

SAIMUN 2017 RESEARCH REPORT

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The question of non-proliferation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Student Officer: Yang Woo SEONG , President of the Security Council

Introduction

Non-proliferation refers to the prevention of nuclear weapons being possessed by nation-states that do not own them yet, and assurance of the safe usage of nuclear weapons by nation-states that already own them. After the atomic bombs drop in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the World War 2 on 6th of August and 9th of August respectively in 1945, the world's main powers have struggled to limit any further developments and possession of nuclear powers.

Just like in Cold War which the USA and USSR (called as Russia these days) were involved, the two superpowers were fully aware of how dangerous it would be to start a nuclear war and how much impact it would give to the Earth as a whole. Because they knew that it might lead to the extinction not only human mankind but also other organisms, they were reluctant to start the war.

Since the development of nuclear bombs by the USA and USSR in 1945 and 1959 respectively, other countries have followed their footsteps which include the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Israel, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

For the purpose of prevention of further spread of weapons technology and promotion of safe usage of the nuclear weapons, Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) was established in 1968. The

Democratic People's Republic of Korea has joined the treaty in 1985 and has continuously tried to develop their nuclear technology. Due to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and their continuous efforts in inspection of nuclear technology, Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave notice of withdrawal from the treaty on 10th of January, 2003. Despite the efforts to re-involve the DPRK by numerous member states and IAEA, the DPRK has not chosen to re-sign the treaty up until now. The DPRK has asked for its right to possess own nuclear technology and it is continuously going under nuclear tests, with the most recent one being in 9th of September, 2016.

Definition of key terms

Non-proliferation

Non-proliferation refers to prevention of nuclear weapons being possessed by nation-states that do not own them yet, and assurance of the safe usage of nuclear weapons by nation-states that already own them.

Non-proliferation treaty (NPT)

A treaty established in 1968 for the purpose of non-proliferation, as defined earlier. The headquarter is situated in New York; more than 40 member signatory countries including the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Russia have agreed and ratified the treaties. There are 5 non-signatory members, including Pakistan, India, Israel, South Sudan and North Korea, which have withdrawn from the treaty.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CNTB)

A treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th, September, 1996. Although it has not entered into force because of eight specific states (China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, DPRK, Pakistan and the USA) which have not yet ratified the treaty, 166 member states have

ratified the treaty. The purpose its establishment by the United Nations General Assembly was to ban all nuclear explosions for all civilians and military purposes in all environments.

Ratification

Ratification refers to an international act whereby a state indicates its consent/agreement on the treaty and shows their consent by such an act. In usual multinational treaties, it is usual to collect ratification of all states and keep all parties informed of the situation.

Accession

Term Accession simply refers to an act whereby state accepts or offers an opportunity to become a party to a treaty already signed by other states. This usually occurs after the treaty has entered into a force.

Agreed Framework

Agreed Framework was signed between the United States of America and Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21st of October, 1994. The purpose of this treaty was to replace DPRK's nuclear power plant with nuclear resistant light water reactor power plants and to normalize the relationship between the USA and DPRK.

Background Information

The United Nations Security Council is deeply concerned with nuclear weapons proliferation and tests, especially with on-going nuclear experiments by the Kim government in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea's purpose of continuous development of nuclear weapons seems to protect themselves among superpowers which possible might threaten them in the future, such as the United States of America.

Having withdrawn from the Non-proliferation treaty, DPRK no longer obeys the treaties; it is legal to develop nuclear weapons and test them technically. There's Republic of Korea (ROK) right below DPRK which is one of the signatories of NPT. Since it is illegal for ROK to develop its own nuclear weapons and test them, it solely relies nuclear guarantees from the United States of America under fear.

After the first withdraw from the NPT, DPRK demanded for its rights to possess nuclear weapons. DPRK began to run Uranium Mining Operations while simultaneously building its first nuclear reactor at Yongbyon in 1970. In the 1980s, DPRK successfully established the second nuclear reactor and expanded the first nuclear reactor site, Yongbyun (See Figure 1). Despite the continuous efforts to inspect the reactor sites by IAEA, DPRK refused them all. DPRK has ignored international calls for inspecting their nuclear reactors, but instead, tried to form a nuclear parity within the West. Although this effort by the DPRK was quickly broken down, the DPRK's goal of achieving a nuclear parity with Western countries still remains unseized.

