



Situation in Korean Peninsula: Responses of Six Party Members (North Korea, United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Japan) - Who Said What

September 13-18, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comment
North Korea	<p style="text-align: center;">Kim Jong-un via KCNA</p> <p>September 16, 2017¹</p> <p>He (Kim Jong-un) told leading officials of the Department of Munitions Industry of the Party Central Committee and the field of defense scientific research accompanying him that our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option for the DPRK. And he stressed the need to run at full speed and straight, continuing to qualitatively consolidate the military attack capacity for nuclear counterattack the U.S. cannot cope with.”</p>

¹ "Kim Jong Un Guides Hwasong-12 Launching Drill Again", KCNA, September 16, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

“We should clearly show the great-power chauvinists how our state attain the goal of completing its nuclear force despite their limitless sanctions and blockade, he said, underlining the need to finalize the work with mobilization of all-state efforts as it nearly reached the terminal.”

Rodong Sinmun

September 15, 2017²

“If the U.S. continues to walk on the current course, we will take stronger actions for our self-defense.”

“The U.S. should face up to a grim reality and make a decision to give up its hostile policy toward Pyongyang. It should make a wise decision to detach itself from issues on the Korean Peninsula.”

Spokesman- Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee

September 13, 2017³

“The army and people of the DPRK are unanimously demanding that the Yankees, chief culprit in cooking up the "sanctions resolution", be beaten to death as a stick is fit for a rabid dog. There's limit to patience. Now is the time to annihilate the U.S. imperialist aggressors. Let's reduce the U.S. mainland into ashes and darkness.”

“The wicked Japs should not be pardoned as they have not yet made a sincere apology for the never-to-be-condoned crimes against our people but acted disgustingly, dancing to the tune of the U.S. "sanctions". A telling blow should be dealt to them who have not yet come to senses after the launch of our ICBM over the Japanese archipelago. The four islands of the archipelago should be sunken into the sea by the nuclear bomb of Juche. Japan is no longer needed to exist

² "N. Korea warns U.S. of 'stronger' actions as it fires missile over Japan", The Yonhap News, September 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/15/0401000000AEN20170915004900315.html>

³ "KAPPC Spokesman on DPRK Stand toward UNSC "Sanctions Resolution"", KCNA, September 13, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>, Alternative source:<https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1505345461-35556086/kappc-spokesman-on-dprk-stand-toward-uns-c-sanctions-resolution/>

	<p>near us. “</p> <p>“The south Korean puppet forces are traitors and dogs of the U.S. as they call for harsher "sanctions" on the fellow countrymen. The group of pro-American traitors should be severely punished and wiped out with fire attack so that they could no longer survive. Only then, the entire Korean nation can thrive in a reunified territory to be proud of in the world.”</p> <p>“The army and people of the DPRK are also enraged at the UN Security Council which has turned into a tool serving the U.S. without regard to peace and security of mankind.”</p> <p>“The adoption of heinous "sanctions resolution" hardens our faith that what we should depend on is only our self-defensive nuclear force as well as our unshakable will to go only along the road of simultaneously pushing ahead the economic construction and the building of nuclear force.”</p>
<p>USA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rex Tillerson- Secretary, State Department</p> <p>September 17, 2017⁴</p> <p>“The policy of the United States, .. towards North Korea is to deny North Korea possession of a nuclear weapon and the ability to deliver that weapon. Our strategy has been to undertake this peaceful pressure campaign we call it enabled by the four no's. The four no's being that we do not seek regime change, we do not seek a regime collapse, we do not seek an accelerated reunification of the peninsula, and we do not seek a reason to send our forces north of the demilitarized zone. So the peaceful pressure campaign is built around enabling--putting together the largest and strongest international coalition we can to send the same message to North Korea and to North Korea's neighbors, China and Russia, that this is the policy of the rest of the world.”</p> <p>“If our diplomatic efforts fail though, our military option will be the</p>

⁴ “Interview With John Dickerson of CBS's Face the Nation”, The US State Department, September 17, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274199.htm>

only one left. So all of this is backed up by a very strong and resolute military option. But to be clear, we seek a peaceful solution to this.”

