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I. United States

1. US-DPRK Talks

Dow Jones Newswires ("N KOREA TELLS U.S. IT WILL ACCEPT ARMS INSPECTIONS - KYODO," New York, 03/03/99) reported that negotiation sources on Wednesday told the Japanese Kyodo news service that the DPRK has told the US it plans to allow inspections of a underground construction site without setting terms for times and numbers of inspections. The sources said that, in exchange, the US has offered to provide 500,000 tons of additional food aid, but the DPRK is demanding 1 million tons. They added that the difference in amount has been the main obstacle in the negotiations. They said that, under a basic agreement, the US will announce its food aid to the DPRK following the first inspection, and will ease sanctions on the DPRK following the second inspection. They added that the US plans first to settle the food aid issue early and then work on details of inspections over the long term and on ways to carry out the first two inspections. As steps to ease its sanctions on the DPRK, the US has reportedly offered to unfreeze DPRK assets in the US worth US$14 million and allow US companies to invest in mine development projects in the DPRK. The sources said that the DPRK is not dissatisfied with the offers.

The Associated Press ("LITTLE PROGRESS IN N. KOREA TALKS," New York, 03/02/99) reported that DPRK Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Gye-gwan said Tuesday that the DPRK had not yet reached an agreement in talks with the US over access to a underground construction site. Kim said that the goal of the talks was to "clarify the suspicions of the site, what should be done by the two sides." US delegate Charles Kartman said, "I'm always optimistic," adding that negotiations would continue Wednesday.

2. DPRK Accusations of US Spying

The Associated Press ("N. KOREA ACCUSES U.S. OF SPYING," Tokyo, 03/03/99) reported that the DPRK's state-run Korean Central Radio accused the US of making 160 spy flights over its territory in February. The broadcast stated, "These fanatical flights were a villainous threat to the desires of our people and all the peace-loving people of the world."

3. US Policy toward DPRK

Reuters ("U.S. EXPERTS URGE NEW APPROACH TO NORTH KOREA," Honolulu, 03/02/99) reported that a group of foreign policy experts released a six- page paper on Monday criticizing the Clinton administration's "fragmented" policy toward the DPRK. The group, headed by Richard Armitage, a former assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, stated, "To convince the North to modify its posture, we need a larger conceptual framework, with greater incentives and corresponding disincentives." It added, "Current policy is fragmented. This has allowed North Korea to obtain economic benefits while maintaining its military threat." It said that the US must put forward a comprehensive offer to meet the DPRK's "legitimate economic, security and political concerns." It added that, besides seizing the diplomatic initiative, this approach would strengthen the ability to build and sustain a coalition if the DPRK failed to cooperate and continued its current brinkmanship. Members of the group included Paul Wolfowitz, under secretary of defense for policy from 1989 to 1993, and retired Rear Admiral Michael McDevitt, director of the US Defense Department's East Asia Policy Office under President George Bush. Among the current government officials on the panel were Peter Brookes, aide to House International Relations Committee

Chairman Ben Gilman (R-NY); Frank Jannuzi, a Democratic staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and Hans Binnendijk and James Przystup of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University. The report, "A Comprehensive Approach to North Korea," was published by the National Defense University, which said it reflected the views of the working group and not those of the Defense Department or any US agency. It was distributed at an Asian security conference co-sponsored by the National Defense University, the US Pacific Command, and the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. [Ed. note: The article is available online at: http://www.ndu.edu/inss/strforum/forum159.html]

4. Perry's Trip to Asia

US State Department Deputy Spokesman James B. Foley issued the following statement ("NORTH KOREA POLICY COORDINATOR WILLIAM PERRY TO RETURN TO REGION," Washington, USIA Text, 03/02/99): "Dr. William Perry, U.S. North Korea Policy Coordinator and Special Advisor to the President and the Secretary of State, will travel to Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo March 4-10. Dr. Perry will be accompanied by Ambassador Wendy Sherman, Counselor to the State Department; Dr. Ashton Carter, advisor to Dr. Perry; Philip Yun, EAP senior advisor; and other staff. Dr. Perry will exchange views with the South Korean, Japanese and Chinese governments as he conducts his review of U.S. policy on North Korea and engages in ongoing consultations."

5. ROK-DPRK Talks

Dow Jones Newswires ("S KOREA'S KIM SEES CHANCE OF NEW TALKS, SUMMIT WITH N KOREA," 03/03/99) reported that ROK President Kim Dae-jung told state- run KBS-TV that he is optimistic about the chances for dialogue with the DPRK. Kim stated, "Given a positive expression for dialogue by North Korea, I cannot rule out the possibility of a new government-level dialogue, even a dialogue between the top leaders." He added, "We are preparing for all possibilities, including holding a summit, if North Korea is so prepared." Kim also said that his government is ready to give the DPRK free fertilizer in time for rice transplanting this spring, in an attempt to induce the DPRK to join negotiations.

