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N. KOREAN MISSILE TEST WOULD NOT CHANGE U.S. POLICY, POWELL SAYS

Six-Party Talks only way to stop nuclear programs on Korean peninsula

By Judy Aita
Washington File U.N. Correspondent

New York -- There is no substitute for the Six-Party Talks to eliminate nuclear programs on the Korean peninsula, Secretary of State Colin Powell said September 23.

"The six-party process is still very much alive" despite North Korea's refusal to attend a fourth round of talks that was scheduled for September, Powell told reporters at a press conference held while he is attending the opening of the 59th U.N. General Assembly. Powell met privately earlier in the day with South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon.

The Six-Party Talks involve China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

When asked about reports that North Korea may be prepared to test-fire a missile capable of hitting its neighbors, the secretary responded that "it would be very unfortunate if the North Koreans were to do something like this and break out of the moratorium that they have been following for a number of years," but such a test would not change the U.S. approach.

"We would stay very firmly embedded in the six-party framework, and we would not be intimidated with respect to our policies," the secretary said.

A North Korean missile test “would be a very troubling matter for China, Russia, Japan, and South Korea who are within range of such missiles,” Powell said, adding: “I think that the neighbors of North Korea would register strong concerns to such an action.”

The secretary said that it is hard to tell why Pyongyang is delaying North Korea’s return to the Six-Party Talks. “Maybe they are waiting for the United States election to be over. Maybe they are reflecting on the information that has come out of South Korea with respect to some of South Korea’s [nuclear] experimentation of a very benign nature over the last several years,” he said.

“It is hard to predict what the North Koreans are waiting for, but it is absolutely clear the Six-Party Talks are the way forward,” Powell said. “There is no other plan, there is no substitute for the Six-Party Talks.”

The six parties have expressed a desire for a peninsula free from nuclear programs, the secretary said. “That remains our goal and we hope that the North Koreans realize that the sooner they return to the six-party format and begin discussions again at the fourth round . . . the sooner we will be able to help North Korea deal with its very serious economic problems.”

State, Defense Departments Join Forces To Stop Human Trafficking
Training, “zero tolerance” applied to stop exploitation

The departments of Defense and State are working together to devise strategies to stop the exploitation of women that often arises in areas near U.S. military installations.

Ambassador John R. Miller, director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, outlined initiatives under way in remarks delivered September 21 before the House Armed Services Committee and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Miller said his office has increased its efforts to work with the Department of Defense (DOD) to reduce trafficking and prostitution wherever demand arises from the presence of large numbers of U.S. and foreign aid workers, humanitarian workers, civilian contractors, and uniformed personnel. Specifically, State and Defense are collaborating on anti-trafficking training programs for all military and civilian personnel deployed overseas.

The Defense Department, which has some 3 million per-

sonnel serving worldwide, has taken some groundbreaking steps, Miller said. For example, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz has issued a memo that outlines his department’s stand on trafficking in persons and declares “zero tolerance” for activities surrounding human trafficking.

The Defense Department also is examining recommendations to change its Uniform Code of Military Justice, the military equivalent of the U.S. civilian criminal code. New measures under consideration, if adopted, would specifically address the act of patronizing prostitution. Miller said such an “abolitionist” approach would focus on opposing prostitution and related activities as a contributing factor to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. According to Miller, “this would serve as an important, progressive measure, which many states are now considering as well.”

Human trafficking, which often supplies many of the victims of the prostitution trade, “violates the universal human right to life, liberty and freedom from slavery in all its forms,” Miller said.

Trafficking is often linked to organized crime and its profits help fuel other illegal activity, he said. Miller added that human trafficking contributes to the breakdown of law by undermining government efforts to exert authority and by threatening the security of vulnerable populations.

COUNTRIES URGED TO ADOPT U.S. TRADE SECURITY STRATEGY

U.S. official calls terrorism threat to global economy, globalization

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official called on all countries to adopt key elements of a U.S. global security and trade facilitation strategy to protect nations and the global economy from terrorist attacks.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert Bonner said that because al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations target not only the United States but also other countries, the international community needs to turn “promptly” into international standards the princi-

pal features of proven U.S. efforts to increase transportation security without impeding trade flows.

He said that the World Customs Organization (WCO) should lead this effort.

The WCO indirectly endorsed part of CBP's approach when it decided in June to support development of universal standards for security and trade facilitation based on the main features of the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program, according to CBP, an agency in the DHS.