“Look, you (China) have the best information. You (China) have your hand on the valve. You (China) set the valve where you think it's going to create the message that you (China) want to send to this regime that they must change the path they're on.” So we're put--leaving it in China's hands at this point.”

“China is the principal supplier of oil to North Korea. They have cut off all supplies in the past when things got bad. We're asking China to use that leverage they have with North Korea to influence them. And in the case of Russia it's foreign laborers. Russia has over 30,000 foreign laborers from North Korea. Those wages all go back to the regime in North Korea.”

“I'm waiting for the regime of North Korea to give us some indication that they're prepared to have constructive, productive talks.”

“we'll know it when we see it in terms of their seriousness.”

“We've said from the beginning we don't have a lot of time left. We don't have a runway left to land this plane on. So we need China's assistance to bring them to the table.”

Nikki Haley – US Ambassador to the UN

September 17, 2017⁵

"We wanted to be responsible and go through all diplomatic means to get their attention first.”

"If that doesn't work, General Mattis will take care of it."

"If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea

⁵ "Nikki Haley: Trump's fire and fury comment 'not an empty threat'", CNN, September 17, 2017, <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/17/politics/nikki-haley-north-korea-un-cnntv/index.html>

will be destroyed."

"And we all know that, and none of us want that."

"We have pretty much exhausted all the things that we could do at the Security Council at this point."

September 15, 2017⁶

"What we are seeing is they (North Korea) continue to be provocative, they continue to be reckless. And at that point, there's not a whole lot the Security Council is going to be able to do from here when you've cut 90 percent of the trade and 30 percent of the oil.

"So, having said that, I have no problem kicking it to General Mattis, because I think he has plenty of options."

"We have cut off now 90 percent of trade going into North Korea, and they are saying that this was strangling. So whether some believe it's big or small, I think what the President is saying is this is just the beginning of what we can do."

H.R. McMaster- National Security Advisor

September 17, 2017⁷

"We're out of road because in the past, the approach taken to the problem of North Korea and (North Korean leader) Kim (Jong-un's) regime over decades has been to enter into long, drawn out negotiations that then deliver an unsatisfactory agreement, an agreement that then the North Korean regime breaks."

"This regime is so close now to threatening the United States and others with a nuclear weapon that we really have to move with a great deal of urgency on sanctions, on diplomacy, and on preparing, if

⁶ "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster, and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley", The White House, September 15, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/15/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-national-security-advisor>

⁷ "Tillerson: U.S. seeks peaceful solution to N.K. issue", The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/0401000000AEN20170918000400315.html>

necessary, a military option."

September 15, 2017⁸

"For those who have said and have been commenting about the lack of a military option, there is a military option. Now, it's not what we would prefer to do, so what we have to do is call on all nations, call on everyone to do everything we can to address this global problem short of war."

Donald Trump- President

September 15, 2017⁹

"America and our allies will never be intimidated. We will defend our people, our nations, and our civilization from all who dare to threaten our way of life. This includes the regime of North Korea, which has once again shown its utter contempt for its neighbors and for the entire world community."

Jim Mattis- Secretary, Department of Defense

September 15, 2017¹⁰

On responding to North Korea's missile launch on September 15, Mattis said, "millions, tens of millions of Japanese people going into duck and cover -- second time that they've had to do that since World War II."

"And I believe it will further North Korea's isolation -- diplomatic and economic isolation -- because more and more nations are realizing there's simply no collaboration with the international community. There's a dismissal of international concern, unified U.N. Security Council concerns."

⁸ "Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster, and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley", The White House, September 15, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/15/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-national-security-advisor>

⁹ "Remarks by the President and First Lady on the 70th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force", The White House, September 15, 2017 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/15/remarks-president-and-first-lady-70th-anniversary-us-air-force>

¹⁰ "Media Availability by Secretary Mattis en route to Mexico", The US Department of Defense, September 15, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1313504/media-availability-by-secretary-mattis-en-route-to-mexico/>

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of States

September 14, 2015¹¹

“North Korea's provocative missile launch represents the second time the people of Japan, a treaty ally of the United States, have been directly threatened in recent weeks.”

