

NAPSNET Week in Review 22 November, 2002

Recommended Citation

"NAPSNET Week in Review 22 November, 2002", NAPSNet Weekly Report, November 22, 2002, <https://nautilus.org/napsnet/napsnet-weekly/napsnet-week-in-review-22-november-2002/>

United States

1. US on Agreed Framework

The Washington File carried the following report and transcript: "The U.S. government has not made any final decision about the status of its Agreed Framework with North Korea following North Korea's admission that it has been working on a uranium enrichment program for nuclear weapons, says a top U.S. official. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James A. Kelly told reporters at a briefing November 19 at the Foreign Press Center in Washington that "No final decisions have been made and no final statements have been made by the U.S. Government" on the agreement. "The U.S. view on the Agreed Framework is that the North Koreans said it was nullified and we guess it's been nullified. But we are not in any rush to make decisions on all aspects of it," Kelly said. Kelly said that North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Suk-joo made it clear to him that North Korea's uranium enrichment program "was something that North Korea was proceeding with" despite earlier agreements to abandon such projects. In response to a reporter's question, the Kelly said there are no U.S. plans for a U.S. military response." The full official transcript of the press briefing can be found here:

"US on Agreed Framework" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

2. US on KEDO HOF Suspension

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization ("KEDO Executive Board Meeting Concludes," 11/14/02) issued a press release today announcing the suspension of heavy fuel oil delivery starting in December to "condemn North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program." Future shipments will depend on the DPRK's "concrete and credible actions to dismantle completely its highly-enriched uranium program." Subsequently, other KEDO activities with the DPRK will be reviewed.

The full report can be found:

The full text of President Bush's statement on the suspension can be found here:

"US on KEDO HOF Suspension" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

"DPRK KEDO Oil Shipments" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

3. US Conservatives on DPRK

Conservatives in the US Congress are intensifying pressure on DPRK to end its nuclear weapons program and preparing legislation aimed at scuttling a commitment to provide the DPRK with nuclear power reactors, congressional sources said on Tuesday. The proposed legislation, now in draft form, could be introduced early in 2003 when the new Congress, controlled entirely by President Bush's Republican Party, convenes. Bush has said he wants to resolve the dispute over DPRK's nuclear weapons program diplomatically and the proposed bill almost certainly would inflame tensions. The DPRK has said it would view US penalties as a hostile act. Also, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is Indiana Republican Richard Lugar, a moderate who has advocated negotiations as a way to disarm the DPRK.

"US Conservatives on DPRK" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

4. US Missile Defense

The US will have an effective missile defense system up and running within five years, possibly in partnership with NATO or a European agency, the US military officer leading the project said on Tuesday. Lieutenant-General Ronald Kadish said extensive tests had shown the technology behind the missile shield -- designed to knock out incoming missiles launched by "rogue states" with interceptor missiles -- genuinely worked. "We no longer need to experiment, to demonstrate or prevaricate. We need to get on with this and I'm confident we will."

"US Missile Defense" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

"US Missile Defense" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

5. US Forum on Japanese Nationalism

The US State Department intelligence bureau recently held a confidential conference on Japan's rising nationalism and its effects on the country's foreign, security and economic policies, according to participants and US government officials. Japan experts within and outside the US government, including analysts from the CIA, participated in the September 26 meeting titled "Conference on Nationalism and Identity in Japan" in Washington, according to documents obtained by Kyodo News and accounts by participants. The State Department made no official announcement of the meeting or its date and venue. "It's part of a series of conferences that our Intelligence and Research Bureau holds," a State Department official said on condition of anonymity, adding, "It is not that Japan was singled out."

"US Forum on Japanese Nationalism" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, JAPAN)

Korean Peninsula

1. DPRK Nuclear Correction

The DPRK on Monday retracted a controversial weekend radio broadcast that confused and alarmed its neighbors by appearing to confirm for the first time that they have nuclear weapons. The rare DPRK amendment followed its threat to restart missile tests -- highlighting another of the world's worries about the isolated country and its crumbling economy. On Sunday, the official Pyongyang Radio caused confusion with a statement that appeared to declare that the DPRK had nuclear arms -- a development that would sharply raise the stakes in allied efforts to pre-empt a Korean peninsula nuclear crisis. But on Monday, the Korean Central Broadcasting Station (KCBS) stated that the DPRK believed it was "entitled" to have nuclear arms. The initial statement said the country "has come to have nuclear and other strong military weapons to deal with increased nuclear threats by the US imperialists. To safeguard our sovereignty and right to exist we are entitled to have powerful military countermeasures, including nuclear weapons."

