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SOUTH KOREAN CABINET

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the South Korean Cabinet of CMUNCE 2010.

My name is Seng-Hwan Chun, and I will be your Committee Chair. To briefly introduce myself: I am a sophomore at Columbia College, and I plan to major in Economics-Mathematics. Although this is my first time to participate in Model United Nations at Columbia, I was actively involved in MUN during my high school years, from participating in overseas conferences to acting as a Chair for my high school's MUN club.

North Korea is probably one of the most frequently mentioned countries in the news these days, due to its penchant for taking unpredictable actions that anger the rest of the international community. And naturally, the nation that is affected the most by North Korea's behavior is its brother, South Korea.

Although South Koreans eventually hope for a peaceful reunification that can result in a fully democratic Korea like the rest of the world, its unique position in the situation requires South Korea's method of approaching the issue to be extremely realistic, precise and careful. Not surprisingly, there is not a single ministry or office within the South Korean government that is completely free from the actions of Kim Jong Il's Stalinist nation.

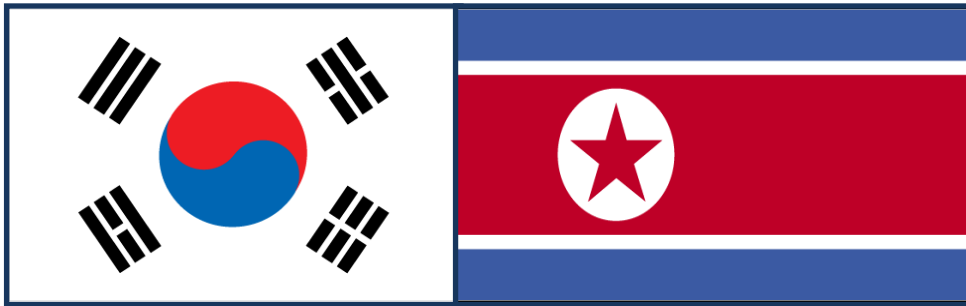
Hoping that participating in this Committee will give everybody a chance to consider the inter-Korean relations from the Koreans' point of view and also examine the issue from various aspects that form a nation, I cannot wait to find out what kind of approach and solution will be agreed upon in the Committee.

I look forward to seeing all of you next January!

Sincerely,

Seng-Hwan Chun
Chair, the South Korean Cabinet
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HISTORY



As of 2009, the Korean Peninsula has been divided by the world's most heavily armed border for 56 years. To the south, Republic of Korea (South Korea) is enjoying the wealth of one of the largest economies in the world, whereas the neighboring Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is suffering from dictatorship, famine and depravity. Although at present the two halves of the peninsula could not be more different, Korea had been a single entity for a large part of its history.

It could be said that what people nowadays consider "Korea" was initially shaped by Shilla's unification of the Three Kingdoms in AD 668, which significantly reduced the area occupied by "Korean" kingdoms due to Shilla's giving up of Manchuria to China's Tang Dynasty, Shilla's ally. Although the Unified Shilla was much smaller than the present-day "Korea," the following Goryeo (AD 918-1392) and Joseon (AD 1392-1910) dynasties gradually expanded the Korean territory to include the whole Korean Peninsula.

By the end of the 19th century, Japan heavily intruded into Korean affairs owing to its expansionist ambitions, eventually annexing Korea in 1910. The Japanese rule ended when Japan surrendered in World War II (August 15, 1945). Afterwards, the two victors of the World War, the United States and the Soviet Union, agreed to temporarily occupy half of the peninsula each, divided by the 38th parallel. The USA and the USSR's different ideologies and their growing tension eventually led to the establishment of two separate nations.

In an effort to reunify Korea under a single government, the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950, when North Korean soldiers invaded the South. When Chinese forces began to back the North and moved the frontier down to the 38th parallel, the UN and the US intervened, and the war turned in South Korea's favor. The brutal conflict finally ended on July 27, 1953 with the Ceasefire Agreement, and the Armistice Line became the new border between the two Koreas.

Technically still at war, the conflict between South and North Korea did not cease. Several attempts by North Korea to cross the border and attack the South were made, and in 1976, the death of two American soldiers in the DMZ (Axe Murder Incident) nearly started another war. Anti-communist sentiments dominated the South, backed by its government's propaganda efforts.

Following decades of military dictatorship that led to rapid economic growth, the hosting of the 1988 Summer Olympics, and the election of the first civilian President, Kim Young-Sam, South Korea gradually grew to become a fully democratic, developed nation. Meanwhile, the Stalinist North Korea adopted the "Juche," or self-reliance, ideology. With Kim Il Sung as its leader, North Korea became one of the most isolated countries in the world, and its economy has plummeted to the bottom. In 1994, Kim Il Sung died and his son, Kim Jong Il took control of the communist state.



