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In today's Report:

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- 1. Hwang Defection
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- 3. Gingrich Arrival in South Korea
- 4. US Cancellation of Okinawa Drill
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- 1. Hwang Defection
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I. United States

1. Hwang Defection

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2. Gore Arrival in China

John King of the Associated Press reported in the Washington Post ("GORE ARRIVES IN CHINA", Beijing, 3/24/97) and Reuters ("GORE ARRIVES IN CHINA TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS", Beijing, 3/24/97) reported on US Vice President Al Gore's arrival in Beijing Monday. Gore noted his desire "to affirm the vital importance of relations between our nations and to continue building a lasting peace between China and the United States." He added that "the landscape of US-China relations is filled with many rivers, some flowing together, others apart. Such variety befits the interaction of two great nations and civilizations." Before departing Tokyo for Beijing, Gore noted that human rights will figure prominently on his agenda as an issue "important to us as Americans." Gore is the highest-ranking US official to visit China since 1989. He hopes to lay the framework for a Clinton-Jiang summit in Washington later this year.

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The Washington Post carried an Associated Press report ("REPORT: CHINA PLANNING WAR GAMES", Taipei, 3/24/97) that the PRC "is threatening to stage a new round of war games" near Taiwan, according to Taiwan's United Daily News. The Taiwan military reportedly has obtained information that the PRC is planning maneuvers for April, but is waiting to make a final decision while monitoring Taiwan behavior during the visit of the Dalai Lama. Reuters ("DALAI LAMA SAYS TAIWAN TOUR AIDS CHINA TIES", Taipei, 3/24/97) reported that the Dalai Lama expressed hope that his visit ultimately would generate "positive indications" from the PRC.

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1. Hwang Defection

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Hwang is mainly spending his time watching cable TV and eating Korean food prepared by a skilled chef. A medical team is on stand-by at all hours for the 74-year-old secretary.

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The visiting delegation is also expected to take issue with Korea's "frugality drive" in the wake of the widespread slowdown of Korea's economic growth. They are likely to note a recent decrease in the import of luxurious American-made automobiles as one of the sectors affected by the campaign, officials said. Gingrich, accompanied by 11 Congressmen, is expected to pay a courtesy call on ROK President Kim Young-sam and meet Foreign Minister Yoo Chong-ha during their three-day stay here. They are also scheduled to visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) today.

The second group of US Congressmen consists of four members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, including chairman Ted Stevens, and Republican Senator Pat Roberts, who belongs to such committees as armed services, intelligence, ethics and agriculture. They will leave for Pyongyang Friday on a chartered US Air Force plane, following their three-day stay in the ROK. The one day trip will include meeting high-level DPRK officials including DPRK Vice President Li Jong-ok. So far, the DPRK has rejected previous applications by US lawmakers without giving any definite answer. Therefore, it could be interpreted as a peace gesture toward Washington. Also joining the delegation are Daniel Inouye, Pete Domenici and Thad Cochran, all from the Senate Appropriations

Committee. Before traveling to the DPRK, the Congressmen are scheduled to pay a courtesy call on ROK President Kim and ROK Foreign Minister Yoo in Seoul.

Meanwhile, US Vice President Al Gore, accompanied by Charles Kartman, acting assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and other ranking officials, are expected to meet President Kim and Prime Minister Koh Kun during their two-day stay here.

3. ROK Participates in UN

The ROK government will take part in an international meeting of 16 "middle powers" to discuss ways to strengthen the role of the United Nations, the ROK Foreign Ministry said yesterday. ROK Ambassador to the United Nations Park Soo-gil will lead the Korean delegation to the meeting which will be held in Prague on Tuesday. At the meeting, he will offer Seoul as the venue for the ninth such meeting slated for July, it said. The meeting was first held in June 1995 to allow the voices of "middle powers" to be heard in the United Nations, which is dominated by major powers such as the US, Germany, Russia and others. Among the participants are Japan, Indonesia, India, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Jamaica, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Ireland, South Africa, Egypt, Cote d' Ivoire and the ROK. (Korea Herald, "SEOUL TO PARTICIPATE IN U.N. REFORM MEETING," 03/24/97)

III. Russian Federation

1. A Correction

In the Daily Report for Friday, March 21, an incorrect reference was made to the Tokaimura nuclear installation in Japan. It should have been described as a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility, not a nuclear power plant. We apologize for the error.

The NAPSNet Daily Report aims to serve as a forum for dialogue and exchange among peace and security specialists. Conventions for readers and a list of acronyms and abbreviations are available to all recipients. For descriptions of the world wide web sites used to gather information for this report, or for more information on web sites with related information, see the collection of other NAPSNet resources.
We invite you to reply to today's report, and we welcome commentary or papers for distribution to the network.

Produced by the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development.

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