"DPRK Nuclear Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, ROK)

"DPRK Nuclear Correction" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

"DPRK Nuclear Weapons" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

2. DPRK on HOF and Agreed Framework

The DPRK said on Thursday that the US had nullified a landmark nuclear pact with the decision last week to cut oil supplies to the DPRK over its atomic weapons program. The DPRK's first response to the decision said the oil cutoff meant "it is high time to decide upon who is to blame for the collapse of the Framework." "It is well known to the world that the U.S. has violated the Framework and boycotted the implementation of its commitments," a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried on the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The statement called the oil cutoff -- which takes effect as the DPRK's sub-zero winter sets in next month -- a "wanton violation" of the pledges of allied energy aid for the DPRK. It asserted that the US had broken the pact because the light-water reactor construction is behind schedule and because the US has threatened the DPRK by labeling it a part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

"DPRK on HOF and Agreed Framework" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

"US-DPRK Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

3. ROK on DPRK Oil Shipment Suspension

The ROK called on the DPRK Friday to heed the message sent by an allied decision to halt fuel oil shipments to the DPRK following the DPRK's admission it had a nuclear arms program. The decision to cut off the shipments from December in response to the DPRK violation of a 1994 nuclear agreement was announced in New York late Thursday by diplomats from the US, European Union, ROK and Japan. A senior ROK government official told reporters the decision to curtail oil shipments had the endorsement of President Kim Dae-jung and had showed that the ROK and its allies "view this issue very seriously." "I hope this message will be heard by North Korea," the official said. "We are quite united and we are pleased."

"ROK on DPRK Oil Shipment Suspension" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

"DPRK on Oil Shipment Suspension" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

4. DPRK Missile Testing

The DPRK kept up its recent threats to resume missile tests Monday, saying it may end its test moratorium if Japan goes ahead with developing a missile defense shield with the US. The official Rodong Sinmun criticized recent comments by the Japanese defense minister suggesting that Japan step up its joint research with Washington on the missile defense system, saying they undermine efforts to improve the bilateral ties. "By doing so, he seeks to torpedo the process of improving the abnormal DPRK-Japan relations and push the situation to confrontation," the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted the paper as saying. "This also prompts the DPRK to take a corresponding measure as it is a new dangerous move to attack and stifle the DPRK by force of arms," the paper added. "DPRK Missile Testing" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

5. DPRK on US-DPRK Relations

Korean Central News Agency carried a story that read, "the south headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification reportedly issued a statement on November 9, accusing the US of putting the brake on inter-Korean dialogue under the pretext of the nuclear issue. The US-loudmouthed nuclear issue should be settled between DPRK and the US as it was totally caused by its clamor for a preemptive nuclear attack DPRK, the statement said, denouncing the US moves to subordinate the favorably developing inter-Korean relations to its unilateral demand as an undisguised interference in the issue of the Korean nation.

"DPRK on US-DPRK Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

6. ROK Anti-US Protests

A second US soldier stood trial over the deaths of two ROK school girls as anti-US activists and politicians expressed outrage over a US acquittal of the first soldier. The ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) slammed Wednesday's court martial ruling to acquit Sergeant Fernando Nino on two counts of negligent homicide for the deaths of two girls crushed by a 50-tonne track vehicle on their way to a birthday party. The US military court found him "not guilty of criminal misconduct," a charge that could have carried a six-year jail sentence. "We cannot accept this fraudulent verdict, which is unimaginable in any law-abiding country," said MDP spokeswoman Lee Mi-Kyung, describing the verdict as an "outrage to heaven and earth."

