

NAPSNET Week in Review 21 September, 2001

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Responses to US Retaliation

1. World Response to US Retaliation

Many world leaders expressed concern on Friday over US President George W. Bush's appeal to support a new war on terror. In the Middle East, even close US allies among Arab states face a dilemma in choosing how to respond. The PRC offered no immediate direct comment, but said it would not let Osama bin Laden enter its territory from Afghanistan. The Philippines said it would let the US use its former bases. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he would meet Bush in Washington on September 25 to pledge Japan's full support for a "war on terrorism."

"World Response to US Retaliation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, US)

"World Views of US Retaliation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, PRC)

"US Allies' Reaction to Attacks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, Japan)

2. UN Role in US Retaliation

The PRC and Iran led an effort on September 18 to push the US into obtaining UN approval for any military activity against Afghanistan for harboring terrorists. Both nations also urged the US to submit evidence of terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden's involvement in last week's US terrorist attacks. However, US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the US would not share its intelligence because it would reveal methods that would be needed to fight terrorists in the future.

"UN Role in US Retaliation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, US)

3. DPRK-ROK Condemnation of Terrorism

The ROK and DPRK on September 15 condemned the terrorist acts in the US. The DPRK's top envoy, Kim Ryong Song, discussed the attacks in the US with ROK officials. Earlier, the ROK's main opposition party rejected a proposal by ROK President Kim Dae-jung that negotiators from the two Koreas adopt a joint statement against terrorism.

"DPRK-ROK Condemnation of Terrorism" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

4. ROK Participation in US Retaliation

ROK President Kim Dae-jung on Monday expressed his intention to fully support US retaliatory action against those who were responsible for last week's terrorist attacks in the US and added that the ROK will take part in the "international coalition" to support the US action against terrorism. However, the government will review and decide what help will be rendered to the US when it makes a formal request.

"ROK Participation in US Retaliation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, ROK)

5. US Retaliation Effects on PRC

Jin Canrong, a professor at Beijing's America Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, warned that a US military attack on Afghanistan must be short term, reasonable and based on evidence. Jin said a NATO occupation of the country would have terrifying consequences for the region.

"US Retaliation Effects on PRC" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, US)

The PRC asked the US for support in its own fight against "terrorism and separatism" in return for PRC support of US retaliation against recent terrorist attacks. PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao insisted that any military action in retaliation for last week's attacks on the US would have to be based on "concrete evidence," should not hurt innocent people, and should be conducted within international law. He went on to say that the US and the PRC had "common interests" in combating Taiwan independence activities. Xue Dongzheng, deputy director of the Crime Investigation Department at the Ministry of Public Security, warned that US military retaliation would only "aggravate terrorism and violence." He also suggested at an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) that the US should shoulder some blame for terrorism.

"PRC Views of US Retaliatory Efforts" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

"PRC Reaction to Attacks against US" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, PRC)

6. Japanese Role in US Retaliation

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Friday that he would meet US President George W. Bush in Washington next week to pledge Japan's full support for a "war on terrorism." Koizumi said this week that Japan would take measures to allow its forces to provide logistical support for US military operations in response to the attacks.

"Japanese Role in US Retaliation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, US)

"Japan on US Retaliatory Efforts" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

"Japanese Participation in US Retaliation" (Daily Report, Sept. 18, Japan)

Japanese Defense Agency chief Gen Nakatani indicated that laws enacted in 1999 covering the emergencies "in areas surrounding Japan" may allow the nation to extend logistical support to the US in any retaliation against last week's attacks. The Japanese government is planning legislation to allow the SDF to supply the US military with arms and ammunition for a strike against the terrorists. The bill will also allow SDF personnel to fuel and maintain aircraft embarking on strategic operations and includes the possibility that SDF personnel supplying arms and ammunition to US forces could find themselves having to resort to force.

"SDF's Logistical Support for US" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, Japan)

"SDF's Dispatch" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, Japan)

US Navy officials confirmed that the US guided missile cruiser Cowpens left Japan on September 15, but did not disclose its objective or destination.

"US Cruiser Leaves Kyodo" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

"US Naval Movements from Japan" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, Japan)

"US Bases in Japan" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, Japan)

7. Russian View of US Retaliatory Strikes

Russia rejected participation in any US-led retaliatory strike against terrorists and said the US should not use countries in Central Asia as a staging ground for an assault against Afghanistan. Both Western and Russian sources in Moscow said that high-level bilateral talks are continuing with the aim of "constructive" cooperation that could go well beyond sharing intelligence information. US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage is to arrive in Moscow next week for meetings on joint anti-terrorist operations.