While disclosing their nuclear reactor sites and keeping it under secret, DPRK developed its first nuclear reactor at Yongbyun and developed weapons-grade plutonium. Plutonium is widely known as the key element for developing nuclear weapons. In 1994, the DPRK and the USA have signed 'Agreed Framework' which purpose was to cease producing plutonium and amount of enriched plutonium which the DPRK has managed to gain so far. Furthermore, DPRK has agreed to reveal its current facilities work so far in exchange for economic aid, oil imports and two nuclear power plants with the USA. This Agreed Framework has collapsed in 2001 by George Walker Bush, the 43rd president of the USA, who refused supply nuclear power plants and the other aids as listed above. Consequently, DPRK has announced that they would restart their nuclear weapons program and the Kim regime has begun to rebuild its nuclear processing plant and produce nuclear weapons-grade plutonium.

After the withdrawal from the NPT and after several years, the DPRK finally allowed an American scientist to visit the nuclear facility at Yongbyon, in 2004.

Diplomatic talks were often called as the Six Party Talks, involving China, Russia, the USA, Japan, DPRK and ROK. Without significant outcomes, talks between the USA and DPRK were unfruitful.

DPRK successfully tested its nuclear on 9th of December, 2006. Despite the purpose of this test was just to check whether nuclear reactor works or not and the size of detonation was 1/50th the size of Indian and Pakistani tests in the 1900s, the UNSC has passed a resolution 1718 which imposes a heavy symbolic punishment on Kim government for not obeying the rules. This resolution was basically to ban any further nuclear test or launch of ballistic missile and to bring the DPRK back to the Six Party talks.

Figure 1. Major Nuclear Reactor Sites

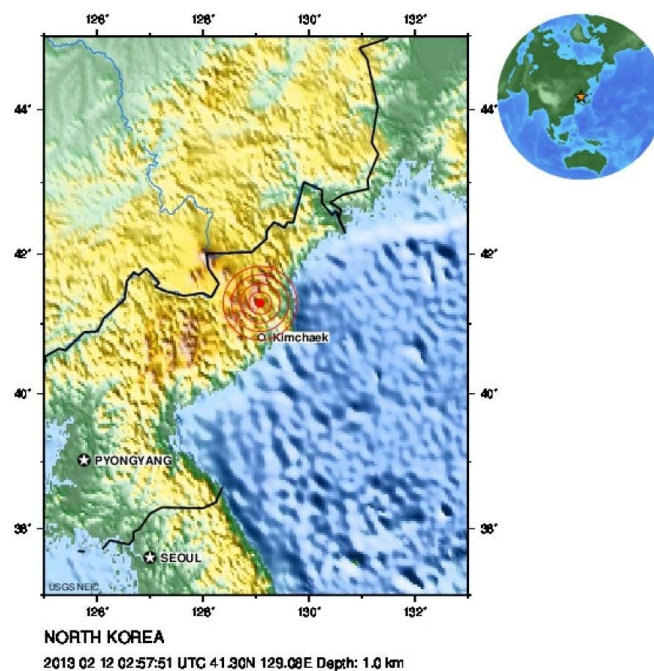


(from The Asia-Pacific Journal, Japan Focus. Retrieved from: <http://apjif.org/-Georgy-Bulychev/2356/article.html>)

In 2007, DPRK has made an agreement to close its nuclear reactors in exchange for diesel fuel with South Korea. Accordingly, DPRK close its reactor at Yongbyun in exchange for 50,000 tons of diesel aid from ROK. Furthermore, the USA promised to remove DPRK from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

However, DPRK restarted its nuclear program in 2009 by rebuilding the reactor at Yongbyun and developed its facility to enrich Uranium instead of Plutonium. (See Figure 2). DPRK tested its second and third nuclear bombs (in a small-scale) in 2009 and 2013 respectively. Its fourth and fifth tests have taken place quite recently, January 2016 and September 2016 respectively.

