

QUESTION OF: Re- evaluating the nuclear and missile programs of D.P.R.K.

Committee: DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons

How it all went down:

North Korea was a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, (NPT). The USA accused DPRK of having a secret uranium enrichment program. On January 10, 2003 DPRK announced a withdrawal and cut off energy assistance under the 1994 Agreed Framework. In February 2005, North Korea claimed to possess functional nuclear weapons, though their lack of a test at the time led many experts to doubt the claim. North Korea conducted a few nuclear and missile programs and In 2018, announced a halt in nuclear weapons tests and made a conditional commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The nuclear and missile programs of DPRK

1. North Korea reported a successful nuclear test on October 9, 2006. *
2. North Korea conducted a second, higher yield test on 25 May 2009 **
3. North Korea conducted a third test with still higher yield on 12 February 2013***
4. North Korea claimed to have conducted its first hydrogen-bomb test on 5 January 2016.****
5. On 3 September 2017, North Korea detonated a device which caused a magnitude 6.1 tremor, consistent with a low-powered thermonuclear detonation.*****

Countries that have successfully detonated nuclear weapons

- USA (NWS*)
- China (NWS*)
- Russia (the successor state to the Soviet Union) (NWS*)
- France (NWS*)
- The United Kingdom (NWS*)
- India **
- Pakistan **
- DPRK **

*nuclear-weapon states (NWS) under the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

** states that were not parties to the Treaty (NPT)which have however conducted overt nuclear tests

- Israel is also generally understood to have nuclear weapons but does not acknowledge it, maintaining a policy of deliberate ambiguity, and is not known definitively to have conducted a nuclear test.

- States that formerly possessed nuclear weapons are South Africa and the former Soviet republics Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

*North Korean statements on the nuclear test of 2006

“The field of scientific research in the DPRK successfully conducted an underground nuclear test under secure conditions on October 9 2006”

It has been confirmed that there was no such danger as radioactive emission in the course of the nuclear test as it was carried out under scientific consideration and careful calculation. It was conducted with indigenous wisdom and technology 100 percent.

Why was the test conducted?

1. in response to growing intimidation by the United States
2. to defend the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the area around it.

On October 10, 2006, North Korea was allegedly quoted as saying it could launch a nuclear missile unless the United States would sit down for face-to-face talks. (not many agreed with such statement)

On October 11, the Associated Press reported that North Korea had threatened war if attempts would be made to penalize them through further sanctions, Japan agreed and South Korea said they were ensuring their troops were prepared for nuclear war.

On October 17 North Korea denounced UN sanctions over its nuclear test as a declaration of war.

On October 20, 2006, Kim Jong-il allegedly said that he was "sorry" over his country's nuclear test , and wished to return to talk with the United Nations.

On October 31, 2006, North Korea agreed to rejoin six-nation disarmament talks.

International reaction

International condemnation has been unanimous. All five veto-wielding permanent members of the United Nations Security Council condemned the nuclear test.

Economic impact

Negative economic effects were seen throughout the region after the test.

United Nations' response

On October 14, 2006, the UN Security Council unanimously approved limited military and economic sanctions against North Korea. All five permanent members stated that the sanctions, set out in UNSC Resolution 1718, were intended to penalize the country's regime, not inhabitants. They also stated that if North Korea were willing to cooperate and complied with all the measures contained in the resolution, the sanctions would be lifted. The United States compromised on its initial desire to block all imports of military equipment, and to have an unlimited reference to Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter so providing a legal justification for future military action, in order to gain full support for the resolution.

**North Korean statements on the nuclear test of 2009

Without citing a specific time, Pyongyang notified both Washington, D.C. and Beijing of the test about an hour before the actual detonation.

“DPRK successfully conducted one more underground nuclear test on May 25 as part of the measures to bolster up its nuclear deterrent for self-defence. The current nuclear test was safely conducted on a new higher level in terms of its explosive power and technology of its control and the results of the test helped satisfactorily settle the scientific and technological problems arising in further increasing the power of nuclear weapons and steadily developing nuclear technology”

Why was the test conducted?

To strengthen its self-defense nuclear deterrent in every way

On 28 May, North Korea threatened to end the Korean War armistice, stating that "the Korean peninsula will go back to a state of war", whereupon the joint military command of South Korea and the United States increased its surveillance alert level. Russia undertook security measures in case the war of nerves on the Korean peninsula erupted into a nuclear war.

North Korea also threatened on 29 May to attack South Korean and US warships near its coast if its sovereignty were infringed.

On 30 May, the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense send a plane to the base in Japan to help support the investigations, led by the U.S. military, to determine the power of the nuclear explosion and the type of material that was used.

International reaction

The North Korean news agency KCNA confirmed the test as "successful". In general the International reactions to the 2009 North Korean nuclear test have been almost uniformly negative.

Impact

News of the tests immediately affected South Korean markets.

*** The nuclear test of 2013

On 12 February 2013, a spokesman for North Korea's army command said it had successfully conducted a third underground nuclear weapons test, according to the Yonhap. North Korea also said the test had used a miniaturized nuclear device with greater explosive power

Before North Korea announced they had conducted the test, seismic activity had already been detected in North Korea by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the seismic network operated by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Preparatory Commission.

The nuclear blast did not trigger any seismic events and underground tremors in Russia and thus the North Korea's nuclear test does not pose danger to the residents.

International reaction

In response, Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, called an urgent security meeting of the United Nations Security Council. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission (CTBTO), confirmed the event's location was "roughly congruent with" nuclear tests carried out by North Korea in 2006 and 2009. Japan's Kyodo News service reported the Japanese defense ministry had scrambled aircraft to hunt for radiation effects. In general, international reactions to the 2013 North Korean nuclear test have been almost uniformly negative

**** North Korean claims about the nuclear tests of 2016

The North Korean government described the test as a "complete success" and characterized it as self-defense against the United States. North Korean media claimed that the bomb existed the month before the test was carried out.

Why was the test conducted?

1. to have an H-bomb as self-defense against the U.S. having numerous and humongous nuclear weapons

The Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq and the Gaddafi regime in Libya could not escape the fate of destruction after being deprived of their foundations for nuclear development and giving up nuclear programs of their own accord, yielding to the pressure of the US and the West keen on their regime changes. The regime also defended the nuclear weapons programmes of the DPRK, saying that the programme will be abandoned only if "the US rolls back its outrageous hostile policy toward the DPRK and imperialist aggression forces give up their infringement upon sovereignty by use of force in the international arena."

International reactions

The test was condemned by several governments who called on the United Nations to strengthen its sanctions against North Korea. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2270 was subsequently passed to that effect.

The government of North Korea conducted a nuclear detonation on 9 September 2016. The test, conducted in defiance of the international community, prompted wide international condemnation

***** The 2017–18 North Korea crisis

A period of heightened tension between North Korea and the United States throughout 2017, which began when North Korea conducted a series of missile and nuclear tests that demonstrated the country's ability to launch ballistic missiles beyond its immediate region and suggested that North Korea's nuclear weapons capability was developing at a faster rate than had been assessed by the U.S. intelligence community. While the tensions were mostly with the United States, North Korea threatened Australia twice with nuclear strikes throughout 2017, accusing them of siding with the U.S. and 'blindly' following them.

By the beginning of 2018, however, tensions began to ease dramatically. Diplomatic activity flourished during the next few months, with the suspension of nuclear and missile tests by North Korea.