

## **Conclusion of DPRK-US Peace Treaty-Spotlight of World Community**

The conclusion of a peace treaty between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States is surfacing as the focus of the international community with each passing day, as ensuring peace between them is the most down-to-earth and urgent issue directly linked with the world peace.

### **Still in state of war**

This year marks the 60th year of the outbreak of the Korean War.

With the end of the Second World War, humankind longed for a permanent peace. But the desire was shattered in five years. On June 25, 1950 the US provoked a war of aggression against the DPRK, the fiercest of its kind after WWII.

The Korean War was, in fact, another world war as it involved troops of 15 vassal states, the South Korean army and even the remnants of the former Japanese army on the part of the US. It came to a ceasefire for a moment with the conclusion of an armistice agreement (AA) on July 27, 1953, after inflicting heavy casualties and material losses on both sides.

The armistice does not mean the termination of war. The DPRK and the US are still technically at war.

In reality, acute military confrontation has continued between the two sides over the past 50-odd years since the signing of AA. Typical examples are the Pueblo and EC-121 incidents in the 1960s which drove the international community into panic,

the Panmunjom incident in the 1970s and the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula lasting from the 1990s up to now.

Even that unstable AA has been systematically nullified by the US. Though the AA prohibits the shipment of all kinds of military equipment into the Korean peninsula from outside, the US shipped into South Korea huge amounts of military hardware and even nuclear weapons. The US had already abolished the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission by interfering in its activities and expelling its members. It also completely hamstrunged the Military Armistice Commission by turning over the senior membership of the US side to a South Korean brass hat invested with nothing. In a nutshell, the US has fully shaken off the restrictions of the AA.

Large scale military exercises waged by US troops in South Korea every year betoken another Korean War which may break out at any time.

### **Which one is first, nuke abandonment or peace treaty conclusion ?**

The DPRK has exerted every possible effort to prevent the recurrence of war. It has strongly proposed the conclusion of a peace treaty in order to replace the unstable ceasefire system with a durable peace system.

But the US doggedly rejected such sincerity, ceaselessly intensifying its military threats.

The DPRK was compelled to build up its own defence capabilities and war deterrent, a nuclear deterrent, in order to cope with the undisguised attempts of the US to launch nuclear pre-emptive strikes against it

But there are some forces that are making much ado about the DPRK's deterrent. The US and its followers tried to coerce it into unconditional disarmament, "nuke abandonment first," feigning ignorance of their nuclear threats to it.

Which one should go first for the peace on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, for the security and peace of the world ? Nuke abandonment on the part of the DPRK or conclusion of peace treaty between the DPRK and the US ?

History has never witnessed such a fact that both parties laid down their arms without building up confidence each other. Confidence-building is also primary in removing acute nuclear confrontation between the DPRK and the US, and first step for it is nothing but the conclusion of a peace treaty. As long as both sides are aiming their guns at each other they can never get rid of mutual distrust.

Only when the peace treaty is concluded will the hostile relations between them be removed to be followed by laying a foundation for confidence-building. And it will lead to putting an end to the US nuclear threat against the DPRK and make the latter's nuclear deterrent unnecessary. The conclusion is that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula will be solved of its own accord.

No doubt that only the opening of the talks for the conclusion of a peace treaty will provide an effective driving force by which the process of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula can make progress.

### **Stalling for time is unfavourable to US**

At the beginning of this year the DPRK made once again a proposal of concluding a peace treaty. It courteously proposed to the parties to the Armistice Agreement an early start of the talks for replacing the AA by the peace treaty this year which marks the lapse of 60years since the outbreak of the Korean war.

This will be a golden opportunity in favor of the US.

The present US administration must be mindful of the lessons its predecessors have learned from their delaying tactics. The Bush administration succeeding to the

Clinton's had clung to its strategy of waiting for either the DPRK's collapse due to its "economic difficulties" or its concession, but in vain. On the contrary, it drove the latter into possessing nuclear weapons.

Quite regretful is the fact that the present US administration seems to be oblivious of that lesson. In the Nuclear Posture Review released on April 6 President Obama blustered that the DPRK, together with Iran, belongs to the list of their target of nuclear strike. This proves that the present US policy towards the DPRK is nothing different from the hostile policy pursued during the period of the Bush administration which was hell-bent on posing a nuclear threat to the DPRK after designating it as a "target of pre-emptive nuclear strike".

It is as clear as day what will result from such a policy of the present US administration.

In case the US engages in a dialogue with a card of sanctions at the same time, the DPRK will approach the dialogue together with the buildup of its nuclear deterrent. As long as the US continues to pose a nuclear threat to the DPRK, the latter will boost its nuclear deterrent. The DPRK has enough capacity to do so. It is none other than the US which provides the DPRK with the cause and justification to do so.

The US is well advised not to invite graves disasters by resorting to a futile attempt of time-delay but respond without delay to the DPRK's proposal for an early start of the talks for replacing the AA by the peace treaty.