Figure 2. The major nuclear bomb testing site



(from “North Korea sees a surge in deformed babies and radiation deaths as Kim Jong-un's nuclear bomb tests claim their first lives – his own people”. Retrieved from:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3819547/North-Korea-sees-surge-deformed-babies-radiation-deaths-Kim-Jong-s-nuclear-bomb-tests-claim-lives-people.html>)

As time passes, the scale of the nuclear bomb tests is getting bigger and more destructive. The world's biggest powers are constructing Resolutions to impose heavy punishments on Kim government of DPRK. However, in response to such heavy punishments, DPRK is even more actively producing and developing its nuclear technology; there is a clear reason why the USA has classified the DPRK as the State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Key Issues

Continuous efforts of DPRK trying to possess a nuclear bomb and threaten their enemies with it is viewed as an obstacle to other member states in the United Nations, especially to neighbouring countries.

As the dictator of DPRK changed, the way how DPRK officially premeditated its nuclear bomb test plans has changed too. Unlike in the past where DPRK informed the United Nations and neighbouring countries that they would conduct a nuclear test, DPRK is secretly developing its nuclear technology and testing them now.

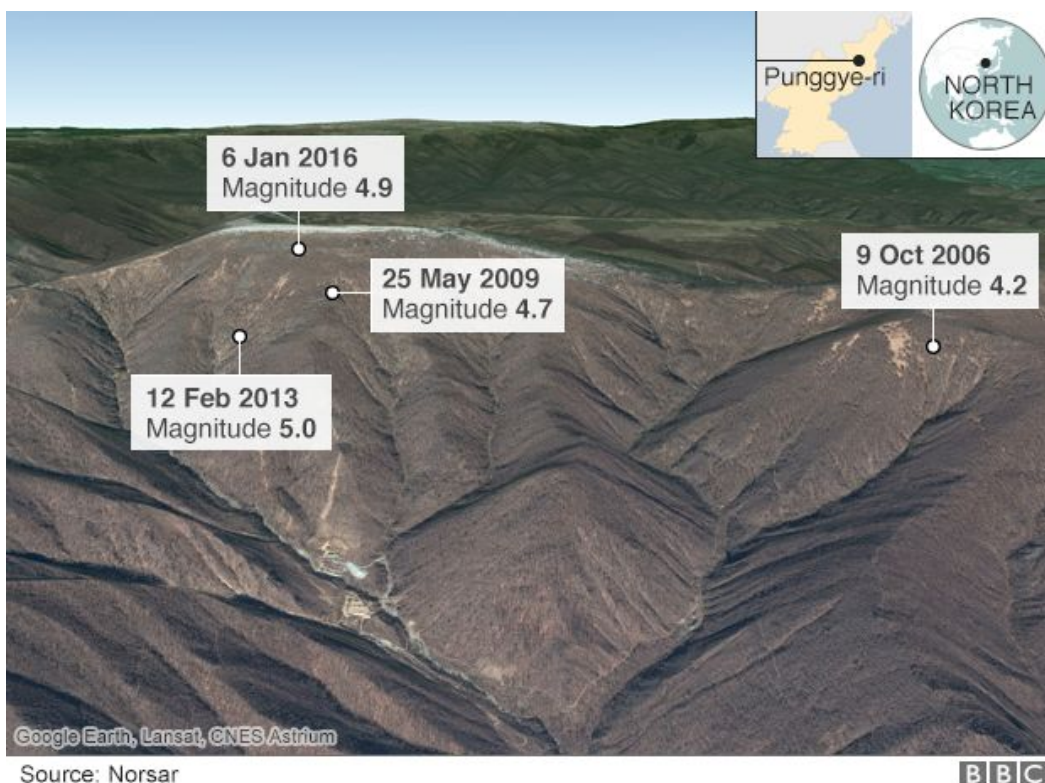
The first, second and third nuclear bomb tests were informed publicly beforehand; hence, other member states and neighbouring countries knew it was coming. The fourth test was on 6th of January, 2016 at the night time. They asserted that they successfully developed their own hydrogen bombs as well, which seems like an exaggeration to some scientists, just to threaten neighbouring countries and the USA.

The Fifth test, the most recent test was on 9th of September, 2016. It seemed strange to the scientists since the fifth test was only 8 months away from the fourth test but it had twice the impact. The DPRK just ignored all the pressures and threats made by the United Nations so far and forcibly carried their tests out. After each nuclear test, giant earthquakes were detected by international scientists. (See Figure 3). The fact that the magnitude of the earthquakes is getting

bigger and bigger, it can be inferred that the nuclear bombs tested by DPRK are getting more destructive as well.