Inter-Korean relations improved in the 1990's. In June 2000, Kim Dae Jung, the then president of South Korea, and Kim Jong Il met in Pyongyang in a historical Inter-Korean Summit. The two leaders signed the June 15th North-South Joint Declaration, an agreement to cooperatively work towards a peaceful reunification. Families separated for half a century by the DMZ came together, and Kim Dae Jung received the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize for this "Sunshine policy."

However, peace did not last long. In 2006, North Korea test fired a ballistic missile and subsequently performed its first nuclear weapon test, which has been determined a failure by experts. Fortunately, North Korea agreed to shut down its nuclear plant in Yongbyon after an agreement reached in the Six Party Talks. In the early 2008, North Korea even allowed the New York Philharmonic to perform in Pyongyang, and President George Bush dropped North Korea from the list of terrorist nations. A second Inter-Korean Summit in Pyongyang was held in October 2007, where President Roh Moo-Hyun and Kim Jong Il reaffirmed the peace declaration in 2000.

After three liberal leaders in a row, South Korea elected a president from the conservative party, Lee Myung-bak, in 2008. Unlike his predecessors who supported the Sunshine policy, Lee pushed for tougher actions against the North. In June 2008, a South Korean tourist in North Korea was shot dead by a North Korean soldier. Although North Korea stated that the tourist intruded the military zone and was given warning, evidence dictates otherwise. The tourist program was discontinued as a result.

The deteriorating relations did not improve. In April 2009, North Korea test-fired another ballistic missile, and in May, it conducted its second nuclear weapon test, which has been proven to be more successful than the first. The United Nation passed a resolution on June 12 to increase sanctions against North Korea, and efforts to freeze North Korea's foreign bank accounts were made. In response, North Korea publicly declared that it will continue its uranium enrichment program the next day.

Meanwhile, Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke in 2008 and disappeared from public view for a period of time. With his health deteriorating, it is considered that the recent actions of North Korea were carried out to re-assert Kim Jong Il's power, and to lay a firmer ground for his recently publicized successor and his third son, Kim Jong Un. With all the past efforts by South Korea and the international community to bring about a peaceful reunification reversed, inter-Korean relations is facing a major challenge. It is vital to end this in a peaceful manner, but what will come at the end of all these events is still unknown.

TOPIC 1: NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM



It is impossible to think of North Korea without its nuclear weapons program. Its desire to become an atomic power is not a recent development, however. After the Korean War, it became necessary for North Korea to have a defense mechanism against the allies among the USA, Republic of Korea and Japan. The collapse of communist states around the world, especially that of the Soviet Union, was another incentive to possess a weapon of mass destruction. The nuclear weapons program remains North Korea's only tool to bargain with the rest of the world and ask for economic aid.

North Korea conducted its first atomic bomb test in October 2006. From the seismological readings, it is believed that the test was a failure, but it showed the world what North Korea was capable of. Alongside with the nuclear weapon test, North Korea also experimented with its long-range missile for delivery of a nuclear weapon. The missile exploded within seconds of take-off.

Six-party talks comprising the two Koreas, Russia, China, Japan and the US entered a new phase after the first test. In early 2007, they finally reached a peaceful agreement, in which North Korea decided to stop its program for weapons of mass destruction under the conditions that it will be provided with fuel.

This short period of peace did not last, however, and North Korea refused to accept the process of verifying that North Korea is indeed terminating its nuclear weapons program in December 2008. In April 2009, North Korea fired another long-distance rocket to the Pacific, outraging the international community. In response to the international reaction, it further declared that it would quit nuclear disarmament talks forever and expel all nuclear inspectors from its territories. In May, it finally conducted its second nuclear weapon test, which seems to have been slightly more successful than the one in 2006.

Some experts speculate that the recent rash behavior of North Korea is an outward expression of an on-going political struggle within the nation, as a result of the deteriorating health of Kim Jong Il, whose position will need to be filled after his death. Unidentified sources suggest that Kim Jong Il has pancreatic cancer, which may mean that he can die within five years.

The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution on June 12 to tighten sanctions against North Korea. The sanctions included inspection of all cargoes and vessels suspected of delivering weapons from and to North Korea. Financial measures, such as freezing foreign bank accounts linked to North Korea, are also being sought, as they have been proven to be the most successful means to pressure North Korea.

