

Your Excellency Patricio Aylwin
President of Chile

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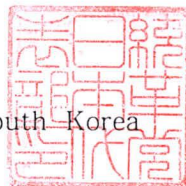
The Joint Declaration on Denuclearization was adopted and effectuated between south and north Korea and its implementation is under concrete discussion. However, the south Korean authorities are promoting nuclear arms development behind the curtain of the political offensive of "nuclear - inspection" on north Korea.

In relation to the grave situation, the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea published the "Open Letter on Nuclear Arms Development in South Korea."

We send the Open Letter to your Excellency, expecting that your Excellency will pay a great concern about the dangerous moves of the south Korean authorities to develop nuclear weapons, so as to defend the security of human beings and the peace of the world.

We wish your Excellency successes in your activities.

The Japan Mission of
The National Democratic Front of South Korea
Authorized by
The Central Committee of
The National Democratic Front of South Korea
Tokyo, December 16, 1992



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OPEN LETTER
ON NUCLEAR ARMS DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH KOREA

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF SOUTH KOREA
November 16, 1992

The Joint Declaration on Denuclearization was adopted and effectuated between south and north Korea and its implementation is under concrete discussion. However, south Korea is promoting nuclear arms development, violating the joint declaration.

In south Korea, a large number of manpowers including nuclear technicians and funds have been invested in development of nuclear weapons, including extraction of nuclear explosives, production of nuclear bombs and manufacture of nuclear delivery means.

The nuclear arms development in south Korea, along with U.S. nuclear bases, causes another nuclear danger on the Korean peninsula.

But this dreadful situation is still veiled by the extensive fuss about "north Korea's nuclear problem". It is a great apprehension of the world.

The Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea, in an endeavor to secure denuclearization and peace of the Korean peninsula, discloses the truth of anti-national, anti-human development of nuclear weapons by the south Korean government.

1. Policy of Nuclear Arms Development & Its Enforcement

Nuclear arms development is a key policy the successive south Korean military regimes have consistently carried on for realization of "unification by prevailing over communist north Korea".

Development of nuclear weapons in south Korea, favored by the intensified military fascist rule, was adopted as a policy in the late 1960s, founded in the 1970s and promoted practically

in the 1990s through the full-scale stage in the 1980s.

The south Korean government adopted it as a policy in the late 1960s.

The debate on nuclear weapons development began among top leaders of the military fascist regime in 1965 and was decided as a secret policy of the government in 1969 when former U.S. President Richard Nixon announced the "Guam Doctrine".

Park Chung-hee who usurped the power through a military coup d'etat promoted development of nuclear weapons, revealing his willingness to render every available means to develop nuclear weapons "for national security".

The "Long-term Plan for Research and Development of Atomic Energy" passed through the 172nd session of the Korea Atomic Energy Commission in May 1969 reflected Park Chung-hee's will. The plan noted, "Technical and economic examination of the nuclear fuel cycle will be finished during the Third Five-Year (1972-1976) Economic Development Plan and reprocessing facilities be built during the Fourth Five-Year (1977-1981) Economic Development Plan."

In late 1970 Park Chung-hee made his secret Weapons Exploitation Committee adopt the "Nuclear Arms Development Plan" as a governmental policy.

Having drawn the general blueprint of nuclear arms development in the 1960s, the government invested a huge amount of fund in carrying through the nuclear policy on a full scale under the slogan of "independent national defense" in the 1970s.

The gist and ultimate goal of the so-called "independent national defense" was to develop nuclear weapons against north Korea.

Park Chung-hee formed a working-level group for nuclear weapons development. Park Chung-hee himself was the chief of the group with senior Presidential secretary in charge of the heavy chemical and defense industries Oh Won-chul as his advisor and Minister of Science and Technology Choi Hyong-

sop, deputy President Chu Jae-yang in charge of special affairs of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)--it was listed as the Korea Advanced Energy Research Institute in the IAEA--and department chief of the Taedok branch of the KAERI Kim Chol as kernel members. He established research institutes in succession to complete the system for development of nuclear weapons.

The Park regime sent over 20 brains to European countries for a year long training in nuclear facilities. Besides, it dispatched Chu Jae-yang to France and other nuclear owners to detect the technique of nuclear arms development process. South Korea followed the experiences of a country which developed nuclear bombs by introducing Canadian NRX and promoted simultaneously extraction of nuclear explosives, production of nuclear bombs and development of nuke-carrying means.

Since the south Korea-U.S. joint military exercise Team Spirit began in 1976, the Park Chung-hee regime further accelerated development and research of nuclear weapons. Team Spirit is in fact a nuclear war drill.

