PRACTICAL STEPS FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Recommended Citation

relationships can advance multilateralism in the region by assuring a modicum of stability and creating imperatives for North Korea and China to participate in cooperative mechanisms. While multilateral cooperative security institutions creating and supplementing track-one processes. Multilateralism has also helped foster bilateralism by accommodating bilateral meetings during the multilateral forums. By the same token, the current bilateral structures of security

Beijing, a stable and friendly but divided Korean Peninsula is more desirable than Korea's rapid unification. Preferences for division aside, China has made contributions in its own right toward peace on the Korean Peninsula—as diplomatically from radically improved relations between North and South Korea and thus has thrived on the so-called "double-edged sword" approach of improving relations with both Koreas. As the secret visit by Kim Jong-Il to China President Kim Dae-Jung asked his Chinese counterpart to accept the proposed six-party declaration for peace and stability in Northeast Asia, China accepted it "in principle." In the short to medium term, China has the most to gain.

China presumably wields influence over North Korea, as the latter depends upon the former for a good part of its fuel and food supplies. Interestingly, China has kept some distance from KEDO (the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization). Beijing, multilateralism in Northeast Asia is a way to "tie China in" and to "tie the US down." Furthermore, China began to realize that it would help reduce fears of the "China threat" if China became actively involved in the multilateral

However, in general, with its bilateral military alliances and skepticism toward multilateral approaches, the US is not eager to go down the path of multilateral security frameworks. The problem is not that the US is strongly opposed to the multilateralism whenever they felt less assured of American commitment in the region. Russia may provide positive contributions as well. Over the long-term, it may facilitate the conversion of North Korea's military sector into an industrial base.

Apart from efforts at multilateralism, a gradual step-by-step process of functional sub-regional multilateralism must be sought. South Korea is the strongest supporter for such a multilateral cooperation. From South Korea's viewpoint, the current state of affairs in the peninsula is not conducive to multilateralism, and it is seeking the enduring peace as the key to multilateralism. Given the overlapping interests between the United States and China have connected the two countries in a positive way thus far, despite the tension over NMD, Taiwan, and other issues. The process of managing transition on the Korean Peninsula is key. Beijing and Washington both hope to use the Korean Peninsula to develop a new China-US relationship to replace the Taiwan Strait. The US-China relations are critical for the success of any multilateral framework.

The Tripartite Coordination and Oversight Group (TCOG) was established in 1999 to seek close coordination and consultation between the United States, Japan, and Korea in resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis. North Korea's missile program is a thorn in the side of all three countries. TCOG was an attempt to go beyond the existing bilateral dynamics that have been so symptomatic of the past. In fact, TCOG was established in part as a response to the Bush administration's new security strategy. The TCOG was the first multilateral attempt to deal with North Korea's missile program. However, the TCOG was never given a chance to fulfill its mandate. In November 1999, China, Japan, and the United States met to discuss the launch. The meeting ended without much progress. China and Japan have been concerned about the missile threat to their own territory. TCOG was also weakened by Chinese and US misgivings about the purpose and role of the TCOG. China, Japan, and the United States have different perspectives on the purpose and outcome of TCOG. China, Japan, and the United States have different perspectives on the purpose and outcome of TCOG.

The recent string of summits between countries concerned will reach its climax with the mid term of the second round of the Korean Summit. These bilateral summits not only influence each other, but also create a new climate of cooperation on the Korean Peninsula. China-Korea relations have seemingly reached a new high, with both countries positioning themselves for a "new era of cooperation." Kim Jong Il’s most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma." Kim Jong Il's most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma." Kim Jong Il's most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma." Kim Jong Il's most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma." Kim Jong Il's most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma." Kim Jong Il's most recent visit to Shanghai can be seen as a sign of changing attitude on part of the North, if nothing else a change in strategy. When faced with continued US pressure, the North might want to seek a "peaceful coexistence" approach instead of a "sabotage" approach. The security environment in Northeast Asia has become more complex and unpredictable, so China and South Korea may have to consider a new strategy for managing this "East Asian security dilemma."