In September 20 prepared remarks to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Bonner presented the global war on terrorism as a confrontation between the civilized modernity and backward-looking Islamic radicals.

He said that radical Islam is "yearning to return to the world of the seventh and eighth century and a pan-Islamic fundamentalist state." That is why terrorists are attacking the global economy and globalization that leads to economic development, democratization, and, "yes, probably increased secularization," Bonner said.

He compared the terrorist threat to the challenge of communism and said that the war on terrorism could last as long as the Cold War, and said that that the United States and its partners can win this new war just as they triumphed over communism.

However, "it will take a strong and abiding commitment, not just by the United States, but by other nations in partnership with us, and with the international community," he said.

Bonner traveled to Europe to discuss with European Union (EU) officials expanding the Container Security Initiative (CSI) and the 24-hour advance cargo notice for goods shipped to EU ports. In addition, he said he would propose the adoption by Europeans of C-TPAT and the use of automated risk-targeting to help identify what and who is a potential terrorist risk in global trade.

The 24-hour rule requires advance submission of electronic information on all U.S.-destined cargo 24 hours before the cargo is loaded at a foreign seaport.

Under CSI, CBP places its inspectors at foreign ports to identify high-risk, U.S.-bound cargo containers for physical inspection by their local counterparts. In return,

it invites customs officials from other countries to target cargo destined for their ports. So far, only Canada and Japan have accepted the reciprocal offer.

In April, the DHS and the European Commission, the EU's governing body, signed an agreement that calls for the expansion of CSI throughout the EU.

C-TPAT is a program that asks U.S. importers to secure their global supply chains in return for faster processing of their shipments at U.S. borders and other forms of preferential treatment.

EXTENT, IMPACT OF "OFFSHORING" U.S. JOBS UNCLEAR, REPORT FINDS

Outsourcing trend appears to be growing, but overall data limited, GAO says

The number of U.S. technology-related jobs that have migrated to lower-wage countries in recent years is still unclear, as is the economic impact of the growing phenomenon of "offshoring," a new congressional report says.

A September 22 study released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Congress' investigative agency, said that offshoring appears to be on the upswing but with a thus far limited impact on U.S. jobs and economic growth.

The subject of offshoring, also known as "outsourcing," has produced considerable controversy in the United States. It has become a 2004 election-year issue, with some candidates voicing concerns over the movement of U.S. jobs to countries such as India and warning that the long-term effects of the practice could be dire.

GAO, which conducted the study at the request of several members of Congress, said its work was hampered by limited government data on offshoring -- and even the lack of a commonly accepted definition of the term.

"Offshoring" of services generally refers to an organization's purchase from other countries of services that it previously produced or purchased domestically, such as

software programming or telephone call centers,” GAO said.

GAO said that existing data could provide some insight into the extent of offshoring but warned that the picture was incomplete. It cited Department of Commerce statistics showing that U.S. imports of services associated with offshoring -- business, professional, and technical (BPT) services -- grew from \$21.2 billion in 1997 to about \$37.5 billion in 2002, an increase of 76.9 percent. During the same period, U.S. exports of BPT services increased 48.6 percent, with the United States maintaining a trade surplus in this category. Commerce data also show that U.S. investments in developing countries that supply offshore services “were small compared to those in developed countries” and that most of those services were sold to non-U.S. markets, GAO said.

GAO said it would continue to monitor the statistics and other dimensions of offshoring. It also suggested that additional study might shed light on offshoring benefits such as “lower prices, productivity improvements, and overall higher growth.”

The 80-page GAO report is available at:
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04932.pdf>

NASA REPORTS SHOW ANTARCTIC RESPONSE TO GLOBAL WARMING

Climate warming may lead to rapid sea-level rise, studies suggest

U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Canadian and European satellites have observed profound increases in the flow of glaciers into the open ocean, following the dramatic 2002 breakup of ice shelves in the Antarctic peninsula, according to a September 22 NASA press release.

Two NASA-funded reports in the Geophysical Research Letters journal used different techniques to arrive at similar results. Researchers from NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Colorado said the findings prove ice shelves act as brakes on the glaciers that flow into them. The results also suggest climate warming can

rapidly lead to rises in sea level.

One study used data from European Space Agency Remote Sensing Satellites and the Canadian Space Agency Radarsat satellite. The United States and Canada share a joint agreement on Radarsat, which NASA launched.