“These continued provocations only deepen North Korea's diplomatic and economic isolation.”

“United Nations Security Council resolutions, including the most recent unanimous sanctions resolution, represent the floor, not the ceiling, of the actions we should take. We call on all nations to take new measures against the Kim regime.”

“China supplies North Korea with most of its oil. Russia is the largest employer of North Korean forced labor.”

“China and Russia must indicate their intolerance for these reckless missile launches by taking direct actions of their own.”

September 14, 2017¹²

“With respect to the UN Security Council resolution and the President's view that it was a small step, I share that view. We had hoped for a much stronger resolution from the Security Council. Having said that, I think it does – it did accomplish a couple of things: one, a complete prohibition on textiles, which does represent somewhere between \$7- and \$800 million of export revenue to the regime.”

“And I think importantly, the successful conclusion of yet another unanimous UN Security Council resolution, in and of itself, I think, does continue to send a consistent message to the regime in North Korea and importantly to those who continue to enable North Korea's activities that the international community does have a common view on the seriousness of North Korea's proliferation program and the development of their weapons – their nuclear weapons, I think it's clear

¹¹ "North Korea's Missile Launch", The US Department of State, September 14, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274161.htm>

¹² "Press Availability With U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson", The US Department of State, September 14, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/09/274125.htm>

that with respect to oil and a complete embargo on oil from the UN Security Council, that's going to be very difficult.”

“In effect, that is directed at China alone because China supplies essentially all of North Korea’s oil. I am hopeful that China, as a great country, a world power, will decide on their own and will take it upon themselves to use that very powerful tool of oil supply to persuade North Korea to reconsider its current path towards weapons development, reconsider its approach to dialogue and negotiations in the future. That is a very powerful tool that has been used in the past, and we hope China will not reject that or discard that as a very powerful tool that they alone really have the ability to assert.”

Donald Trump- President

September 14, 2017¹³

“We have a very good relationship with China and with the President of China. We are working on different things. I can't tell you, obviously, what I'm working on. But believe me, the people of this country will be very, very safe.”

Jim Mattis- Secretary of Defense

September 13, 2017¹⁴

In response to a question on the possibility of reintroducing tactical nuclear weapon on South Korea Secretary said,
“We have a nuclear deterrent and its location is immaterial. And we have very open, transparent and candid discussions about the severity of the North Korean threat with our allies South Korea and Japan.”

¹³ "Press Gaggle by President Trump en route Washington, D.C.", The White House, September 14, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/14/press-gaggle-president-trump-en-route-washington-dc-9142017>

¹⁴ "En Route Media Availability with Secretary Mattis", The U.S Department of Defense, September 13, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1309807/en-route-media-availability-with-secretary-mattis/>

South Korea

Moon Jae-in – President

September 18, 2017¹⁵

"(North Korea) is the most serious and urgent security issue in this region at the current moment".

"North Korea should realize that dialogue and cooperation, not nukes and missiles, are the only means to protect its security and guarantee a bright future."

South Korea will "seek powerful punishment based on international cooperation, against the North for its provocative acts and continued development of the weapons."

"By doing so, we will make North Korea have no other choice but to give up its nuclear weapons and missiles."

Ban Ki-moon – Former UN General Secretary

September 18, 2017¹⁶

"I strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to become a responsible member of the international community by giving up its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities."

"No single nation has survived on its course against the unanimously united international community in the course of world history."

Baik Tae-hyun, spokesman, Ministry of Unification

September 18, 2017¹⁷

¹⁵ "President Moon vows strong 'punishment' against N. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/82/0401000000AEN20170918001451315F.html>

¹⁶ "President Moon vows strong 'punishment' against N. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/82/0401000000AEN20170918001451315F.html>

¹⁷ "Aid to N.K. should be handled separately from int'l sanctions: Seoul", The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/18/59/0401000000AEN20170918004300315F.html>

"The government has the basic stance that humanitarian help to those who are vulnerable in North Korea should be continued regardless of political situations. This (issue) is separated from sanctions and pressure."