DPRK asserted that they can even load a missile on their nuclear bombs. Believe it or not, DPRK argues that their nuclear technology is continuously developing and improving. The United Nations including neighbouring countries and the USA, Russia are afraid that DPRK, which is currently not obeying the outcomes of Six Party talks and UNSC Resolutions, would start a World War III and lead to the extinction of the planet Earth.

Figure 3. Magnitudes of detected earthquakes after each nuclear test



(From bbc: “North Korea: When is an earthquake a nuclear test?”. Retrieved from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-37582518>)

Major parties involved and their views

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

DPRK has its own reason of investing such a big amount of money and time on its nuclear program. Ever since the Korean War in 1950 to 1953, DPRK has been classified as a Communist and ROK (South Korea) as a Capitalist. During the Korean War, due to financial and military aids from China and Soviet Union, DPRK has made its mind to turn as a Communist country that goes against the USA. On the other hand, with a massive support from the USA and the United Nations, ROK has chosen to become a Capitalist and receive financial/military supports mainly from the USA.

After the war, it is turned out to be ROK who achieved a rapid financial growth and stability. In 2013, GDP per capita in ROK was \$33,200, which was nearly 20 times larger than GDP per capita in DPRK. By looking at the huge difference in other statistical values as well, it is evident that ROK is now more stable and economically developed country. [Facts and figures from: Investopedia]. Plus, with the help from the USA, ROK has received a massive military help and financial help; ROK was able to step up as a More Economically Developed Country (MEDC) from a Less Economically Developed Country (LEDC) in a shortest period of time ever recorded since the Korean War.

With such comparisons made by people from other nations and threats made by the USA on DPRK, the Kim government in DPRK thought that the only possible weapon that would protect them from continuous threats is nuclear weapons. A massive development in nuclear technology therefore is a requisite protection needed for themselves.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

As a neighbouring country that shares borders with DPRK, ROK is put under an extreme pressure whenever DPRK notifies that they would conduct a nuclear bomb test. On 12nd of

September 2016, an Earthquake at Gyeongju was noted with a magnitude of 5.8. This earthquake was the biggest earthquake that has ever occurred in ROK since 1980. The strange thing is that this earthquake had occurred only 3 days after the nuclear bomb test in DPRK and the longitude coordinates of Punggyeri (where DPRK conducted their nuclear bomb test) and Gyeongju (where the Earthquake has occurred) are nearly equal. To three significant figures, their longitude are both 129° ; their difference is extremely small with only 0.2° of difference. Although the earthquake at Gyeongju might not be caused by DPRK's nuclear bomb test, ROK is afraid that continuous tests conducted by DPRK would give environmental impacts or even damages to ROK. Some scientists assert that the earthquake was caused by the nuclear test while others deem otherwise.

After the agreement between DPRK and ROK in 2007, ROK sent 50,000 tons of diesel fuel to DPRK in order to disassemble the nuclear reactors at Yongbyun, DPRK. ROK tries its best to ban the development of nuclear technology in DPRK using various methods; ROK has been sending provisions such as rice and corn in order to decrease poverty since 1995 (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. Trucks loaded with provisions (sent from ROK to DPRK)



(From International Business Times, “South Korea Will Continue Sending Humanitarian Aid To North Korea Despite Sanctions”. Retrieved from:
<http://www.ibtimes.com/south-korea-will-continue-sending-humanitarian-aid-north-korea-despite-sanctions-233297>
6)

The United Nations

The United Nations, especially the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), is continuously trying to achieve a goal of non-proliferation worldwide. It is an undeniable fact that DPRK is a major country that is going against the UN goal. The United Nations has set up Nuclear Weapons Free Zones where the use of, development of all nuclear weapons are prohibited. The current nine nuclear-free zones are: the Antarctic, the ASEAN nations, Mongolia, Central Asia, Africa, the seabed, outer space and Latin America/the Caribbean.

In 1996, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for the purpose of achieving non-proliferation. However, because of 24 nations who have not ratified the treaty, it was not possible for the treaty to enter into force since it needs 44 ratifying states including the USA.