Thus, south Korea laid down a basic foundation for experimentally producing nuclear weapons, making a bridgehead of nuclear weapons development in the late 1970s. At that time, Park Chung-hee's entourage proposed secret construction of a nuke factory and Park replied, "It will be done in no time, so it is no concern of yours. When the nukes are produced, I will give up Presidency and work at Yongnam University." The then Minister of Science and Technology Choi Hyong-sop confessed, "If President Park orders, we can make nuclear bombs within one or two years." Park Chung-hee's daughter Park Keun-hye said that in those days around the October 26, 1979 incident in which Park Chung-hee was shot to death, development of missiles was already succeeded, completion of

nuclear weapons was near at hand and the required materials were obtained.

Development of nuclear weapons in south Korea was not frustrated with Park Chung-hee's death. In the 1980s the Chun Doo-hwan regime promoted it in various and secret ways under the cloak of "home development of nuclear technology".

In May 1981, six months after Chun Doo-hwan took the power, there was a secret meeting at Chong Wa Dae to resume the temporarily-suspended development of nuclear weapons. A high-ranking nuclear expert demanding anonymity recalled that the meeting decided to complete the nuclear fuel cycle despite of many difficulties. He added the meeting agreed that the academic world, laboratories, enterprises and other related bodies should accumulate technique of the nuclear fuel cycle in close combination, and it would be more effective than to promote it noisily. On this basis, atomic energy institutes were mechanically combined into the so-called advanced energy institute and all the processes of nuclear arms development were promoted behind the curtain of "technical development of atomic energy" for "industrial purpose". The Chun Doo-hwan regime further developed it onto an industrialized stage.

The "home development of nuclear technology" of the Chun regime was to have reprocessing facilities for the military purpose and to accumulate the technique of nuclear bombs development under the cloak of "establishment of self-supporting foundation of atomic energy". A report titled "Problem on Control of Spent Nuclear Fuel" the Chun Doo-hwan regime presented to the south Korea-U.S. atomic energy commission in 1982 hinted that a 240-ton-class reprocessing facility would start operation in 1992 and increase to 500 tons in 1995 and 1,000 tons in 2000. By operating the post-irradiation test facilities equipped with all the reprocessing processes in 1987, south Korea built up a basic foundation for extraction

of plutonium and production of nuclear bombs.

Since the late 1980s the Roh Tae-woo regime has further expedited nuclear development, while making a great fuss about inspection of north Korea.

A confidential report the south Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff presented to the Defense Minister on August 18, 1989 dwelled upon the necessity to hasten nuclear armament and detailed measures for completing the nuclear weapons development. Former Defense Minister Lee Jong-gu, who was denounced by the people for his advocacy for "forestalling attack on north Korean reactor" in April 1991, called on Roh Tae-woo who was going to visit Washington in June that year. He told Roh that south Korea should have a nuclear option, emphasizing necessity of nuclear armament. Roh Tae-woo replied, "I have my own idea." Roh Tae-woo meant to escalate the fuss about the north Korean nuclear problem in conformity with Washington's will, and behind the scenes, gradually justify and promote development of nuclear weapons.

The Roh Tae-woo regime declared nuclear absence in south Korea. Practically, however, it hastens nuclear development, contacting with the former Soviet Union for cooperation in nuclear technology and import of the reprocessing technology, high enriched uranium and plutonium under the signboard of the "northern policy".

The south Korean government's nuclear policy has been aimed at development of nuclear weapons, not at peaceful use of atomic energy, and maintained as the keypoint of the "security policy" of the successive military fascist regimes. Development of nuclear weapons in south Korea has come to an undisguised nuclear armament in the 1990s through the policy-shaping stage in the 1960s, experimental development in the 1970s and industrial development in the 1980s.

2. Potentiality and Danger of Nuclear Arms Development

The actual potentiality to develop nuclear weapons and its danger are comprised mainly in preparedness of nuclear researchers and technicians, accumulation of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities.

South Korea, through persistent acceleration of nuclear development, has already surpassed the level of danger in the three required problems.

15,000 Nuclear Technicians

Nuclear technicians of south Korea numbered 15,000 including 1,500 doctors in 1989. The number was close to 20,000 of France and 16,000 of Britain, the nuclear powers, and surpassed that of Japan, a latent nuclear power.

What matters is that these technicians serve for development of nuclear weapons, not for peaceful use of atomic energy.