"The government is sternly responding to North Korea's provocations with pressure and sanctions."

Spokesperson- Ministry of Defense Ministry

September 18, 2017¹⁸

"(North Korea) has neared the final stage of securing ICBM capabilities."

"(The North) will continue such provocations as additional nuclear tests and missile launches to secure its nuclear capabilities. ... The Punggye-ri nuclear test site remains ready for a (new) test."

Park Soo-hyun – Spokesman, Office of the President

September 17, 2017¹⁹

On briefing a telephone conversation between South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump held on September 17, 2017, the Spokesman said,

"The two leaders (Moon Jae-in and Doland Trump) agreed to strengthen cooperation, and exert stronger and practical sanctions on North Korea so that it realizes provocative actions leads to further diplomatic isolation and economic pressure."

¹⁸ "N. Korea nears final phase of securing ICBM capabilities: ministry", The Yonhap News, September 18, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2017/09/18/33/0301000000AEN20170918004100315F.html>

¹⁹ "South Korea says Moon and Trump agree on need for stronger North Korea sanctions", Reuters, September 17, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-southkorea-usa/south-korea-says-moon-and-trump-agree-on-need-for-stronger-north-korea-sanctions-idUSKCNiBS047>

Moon Jae-in - President

September 15, 2017²⁰

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe asked President Moon Jae-in to consider the timing of the proposed aid during their phone conversation, but Moon said aid is "an issue that should be dealt with regardless of political situations," according to presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun.

September 15, 2017²¹

"Under this circumstance, talks are impossible."

"To force the North to come onto the path of dialogue, the international community's sanctions and pressures will become far more suffocating."

"We have the power to destroy the North beyond recovery if it provokes the South and our allies."

Statement- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

September 15, 2017²²

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) launched a ballistic missile from Sunan area, Pyongyang, on September 15. Following the DPRK's recent launch of ICBM-class ballistic missiles and its sixth nuclear test, the launch of yet another ballistic missile is not only a clear violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions,

²⁰ "Moon rejects Abe's call for caution over humanitarian aid to N. Korea", The Yonhap News, September 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/15/0401000000AEN20170915012251320.html>

²¹ "After missile test, Moon says dialogue with Pyongyang is 'impossible'", Joongang Daily, September 15, 2017,

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3038475&cloc=joongangdaily|home|top>

²² "Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on the DPRK's Ballistic Missile Launch of September 15", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, September 15, 2017,

http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG/press/pressreleases/index.jsp?menu=m_10_20&sp=/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp%3FtypeID=12%26boardid=302%26seqno=319116%26tableName=TYPE_ENGLISH

but also a truly serious and grave challenge to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. As such, the ROK Government strongly condemns this provocation by the DPRK.”

“The DPRK must clearly realize that abandoning its nuclear and missile programs is the true path to ensuring its security and economic development, immediately halt its reckless provocations and promptly come out to the path of dialogue for denuclearization.”

Lee Eugene- Vice spokesperson, Ministry of Unification

September 15, 2017²³

"The government has the basic stance that humanitarian assistance to infants and pregnant women in North Korea should be maintained regardless of political situations."

"The UNSC adopted the toughest-ever sanctions resolution.... North Korea's economy is expected to inevitably take a hit."

"Seoul plans to support cereal or vaccines-provision projects for North Koreans. The government does not think that the move compromises the spirit of the United Nations."

Official- Ministry of Unification

September 14, 2017²⁴

"The government's basic stance is that humanitarian assistance to those who are vulnerable in North Korea should be continued regardless of political considerations."

"Seoul plans to decide the details of the aid and its timing after taking into account the inter-Korean situation."

²³ "S. Korea seeking to extend aid to N.K. despite provocations", The Yonhap News, September 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/15/0401000000AEN20170915005851315.html>

²⁴ "S. Korea mulling over US\$8 mln in aid to N.K. via int'l organs", The Yonhap News, September 14, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/14/0401000000AEN20170914004800315.html>

China

Cui Tiankai- Chinese Ambassador to the US

September 16, 2017²⁵

“Honestly, I think the United States should be doing ... much more than now, so that there’s real effective international cooperation on this issue.”