The United States of America

As a member of P5 in the Security Council and as a nation which possesses a nuclear bomb, it may seem a little peculiar why the USA is fully against DPRK owning their own nuclear technology.

Barack Obama, the 44th president of the USA, has stated: *“the United States does not, and never will, accept North Korea as a nuclear state. Far from achieving its stated national security and economic development goals, North Korea’s provocative and destabilizing actions have instead served to isolate and impoverish its people through its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities.”*

The USA refuses to, and forever will, accept North Korea possessing their own nuclear technology. The USA believes that unlike other nuclear weapons-possessing countries such as Pakistan, North Korea is under a strong dictatorship of Kim government so it is more likely for internal North Korean decision making on nuclear use to be unchecked and be decided solely by Kim government.

The insecurity of South Korea also worries the USA. As a military-alliance and supporters, the USA and South Korea would have to protect each other from possible dangers. This is a reason why the USA has decided to place Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) in 2016, which is an anti-ballistic missile system designed to shoot down ballistic missiles such as Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launched by North Korea.

Timeline of Key Events

Event	Description
12 th Dec. 1985	North Korea accedes to the NPT but does not ratify the treaties. North Korea promises to stop all reactors and nuclear weapons development.
31 st Dec. 1991	North and South Korea sign South-North Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Under the declaration, both Koreas promise not to ‘test, manufacture, process, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons’
9 th Feb. 1993	The IAEA (mentioned previously) demands inspections on nuclear reactors located in

	North Korea but North Korea refuses IAEA's request
12 th Mar. 1993	North Korea announces its intention to withdraw from NPT.
19 th Jul. 1993	After a second round of talks with the United States, North Korea announces that it is ready to accept the inspection of IAEA on its reactors.
1 st Mar. 1994	IAEA inspectors arrive in North Korea to inspect nuclear reactors at Yongbyun.
21 st Mar. 1994	North Korea refuses to reveal its plutonium reprocessing plant; hence, IAEA board approves a resolution calling upon North Korea to allow the inspection.
13 th Jun. 1994	North Korea announces its withdrawal from the IAEA, but remains as a signatory of NPT.
9 th Jul. 1994	North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung dies and is succeeded by Kim Jong Il.
21 st Oct. 1994	North Korea and the United States of America sign Agreed Framework
25 th May. 2000	The United States sends inspectors to inspect Kumchang-ni site for the second time
12 th Dec. 2002	North Korea sends a letter to the IAEA stating that it is restarting one of the nuclear reactors

6 th Jan.2003	The IAEA condemns North Korea for restarting the nuclear reactor and adopts a resolution
10 th Jan.2003	North Korea announces it would withdraw from the NPT.
23 rd Jun.2004	North Korea agrees to freeze its nuclear reactor for receiving fuel from China, South Korea and Russia.
19 th Sep.2005	The participants in Six Part talks (mentioned above) agree to achieve: <i>“the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner”</i>
9 th Oct.2006	North Korea conducts a first nuclear test underground.
2 nd Oct.2007	South Korea agrees to provide 50,000 tons of diesel fuel for North Korea disassembling its reactor at Yongbyun.
25 th May.2009	North Korea conducts the second nuclear test underground at Punggye-ri.
2 nd Feb.2013	North Korea conducts the third nuclear test, which was detected by the CTBTO (seismic activity near North Korean nuclear site was detected)
6 th Jan.2016	North Korea announces that it conducted a fourth nuclear test at its nuclear site and that it denoted a hydrogen bomb successfully for the first time.

9 th Sep.2016	North Korea conducts a fifth nuclear test.
12 th Sep.2016	An earthquake with magnitude of 5.8 is detected at Gyeongju, South Korea. This was the biggest earthquake detected in South Korea since 1980.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue and relevant resolutions

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution.825

This was passed in 1993 although China and Russia voted abstain on this. This resolution called upon the Kim regime to reconsider its withdrawal from the NPT.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution.1695

This was passed unanimously in 2006. This resolution banned selling any materials that would benefit North Korea in developing its ballistic missiles.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution.1718

This was passed unanimously in 2006. This resolution imposed heavy economic sanctions on DPRK for conducting its first nuclear bomb test underground. It also banned North Korea from importing military equipment and prohibited all member states from exporting luxurious, expensive goods to the DPRK. It also asked North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks which North Korea leaved earlier in this year.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution.2094

This was passed unanimously in 2013. This resolution was in response for North Korea's third nuclear bomb test. As soon as this resolution passed, the UNSC imposed heavy sanctions on

DPRK including all illicit financial activities. This also encouraged all member states to further inspect any suspicious cargo or flights that are DPRK-affiliated.

