasingly tough U.N. sanctions, it has also urged a return to talks and for all parties to exercise restraint.

On Friday, Russia urged "hot heads" to calm down as the United States admitted it felt "challenged" by North Korea's warning that it could test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific.

Trump called North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a "madman" on Friday, a day after Kim dubbed him a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" who would face the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history" in retaliation for Trump saying the U.S. would "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatened the United States or its allies.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201709220038.html>

**Abe: Higher level of pressure needed against North Korea**

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

September 22, 2017 at 14:40 JST

*Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump hold a meeting in New York on Sept. 21. (Takeshi Iwashita)*

NEW YORK--The leaders of Japan, the United States and South Korea agreed on Sept. 21 to apply even greater pressure on North Korea to force Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

“Through cooperation between Japan, the United States and South Korea as well as by joining with the international community, we will apply an unprecedented higher level of pressure on North Korea to force it to change policy,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters after his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

During their talks that lasted for about an hour, the three leaders agreed to lobby other U.N. member nations, including China and Russia, which have called for greater dialogue with North Korea, to fully implement a U.N. Security Council agreement concerning North Korea. The agreement calls for tougher economic sanctions on Pyongyang, including restrictions on petroleum exports.

At the start of the meeting, Trump announced new sanctions that the United States would impose on companies that engage in business transactions with North Korea.

Abe expressed his support for the new U.S. sanctions, saying, “Through cooperation between Japan, the United States and South Korea, we will discuss the strategy that would lead to North Korea abandoning its nuclear weapons development program in order to decide on what future steps were needed.”

Moon said South Korea would cooperate with the international community to apply further pressure on Pyongyang.

The three leaders said such pressure will continue to be applied until North Korea takes specific steps toward denuclearization.

According to South Korean government officials, Trump said there would be no change in the U.S. defense commitment toward Japan and South Korea.

But the leaders were not all on the same page concerning one issue.

Government officials who briefed reporters said Abe expressed reservations toward South Korea’s plan to provide $8 million (about 900 million yen) in humanitarian support to North Korea.

“There is a need to avoid any action that will interfere with the pressure being applied on North Korea,” an official quoted Abe as saying at the meeting.

Abe later met separately with Trump.

Saying the Japan-U.S. relationship “has never been closer,” Trump said much progress had been made on the North Korean issue and bilateral trade.

In addition to discussing how to deal with Pyongyang, Abe and Trump talked about the Japan-U.S. economic dialogue that is expected to start in October as well as Trump’s scheduled first visit to Japan as president in early November.

“We want to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. relationship by having President Trump visit Japan,” Abe told reporters after the meeting.

Abe is scheduled to return to Tokyo’s Haneda Airport on the evening of Sept. 22.

(This article was written by Daisuke Hirabayashi and Nozomi Matsui.)

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201709220030.html>

**Why Japan doesn’t sign global nuclear arms ban treaty**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

September 22, 2017 at 13:45 JST

*Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, right, and family of deceased A-bomb victims bow before they place the Atomic Bomb victims' list at the Hiroshima Memorial Cenotaph during a ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, on Aug. 6, 2015. (AP file photo)*

Japan, the only country to have suffered atomic bomb attacks, has repeatedly called for a global ban on nuclear weapons. Yet it sided with the nuclear powers and NATO in refusing to sign a treaty to ban such weapons during the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York.

The treaty, the first of its kind, was signed Wednesday by 50 countries and would take effect if the same number of countries ratify it. So far three have done so, Guyana, Thailand and the Vatican. Once it takes effect, the signatories would be barred from developing, testing, producing, acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons.

Here's a look at what's behind Japan's reasoning:

**TOKYO UNDER U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA**

Japan, as a close U.S. ally, is protected by America's extended nuclear deterrence, or "nuclear umbrella," even though Tokyo renounces its own possession, production or entry of nuclear weapons on its turf. That makes it difficult for Tokyo to sign the treaty especially as it steps up its military role amid North Korea's missile and nuclear threats. Under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's hawkish government, the two countries have stepped up bilateral security cooperation. Besides Japan, most U.S. allies--almost all NATO members, South Korea and Australia--also did not participate in the talks on the treaty.

