

## **DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on DPRK-U.S. Dialogue**

Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA) -- The spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA on March 3 as regards the attitude of the United States taken after we have stated our intention for DPRK-U.S. dialogue:

Recently, with regard to the DPRK-U.S. dialogue, the U.S. is taking preposterous action by continuing to trumpet an insistence that it will not have dialogue unless a right condition is met and that it will keep watching if we have intention to abandon nuclear weapons and missiles and so on.

The U.S., that was terrified at the rapid development of our nuclear force and has continued to knock the door of dialogue, now feigns an indifference and advances this or that precondition. Not being content with it, it insists that it will have dialogue only for making the DPRK abandon nuclear weapons and persist in "maximum pressure" until complete denuclearization is realized. This is really more than ridiculous.

Thanks to our noble love for the nation and great determination to terminate confrontation with fellow countrymen and achieve peace on the Korean peninsula, the north and the south together have ensured successful holding of Phyeongchang Winter Olympics and are now opening a new chapter of reconciliation and cooperation.

Out of the desire of our nation and international society aspiring after peace, we have clarified our position that a dialogue with the U.S. will be possible.

It is the consistent and principled position of the DPRK to resolve issues in a diplomatic and peaceful way through dialogue and negotiation.

The dialogue we desire is the one designed to discuss and resolve the issues of mutual concern on an equal footing between states.

In decades-long history of the DPRK-U.S. talks, there had been no case at all where we sat with the U.S. on any precondition, and this will be the case in future, too.

The U.S. attitude shown after we clarified our intention for DPRK-U.S. dialogue compels us to only think that the U.S. is not interested in resuming the DPRK-U.S. dialogue.

We have intention to resolve issues in a diplomatic and peaceful way through dialogue and negotiation, but we will neither beg for dialogue nor evade the military option claimed by the U.S.

We have full capability and will to confront any option favored by the U.S.

Whether peace desired by our nation and the rest of the world settles on the Korean peninsula or a situation that no one desires is developed in the vicious cycle of confrontation depends entirely on the attitude of the U.S.

The U.S. should not misjudge our intention for dialogue.

### **KCNA Commentary Blasts U.S. Moves to Hinder Detente on Korean Peninsula**

Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA) -- The U.S. is swimming against the trend for the détente on the Korean peninsula.

At a time when the dialogue and cooperation are under way between the north and the south and the atmosphere for détente has been created on the Korean peninsula thanks to the DPRK's noble patriotism and will for safeguarding peace, the U.S. is kicking up a racket for confrontation through the farce for independent sanctions on the DPRK.

Announcing the sanctions measure for sea blockade aimed at the complete shutdown of sea trade of the DPRK with other countries on Feb. 23, Trump openly threatened the DPRK that if the sanctions do not work, it would go into the "very rough phase 2".

The chairman and the first vice-chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian Federation Council contended that the U.S. sanctions on the DPRK give impression that the U.S. has intent to escalate confrontation, not to settle the issue through dialogue. They added that any strike of the U.S. at the DPRK can result in serious conflict.

The Chinese People's Daily (overseas version) on its February 27th issue noted that at a time when the situation on the Korean peninsula has just been defused and both the north and the south urgently demand the dialogue, the U.S. is set to impose "self-righteous" sanctions on the DPRK, thereby pressing "backward acceleration" pedal against the requirement of the times.

It would be foolish to think that the DPRK will be browbeaten by such additional sanctions farce as it has acquired everything it could despite the decades of the harshest sanctions in the world.

The situation clearly proves that the U.S. which cooks up all kinds of sanctions measures and holds provocative war drills whenever there created atmosphere for détente on the Korean peninsula is the chief culprit escalating the tension on the Korean peninsula and the disturber of the world peace and security.

Recently the U.S. openly declared that it would start Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises in upcoming April as scheduled while crying out for the resumption of the exercises, thereby openly disclosing its intention to bring dark clouds of a war to hang over the Korean peninsula.

Commenting on this, many countries of the world including those around Korea are denouncing and rejecting it as a dangerous act that can chill the

atmosphere for the north-south reconciliation and push the situation on the peninsula back to the phase of tension.

The Washington Post and the Indian political and diplomatic magazine Political Event and other media of the world commented that if the U.S. pressurizes south Korea into holding large-scale joint military exercises right after the Olympics are over, it would naturally provoke military response of the DPRK and the situation will go back to the touch-and-go one.

The U.S. moves deserve denunciation of the international community as they are aimed to check the reconciliation and unity of the Korean nation and aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula at any cost, defying the desire and wish of the international community.

The chairman of the U.S. Council of Foreign Relations claimed that if the U.S. seeks to deal with the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula more reasonably, it should not adopt the confrontation mode such as muscle-flexing and malicious word-fighting but go back to the traditional diplomatic mode.

As had already been stressed several times, if the U.S. finally holds joint military exercises while keeping sanctions on the DPRK, the DPRK will counter the U.S. by its own mode of counteraction and the U.S. will be made to own all responsibilities for the ensuing consequences.

The U.S. should clearly understand this and exercise prudence.

The international community has to heighten vigilance against the U.S. moves and raise voices against them.