"Russia Against US Retaliatory Strikes" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

Korea

1. Inter-Korean Agreements

DPRK and ROK negotiators Tuesday reached an agreement approving a new round of family reunions scheduled to start next month. The agreement also calls for the DPRK to begin construction as soon as possible of its portion of a railroad that would link the two Koreas and for review of a proposal for a natural gas pipeline from Siberia through northeastern PRC to both the DPRK and the ROK. The negotiators also agreed to hold working-level discussions on building an industrial complex in the DPRK city of Kaesong and on construction of a road between the DPRK and the ROK. ROK President Kim Dae-jung said that the accord was particularly helpful in easing fears amid rising world tensions.

"Inter-Korean Agreements" NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

"DPRK-ROK Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

"Inter-Korean Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, ROK)

"ROK-DPRK Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, ROK)

"DPRK-ROK Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, PRC)

2. Inter-Korean Relations

ROK opposition leaders Lee Hoi-Chang and Kim Jong-Pil agreed on September 18 to press the government to secure national assembly approval before giving new aid to the DPRK or making other changes to its DPRK policy. The US responded to Tuesday's inter-Korean agreement by renewing its offer to talks with the DPRK "at any time and place."

"ROK-DPRK Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, US)

"ROK Aid to DPRK" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, ROK)

The ROK will hold a computerized draw on September 21 to select 300 candidates for family reunions next month. The ROK Red Cross said the number will be whittled down to 100 after officials sort out those whose families have died or cannot be found in the DPRK.

"Reunion of Separated Families" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 20, US)

"Family Reunion" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, ROK)

3. Analysis of Inter-Korean Relations

Analysts said the inter-Korean agreement announced on September 18 merely repackaged deals struck more than a year ago but not implemented. However, the accords could bolster ROK President Kim Dae-jung in the face of criticism of his policies toward the DPRK.

"Analysis of Inter-Korean Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, US)

4. ROK on Sunshine Policy

ROK President Kim Dae-jung threatened to veto parliamentary decisions in order to stop a new opposition onslaught on his DPRK policy. Kim gave his warning after the opposition demanded the ROK government secure National Assembly approval before new aid was given to the DPRK

"ROK on Sunshine Policy" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, US)

5. DPRK on US Troops

The DPRK repeated its demand that the US make a political decision to pull its troops out of the ROK as soon as possible. In a commentary issued just hours after DPRK envoys arrived in Seoul, the DPRK accused the US of trying to block reconciliation on the peninsula.

"DPRK Demands US Troop Withdrawal" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

6. IAEA on DPRK

Austria expressed concern at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over the DPRK's failure to implement the convention on nuclear safety and urged the nation to show cooperation for the agency's field inspection. Mohammad El Baradei, Executive Director of the IAEA, said that despite the IAEA's monitoring, the agency is still not able to confirm whether the DPRK is properly upholding its nuclear safety regulations.

"IAEA on DPRK" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, ROK)

7. Alleged DPRK Nuclear Activities

A DPRK refugee who claims to be a former DPRK researcher at the nuclear facilities claims that the DPRK moved its entire nuclear development program to new underground bunkers before US inspections of its old facilities began and are continuing research there. She reportedly claimed that the underground facilities are made to appear from aerial photos to be a peasant's village. She also said that she is trying to defect to the US.

"Alleged DPRK Nuclear Activities"(NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

8. DPRK Defectors

The ROK National Intelligence Service said on September 19 that twelve DPRK Nationals recently arrived in Seoul. The defections brought to 359 the number of DPRK Nationals who have fled to the ROK this year.

"DPRK Defectors" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 20, US)

9. DPRK-Japan Relations

Kansai University Professor Lee Young-hwa, Japanese freelance journalist Jiro Ishimaru, and Pyon Jin-il, publisher of Korea Report, said that Japanese Red Army terrorists have been moving frequently between the DPRK and the Middle East for the past decade. They also said that the DPRK government has been manufacturing large quantities of heroin, amphetamines, weapons and counterfeit US dollars to finance its weapons development programs, and selling them either through criminal gangs in Japan or via Russia and the PRC to the US and Europe.

"DPRK Connections to Japan" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

The DPRK political parties and social communities recently made remarks requesting Japan to face its invasion crime and completely account for its invasion history.

"DPRK-Japanese Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, PRC)

10. DPRK-French Talks

French Ambassador to the ROK Francois Descoueyte said France wants to actively engage the DPRK to improve their bilateral ties, but it will not rush into diplomatic recognition before the DPRK makes substantial changes to its policy on human rights and security issues. Descoueyte said a group of French diplomats, led by Dominique Girard, director of Asian affairs in the Foreign Ministry, will visit Pyongyang in early October. He said the visit is aimed at helping the Koreans maintain momentum for reconciliation and at discussing pending issues between France and the DPRK.