They were all enlisted for development of nuclear weapons, and brains of them have been engaged in study of military science in foreign countries. Having set out the policy of nuclear weapons development, the dictatorial regime formed in the early 1970s a group headed by Minister of Science and Technology Choi Hyong-sop, who was concurrently the first Director of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology. The team visited many foreign countries to invite superior technical manpowers. The government induced to south Korea dozens of nuclear experts from the United States including Dr. Lee Hwi-soh of the U.S. Fermi National Laboratory who was called Benjamin Lee among American nuclear physicists, Chu Jae-yang who was engaged in research of nuclear fuel after majoring in chemical industry in the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology(MIT), Kim Byong-gu who was engaged in the Viking Project for Mars probe in the Jet Propulsion Laboratories under the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Administration from 1972, and Kim Chol who served for Natick Army Institute in Massachusetts. All the nuclear research institutes and bases in south Korea are led by them who have specialized respective fields of nuclear weapons development.

The Atomic Energy Research Institute takes charge of nuclear reprocessing and development of reactors; the Agency for Defense Development(ADD) of the Defense Ministry, the designing of nuclear bombs and development of missiles, and the Nuclear Development Complex, the manufacture of nuclear bombs. These are the mainstays in development of nuclear weapons in south Korea.

The main task of the KAERI was to solve scientific and technical problems related to production of enriched uranium-235 and plutonium-239. The staff of this institute numbers 2,298, and 939 of them are researchers and technicians. The number is next to 2,460 of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute. Director Han Pil-soon of this institute held the post in 1984 through the chief professor of the physical department of the Air Force Academy, the 13th project chief of the ADD in 1970 and the president of the Taedok Engineering Center of the KAERI in 1982. He is regarded as a person with strong will to deal with atomic energy for the strategic purpose.

The ADD established in 1970 has taken charge of development of strategic weapons including means of nuclear delivery, introduction of foreign-made weapons and appreciation of weapons. Since December 1991 in particular, the research and development of conventional weapons were transferred to civil defense industrial bodies, so that it can take charge of development of strategic weapons, their technique and synthetic weapon system, that is, the development of middle- and long-

range missiles, computerization of nuke order and control systems and the research of communication and information systems. Director Kim Hak-ock of the ADD is a reserve lieutenant general who has long managed the development of weapons ranging from the K-2 rifle to Hyonmu missile as well as the appreciation of imported weapons.

The Korean Nuclear Development Complex established in 1976 is engaged in producing nuclear bombs. The complex founded by Park Chung-hee with nuclear brains was aiming to develop the technique of nuclear bomb production. For the sake of secrecy, research results were not presented even to the senior officials but directly to Park Chung-hee when he visited it once or twice a month. Leaders of the complex were Kim Kang-jin who had majored in quantitative analysis of plutonium at Belgonucleaire in Belgium and Park Hyon-soo and Park Hon-hwi who had specialized in the reprocessing method and research of radioactive substances at the Grenoble Atomic Energy Institute of France.

As seen above, the nuclear technicians and other manpowers of south Korea were recruited for development of nuclear weapons.

Reserve of Spent Fuel for 1,500 Nuclear Bombs

Now Washington and Seoul are taking issue with the 5,000kw-class reactor which was built in the end of 1987 for the peaceful purpose in Yongbyon in north Korea. According to south Korean nuclear experts, however, it takes nearly ten years to secure enough plutonium for a Hiroshima-type atomic bomb with the spent fuel from the Yongbyon reactor. Furthermore, north Korea has not yet a reprocessing facility.

The assertion of Seoul and Washington that north Korea can produce nuclear weapons is really nonsensical.

But south Korea has reactors Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Kori, the pressurized heavy water reactor in Wolsong, reactors Nos. 1 and 2 in Uljin and Nos. 1 and 2 in Yonggwang, nine in all, except three research reactors in operation. Their generating capacity mounts up to 7,220,000kw. These reactors extract spent fuel containing 480-540 kilograms of plutonium a year. The high-level spent fuel was piled up to 1,140 tons in underwater storages as of 1990, and it is estimated that ten tons of plutonium can be extracted in 1992. The amount is enough to produce 1,500 shells of Nagasaki-type nuclear bombs of 20kt-class.

What is more serious is that the spent fuel is reprocessed for military purposes.

The horrible nuclear bomb is made of plutonium-239 extracted from spent fuel the south Korean dictatorial regime is now piling up.

Taedok Nuclear Arms Development Complex

Taedok County of Chungchongnam-do Province is located at a pivot linking atomic power plants and munitions companies in seaside areas of Kyongsangnam-do, Kyongsangbuk-do and Chullanam-do Provinces.