“They should refrain from issuing more threats. They should do more to find effective ways to resume dialogue and negotiation.”

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

September 15, 2017²⁶

Regarding the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the Chinese side has stated its positions many times. In addition, I would like to stress the following points.

First, the Chinese side implements the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council in a comprehensive and strict manner and has made enormous sacrifice and paid a heavy price for this. It is beyond doubt that China is resolute in its determination to promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and uphold the international non-proliferation regime and China is sincere in and has made unremitting efforts for earnestly fulfilling the relevant international obligations.

Second, the essence of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is the security issue and its core is the contradiction between the DPRK and the United States. China is not the focal point of the contradiction. China is not to blame for the escalation of tensions. China does not hold the key to resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, either. Those who tied the knots are responsible for untying it. We maintain

²⁵ "China's Washington envoy says U.S. should stop threats over North Korea", Reuters, September 16, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-china-diplomacy/chinas-washington-envoy-says-u-s-should-stop-threats-over-north-korea-idUSKCN1BQ315>

²⁶ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 15, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1493597.shtml

that the parties directly concerned should assume their due responsibility and fulfill their due obligation. It is irresponsible and unhelpful for the settlement of the issue to unjustly blame others or shirk responsibilities in any form.

Third, all the DPRK-related resolutions of the UN Security Council, including the just adopted Resolution 2375, on one hand, explicitly state the collective position of the international community to oppose the development of nuclear and ballistic missile capability by the DPRK and uphold the international non-proliferation regime. On the other hand, they also reaffirm the commitment to peacefully resolving the issue through diplomatic and political means. These two aspects are equally important and they cannot be overemphasized or overlooked.

Fourth, peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue has increasingly become the consensus of the international community. Meanwhile, more and more people have come to recognize that sanctions are not the fundamental way to address the issue. The pressing task now is that all relevant parties should immediately stop the dangerous and provocative words and deeds that could escalate the tensions on the Korean Peninsula, take concrete actions to implement the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council in a comprehensive and balanced manner and make constructive and positive efforts and create enabling conditions for seeking a long-lasting solution through peace talks at an early date.

Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

September 15, 2017²⁷

"China objects to the North's move to launch missiles by using ballistic technology in violation of UNSC resolutions."

September 14, 2017²⁸

"The international community has a remarkable degree of consensus

²⁷ "China strongly denounces N.K.'s missile launch", The Yonhap News, September 15, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/09/15/0401000000AEN20170915011151315.html>

²⁸ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, September 14, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1493166.shtml

	<p>on staying committed to realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through political and diplomatic means because this best serves the common interests of all relevant parties and the international community.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Geng Shuang- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>September 13, 2017²⁹</p> <p>When asked about the North Korean and U.S. rhetoric, ministry spokesperson said, “We hope all relevant parties can be rational and maintain restraint and not take actions that could further increase tensions on the peninsula.”</p>
Russia	<p style="text-align: center;">Maria Zakharova- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>September 15, 2017³⁰</p> <p>We are convinced that now it is more important than ever before for all parties involved to stop escalating tensions that are accompanying every new round of reactions and counter reactions. It is necessary to stop and thoroughly weigh the consequences of one’s steps and revise the policy of reciprocal pressure and intimidation, which is absolutely counterproductive.</p> <p>We believe the only way out lies in political and diplomatic settlement and the launch of the negotiating process on the basis of the Russian-Chinese roadmap. Settling the Korean Peninsula problem exclusively by peaceful means is in the interests of the entire world community. We are inviting all interested countries to pool efforts and to do their best to reach our common goal as soon as possible.</p>
Japan	

²⁹ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, September 13, 2017, http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1492681.shtml

³⁰ "Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Yalta," , Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian federation, September 15, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/-/asset_publisher/D2wHaWMCU6Od/content/id/2863918

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

September 18, 2017³¹

“Everyone aspires to a peaceful solution to these challenges. And global solidarity is of utmost importance. Still, prioritizing diplomacy and emphasizing the importance of dialogue will not work with North Korea. History shows that concerted pressure by the entire international community is essential.”