6. Japanese Policy toward DPRK

Dow Jones Newswires ("JAPAN LDP MEMBER TO PROPOSE LIAISON OFFICE IN N KOREA - KYODO," Tokyo, 03/03/99) reported that Kyodo news said that Masaaki Nakayama, a senior Japanese Diet member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Wednesday that he will propose the setting up of a liaison office in Pyongyang during his four-day visit to the DPRK starting Saturday. He said that the liaison office would handle the issue of suspected abduction of Japanese nationals by DPRK agents, the return of Red Army faction members who defected to the DPRK after hijacking a Japanese passenger jet in 1970, Japanese food aid, and investigations by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization. He added that the office proposal is gaining in importance as ROK President Kim Dae-jung has suggested that Japan and the DPRK restart negotiations on establishing diplomatic ties. He stated, "We have to establish a foothold" in preparation for more friendly relations with the DPRK. Nakayama revealed that he held talks in January in Beijing with Song Ho-gyong, a vice chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee (KAPC), and conveyed the idea to him. Song expressed a positive position on the liaison office request. Nakayama stated, "I'm proceeding with the matter by contacting the prime minister's official residence. I will go as a messenger." Nakayama, a former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, will be visiting the DPRK at the invitation of the KAPC. He is

expected to meet with Kim Yong-sun, a secretary of the Workers Party and chairman of the committee.

7. US Theater Missile Defense

The Chicago Tribune ("CHINA LAMBASTES U.S. MISSILE PLANS," Beijing, 03/03/99) and the Christian Science Monitor (Kevin Platt, "CHINA CHIDES US ON A 'STAR WARS' PLAN," Beijing 03/03/99, 1) reported that PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao on Tuesday criticized US proposals to extend a missile-defense system to Taiwan. Zhu warned, "Do not engage in anything to obstruct the reunification of the motherland." Zhu called a recent US Defense Department report on an alleged PRC missile buildup a "fabrication" that was being used to "create the pretext ... to sell advanced weapons to Taiwan." Michael Swaine, an expert on the PRC military at the Rand Corporation, stated, "China is afraid that Taiwan could be emboldened by the theater missile defense system to move toward independence." He noted that, if extended to cover Taiwan, the US theater missile defense program would also require Taiwan's integration into the US satellite surveillance system, used to detect missile launches. Such a step would signal "a much closer military-to-military relationship between the US and Taiwan." He added that the creation of a working anti-missile system to protect the US "could force China to increase the number of its ICBMs." Xiang Chunyi, a senior legislator in China's National People's Congress, said that initial reports that the US might provide antimissile defenses to Taiwan "make it appear that Washington wants to transform Taiwan into an American protectorate." [Ed. note: This article was included in the US Department of Defense's Early Bird news service for March 3.]

8. PRC-Taiwan Diplomatic Rivalry

The Associated Press (Konstantin Testorides, "TAIWANESE OFFICIAL VISITS MACEDONIA," Skopje, 03/02/99) reported that Taiwanese Foreign Minister Jason Hu arrived in Macedonia Tuesday for his first visit since the two countries established diplomatic ties. Hu said his arrival "was a small step.... But I hope we will have giant results." He held out the prospect of "great economic cooperation" as a reward to Macedonia for establishing diplomatic relations with Taiwan in January. According to unnamed Macedonian officials, Taiwan's aid package could include US$235 million in government-to-government aid and a further US$1 billion in commercial investments. However, Macedonian president Kiro Gligorov has strongly objected to the government's move, saying that the PRC's continued anger could imperil the nation's security.

9. US Nuclear Weapons Detection

Reuters (Tom Doggett, "U.S. AIMS TO DETECT ROGUE NUCLEAR WEAPONS," Washington, 03/02/99) reported that US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Tuesday that he has given Energy Department scientists 12 months to come up with better ways to detect materials that could be used by "rogue" nations or terrorists to make nuclear weapons. Richardson stated, "I challenge our labs, in cooperation with our inter-agency partners, to identify technical breakthroughs which, if successful, will revolutionize our (nuclear) proliferation detection capabilities." He added, "I am not seeking baby steps, but giant strides." Richardson warned, "The danger of Russian nuclear materials or nuclear expertise falling into the hands of terrorists or rogue states is a matter of life and death for all of us."

10. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The United States Information Agency (Susan Ellis, "RICHARDSON SAYS SENATE PASSAGE OF CTBT 'CRITICALLY IMPORTANT'," Washington, 03/02/99) reported that US Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Bill Richardson said Tuesday that achieving Senate passage of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a priority for the Clinton Administration. Richardson stated, "I believe that if this bill is allowed on the floor of the Senate, we can get the votes. We are building support." He added, "There's going to be a very, very active concerted effort. This is an issue where the whole cabinet is going to be deployed. I believe if we're going to encourage India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, if we are going to participate in an upcoming meeting where we engage in strategy to improve nuclear safety and other ways to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, it is critically important that we pass CTBT this year."

11. Indian Missile Test

Reuters ("INDIA MAY TEST BALLISTIC MISSILE THIS WEEK -REPORT," New Delhi, 03/03/99) reported that the United News of India (UNI) said on Wednesday that India is expected to test-fire a longer-range version of its Agni ballistic missile between March 5 and March 7. UNI said, "All arrangements ... are understood to have been completed by the defence authority here for the test firing." An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman responded, "The only comment I have right now is it's highly speculative. This government has made it clear that the first phase of development of Agni has been completed and the second phase has been cleared for development." Loknath Mishra, the district magistrate of Bhadrak, where the firing range is located, said he had not been informed of any imminent test and such notification is required a month in advance.

II. Republic of Korea

1. ROK-DPRK Talks

Korea Times ("SEOUL PREPARING FOR SOUTH-NORTH SUMMIT," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that ROK President Kim Dae-jung said Tuesday that the ROK government is making preparations for every conceivable type of dialogue with the DPRK, including a summit between leaders of the ROK and the DPRK. "I am positively preparing for whatever kind of talks the North wants," Kim said in an interview with the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS). "We cannot exclude the possibility of talks between the authorities of the two Koreas, including a summit, in view of the North's recent positive attitude toward inter-Korean dialogue," Kim said.

Korea Herald ("PRESIDENT OPENS THE DOOR FOR INTER-KOREAN SUMMIT," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that ROK President Kim Dae-jung on Tuesday expressed a strong wish to hold summit talks with DPRK leader Kim Jong-il. Kim also indicated that the ROK may take a two-stage approach to the proposed fertilizer aid for the DPRK and soon offer the first shipment through the Red Cross so that it can be used this spring. "The door is open to any kind of inter-Korean talks, including a summit meeting," Kim said in an interview broadcast by the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS). The President said that the recent DPRK offer to hold high-level political talks made him think the two Koreas would be able to hold a government- level dialogue. "I think (the possibility of) a dialogue between the South and North Korean leaders cannot be ruled out," he said. Kim said that he will try to arrange an inter-Korean summit if the DPRK wants to do so.

2. Perry's Visit to Seoul

Korea Herald ("U.S. POLICY COORDINATOR PERRY TO VISIT SEOUL TO FINE-TUNE NORTH

KOREA REPORT," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that William Perry, the US policy coordinator on the DPRK, will fly into Seoul on Monday for two days of policy fine-tuning with ROK officials. The former US defense secretary is expected to explain his draft report on US policy toward the DPRK to the ROK's key policymakers for a final update, said officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Perry's report, deemed crucial among ROK officials as it will determine future US policy on the DPRK, is to be presented to US President Clinton by the end of this month. While here, Perry is scheduled to meet with Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Hong Soon-young and Lim Dong-won, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security. He will also pay a courtesy call on President Kim Dae-jung.

3. Tumen River Development Project

Korea Herald ("SOUTH, NORTH KOREA TO MEET ON TUMEN RIVER DEVELOPMENT," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that the ROK and the DPRK plan to attend a meeting of the UN Development Program on the development of Tumen River in Mongolia later this month. The two Koreas are due to dispatch government delegates to the fourth working-level two-day TRADP (Tumen River Area Development Program) meeting to open March 18 in Ulan Bator, at which representatives from Mongolia, the PRC, and Russia will attend, the ROK officials said. The participants are expected to discuss business plans for this year, including cost sharing, to develop the river. Attention is being paid to whether they will be able to agree on the construction of sea and land routes connecting Sokcho in the ROK, Rajin in the DPRK, and Hunchun in the PRC. This month's TRADP conference was originally to open last October but was delayed following the DPRK's announcement that it could not attend the meeting.