"ROK Anti-US Protests" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

"US Soldiers in ROK Acquittal" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

"ROK-US Accidental Death Incident" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US) "US Soldiers Trial" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, ROK)

7. Russia on DPRK Nuclear Weapons

Russia expressed serious concern Monday over what it called "contradictory" statements from the DPRK about its right to maintain nuclear weapons and urged a US-led energy consortium to reconsider its decision to cut off fuel shipments to the isolated country. The Foreign Ministry statement followed a report Sunday on the DPRK's state-run radio that they have nuclear weapons. "Russia expects the friendly Korean leadership to strictly observe all North Korea's regulations and obligations on the cornerstone Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is a guarantee not only of global strategic stability but of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula," the ministry said in a statement. At the same time, it urged the United States not to cut off fuel shipments. "The Russian side expects other interested sides, including the participants in the 1994 agreement, to show restraint and continue to fulfill the international obligations they took on," the ministry said.

"Russia on DPRK Nuclear Weapons" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

"Russia on DPRK Nuclear Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, ROK)

"Russia on DPRK Nuclear Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

8. Powell's Remarks on DPRK

A shipment of heavy fuel oil, expected to be the last provided through a multinational energy aid program, maneuvered to dock in a DPRK port Monday, as the top US diplomat directed modestly soothing remarks toward DPRK. Secretary of State Colin Powell said US recognized DPRK "as a sovereign nation." Taking questions from student reporters in Washington Tuesday, he said, "We have no intention to impose our sovereignty upon their sovereignty." Reiterating what has been repeated as often as the demand that DPRK dismantle its nuclear program, Powell also said US "has no hostile intent toward North Korea; we have no intention to invade." The issue of sovereignty has been a fixture in official statements by DPRK along with the "right to survival."

"Powell's Remarks on DPRK" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, ROK)

"No Attack Against DPRK" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, ROK)

9. DPRK-Japan Abduction Issue

Since the DPRK's surprise confession two months ago that its spies abducted 13 Japanese in the 1970s and '80s, Japanese police are re-examining dozens of missing persons cases and now believe the DPRK may have abducted as many as 80 more people than it admits.

Morimoto's sister, police say, is probably among them. "I've spoken to several experts on North Korea about her case, and they say there is no doubt she was also abducted. More and more, it seems to me that was the case," Morimoto said. Other suspected victims include a 27-year-old agriculture engineer who disappeared while heading back to his dormitory after dinner, a 29-year-old noodle shop employee who vanished on a trip to Europe and a 51-year-old carpenter who had just gone to Tokyo to look for work.

"DPRK-Japan Abduction Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

10. Mt Geumgang Tourism

Hyundai Asan Corp. hopes that a special tourism area law for the Mount Geumgang district and an expected opening of a land route to the DPRK region will boost the tourism operation, which Tuesday celebrated its fourth birthday. "The date for an announcement of a special tourism area law was set this week and it will be declared sometime this month," said Kim Yoon-kyu, chief executive of Hyundai Asan. "Although the relationship between North Korea and the United States has been aggravated because of North Korea's revelation about its development of nuclear weapons, the series of discussions between North Korea and South Korea will enable the opening of a land route to Mount Geumgang."

"Mt Geumgang Tourism" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, ROK)

11. PRC on DPRK Nuclear Issue

The DPRK apparently retracted its claim to have nuclear arms, the PRC said Tuesday it wants the Korean Peninsula to remain free of such weapons. "The final objective is to maintain peace and stability on the peninsula," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said. "We call on the sides for dialogue on the problem." The PRC has not commented directly on any of the reports, and Kong essentially repeated the PRC's standard statement on the issue of North and nuclear weapons.

"PRC on DPRK Nuclear Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

12. ROK on DPRK Situation

ROK President Kim Dae-jung urged the DPRK on Tuesday to quickly address international concerns over its nuclear weapons program, warning that time is running out. "North Korea must make a decision," Kim said in a meeting with pro-unification leaders. "They don't have much time left." Last week, the US and its allies, including Japan and the ROK, decided to cut off fuel oil shipments to the DPRK beginning in December and vowed to consider more punitive actions. Kim made it clear that the ball is now in the DPRK's court after US President George W. Bush stated over the weekend that the US has no intention of invading the DPRK. Kim said he regards Bush's statement as an answer to the DPRK's offer of a nonaggression pact with the US. There was no official DPRK response.

"ROK Minister's Urge for DPRK to Change" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, ROK)

"ROK on DPRK Situation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

13. Inter Korean Railway Talks

Joongang Ilbo ("TALKS SET ON RAIL LINKS, BUT PROJECT IS STALLED," Seoul, 11/19/02) reported that ROK delegates to working-level discussions with DPRK on establishing railway and motor links across the Demilitarized Zone arrived at Mount Geumgang Monday with the project stalled over a procedural dispute. The talks are supposed to arrange supplies of construction materials to DPRK and detailed work schedules. But the overshadowing issue is whether the United Nations Command is entitled under the armistice agreement to supervise the dispatch of inspectors on the progress of the works. DPRK, insisting that it would not deal with the UN Command, suspended its demining work two weeks ago.