Possible Solutions

The issue on non-proliferation of DPRK has been an issue for more than 20 years. Although it requires a simple, quick decision from one country, because of North Korea's ambition and greed, the common goal of the United Nations Security Council is not being achieved.

North Korea's desire to possess its own nuclear technology is partially due to the rising tension in the Korean peninsula. North Korea is concerned about South Korea-the USA military alliance as the military help from the USA puts North Korea under pressure. This is also a reason why North Korea cannot simply invade South Korea although they have much bigger military force. Because of weapons with high-technology and the support of the United Nations, it is not easy for North Korea to just take over South Korea.

Some politicians reckon the two Koreas should be reunified in order to eradicate tension between the two. North Korea and South Korea currently provides precious time for families who were forced to be separated during the Korean War to meet again at Gungang Mountain, North Korea. Because North and South Koreans are technically the same ethnic group, North & South Korean citizens wish the two Koreas to be unified again, just like the unification of West and East Germany in 1990.

However, this may exacerbate the tension in the worst case scenario. Reunification of a country is not simple. Measures to negotiate the long delayed (around seventy years since the Korean War) peace settlement between two sites are required; it would take a very long time to accept and be recognized.

Perhaps the simplest way, and what the UNSC is currently doing to the DPRK is imposing heavy sanctions on North Korea in response to illicit nuclear weapons tests and development. After the

inspections of IAEA, the USA and the UN have had a better understanding where the DPRK is currently working at, its progress in developing nuclear weapons and technology. Imposing sanctions on North Korea is quite a common method for compensation now; nowadays, heavy sanctions do not really impede North Korea from continuous developments and tests and this is the reason why a way to approach this area of concern has to be changed.

As well as a safe way to soothe North Korea, there would be more inventions and developments of the current weapons needed that would put the UN at a higher position than North Korea. A recent placement of THAAD in South Korea is an example of this. In case, North Korea launches a ballistic missile over to Seoul, the capital city of South Korea, THAAD was placed in order to shoot down any Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles launched by North Korea. Unless the Kim government gets demolished completely one day, North Korea's desire to possess its own nuclear technology and weapons would not be ceased.

Bibliography

Kelsey Davenport. Chronology of U.S.-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy. Written in October 2016. Retrieved in December 2016, from

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/dprkchron>

Beenish Pervaiz. Challenges and solutions for non-proliferation. Written on 22nd, Nov, 2012.

Retrieved in December 2016, from

<http://thebulletin.org/millennials-next-nuclear-generation/challenges-and-solutions-nonproliferation>

The United Nations. What is the difference between signing, ratification and accession of UN treaties? Written on 29th, Nov, 2016. Retrieved in December 2016, from

<http://ask.un.org/faq/14594>

Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. Terminal High Altitude Area Defence. Written in December, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terminal_High_Altitude_Area_Defense

Scott Snyder. Three reasons why America cannot accept a nuclear North Korea. Written in September, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/scottasnyder/2016/09/15/u-s-north-korea-exchange-after-the-fifth-nuclear-test/#5f3c7634491a>

The Guardian. US Warns North Korea of ‘overwhelming’ response to any use of nuclear weapons. Written on 19th, Oct, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/19/us-north-korea-nuclear-weapons-south>

NTI. Nuclear in North Korea. Written in September, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from

<http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/north-korea/nuclear/>

NTI. Nuclear disarmament in North Korea. Written on 23rd, Sep, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from <http://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/north-korea-nuclear-disarmament/>

Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Written in December, 2016. Retrieved in December, 2016 from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Non-Proliferation_of_Nuclear_Weapons

The Guardian. North Korea withdraws from nuclear treaty. Written on 10th, Jan, 2003. Retrieved in December, 2016 from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/jan/10/northkorea1>