4. DPRK Famine

Korea Herald ("INTERNATIONAL NGOS TO MEET IN MAY ON AID TO NORTH KOREA," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that non-governmental organizations (NGO's) from about 50 countries will get together in Beijing in May to discuss aid to the DPRK, a report said on Tuesday. The participants will include relief-related organizations from the ROK, the US, Japan, and European countries, the ROK's Yonhap News Agency said. "Members of the North Korea's Flood Rehabilitation Committee will also attend the meeting, which will discuss ways of helping North Korean children suffering from malnutrition," the report said.

5. Food Aid to DPRK

JoongAng Ilbo ("FIRST SHIPMENT OF PRIVATE AID TO NORTH KOREA," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that a religious-based ROK civilian group will send 26,000 articles of children's clothing to the DPRK. This will be the inaugural shipment for private organizations, as the government recently allowed civic organizations to provide support directly to DPRK instead of through the ROK Red Cross, as was the case previously. The Federation of Korean Christians for Support of North Korea, whose executive chairman is Pastor Shim Kun-sik, will deliver 710 million won's worth of children clothing on March 4. The clothing was donated expressly for the DPRK by more than 20 clothing manufacturers. Children's clothing was specifically requested by a DPRK religious organization, the Chosun Christian Confederation, through the auspices of the World Christian Council (WCC). On February 24, permission to send the clothing was received from the Ministry of Unification. A source from the Ministry stated that civic groups have shown a great deal of interest in helping the DPRK.

6. 2002 World Cup

Korea Herald ("KFA HEAD CHUNG PLANS TO VISIT NORTH KOREA AROUND MARCH 20," Seoul, 03/03/99) reported that Representative Chung Mong-joon, president of the ROK's Korea Football Association (KFA), expects to visit the DPRK later this month to discuss sharing the 2002 World Cup final games. "The exact date of his visit to the North has yet to be decided. But there is a good chance that he will visit Pyongyang around March 20," said an official at the KFA. Chung had originally planned to visit the DPRK on January 12, along with eight KFA officials, including former Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo and former ambassador to the US Kim Kyung- won. Both are advisers to the football association. However, the planned visit has been delayed because of reported differences between the KFA and the DPRK's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, the organization that invited him, over his schedule in the DPRK. The KFA president has already proposed that part of the 2002 World Cup matches the ROK is set to hold take place in the DPRK. The ROK is co-hosting the World Cup finals with Japan. The DPRK has yet to respond to the ROK's suggestion, but the invitation of Chung by the committee in December last year sparked speculation that the DPRK is willing to discuss the proposal.

III. People's Republic of China

1. Chinese View on Situation on Korean Peninsula

Wen Hui Daily ("KOREAN PENINSULA: WALKING TOWARDS A NEW CENTURY OF DETENTE," 3/1/99, A4) carried an article written by Dr. Wang Lingyi, a researcher with the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, saying that the tense situation on the Korean Peninsula historically changed after ROK President Kim Dae-jung came into power. Commenting on Kim's policy of relaxing relations with the DPRK, the author said that ROK policymakers do not want to take a cold-war model of tension and confrontations into the 21st century. According to Wang, detente between the ROK and the DPRK are more welcomed by Korean people. The author regards the Mt. Kumgang tourist program as the most successful case of economic and trade cooperation between the ROK and the DPRK and says that it also will be an important contribution to the realization of detente on the Peninsula.

2. Albright's Visit to PRC

People's Daily ("ZHU RONGJI MEETS WITH ALBRIGHT," Beijing, 3/2/99, A1) reported that PRC Premier Zhu Rongji met with US State Secretary Madeleine Albright on March 1. During the meeting, Albright said that the US believes that US-PRC relations are very important and the development of these relations is now in an important phase. She believes that Zhu's visit will be conducive to enhance the agreement reached by PRC President Jiang Zemin and US President Bill Clinton to establish a Sino-US constructive strategic partnership. Zhu said that during his visit to the US, he will exchange ideas with US leaders on Sino-US relations and other international and regional issues of common concern, and have wide contacts with people from all walks of life in the US.

People's Daily ("JIANG ZEMIN MEETS WITH ALBRIGHT," Beijing, 3/3/99, A1) reported that PRC President Jiang Zemin met with US State Secretary Madeleine Albright in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on March 2. During the meeting, Jiang said that since his first meeting with US President Bill Clinton in Seattle in 1993, he and Clinton had met many times and exchanged views on Sino-US relations and international issues of common concern. The PRC and the US decided, during the meetings between Jiang and Clinton, to make concerted efforts to build a constructive strategic partnership geared towards the 21st century. According to Jiang, the PRC and the US must

resolve issues based on their long-term and strategic interests. Jiang said that PRC Premier Zhu Rongji's official visit to the US in April is very important. He believes the visit will enhance mutual understanding between the nations' leaders and peoples, and advance bilateral ties. The US attaches great importance to developing US-PRC relations and will continue establishing the constructive strategic partnership, Albright said. She said that the US Government and people will warmly welcome Zhu, and that she believes that his visit will be a success.