"Inter Korean Railway" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, ROK)

"Inter-Korean Railway Project" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

"Inter Korean Railway Talks" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, ROK)

14. ROK Presidential Politics

The top candidates in the ROK presidential election next month have talked little about their policies. When they do drop the mask of reticence, however, wide differences emerge on the foreign policy issues that will define the nation, including South Korea's alliance with the United States. One of the three leading candidates is the scion of the family that built the Hyundai industrial empire. Another is a pro-labor lawyer, former legislator and cabinet member from the president's party. The third, the acknowledged front-runner for the December 19 election, is a conservative former prime minister and former chief justice. The chief opposition leader, and the leader in the main opinion polls, Lee Hoi Chang, favors a sharply harder line toward the DPRK and close coordination with the US. His two rivals favor continued dialogue with the DPRK and express reservations, even flashes of resentment, toward US policy in the region. Lee, who narrowly lost to Kim five years ago, has been a consistent critic of the government's efforts to broaden political and economic ties with the DPRK by doling out financial aid.

"ROK Presidential Politics" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

15. ROK DPRK Warning Shots

An ROK navy vessel fired warning shots to repel a DPRK patrol boat which violated ROK territorial waters. "A North Korean patrol boat briefly intruded into our waters before returning to the North following warning shots from our side," a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced on Wednesday. The incident occurred at 2:40 pm (0540 GMT) in the disputed waters around Baekryeong island in the Yellow Sea. The DPRK boat crossed the maritime border, known as the Northern Limit Line (NLL), at a point some 5.6 kilometres (3.5 miles) from the island, prompting five ROK navy vessels to move to intercept it. One of the ROK boats fired two warning shots from its 76-millimeter cannon before the DPRK vessel fled to the north. The DPRK ship did not fire back. "It is believed that the North Korean boat had crossed the NLL as it was chasing Chinese fishing boats," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

ROK rejected an accusation by the DPRK that the ROK's warships entered the territorial waters of the latter in the Yellow Sea late on November 12. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) accused ROK forces on November 12 of committing military provocation against the DPRK on the Yellow Sea twice the same day. On November 11 and 12, ROK forces also sent an armored vehicle and self-propelled guns to the area near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), DPRK said. The ROK Defense Ministry refuted the DPRK's allegation, quoted as saying that "it is impossible, for transporting heavy weapons into the DMZ is definitely a violation of the armistice agreement signed after the Korean War (1950-1953).

"ROK DPRK Warning Shots" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

"DPRK's Boat Crossing the Border Line" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, ROK)

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

16. DPRK on PRC Political Succession

The DPRK congratulated PRC leaders Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin on their power transfer Friday, hoping to maintain close ties with the PRC and its new leadership. Kim also sent a message to congratulate President Jiang on his re-election to head the PRC's powerful military commission, calling it "an expression of deep respect and trust of your country, army and people in you." Kim said he hoped that bilateral ties will prosper and that the PRC will succeed in "socialist modernization."

"DPRK on PRC Political Succession" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

17. DPRK-US Spy Ship Return

DPRK has decided against returning the captured spy ship USS Pueblo after indicating last month that it might do so, according to a former US official who met with authorities in the DPRK capital last week. Donald P. Gregg, president of the Korea Society and a former ambassador to the ROK, said yesterday that a deal for the Pueblo was hinted at in an October 3 letter in which Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan invited him to visit Pyongyang. But when Gregg raised the issue during his November 2-5 talks with Kim and others, he said he was told, "The climate has changed. It's no longer an option."

"DPRK-US Spy Ship Return" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

People's Republic of China

1. PRC on Agreed Framework

The PRC, called Thursday for the salvaging of a deal under which the DPRK agreed to halt a nuclear weapons program in return for energy assistance. The agreement "is useful in realizing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said.

"China hopes that the relevant parties can carry out their obligations," he said. The agreement's future fell into doubt after the United States and its allies, including Japan and the ROK, last week decided to cut off oil shipments beginning in December.