**A TREATY LONG PURSUED BY HIBAKUSHA**

Most atomic bombing survivors, or "hibakusha," have made lifetime devotion to achieving a nuclear-free world, and their decades-long steady effort has been regarded as a driving force for that cause. Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor Toshiki Fujimori, a leader of Japan's main group for the survivors, says nuclear weapons are absolutely "incompatible" with humans, and the treaty is a first step. He says Japan should sign, and its refusal to do so broke the hearts of many survivors, including his own. During the Aug. 9 memorial service in Nagasaki, the city's outspoken Mayor Tomihisa Taue criticized Abe's government for not joining the treaty, accusing it of making empty promises about achieving a nuclear-free world. He said Japan's absence is "incomprehensible" especially to those in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where the two U.S. attacks in August 1945 killed more than 210,000 people by the end of that year.

**JAPAN SAYS TREATY SPLITS TWO SIDES, WANTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP**

Japan's top government officials say the country did not sign because its approach to achieving a nuclear weapons ban is different from the treaty, even though nuclear abolition is their ultimate shared goal. Foreign Minister Taro Kono told reporters in New York that nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear nations have been divided, and there is even a gap among non-nuclear countries over how realistically they should achieve the goal. Kono said Japan seeks to reach out to both sides in hopes of serving as a bridge and create a common ground where everyone can join for the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and abolition.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201709150014.html>

**With China in mind, Japan, India agree to deepen defense**

REUTERS

September 15, 2017 at 07:55 JST

GANDHINAGAR, India--The leaders of India and Japan agreed on Thursday to deepen defense ties and push for more cooperation with Australia and the United States, as they seek to counter growing Chinese influence across Asia.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived this week in his counterpart Narendra Modi's home state, skipping the tradition of visiting the capital of New Delhi, for the 10th meeting between the two leaders since Modi came to power in 2014.

Relations have deepened between Asia’s second and third largest economies as Abe and Modi, who enjoy a close personal relationship, increasingly see eye to eye to balance China as the dominant Asian power.

"Almost everything that takes place during the visit, including economic deals, will in part be done with China in mind," Eurasia analysts said in a note.

Abe's visit comes days after New Delhi and Beijing agreed to end the longest and most serious military confrontation along their shared and contested border in decades, a dispute that had raised worries of a broader conflict between the Asian giants.

In a lengthy joint statement, India and Japan said deepening security links was paramount. This included collaboration on research into unmanned ground vehicles and robotics and the possibility of joint field exercises between their armies.

There was also "renewed momentum" for cooperation with the United States and Australia. Earlier this year, India rejected an Australian request to be included in four-country naval drills for fear of angering Beijing.

"Relations between India and Japan are not only a bilateral relationship but have developed into a strategic global partnership," Abe told reporters in Gandhinagar, the capital of western Gujarat state.

"We (India and Japan) will strengthen our collaboration with those countries with whom we share universal values."

Abe flew to Gujarat to lay the foundation stone of a $17 billion bullet train project, India's first, that was made possible by a huge Japanese loan.

Tokyo wants to win other high-speed rail lines India plans to build, to edge out Chinese ambitions to do the same and provide a boost for its high-end manufacturers.

The visit was light on specific announcements, but India said it welcomed proposals for increased Japanese investment into infrastructure projects in its remote northeast, a region New Delhi sees as its gateway to Southeast Asia.

China claims part of India's northeast as its own territory.

Japanese investment into the northeast "would give legs to our Act East policy," Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar told reporters.

Modi and Abe also said they would push for more progress on the development of industrial corridors for the growth of Asia and Africa.

