

## **STATEMENT: DPRK UNILATERAL MISSILE MORATORIUM**

September 24, 1999

As a result of the Berlin talks with the DPRK on September 17 the United States made public the lift of a series of sanctions imposed upon the DPRK by it under the trade with the enemy act for scores of years after defining the DPRK as an "enemy state," and so on. That is a step taken by the U.S. in a bid to fulfil its commitments to remove trade and investment barriers under the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework adopted in 1994.

The DPRK considers it to be a reflection of the U.S. political will to stop pursuing its policy hostile to the DPRK and to improve relations with the DPRK, though it is not comprehensive and came belatedly.

We think that the step helps create an atmosphere favourable for a negotiated solution to outstanding issues between the two countries.

The U.S. should not confine itself to the announcement of the lift of a series of sanctions concerning trade and investment, but put them into practice as soon as possible, completely discard hostile design against the DPRK and lift the remaining sanctions.

If the U.S. actually stops pursuing the policy hostile to the DPRK and works hard to improve relations with it, the DPRK will respond it with good faith and strive to remove the U.S. suspicions and apprehensions in the interests of the two sides.

In response to the U.S. demand the DPRK will have high-level talks with the U.S. for the settlement of pending issues as an immediate task. It will not launch a missile while the talks are under way with a view to creating an atmosphere more favorable for the talks.

DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman

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