"PRC on Agreed Framework" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

2. PRC Domestic Politics

The PRC's Hu Jintao was appointed party chief at the head of the "fourth generation" of leaders -- following Chairman Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang. "On behalf of all members of the newly elected central leadership, I thank all comrades of the Party for their trust," said Hu, in a dark suit and red tie, as China's new leaders faced the world's media for the first time. The ceremony, televised live, was the first many of China's 1.3 billion people learned of the most sweeping shakeup since Jiang took power in 1989. The new Standing Committee was expanded from seven to nine members and packed with Jiang allies. Jiang kept his post as head of the Central Military Commission, which commands the world's biggest army, as Deng did for two years after leaving the Standing Committee in 1987.

However, it was unclear if Jiang would keep the position only until a parliament meeting next year, for two years like Deng, or for the full five years until the next congress in 2007. "This is a smooth and unprecedented transition of the party leadership," he said. "It has far exceeded our expectations."

"PRC Domestic Politics" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

"PRC Domestic Politics" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

"PRC Domestic Politics" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

"PRC Domestic Politics" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

3. PRC Military Appointments

The PRC has rounded out new high-level appointments to its vast military following a shake-up of the top brass at the 16th Communist Party Congress, state press reported. At the Congress, which ended Friday, Generals Cao Gangchuan and Guo Boxiong were promoted to vice chairmen of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), making them China's top uniformed officers. They serve under President Jiang Zemin, who remained CMC chairman at the Congress despite handing over leadership of the ruling Communist Party to Vice President Hu Jintao. The generals' appointments have led to a series of lower-level promotions in the PRC's military, including new top leaders at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) general staff, logistics and armament departments, the PLA Daily reported. The paper named Liang Guanglie as the new chief of the PLA general staff, Xu Caihou as PLA political commissar, Liao Xilong as head of the logistics department and Li Jinai as head of PLA armament.

"PRC Military Appointments" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

4. PRC DPRK Refugees

A group of 17 DPRK asylum seekers, including two infants, were being held by PRC authorities after they were caught trying to sneak into Vietnam, a human rights group said Wednesday. PRC and Vietnamese officials would not confirm the report by the Commission to Help North Korean Refugees. The asylum seekers were turned over to the PRC by Vietnamese border guards, who captured the group on November 13 as they tried to enter from the southern PRC region of Guangxi. PRC authorities were holding them in Guangxi's capital, Nanning, the group said.

"PRC DPRK Refugees" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, US)

5. PRC-US Military Relations

A US Navy ship is scheduled to call at a PRC port next week, the first such visit since military ties were ruptured last April. The Paul F. Foster, part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet operating in the Western Pacific, will visit the eastern port of Qingdao, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said in a brief news release Tuesday. It didn't say what day the ship would arrive. The Paul F. Foster, whose home port is Everett, Washington, has a crew of about 340. Two U.S. Navy aircraft carrier battle groups with more than 10,000 soldiers are scheduled to visit Hong Kong over the next two weeks.

"PRC-US Military Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

6. PRC on US Taiwan Defense Bills

The PRC is expressing its opposition to a defense bill passed by the US Congress, saying its provisions on Taiwan "wantonly interfere in China's internal affairs." Kong Quan, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, said suggestions that the U.S. military would conduct joint programs with Taiwan's was a violation of principles set forth in three communiqués that guide relations between Beijing and Washington. "We therefore express our resolute opposition," Kong said, quoted Saturday by the official Xinhua News Agency.

"PRC on US Taiwan Defense Bills" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

7. PRC Foreign Policy

PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan spoke on PRC foreign policy at a regular press briefing on November 14. When asked to comment on the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly to Beijing, Kong reiterated the importance of the 1994 Agreed Framework between the US and DPRK. Kelly met Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi on November 13 focusing on the continuation of fuel oil shipments to the DPRK. The framework has played an important role in relaxing tensions on the peninsula, Kong said. In another development, Kong said PRC has demanded that Japan recall Amano Hiromasa, a Japanese military attache who entered a military restricted area in East PRC's Zhejiang Province on October 26. Amano's action "has violated several PRC laws and the evidence is clear," he added. Kong also revealed that Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan will attend the foreign ministers' meeting on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization next Saturday in Moscow.