“If anyone was waiting to find out whether Antarctica would respond quickly to climate warming, I think the answer is ‘Yes,’” said Ted Scambos, a National Snow and Ice Data Center glaciologist and lead author of the second study. “We’ve seen 150 miles of coastline change drastically in just 15 years.”

Even though the Larsen-area glaciers are too small to significantly affect sea level, they offer insight into what will happen when climate change spreads to regions farther south, where glaciers are much larger.

For information and images of this research on the Internet, visit:
<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/2004/0913larsen.html>

Text of the NASA press release follows:

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
 Press release, September 21, 2004

Glaciers Surge When Ice Shelf Breaks up

Since 2002, when the Larsen B ice shelf broke away from the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, scientists have witnessed profound increases in the flow of nearby glaciers into the Weddell Sea. These observations were made possible through NASA, Canadian and European satellite data.

Two NASA-funded reports, appearing in the Geophysical Research Letters journal, used different techniques to arrive at similar results. Researchers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., and the National Snow and Ice Data Center, Boulder, Colo., said the findings prove ice shelves act as “brakes” on the glaciers that flow into them. The results also suggest climate warming can rapidly lead to rises in sea level.

Large ice shelves in the Antarctic Peninsula disintegrated in 1995 and 2002, as a result of climate warming. Almost immediately after the 2002 Larsen B ice shelf collapse, researchers observed nearby glaciers flowing up to eight

times faster than prior to the breakup. The speed-up also caused glacier elevations to drop, lowering them by as much as 38 meters (124 feet) in six months.

“Glaciers in the Antarctic Peninsula accelerated in response to the removal of the Larsen B ice shelf,” said Dr. Eric Rignot, a JPL researcher and lead author of one of the studies. “These two papers clearly illustrate, for the first time, the relationship between ice shelf collapses caused by climate warming, and accelerated glacier flow.”

Rignot’s study used data from European Space Agency Remote Sensing Satellites and the Canadian Space Agency Radarsat satellite. The United States and Canada share a joint agreement on Radarsat, which NASA launched.

“If anyone was waiting to find out whether Antarctica would respond quickly to climate warming, I think the answer is yes,” said Dr. Ted Scambos, a National Snow and Ice Data Center glaciologist and lead author of the second study. “We’ve seen 150 miles of coastline change drastically in just 15 years.” He used data from IceSat, a NASA laser altimetry mission launched in 2003, and Landsat 7, jointly run by NASA and the U. S. Geological Survey.

The papers illustrate relationships between climate change, ice shelf breakup, and increased flow of ice from glaciers into oceans. Increased flow of land ice into oceans contributes to sea level rise. While the Larsen area glaciers are too small to significantly affect sea level, they offer insight into what will happen when climate change spreads to regions farther south, where glaciers are much larger.

Scambos and colleagues used five Landsat 7 images of the Antarctic Peninsula from before and after the Larsen B breakup. The images revealed crevasses on the surfaces of glaciers. By tracking the movement of crevasses in sequence from one image to the next, the researchers were able to calculate velocities of the glaciers.

The surfaces of glaciers dropped rapidly as the flow sped up, according to IceSat measurements. “The thinning of these glaciers was so dramatic that it was easily detected with IceSat, which can measure elevation changes to within an inch or two,” said Dr. Christopher Shuman, a Goddard Space Flight Center researcher and a co-author on the Scambos paper.

The Scambos study examined the period right after the

Larsen B ice shelf collapse to try to isolate the immediate effects of ice shelf loss on the glaciers. Rignot’s study used Radarsat to take monthly measurements that are continuing. Clouds do not limit Radarsat measurements, so it can provide continuous, broad velocity information.

According to Rignot’s study, the Hektor, Green and Evans glaciers flowed eight times faster in 2003 than in 2000. They slowed moderately in late 2003. The Jorum and Crane glaciers accelerated two-fold in early 2003 and three-fold by the end of 2003. Adjacent glaciers, where the shelves remained intact, showed no significant changes according to both studies. The studies provide clear evidence ice shelves restrain glaciers, and indicate present climate is more closely linked to sea level rise than once thought, Scambos added.

For information and images of this research on the Internet, visit:

<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/2004/0913larsen.html>

For information about NASA programs, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/>

JPL is managed for NASA by the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”