South Korea's stance against North Korea also became more aggressive than before, as the current president from the conservative party, Lee Myung Bak, believes that the "Sunshine Policy" utilized by his predecessors cannot be followed unless North Korea completes its denuclearization. Immediately after the second nuclear test, the South

Korean government decided to join the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and participate in the interdiction of ships that may carry nuclear material, to which North Korea expressed its disappointment and anger.

It is widely hoped that these measures will help North Korea recommence talks with the rest of the world and agree to peaceful negotiations, but North Korea has proved itself to be able to withstand international pressure. South Korea, along with other nations around the world who wish to see this crisis to be over peacefully, will need to take quick yet careful actions to contain the threat of an aggressive and unpredictable North Korea with nuclear capabilities, yet the challenge is proving to be more difficult than ever. North Korea may be years away from having the ability to carry full-powered warheads around the globe, but it is essential to thwart its efforts before it succeeds.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- The carrot or the stick? Is it better for South Korea to take a tougher stance against North Korea to put a stop to its nuclear weapons program, or should it use the Sunshine Policy approach?
- How should we interpret North Korea's recent reckless behavior? Is it North Korea's "last resort" to maintain its only Stalinist regime in the world? If it indeed is, does this make the situation more or less dangerous?
- How are the Six Parties and the rest of the international community reacting to North Korea's nuclear weapons program? What do they share in common and how do they differ?
- What is the effect of North Korea's nuclear weapons program on South Korea (for example, the economy)?
- What does the South Korean public think about this issue? (Remember, as the South Korean government, it needs to take its popularity and the public opinion into account.)

TOPIC 2: NORTH KOREA'S DETERIORATING ECONOMY

Let us first compare the economies of the two Koreas.

		North Korea	South Korea
Type		Centrally Planned Economy	Free-Market Economy
GDP (PPP)	Total	\$40 billion (*95th) (2007 estimate)	\$1.342 trillion (13th) (2008 estimate)
	Per Capita	\$1,700 (191st) (2008 estimate)	\$27,646 (32nd) (2008 estimate)
HDI (2008)		0.766 (medium) (75th)	0.928 (high) (25th)

(*) indicates world rankings.

The ratio of North Korea's total GDP (PPP) to South Korea's is approximately 1:34, and the ratio for GDP (PPP) per capita is around 1:16. It is easy to grasp the huge gap between the two economies just from these figures. The satellite picture on the right is just another way to show this stark difference. However, this was not always the case.

When the Korean Peninsula was first divided into two, the South had the advantage of having 2/3 of the total labor force and the majority of Korea's agriculture and commerce. However, most of the natural resources and heavy industries went to North Korea. With the aid from the Soviet Union and China, North Korea experienced fast industrial and economic growth.

By the 1970's, North Korea suffered from large amounts of foreign debt and the limitations of a centrally planned economy. Its economic growth eventually slowed down, while South Korea's economy grew rapidly under a military regime. By 1979, North Korea's income per capita was only 1/3 of South Korea's. The significant portion of North Korea's income that has been devoted to its military and defense was also a large contributing factor for this switch.

In 1991, the Soviet Union, North Korea's largest supporter, collapsed, and along with it fell North Korea's economy. The lack of necessary inputs such as electricity and fertilizers due to limited contact with the outside world, a series of natural disasters such as floods, and the reduction of imports from China all combined to plunge North Korea's economy into the worst crisis in its short history. The size of the economy decreased significantly, and famine and food shortage only added to the hopeless situation. Some reforms have been made to counteract the deteriorating economy, but they were always blocked by the fact that the only way to bolster the economy was to abandon the Stalinist regime.





Inter-Korean economic relations have not been stable, but much progress was made in the 1990's and early 2000's. After the South Korean government's decision to allow direct trade with North Korea in 1998, trade between the two countries increased from \$18.8 million in 1989 to \$333.4 million in 1999.

Although there has been financial aid from the South in the form of food and supplies, the majority of support came in the form of direct investment. With support from the South Korean government, South Korean conglomerates started to invest in North Korea. The largest player has been Hyundai Asan, a branch of the Hyundai Group, which

decided to launch a tourist program at Kumgang-san (a mountain in North Korea known for its beauty, shown in the picture on the left) for mainly South Koreans and undertake the construction of the Kaesong Industrial Park. These efforts, however, became trickier than anyone could predict.

In July 2008, a South Korean tourist was shot to death during her visit to Kumgang-san. North Korea announced that she entered a forbidden military zone despite warnings from the North Korean soldiers. Concrete evidence contradicts with North Korea's assertions, however, and the Kumgang-san tourism has been indefinitely suspended by the South Korean government ever since.