China Daily ("SOUND RELATIONS COMMON DESIRE," 3/3/99, A1) reported that PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said on March 2 that the PRC and the US agree that bilateral ties are very important, and they pledge to enhance their relations. When asked to comment on US State Secretary Albright's visit to Beijing, the spokesman said that the nations will enhance preparations for PRC Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to the US in April to ensure the visit's success. The spokesman outlined the nations' efforts to alleviate impacts of the Asian financial crisis, and for controlling the nuclear arms race in South Asia. He said those efforts have been effective. According to him, the PRC is willing to work with the US, within the framework of the three Sino-US joint communiques and other joint statements, to properly handle the human rights issue, but the issue must be handled in the spirit of equality, mutual respect for each nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and seeking common ground.

3. PRC-US Relations

China Daily ("MISSILE REPORT REJECTED," 3/2/99, A1) reported that the PRC resents, and strongly opposes, the "so-called" PRC missile threat against Taiwan reported by the US Defense Department. Commenting on a report recently submitted by the US Defense Department to the US Congress to justify selling advanced weapons to Taiwan, PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said that this is a serious interference in the PRC's internal affairs. The US should handle the Taiwan issue properly and gradually reduce the number of arms sales and ultimately eliminate them, Zhu added.

China Daily ("US URGED NOT TO MEDDLE IN OTHERS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS," 3/1/99, A2) reported that the PRC is urging the US to stop using the pretext of human rights to meddle in other nations' internal affairs. When commenting on a section regarding the PRC in the US State Department's annual human rights report, PRC Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said that the US Government should respect facts and abide by the norms of international law. According to her, the PRC Government always respects the general purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and basic freedoms in the UN Charter, and relevant international human rights instruments. The PRC constantly makes major efforts in that regard, she added.

4. PRC-Russian Relations

People's Daily ("CONGRATULATIONS ON PREMIER ZHU'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO RUSSIA," 3/1/99, A1) published an editorial saying that Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Russia was a success. According to the editorial, the main purpose of Zhu's visit was to implement the important agreements reached by PRC President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and to comprehensively promote Sino-Russian strategic cooperative partnership based on equality and trust, especially in regard to economic and trade cooperation. The two sides made pragmatic exchanges on cooperation on trade, energy, science and technology, etc., and signed 16 agreements. The editorial said the important achievements of the visit further enriched and replenished the Sino-Russian strategic cooperative partnership. The newspaper believes that friendly cooperation between the PRC and Russia will be further promoted as long as the two sides seriously practice the agreements reached by their leaders. The economic and trade cooperation between the two

countries will reach a new high, the editorial said.

5. Across Taiwan Straits Relations

China Daily ("ARATS-SEF TALKS," 3/3/99, A2) reported that the Beijing- based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) will send its deputy secretary-general Li Yafei to Taipei from March 17 to 19 to hold talks with the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). ARATS said in a letter faxed to SEF on March 2 that Li will exchange views with SEF officials on making arrangements for ARATS President Wang Daohan's visit to Taiwan, as well as holding talks between the two organizations.

IV. Announcements

1. Job Opening

The Foreign Policy in Focus Project of the Interhemispheric Resource Center has a position open for a Foreign Policy Analyst/Editor. Job responsibilities include: acting as managing editor for the Foreign Policy In Focus Project; working with Project Co-directors in assigning and editing policy briefs, reports, and books; guiding materials through the production process; helping expand the project's relations with other think tanks, scholars, and analysts; sharing responsibility with project directors and institution directors for writing proposals and communicating with foundation program officers; and taking initiatives to improve and expand project. The minimum qualifications are good writing and editing skills; international experience; expertise in at least one area of international relations; communications skills for relations with foundations, think tanks, other analysts, etc.; experience in delegating work and supervising other staff as well as ability to work cooperatively. Salary is US$30,000-$US36,000 depending on experience. Benefits include health and life insurance, vacation and retirement. Application deadline is March 26. Questions can be directed to Tom Barry, Project Co-Director, at irc_tom@zianet.com or at (505) 388-0208. For more information about the Foreign Policy In Focus Project, go to: http://www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org

The Foreign Policy In Focus Project is a joint effort of the Interhemispheric Resource Center and the Institute for Policy Studies. The position is with the IRC, either in Silver City or Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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We invite you to reply to today's report, and we welcome commentary or papers for distribution to the network.

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