“Considering this history and its continuing missile launches and nuclear tests, more dialogue with North Korea would be a dead end. Pyongyang would see more talks as proof that other countries succumbed to the success of its missile launches and nuclear tests. Now is the time to exert the utmost pressure on the North. There should be no more delays.”

“Statistics show that there are countries, mainly in Asia, that continue trading with North Korea; and for some, as recently as in 2016, their trade even exceeded that of the previous year. According to the United Nations, foreign-made parts have been used in North Korea’s ballistic missiles. There are countries buying products and services from North Korea or accepting its workers.”

“Japan has responded by reaffirming the ironclad Japan-U.S. alliance, and Japan has coordinated in lock step with the United States and South Korea. I firmly support the U.S. position that all options are on the table.”

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

September 15, 2017³²

"Now is the time when the international community is required to unite against North Korea's provocative acts, which threaten world peace."

³¹ Shinzo Abe, "Solidarity Against the North Korean Threat", Asahi Shimbun, September 18, 2017, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/SDI201709183628.html>

³² "N. Korea fires missile over Japan with longest flight distance yet", The Kyodo News, September 15, 2017, <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2017/09/5b389b689eb8-urgent-n-korea-fires-missile-japan-source.html>

"We must make North Korea understand that if it continues down this road, it will not have a bright future."

Taro Kono- Foreign Minister

September 15, 2017³³

"Secretary Tillerson and I concurred that in light of the fact that North Korea's reckless action came immediately after the adoption of a UNSC resolution, it will be necessary to coordinate firmly in the international community to exert pressure in various ways, and that Japan, the United States and the ROK will strongly encourage all countries to fully implement the recently adopted UNSC resolution. Furthermore, because there will be a UN General Assembly, I expect that a Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting and a Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting will be held, and together with Dr. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, the three of us will make some adjustments to facilitate that."

"North Korea has already carried out these missile launches and nuclear tests repeatedly. This constitutes a strong challenge to the international community, so Japan intends to exert the utmost pressure on North Korea and have it come to the dialogue table once, it has clarified its intention to denuclearize."

Itsunori Onodera - Defense Minister

September 15, 2017³⁴

"It is a sufficient distance to reach the U.S. territory of Guam."

³³ "Extraordinary Press Conference by Foreign Minister Taro Kono", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, September 15, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken4e_000420.html

³⁴ "North Korea shows capability of striking Guam with missiles", The Asahi Shinbun, September 15, 2017, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201709150048.html>

Statement- Ministry of Defense

September 15, 2017³⁵

“Today, it seems that North Korea launched a ballistic missile in the east-northeasterly direction from the proximity of Sunan on the west coast of North Korea at approximately 6:57 a.m. (JST). Although the Ministry of Defense (MOD) is currently analyzing the details, it is presumed that the launched missile flew over the Oshima Peninsula and Cape Erimo of Hokkaido Prefecture toward Pacific Ocean, traveled from around 7:04 a.m. to 7:06 a.m., and fell outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in Pacific Ocean, which is approx. 2,200 kilometers east of the Cape Erimo at around 7:16 a.m. Also, its flight distance and maximum altitude are presumed approx. 3,700 kilometers and approx. 800 kilometers respectively.”

Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister

September 14, 2017³⁶

“I'd like to appeal to the world, together with Prime Minister Modi, that we need to have North Korea change its policy through the thorough implementation of the newly adopted Security Council resolution by the international community.”

“Prime Minister Modi and I are in full agreement on this.”

**Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.*

Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.

³⁵ “Press Release: North Korea's Missile Launch”, Ministry of Defense, Japan, September 15, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/release/2017/09/15a.html>

³⁶ “Japan's Abe says U.N. resolution must force change in North Korea”, Reuters, September 14, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-missiles-japan-abe/japans-abe-says-u-n-resolution-must-force-change-in-north-korea-idUSKCN1BP154>