"PRC Foreign Policy" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

8. Cross-Straits Direct Links

PRC Foreign trade minister Shi Guangsheng on November 13 urged the Taiwan authorities to discard political differences and open direct transport, trade and mail service links with the mainland as soon as possible. Shi said that the talk of three direct links has been going on for too long and "now it is time for concrete action". Shi also denied reports that US is talking with Taiwan authorities about a free trade agreement. PRC is "firmly against countries with diplomatic relations with China having official trade relations with Taiwan in any form," Shi said according to the report.

"Across Taiwan Straits Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

9. PRC Commentary on US-DPRK Relations

PRC said on November 12 that the 1994 Agreed Framework between the US and DPRK played an important role in relaxing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and called on concerned sides to abide by the document. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan made the remarks at a regular briefing when asked whether PRC would provide the DPRK with fuel aid if the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) moved to cut off shipments to the DPRK. Kong said everyone knows fully well that the question of fuel oil "was agreed within the framework document". "It's our view that the parties concerned should continue to implement the framework document faithfully," said Kong in the report.

"PRC Commentary on US-DPRK Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

10. PRC-US Relations

PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said on November 16 that PRC resolutely objects to the Taiwan-related provisions in the US defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2003, which wantonly interfere in PRC's internal affairs. Kong said that PRC had on many occasions made solemn representations to US on the provisions, and the US administration had repeatedly enunciated its objection to the provisions. PRC has taken note of the weakening of the provisions in the passage by the Congress, however, Kong said, the current text still constituted a violation of the principles set forth in the three Sino-US joint communiques and the one-China policy which the US side had reiterated time and again, as well as gross interference in PRC's internal affairs. Kong expressed hope that the US side would realize the sensitivity of the Taiwan issue and the harm the provisions would cause, adhere to the one-China policy, the three Sino-US joint communiques, as well as its commitment to oppose "Taiwan independence," and adopt effective measures to prevent the provisions from passing into law, the report said.

"PRC-US Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

11. US on PRC Political Succession

The US congratulated the PRC's Hu Jintao, who took the helm of the world's most populous nation on Friday, and promised to press the new leadership on economic reforms and human rights. "We look forward to working with the new team," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "We will continue to work closely with Chinese leaders on a variety of issues as part of our important relationship with China, including human rights, religious freedoms and economic ties." As part of what he called "the continuing high-level dialogue between US and Chinese leaders," McClellan said Vice President Dick Cheney would visit the PRC next year. A date for the visit has yet to be announced.

"US on PRC Political Succession" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

Japan

1. Japan Spy Satellites

Japan said Thursday it plans to launch the country's first spy satellites by the end of a March, a project nearly four years in the making that was originally envisioned as an advanced warning system for DPRK military moves. The launches will be the first of four separate earth-observation satellites that Japan plans to send up by the summer of 2003, a spokesman at the Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center said on condition of anonymity. As a team, the four satellites will be used for military and political purposes, and for charting natural disasters. They will be able to take still photos of objects on the ground one-meter across in any weather conditions. And they can also be positioned above any target in the world within 24-hours notice, the official said.

"Japan Spy Satellites" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

2. Japan Missile Shield Issue

Japan has not closed the door on the DPRK in their dialogue on normalizing ties, but Japan may step up efforts to develop a missile defense shield to counter the threat of an "unpredictable" DPRK, a senior aide to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Thursday. Deputy Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe, a key government point man for DPRK policy, told Reuters it was only natural for Japan to consider a missile defense system as it currently had no means to protect itself from a missile attack. "The threat is already there. North Korea has 100 Nodong missiles deployed and we have no means to protect ourselves from them," Abe stated. "So it is an obligation for us to consider missile defense," he said, adding that he did not rule out the possibility of Japan moving from the research stage to actual development. "Japan Missile Shield Issue" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, US)

3. US Military Drill in Japan

The US has notified Japan it will continue military exercises involving underwater explosions in waters near Japan, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said. Despite Japanese protests, the US detonated explosives in the Sea of Japan off Shimane Prefecture on 14 November. The US told Japan the drill involved only one explosion, in which a mock mine was blown up. The ministry said it has protested the drill and demanded that such exercises be called off. The governors of Shimane, Yamaguchi and Hyogo prefectures, from which fishing boats were licensed to operate in the drill area, also protested the exercise. The US military agreed that it will not conduct similar drills if it finds Japanese fishing boats near the sites. "US Military Drill in Japan" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, JAPAN)