Taedok is a comprehensive nuclear arms development zone where there are the KAERI, the Agency for Defense Development (ADD), the Korean Nuclear Fuel Company(KNFC) and many other nuclear research institutes and facilities.

The Korea Multipurpose Research Reactor(K-MRR) in Taedok Nuclear Development Complex is geared to the military purpose.

The K-MRR in Taedok is a 30,000kw-class atomic reactor for development of nuclear arms, which was started jointly with the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.(AECL) at the cost of 80 billion Korean won(about 100 million U.S. dollars). It is now processing

spent fuel with a large percentage of plutonium content. It was designed to use both natural and high enriched uranium, and it is more efficient than Canadian NRX which had been once used for production of atom bombs.

The post-irradiation testing facility, now under operation in Taedok Nuclear Development Complex, is in fact a semi-reprocessing factory. The most important reprocessing technique is to press into hotcell or shield, transport, dismantle, cut, analyze, smelt and separate high-radioactive spent fuel. The post-irradiation test facility is equipped with all these necessary processes. This post-irradiation test facility, which began experimental operation in the end of the 1970s and full operation in 1987, has been expanded to a large one with additional investment of 40 billion won (about 50 million dollars). The K-MRR and the post-irradiation test facility are an inter-related plutonium-reprocessing system. A nuclear fuel factory was built in Taedok in September, 1989, and in neighboring Kongju County a new nuclear fuel factory is to be built till 1996 with 111.2 billion won (about 139 million dollars) on the site of 297,000 square meters.

Today Taedok has been converted to a large-scale nuclear complex similar to Rokasho-mura nuclear development complex of Japan. Taedok Nuclear Development Complex is literally a pivotal nuclear arms development base of south Korea.

Referring to the possibility of nuclear arms development the south Korean monthly Wolgan Choson in April, 1990, wrote in an article "The Nuclear Game on the Korean Peninsula", "If ordered, the nuclear-related industry, experts and facilities spread in various parts of south Korea will be promptly mobilized to start development of nuclear arms. The multipurpose research reactor will be reconstructed to reprocess plutonium, the operational technique of post-irradiation test facility be used for construction and operation of reprocessing reactors,

and the designing technique of nuclear fuel and atomic reactor be applied to design and manufacture of fission bombs."

The nuclear arms development in south Korea is now promoted on the basis of practical possibility added to the government's policy. Herein lies its great danger.

3. Development of Nuclear Arms

Production of nuclear weapons in south Korea entered a stage of implementation beyond the potential danger.

The nuke-producing system is a comprehensive system of the processes of the uranium enrichment, plutonium extraction, the design, manufacture and test of nuclear bomb and the development of means of nuclear delivery.

Production of Nuclear Explosive

Enrichment of uranium and extraction of plutonium are major processes for producing the nuclear explosive. In the nuclear fuel cycle of reprocessing spent fuel through refinement, conversion, enrichment, reconversion, irradiation of uranium, ect, the enriching and reprocessing processes are vital for development of nuclear weapons. Nuclear development and research in south Korea are focussed on the enriching and reprocessing processes.

The south Korean government has made all efforts to get high enriched uranium.

Enriched from 0.7% by mass to 3-4% by mass, uranium can be used as nuclear fuel, and to over 80-90% by mass, as nuclear explosive. Behind the veil of "home production of nuclear fuel", the south Korean government developed the supplementary facilities and technique necessary for uranium enrichment

and began to concentrate investment in laser-enriching method and centrifuge process long ago. From 1984 on, the south Korean government promoted the basic research to get high enriched uranium on a full scale and thus developed the technique of separating atom with laser in 1988. According to the October issue of the monthly Wolgan Choson in 1991, the south Korean government is pushing ahead with south Korea-Russia joint development of the laser enrichment method, while focussing efforts on study of various equipment for full ability, continued repetition and complete resolution of laser. The south Korean nuclear researchers succeeded in producing the centrifugal separator of 60,000 revolutions per minute, to separate high enriched uranium. Facts are enough to prove that the south Korean government's moves to get the high enriched uranium for the military purpose have already entered the stage of production through technical development.

South Korea has completed the system needed for extraction of plutonium, and it is now under full operation. Plutonium-239 is extracted by the CANDU-type heavy water reactor in Wolsong county, the K-MRR and post-irradiation test facility both in Taedok county. The south Korean government has illegally produced a large quantity of plutonium by covering the supervisory camera and other sorts.

