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I. NAPSNet

1. DPRK Terror List Status

Chosun Ilbo ("U.S. TO STRIKE N.KOREA OFF TERROR LIST UNDER 'SECRET DEAL'", 2007/11/12) reported that the US in a closed-doors deal on Oct. 3 agreed to strike the DPRK from its list of state sponsors of terrorism and suspend the Trading with the Enemy Act by year's end provided the DPRK disables its nuclear facilities by then, a senior ROK official says. The official told Korean reporters in Washington last week the Oct. 3 deal "includes a list of facilities North Korea agreed to disable. It also includes what the other five nations agreed to do, including the issues of striking North Korea from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism and suspending the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act." These measures "are supposed to be completed by the end of this year."

The Associated Press (Foster Klug, "S. KOREAN MINISTER WARNS ON NUKE ACCORD ", Washington, 2007/11/12) reported that the ROK 's foreign minister said that failure by the US to take the DPRK off a list of state sponsors of terrorism could give the DPRK a justification for walking away from six-nation nuclear disarmament talks. ROK Foreign Minister Song Min-soon said, "Any side balk at this agreement, that justifies others to renege," speaking in English at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "We should not give each other any justification of reneging from this agreement."

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2. DPRK and US-Japan Relations

Kyodo ("N. KOREA REMOVAL FROM BLACKLIST MAY HURT JAPAN-U.S. TIES: MACHIMURA ", Tokyo, 2007/11/12) reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said that Japan-U.S. ties could be adversely affected if the US decides to remove the DPRK from its list of terrorist-sponsoring nations despite Tokyo's request not to do so due to lack of progress on the issue of Pyongyang's abduction of Japanese. Although Machimura denied that one problem might totally damage bilateral relations, which he described as "multilayered," he told a press conference that delisting the DPRK "certainly would not have a good influence on the Japan-U.S. relationship."

Agence France-Presse ("US SAYS NKOREAN ABDUCTIONS OF JAPANESE A PRIORITY ", Tokyo, 2007/11/12) reported that the top US negotiator with the DPRK promised that Washington put a priority on resolving a row over the DPRK's past abductions of Japanese nationals. "What's most important for the abductees' families is not the issue of the US laws on state-sponsored terrorism," Hill told Japanese reporters. "I want them to know how much of a priority it is for me and for the entire US in terms of our negotiations" with North Korea, he said.

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3. Inter-Korean Military Talks

Joongang Ilbo ("DEFENSE CHIEFS SET NORTH-SOUTH TALKS", 2007/11/12) reported that Defense chiefs of the ROK and DPRK will hold talks from Nov. 27 to 29 in Pyongyang to discuss ways to reduce tensions, the Defense Ministry said yesterday. The defense ministry said the two sides fixed the date for the meeting, their highest-level military consultation channel, during a working-level meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom. However, on the agenda for the talks between South Korean Defense Minister Kim Jang-soo and his counterpart, Kim Il-chol, the ministry only said "the two sides have agreed to discuss military measures to implement the Declaration on the Advancement of South-North Korean Relations, Peace and Prosperity."

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4. USFK Base Realignment

Korea Times ("KOREA, US TO BREAK GROUND FOR PYEONGTAEK MILITARY BASE", 2007/11/12) reported that the ROK and the US will formally kick off a 12-billion-dollar project later this week to relocate the Yongsan base in central Seoul to Pyeongtaek, officials said Monday. The two sides plan to hold a ground-breaking ceremony Tuesday for the expansion of Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, 70 km south of Seoul, they added. The U.S. military has been pushing to consolidate the Yongsan base and other facilities north of Seoul into an expanded compound in Pyeongtaek, as part of efforts to realign its 28,000 troops here.

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5. Japan SDF Indian Ocean Mission

Associated Press (Mari Yamaguchi, "JAPAN LOWER HOUSE OKS NAVY MISSION", Tokyo, 2007/11/13) reported that Japan's lower house of parliament approved a resumption of the country's anti-terrorism naval mission in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday. The legislation, which now goes to the upper house, would limit Japanese ships to refueling and supplying water to ships used in monitoring and inspecting vessels suspected of links to terrorism or arms smuggling.

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6. US-Japan Relations

Kyodo ("FUKUDA TO HOLD TALKS WITH BUSH ON FRIDAY, VISIT SINGAPORE NEXT WEEK", Tokyo, 2007/11/12) reported that Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda will visit the US for talks with President George W. Bush and then travel to Singapore next week to attend annual regional summit meetings, Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said Monday. The top government spokesman said that in his talks with Bush, Fukuda is expected to reaffirm the Japan-U.S. alliance and his wish to further enhance it, as well as to express his intention of making the alliance and

Japan's Asian diplomacy resonate with each other.

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7. Japan Airport Security

The Los Angeles Times (Bruce Wallace, "JAPAN'S WELCOME MAT GETTING PRICKLY", Tokyo, 2007/11/12) reported that the Japanese government has created new immigration procedures for foreign visitors -- rules that critics say are all too revealing about official attitudes toward foreigners. On Nov. 20, Japan will begin fingerprinting and photographing non-Japanese travelers as they pass through immigration at air and sea ports. The government says the controls are a necessary security measure aimed at preventing a terrorist attack in Japan. Critics say the data collection is a dubious terrorism-fighting measure, instead reflecting the government's desire for closer surveillance of foreigners.