"DPRK-French Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, ROK)

11. ROK-US Talks

The ROK Foreign Ministry said on September 16 that ROK Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo will meet with US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington on September 18 to discuss the DPRK and terrorism. An ROK ministry official said that Powell is likely to request ROK support for the planned US military campaign against Afghanistan.

"ROK-US Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, ROK)

12. ROK Military Purchases

The French Ambassador to the ROK, Francois Descoueyte, and corporate executives said France has proposed that it will provide the ROK with key technology to build long-range cruise missiles if its jet fighter maker, Dassault Aviation, wins ROK's major fighter acquisition project. The ROK is expected to announce the winning bidder of the fighter project, code-named "F-X," in November, four months later than originally scheduled.

"ROK Military Purchases" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

"ROK Military Purchases" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, ROK)

People's Republic of China

1. Bush's Asia Tour

US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said on September 19 that the White House is still planning for US President George W. Bush to visit the PRC in October. Bush is scheduled to travel in October to Japan, the ROK, and the PRC.

"Bush's Asia Tour" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 20, US)

2. PRC Entry into WTO

The PRC gained approval on Tuesday of terms for its World Trade Organization (WTO) entry. However, the WTO must still approve the deal at a ministerial meeting scheduled for November in Qatar.

"PRC Entry into WTO" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 18, US)

3. Taiwan Entrance to WTO

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) formally cleared Taiwan for admission on September 18, a day after the PRC was approved. Terms for Taiwan's admission were completed 18 months ago but the final decision was delayed because of a 1992 understanding that the PRC would join first.

"Taiwan Cleared for WTO" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 19, US)

4. Cross-Strait Relations

The leaders of Taiwan's three main political parties agreed on September 15 to try to resume a dialogue with the PRC that broke down three years ago. While failing to agree on specifics, the leaders decided to ask the PRC to resume discussions, charting a similar course that led to the historic meeting eight years ago.

"Cross-Strait Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 17, US)

Japan

1. Protest Against US Retaliation

More than 200 people, including ruling and opposition party lawmakers, joined a rally urging the US to refrain from military retaliation for last week's terrorist attacks. Participants said that an international court, not a battlefield, should be the venue for a solution. Participants also criticized Japanese endorsement of US-led strikes as a step toward expanding Japan's military capacity.

"Peace Movements in Japan" (NAPSNet Daily Report, September 21, Japan)

2. World War II Reparations

Thousands of people from the PRC, the ROK, and the Philippines have been denied the right to pursue lawsuits in US courts against Japanese companies they say enslaved them during World War II. US District Judge Vaughn Walker said on September 19 that Filipinos could not sue because their country was a signatory to the Treaty of Peace, which had also been signed by the US and Japan. The judge also nullified a California law under which PRC and Korean former prisoners had sued the Japanese companies. The judge said the law "infringes on the federal government's exclusive power over foreign affairs."

"World War II Reparations"(NAPSNet Daily Report, September 20, US)

India

1. Reaction to Attacks

Prime Minister A B Vajpayee stated that India's willingness to cooperate with the United States to fight terrorism was "not conditional." The BJP also expressed its support. The CPI (ML), the Janata Dal (U) and other parties also condemned the attacks. Janata Party president Dr. Subramanian Swamy called for pooling information to counter terrorism.

"Reaction to Attacks" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #38)

2. Foreign Relations

Israel's intelligence services reportedly have played down the possibility of any Palestinian group being involved in the attacks. India and Israel commenced a strategic dialogue, including discussion of the threats to their security by terrorism.

"Foreign Relations" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #38)

3. Analyses

C. Raja Mohan, Meenakshi Sinha and Shivajee Ashim Das, Tushar A. Gandhi, Vijay Prashad, and Noam Chomsky all offer analysis on the US terrorist attack and its potential impact on the region and the world at large.

"Analyses" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #38)

Pakistan

1. Reaction to Attacks

Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf pledged 'unstinted cooperation' with the US following the attacks. Pakistan placed on high alert regular and paramilitary troops stationed along parts of the Pakistan-Afghan border as a precaution. The Indian media reportedly is trying to implicate Pakistan in the attacks in the US.

"Reaction to Attacks" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #38)

2. Analyses

Rahimullah Yusufzai discusses whether the US will be satisfied with Pakistani and Taliban denials of involvement with the attacks. Tahir Mirza discusses implications of possible US reactions to the attacks.

"Analyses" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #38)

Afghanistan

1. Reaction to Attacks

Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Mulla Abdul Salam Zaeef condemned the attacks on the US, but denied Osama bin Laden's involvement in the attacks and stated that the Taliban would not allow bin Laden to use Afghan territory for such activities. Indian security experts reportedly are considering whether the attack on Northern Alliance Commander Ahmad Shah Massood was carried out to divert international attention away from the subsequent attacks in the US.

"Reaction to Attacks" (SANDNet Weekly Update, Vol. 2 #37)

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