Dissatisfied with this, the south Korean nuclear maniacs are bent on building the reprocessing facilities to extract more plutonium. Already in the early 1970s, they got the technical data related to construction of reprocessing facilities through south Korea-France joint planning work, and the suspended construction of the reprocessing factories seem to be resumed on joint development with some nuclear possessors these days. An official of the Korean Nuclear Fuel Company hinted, at an IAEA meeting held in October, 1989, his government's inten-

tion to undisguisedly reprocess spent fuel under the cloak of extracting plutonium for the pressurized light water reactor. He added, "From now on, the plutonium-reprocessing facilities will be positively developed for test production at an early date and it will be commercialized between 2007 and 2016."

The south Korean government is importing high enriched uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons, in addition to home production. Once, enriched uranium and plutonium were confiscated in Italy and Switzerland and sustained an international criticism for having been imported from the former Soviet Union. Such the enriched uranium and plutonium were found to have been secretly shipped into south Korea, too.

South Korea has 30-40kgs of high enriched uranium and plutonium, enough to produce 3-5 shells of Hiroshima-type atom bombs.

Russia asked foreign countries to buy 100 tons of plutonium and 500 tons of enriched uranium separated from her tactical nukes. It stimulated the south Korean government that is eager for manufacturing nuclear weapons. The south Korean daily Chungang Ilbo on November 10, 1991 reported, "Russians found a free market, that is, a nuke market. Moscow is the best market for purchasing breeder reactors, enriched uranium and other materials necessary for production of nuclear arms." According to foreign reporters, the south Korean government actively deals with Russia for purchase of high enriched uranium and plutonium these days. The high enriched uranium is traded at 120,000 dollars per gram.

This movement casts dark cloud to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Development of Nuclear Weapons

Having accumulated a great quantity of nuclear explosive, south Korea is practically developing nuclear arms.

Promotion of the atomic reactor design at home in the 1980s was geared to obtain technical data of atom bombs from abroad.

The KAERI has accelerated designing of the Reactors Nos. 3 and 4 in Yonggwang County in cooperation with the U.S. Combustion Engineering (CE) so as to acquire the technique of nuclear weapons, and the blueprints were sent to Korea Heavy Industries Co. in Changwon Industrial Estate to manufacture the designed equipment. In the course of the joint project to be finished within this year, the KAERI is to receive over 4,300 pieces of blueprints, patented data, 200-odd leaves of confidential computer programs and codes which are all the core technique essential for manufacturing nuclear bombs.

The nuclear-developing team has bought through a third country the high-speed camera capable of shooting one millionth second to fix the explosion moment of inner blast test, and produced initiating explosive HMX by itself, so as to promote the inner blast test.

The supplementary technical problems for producing nuclear arms are now under study at Seoul College of Engineering and other universities or colleges. For security of the study, the government strictly guards the selected sections of campuses. Various parts necessary for production of nuclear arms are manufactured by the munitions companies including Korea Heavy Industries Co. and some of civilian companies camouflagedly.

Despite strict secrecy in research and production, the process is brought to the public part by part.

Production of Nuke-Carrying Means

Means of nuclear delivery in south Korea are diverse.

South Korea has already developed 150km-range guided mis-

siles in 1978 and 180km- and 240km-range guided missiles in the 1980s. Now development of medium- and long-range missiles are expedited. The south Korean army has a large number of nuclear bomb-loadable F-15s and F-16s, 155mm howitzers and 8-inch guns launchable of nuclear bombs, plus Honest John and other missiles.

Like this, the well-assorted nuclear delivery system is being completed, and it is under continuous operation through regular exercises of nuclear delivery.

Nuclear armament of south Korea is a stern reality, not a possibility of tomorrow. The Institute of Strategic Study of the U.S. National War College noted in a report "The World in 2010" that south Korea could possess 500 nuclear weapons till 2010.

The south Korean government is expediting nuclear armament behind the curtain of the extensive fuss about north Korea's nuclear problem. Now the world cannot overlook the practical danger of the south Korean nuclear armament.

South Korea, a large nuclear arsenal with more than 1,700 pieces of nuclear arms, is now being converted more and more to a terrible nuclear deposit owing to the anti-peace nuclear policy of Washington and the Seoul colonial regime.

We cannot look with folded arms on the nuclear toadstool sprouting under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

We south Korean people yearning to live in the nuclear-free, peaceful and reunified land should unanimously join in the anti-nuke drive against the fascist Seoul regime's moves for nuclear armament, as well as in the struggle to clean away the U.S. nuclear bases and arms out of this land.

The National Democratic Front of South Korea hopes all the peaceloving people in the world keep their steps with the

south Korean people in the struggle against Seoul's moves
for nuclear armament.

Central Committee
National Democratic Front of S. Korea
November 16, 1992
Seoul

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