The Kaesong Industrial Park, whose construction is scheduled to be complete by 2012, is a special administrative industrial region in North Korea, right above the DMZ. Many South Korean firms have or will have plants in this region, utilizing the North Korean labor force, which has the advantages of both being cheap and Korean-speaking. However, disagreements between the two Koreas on wages for the North Korean workers in the region and the unstable relationship have made the future of Kaesung murky. In March 2009, a South Korean manager was detained for criticizing North Korea's communist government (he was released on August 14 after the CEO of the Hyundai Group, Hyun Jeong-Eun's visit to North Korea, immediately after the release of the two American journalists due to Bill Clinton's visit), and in June, a South Korean textile firm operating in the region became the first company to pull out of the complex.

When the Berlin Wall was taken down in 1990, the income per capita ratio between the West and East was only 3:1, and they had been divided only 44 years. Considering the fact that the German economy is still suffering from the consequences of the expensive reunification, some say that the Korean economy will not be able to withstand a premature reunification. Naturally, it is easier for South Korea to let its own economy develop until such a scenario would not occur when the reunification finally happens, but it is also crucial to help the North prepare for the event and reduce the economic gap. However, strained ties between the two Koreas, the recent developments and North Korea's less-than-welcome attitude make it difficult for the South to decide how exactly to make this happen.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Should South Korea's humanitarian efforts and economic aid to North Korea be treated separately from political and diplomatic issues? How are they interrelated?
- What is the best way to help North Korea's economy? Are the Kaesung Industrial Park and the Kumgang-san Tourism Program the best solutions available, or are there better methods?
- How should each ministry prepare for the unification of the two Koreas, and how will the aspects of the nation that each ministry is in charge of be affected by the unification? What kind of advice can each ministry give to the North?

LIST OF POSITIONS

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Minister: In-Chon Yu)

<http://www.mcst.go.kr/english/index.jsp>

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Minister: Byong-Man Ahn)

<http://english.mest.go.kr/>

Ministry of Environment (Minister: Maanee Lee)

<http://eng.me.go.kr/docs/index.html>

Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Minister: Tae-Pyong Chang)

<http://english.mifaff.go.kr/main.tdf>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Minister: Myung-Hwan Yu)

<http://www.mofat.go.kr/english/main/index.jsp?lang=eng>

Ministry of Government Legislation (Minister: Seog-Yeon Lee)

<http://www.moleg.go.kr/english/>

Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs (Minister: Jae-Hee Jeon)

http://english.mw.go.kr/front_eng/main.jsp

Ministry of Justice (Minister: Kwi-Nam Lee)

<http://www.moj.go.kr/>

Ministry of Knowledge Economy (Minister: Kyung-Hwan Choi)

<http://www.mke.go.kr/language/eng/index.jsp>

Ministry of Labor (Minister: Tae-Hee Lim)

<http://www.molab.go.kr/english/>

Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (Minister: Jong-Hwan Chung)

<http://english.mltm.go.kr/intro.do>

Ministry of National Defense (Minister: Tae-Young Kim)

<http://www.mnd.go.kr/>

Ministry of Public Administration and Security (Minister: Dalgon Lee)

<http://www.mopas.go.kr/gpms/ns/mogaha/user/nolayout/main/english/userEngMainDisplay.action>

Ministry of Patriots and Veteran Affairs (Minister: Yang Kim)

<http://english.mpva.go.kr/>

Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Minister: Jeung-Hyun Yoon)

<http://english.mosf.go.kr/>

Ministry of Unification (Minister: In-Taek Hyun)
<http://www.unikorea.go.kr/eng/default.jsp?pgname=ENGhome>

National Intelligence Service (Director : Sei-Hoon Won)
<http://eng.nis.go.kr/app/main/index>

Board of Audit and Inspection of Korea (Chairman: Hwang-Sik Kim)
<http://english.bai.go.kr/>

National Unification Advisory Council (Director: Ki-Taek Lee)
<http://www.nuac.go.kr/actions/EnglishAction?cmd=index>

National Statistical Office (Commissioner: In-Sill Yi)
http://kostat.go.kr/nso_main/nsoMainAction.do?method=main&catgrp=eng2009

National Police Agency (Commissioner General: Hee-Rak Kang)
<http://www.police.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>

RESEARCH

New York Times

- South Korea
<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/southkorea/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=south%20korea&st=cse>
- North Korea
<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/northkorea/index.html>

CIA Factbook

- South Korea
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ks.html>
- North Korea
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kn.html>

Ministry of Unification

<http://www.unikorea.go.kr/eng/default.jsp?pgname=ENGhome>