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8. PRC Economic Development

BBC News (Michael Bristow, "RURAL CHINA'S OFFICE POLITICS", Henan, 2007/11/12) reported that on the outskirts of the main town in one of the PRC's poorest counties, a series of opulent buildings is slowly rising up from the earth. These half-finished structures will eventually house the various government departments of Gushi county in Henan province. But the local government is being criticised because it is spending a large chunk of the county's annual budget on the building projects. Although the PRC's economic boom has reached the county, farmers have not benefited as much as urban residents.

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9. PRC Media

Washington Post (Edward Cody, "CHINESE MUCKRAKING A HIGH-STAKES GAMBLE", Beijing, 2007/11/12) reported that the PRC's journalists remain under the thumb of an authoritarian government that maintains a vast propaganda bureaucracy with unquestioned power to control what is published and decide who rises and falls in the news business. Change has begun, with visible loosening since the 1970s. But the party's propaganda mandarins have retained the power to intervene whenever they decide to do so, and in the past several years they have intervened with increasing, although unpredictable, frequency. As a result, working as a reporter in the PRC has come to mean succumbing as a compliant propagandist or dancing along the censors' red line -- making each story a high-stakes gamble on how far to go. "China is a heaven for investigative reporting, since it has a lot of interesting things to cover, but it is not a heaven for Chinese investigative reporters," said Zhan Jiang, journalism dean at the China Youth University for Political Sciences in Beijing.

The Associated Press (Anita Chang, "CHINA TRACKS SUMMER OLYMPICS JOURNALISTS", Beijing, 2007/11/12) reported that the PRC government has created profiles on thousands of foreign

journalists coming to report on next summer's Beijing Olympics and is gathering information on thousands more to put into a database, a top official said in comments published Monday. The database with information on the 28,000 foreign journalists expected for the Olympics would be a reference for interview subjects, designed to protect them from being tricked or blackmailed by "fake reporters," Liu Binjie, minister of the General Administration of Press and Publication, was quoted as saying in the state-run China Daily newspaper.

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II. Republic of Korea

10. DPRK on US Missile Test

Yonhap News ("DPRK PRESS CRITICIZES US MISSILE TEST IN HAWAII", Seoul, 2007/11/13 19:00:00 GMT+0) reported that some of the DPRK media said on November 13 that the purpose of the recent U.S. missile test in Hawaii was not to protect themselves from threat, but to acquire the capability to attack other nations first. They also added that since the nations the U.S. is aiming at are very likely to be "anti-imperialist" nations such as the DPRK or Iran, the test was implemented in Hawaii, which is close to those nations. They criticized for the U.S. being "violent" in dealing with international issues, and urged them to be aware that physical power is no longer a key to solving problems.

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11. Inter-Korean Ministers' Talks

Hankyoreh (Kwon Hyuk-chul, "INTER-KOREAN MINISTERS TALK, WORK ONE ECONOMY", Seoul, 2007/11/12) reported that Lee Jae-jong, the ROK Minister of Unification, announced the list of delegates to inter-Korean ministers' talks, including Han Duk-soo, prime minister of the ROK, and Kim Young-il, prime minister of the DPRK. It is known that military personnel are excluded from these talks. This meeting will mainly deal with economic cooperation between the two Koreas.

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12. Korean Peninsula Peace Accord

Yonhap News ("ROH, SUMMITS DECLARATION NEEDED FOR DENUCLEARIZATION AND PEACE TREATY", Seoul, 2007/11/13 19:00:00 GMT+0) reported that ROK President Roh Moo-hyun said on November 13 that the purpose of having a four-party summit declaration is to reinforce the peace regime on the Korean peninsula, so that the DPRK can denuclearize themselves as soon as possible. Roh said that even though both of the issues -- the denuclearization of the DPRK and the peace treaty -- not only take a lot of time -- but also may encounter several difficulties in the process, the two issues should be resolved concurrently. He emphasized that since the DPRK had already

promised that they are going to denuclearize, the whole procedure should be done through constant conversation, but not through physical force. Roh added that even though there are people who talked about the possibility of the collapse of the DPRK regime, the ROK does not want such a thing to happen which will be burdensome for the ROK people themselves as well. He concluded that Northeast Asian nations should cooperate tightly in the economic field, so that the nations can be combined as an economic unity as the EU is.

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13. DPRK Rhetoric

Donga Ilbo (Choo Seong-ha, "DPRK MEDIA 'CHOSUN IS WITHIN THE GLOBE'", Seoul, 2007/11/13) said in the editorial that DPRK's recent drifts confuse the world. The DPRK had recently told the Vietnamese leader that they would follow the Vietnamese way of opening their door to the world last month. Also, by using a phrase like "Chosun is within the globe", they showed that their perspective toward the world had changed radically. Unfortunately however, what is happening in the DPRK is totally opposite from what is reported to the outside world. It is known that they no longer allow people to use telephones at home, and hinder the widespread use of computers. Such moves, along with utilizing cellular phone detectors in the PRC-DPRK border area, demonstrate that there is still a long way to go for the DPRK to thoroughly globalize.

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