

## **Spokesman for DPRK Foreign Ministry Slams Anti-DPRK Campaign over Its Projected Satellite Launch**

Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday slamming the campaign of the U.S. and some of its allied forces to hold in check the DPRK's projected launch of experimental communications satellite "Kwangmyongsong 2" for peaceful purposes.

It said:

It is a legitimate right equally enjoyed by all countries of the earth to explore outer space and use it for peaceful purposes.

However, they claim that it is necessary for the UN Security Council to take issue with the above-said matter, asserting that the DPRK's satellite launch poses a threat to them because the technology used for the rocket for carrying the satellite is not distinguishable from that involved in a long-range missile.

Japan which has committed the biggest crimes against the DPRK is taking the lead in this anti-DPRK racket.

This cannot be interpreted otherwise than the height of the behaviors of those bereft of elementary reason and discreet as it reminds one of a thief crying "Stop the thief!"

The countries which find fault with the DPRK's satellite launch including the U.S. and Japan launched satellites before it.

The claim of these countries that the technology involved in the satellite launch is just the same as that used for a long-range missile bespeaks that they developed missile technology before any others and stockpiled more missiles than any others.

The brigandish logic that they may launch as many satellites as they please but the DPRK should not be allowed to do so is a revelation of hostility towards it.

Their assertion is that those countries hostile to them should not have access to even means for self-defence nor develop anything for peaceful purposes.

They are sadly mistaken if they think these brazen-faced high-handed and arbitrary practices will work on the DPRK.

There are not a few countries in the world that launched satellites but the UNSC has

never dealt with nor taken issue with the satellite launch by other individual countries. Because it has no mandate to interfere in the independent rights of the sovereign states to the development and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The above-said assertion made by those countries is just the same far-fetched assertion that both kitchen knives and bayonets should be targets of disarmament as both are similar to each other.

The attempts of Japan and the U.S., the parties to the six-party talks, to deny the DPRK's right to use space for peaceful purposes and infringe upon its sovereignty as a discriminatory measure diametrically run counter to the "spirit of mutual respect and equality" enshrined in the September 19 joint statement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

If such hostile act is perpetrated in the name of the UNSC, this will precisely mean its denial of the said statement.

The abrogation of the said statement would deprive the six-party talks of any ground to exist or their meaning.

The six-party talks are now on the verge of collapse due to Japan's non-fulfillment of its commitment, an intention to delay the denuclearization of the peninsula in a bid to find a pretext for going nuclear.

The reality today when the said talks are in the danger of collapse due to the hostile acts of some participating countries once again testifies to the truth of the DPRK's stand that it cannot abandon its nuclear weapons even in 100 years unless the hostile relations are terminated.

The responsibility for the deadlocked talks will rest entirely with Japan, to begin with, and other countries which rejected the "spirit of mutual respect and equality" enshrined in the Sep. 19 joint statement.

If it is impossible to put an end to the hostile relations through dialogue, then there is no other option but to bolster up the muscle to deter the hostile acts