4. US Bases in Okinawa

Eight Okinawa landowners filed an appeal with the Supreme Court against a high court ruling denying them damages over the continued leasing of their land, against their will, to the US military in line with a special law. The plaintiffs, including Shoichi Chibana, an assembly member from the village of Yomitan who owns a parcel that is part of a US Navy installation, are seeking 140 million yen from the state, arguing that the law violates the Constitution, which guarantees individual property rights. The appeal follows a Nov. 7 ruling by the Fukuoka High Court. The latter overturned a lower court ruling ordering the government to pay Chibana some 470,000 yen for "illegally occupying" his land even after a property lease had expired in 1996. "US Bases in Okinawa" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, JAPAN)

5. Overseas A-Bomb Survivors

Tonggu Ward of the ROK city of Taegu has implemented in May an ordinance to support surviving South Korean victims of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, according to the Association of Citizens for Supporting South Korean Atomic Bomb Victims. The ordinance was the first of its kind to be implemented in South Korea. It provides free medical treatment in the central city's Tonggu Ward to people who were affected by radiation from the bombing. The ordinance stipulates that the ward will supply 100,000 won (9930 yen) in aid per month currently supplied by a welfare fund established by the Japanese government if the fund is depleted. There are 41 victims living in Tonggu Ward, the support group said. "Overseas A-Bomb Survivors" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 21, JAPAN)

6. Japanese Logistic Support for US

The Defense Agency has been dispatching private-sector civilian engineers to carry out maintenance on Self-Defense Forces (SDF) vessels providing logistics support to the US-led antiterrorism campaign in the Indian Ocean, agency officials said. A total of 16 civilian engineers were sent on five occasions in the months of July, August and October to fix equipment, including radar, aboard four SDF vessels during port calls in countries on the Indian Ocean. The agency declined to reveal the names of the private enterprises involved. "The locations of the dispatches were areas where there were no combat activities and the operations were conducted based on contracts and agreements with the private sector," Defense Agency Counselor Atsushi Oi said.

"Japanese Logistic Support for US" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, JAPAN)

7. Japan-US Military Cooperation

The US has told Japan that it plans to begin deploying interceptor missiles in 2008 under the countries' joint missile-defense initiative, Japanese and US government sources said. The US plan, unofficially conveyed to Japan, is likely to put further pressure on Japanese government to advance to the development stage of the missile-defense initiative at an earlier date. Under the US plan, the missiles would be deployed aboard Aegis destroyers belonging to Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF). This would occur at a later date because it will take time to adapt the systems for integrated operations between the US Navy and the MSDF.

"Japan-US Military Cooperation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, JAPAN)

8. Cooperation between SDF and Police

The Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) will begin joint exercises with the National Police Agency (NPA) to help prepare the GSDF for terrorist attacks that are beyond the capabilities of the police. The joint exercise, scheduled for Nov. 18, will be the first of its kind conducted under a bilateral emergency-cooperation agreement on maintaining public order. The agreement was revised for the first time in 46 years in December 2000. The revisions shift the target of the accord from domestic riots and radical demonstrations to terrorism and guerrilla attacks by armed agents. One senior GSDF official stated that the exercise was made possible through the leadership of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has emphasized the need for closer cooperation between the SDF and police organizations since the Sept. 11, 2001.

"Cooperation between SDF and Police" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, JAPAN)

9. Japan's Nuclear Industry Scandal

A citizens' group said that it plans to file a criminal complaint with investigative authorities against senior officials of Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), accusing the utility firm of various misdemeanors in connection with covering up defects at nuclear power plants. The group told a news conference in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, that it will file the complaint -- the first of its kind against officials of the nation's largest power company -- in mid-December. It said it will level five charges -- including fraud, destruction of evidence and obstruction of government work -- because the firm prevented the government from properly inspecting its facilities by concealing fractures it found in reactor shrouds.

