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The Two Koreas and the International Missile Trade

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Introduction

An increasing number of developing countries are missile-capable due to their independent development of a space booster rocket capability. Many others have a long run missile option in train due to their burgeoning modernization and industrialization. The diffusion of rocket technology is unstoppable in this regard and the world will be forced to turn to mixes of incentives and sanctions to ensure that ploughshares are not beaten into swords.²

Divided Korea is a unique example of this set of issues. The situation in Korea (including Korean missile activities) is peculiarly influenced by the continuing division of the Korean nation. No other current or likely missile-making or exporting state exhibits the same degree of political-military volatility nor lethal competition. Conversely, the cultural similarities, common history, and geopolitical contiguity of the two Koreas highlight domestic political-economic and institutional factors which help to explain why the two Koreas' missile strategies have diverged.

This study first examines the missile-related capabilities of both Koreas. It also emphasizes the role of imports or transfers from allies to endow them with initial capacities.

Three major conclusions arise from this study. First, North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK) will continue to be a renegade supplier of missiles in the immediate and medium term. Second, South Korea (the Republic of Korea, ROK) is moving inexorably to obtain a missile/booster rocket capability in the medium term. Therefore, the ROK must join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). A reunited Korea