Analysts say the planned $40 billion Asia-Africa Growth Corridor takes direct aim at China's Belt and Road project, envisaged as a modern-day "Silk Road" connecting China by land and sea across Asia and beyond to the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/SDI201709183628.html>

# Solidarity Against the North Korean Threat

By SHINZO ABE/ © 2017 The New York Times

September 18, 2017 at 13:12 JST

TOKYO--The whole world confronts an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat from North Korea. On Sept. 3, the regime carried out a reprehensible nuclear test. Late last week, it launched a ballistic missile over my country, Japan, only two weeks after a similar missile launch. By repeatedly testing missiles--in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions--Pyongyang has shown its reach now extends to the United States and Europe.

North Korea’s actions are an outright challenge to the international community. On Sept. 11, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on a new round of strict sanctions that restrict member states from selling oil to the North, ban North Korean textile exports and ban member states from authorizing North Koreans to work abroad.

They are an important step, but the leadership in Pyongyang has consistently ignored previous resolutions. The international community must stay united and enforce the sanctions.

Here in northeast Asia, the North Korean threat has been real for more than a quarter-century. We face the threat of missiles--short and medium range--together with the possibility of chemical weapons attacks.

North Korea has targeted Japan in particular by abducting many innocent Japanese citizens, including a 13-year-old girl who was abducted in 1977. Most of them have been held in North Korea since the 1970s and 1980s.

Everyone aspires to a peaceful solution to these challenges. And global solidarity is of utmost importance. Still, prioritizing diplomacy and emphasizing the importance of dialogue will not work with North Korea. History shows that concerted pressure by the entire international community is essential.

In the early 1990s, North Korea’s announcement to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency was a wake-up call. In response, Japan, the United States and South Korea engaged in dialogue with North Korea and agreed to construct two light-water reactors and to provide heavy fuel oil in exchange for freezing and ultimately dismantling its nuclear program. Japan, the United States and South Korea shouldered most of the financial burden, with the cooperation of Europe and other Asian countries.

We know what happened next: Several years after the heavy fuel oil was delivered and construction started on the light-water reactors, North Korea admitted to having a uranium enrichment program in violation of the agreement.

By the end of 2002, North Korea expelled IAEA inspectors, followed by an official withdrawal from the NPT in 2003. China and Russia then joined Japan, the United States and South Korea to create the six-party talks with the North. Pyongyang again agreed to the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. But instead, it declared itself a nuclear power in 2005 and carried out a nuclear test in 2006. The five countries’ attempt to solve the problem through dialogue failed.

In short, while the international community provided North Korea with sanctions relief and support as “compensation” for its pledges, the regime ignored most of its commitments.

Considering this history and its continuing missile launches and nuclear tests, more dialogue with North Korea would be a dead end. Pyongyang would see more talks as proof that other countries succumbed to the success of its missile launches and nuclear tests. Now is the time to exert the utmost pressure on the North. There should be no more delays.

How could North Korea relentlessly pursue missile development and nuclear tests over almost half a century? How could North Korea, under successive U.N. sanctions for a decade, acquire enormous resources to obtain crude materials, components and powerful engines? Statistics show that there are countries, mainly in Asia, that continue trading with North Korea; and for some, as recently as in 2016, their trade even exceeded that of the previous year. According to the United Nations, foreign-made parts have been used in North Korea’s ballistic missiles. There are countries buying products and services from North Korea or accepting its workers. Front companies established in Asia enable North Korea access to foreign currencies.

Japan has responded by reaffirming the ironclad Japan-U.S. alliance, and Japan has coordinated in lock step with the United States and South Korea. I firmly support the U.S. position that all options are on the table.

As a response to the latest nuclear test, I value the swift and unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 2375 on Sept. 11, which puts significantly tougher sanctions on North Korea. But I stress that we must not be simply complacent with the adoption of these sanctions. We must thoroughly enforce the successive resolutions in order to prevent North Korea from obtaining the goods, technologies, funds and people to further develop its missiles and nuclear program.

North Korea poses a serious threat and challenge to our world, and its actions flout the international nonproliferation regime. As swiftly as possible, we must make North Korea end its provocations, abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile development, and return the abductees in North Korea to their homes.

Solidarity and concerted effort among the international community, together with the effective role of the United Nations, are more vital than ever.

Shinzo Abe is the prime minister of Japan.

(Sept. 17, 2017)