"Japan's Nuclear Industry Scandal" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 20, JAPAN)

10. US Japan Base Mystery Attack

Japanese police investigating two loud blasts outside a US military base said Tuesday they found a metal projectile and a crude mortar made from a metal pipe, suggesting leftist radicals may have targeted the base. No one was hurt in the Monday night explosions, and there were no reports of damage. US officials said the explosions were reported about 800 feet from the base. Japanese police spokesman Narihito Sasaki said two explosions were heard from a wooded area in the park just outside Camp Zama, a US Army base 25 miles southwest of Tokyo. Sasaki said the launcher was found in the park and there were burn marks nearby, indicating it had been used. He said the pipe was pointed toward Camp Zama and was 21 inches in length and two inches in diameter. Police later found a round, metal projectile nearly a half mile away from the launcher on the balcony of a private home. A few roof tiles on the home were broken, but no one was injured, said another police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. No projectiles were found in the base.

"US Japan Base Mystery Attack" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, US)

11. DPRK-Japan Relation

The Japanese media reported Monday that Japan is investigating the possibility that up to 80 more Japanese citizens could have been abducted to the communist country, in addition to the 13 whom DPRK has admitted to kidnapping. The reports came after DPRK threatened to break its promise to extend a missile test moratorium indefinitely beyond 2003. Relations between DPRK and Japan are rapidly deteriorating, darkening the future of bilateral security and normalization talks scheduled for this month. The Japanese government will seek DPRK's detailed answers about the additional abductees, the news reports said. At last month's talks with DPRK in Malaysia, Japan inquired about three additional possible abductees.

"DPRK-Japan Relation" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 19, ROK)

12. US Soldiers Trial

The courts-martial of two American servicemen charged in the accidental deaths of two South Korean girls in June are scheduled to begin Monday. Sergeant Fernando Nino and Sergeant Mark Walker, both from the engineering battalion of the 2d Infantry Division of the 8th U.S. Army, will be tried at Camp Casey in Dongducheon, Gyeonggi province. The two are each charged with two counts of negligent homicide in the deaths of Sim Mi-son and Shin Hyo-sun. An armored vehicle driven by the two American soldiers ran over the two girls during an exercise in Yangju, Gyeonggi province. "Consistent with the U.S. tradition of public trials, the courts-martial will be open to the public," the 8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Office said.

"Access to view the courts-martial will be made available to the parents of the two victims, Republic of Korea governmental officials, local government officials and members of the media who have been granted access."

13. US-Japan Relations

Japanese Foreign Ministry protested against and urged the cancellation of the US's military exercise. The US military carried out an exercise involving underwater explosions on November 14 in a fishing area in the Sea of Japan that apparently took place on the high seas west of Oki islands, the report said. The US military will continue the exercise on November 15 and the next two days, while without informing the Japanese side beforehand. November is the peak season for fishing for queen crabs and squid therefore fishermen from Shimane, Yamaguchi, Tottori and Hyogo prefectures expressed great indignation and urged Japan government to negotiate with US in all seriousness.

"US-Japan Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

14. DPRK-Japan Relations

DPRK may reconsider its moratorium on missile launches because Japan violated the bilateral agreement on the kidnapping issue, a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said on November 16. "The people of the DPRK are indignant that Japan made a fuss about the abduction issue while ignoring its criminal rule over the Korean Peninsula from 1910-1945," the spokesman said. The spokesman stressed that an international agreement should be based on mutual promises while the Japan side has gone back on its word. Therefore it is necessary to reconsider the moratorium on missile launches, the spokesman said in the report.

"DPRK-Japan Relations" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, PRC)

15. Japan-US Ehime Maru Settlement

The US agreed today to pay \$13 million in compensation to the families of 33 people who were aboard a Japanese fishing school trawler sunk by a US submarine off Hawaii in February 2001. The settlement was signed at the US Embassy here in the absence of the families, and the sum was reported by Japan's news media; the United States Navy spokesman and the lawyers for the families refused to confirm the amount. "I believe that our position of collectively reaching a settlement became a major force" in the negotiations, which began in May, said Morio Hatakeyama, a lawyer who represented the families. Two other families who had relatives who were victims of the accident did not sign the compensation agreement and are pursuing a separate settlement.

"Japan-US Ehime Maru Settlement" (NAPSNet Daily Report, November 18, US)

[\(return to top\)](#)

View this online at: <https://nautilus.org/napsnet/napsnet-weekly/napsnet-week-in-review-22-november-2002/>

Nautilus Institute

2342 Shattuck Ave. #300, Berkeley, CA 94704 | Phone: (510) 423-0372 | Email:

nautilus@nautilus.org