

North Korea Chemical Chronology

Last update: October 2012

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2012-2009

6 January 2012

The Daily Yomiuri reports that diplomatic sources within the UN will soon launch an investigation of an attempted North Korean transfer of military-use anti-chemical weapons suits and chemical reagents to Syria that occurred in November 2009. In addition to the 14,000 suits already reported in 2011, *The Yomiuri* adds that a box of glass ampules carrying liquid or powdered reagents was also seized. The reagents can be used to detect airborne chemical agents in an offensive or defensive capacity during a chemical attack. Greek authorities intercepted the North Korean shipment from a Liberian-flagged ship bound for Syria.

— Michinobu Yanagisawa, "N. Korea Tried to Ship WMD Reagent in '09 / U.N. to Launch Probe into Arms Violation," *The Daily Yomiuri*, 6 January 2012, www.yomiuri.co.jp.

31 December 2011

An U.S. National Intelligence report claims that North Korea has "a longstanding chemical weapon program" that maintains large stockpile of chemical weapon agents. It is widely believed that Chagang Province of North Korea is the area for manufacturing both chemical and biological weapons. South Korea is developing defensive measures against chemical attacks from North Korea.

— Reports and Publications, "Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions," Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 31 December 2011, www.dni.gov; "S. Korea Developing Defensive Measures Against N. Korean Chemical Attacks," Yonhap News Agency, 7 October 2011, www.yonhapnews.co.kr; J. Berkshire Miller, "North Korea's Other Weapons Threat," *The Diplomat*, 12 November 2011, www.thediplomat.com; "North Korea Expanding WMD Production Capabilities: South Lawmaker," *Global Security Newswire*, 27 October 2011, www.nti.org/gsn.

17 November 2011

Agence France-Presse reports that Greece intercepted almost 14,000 anti-chemical weapon protection suits en

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



route from North Korea to Syria in 2009. An unnamed diplomat states that the shipment was headed to Latakia, Syria. The seizure was not reported to the UN Security Council until September 2011 in talks over sanctions against North Korea, and the destination of Syria was not initially mentioned.

— “Greece Seizes N. Korea Chemical Weapons Suits: Diplomats,” Agence France-Presse, 17 November 2011; “Greece Captured North Korean Chemical Weapon Gear, Envoys Reveal,” *Global Security Newswire*, 17 November 2011, www.nti.org/gsn; “Greece Seized Weapons Suits, Say Diplomats,” *People’s Daily*, 18 November 2011, www.peoplesdaily.com.cn.

7 October 2010

Kwon Yang-joo, an expert from the Korea Institute of Defense Analyses estimates that North Korea can produce up to “1.25 million chemical bombs.” According to Kwon, the chemical agents “could contaminate about 2,500 square kilometers.”

— Kwon Yang-joo, “핵무기 못지않은 북한의 화학무기 폐기 방안 강구 긴급 [Critical Need to Devise Measures to Terminate North Korea’s Chemical Weapons which are as Detrimental as the Nuclear Weapons],” Korea Institute for Defense Analysis, 7 October 2010, www.kida.re.kr; “N. Korea Capable of Producing up to 1.25 million Chemical Bombs: Expert,” Yonhap News Agency, 13 October 2010, www.yonhapnews.co.kr; “North Korea Has Large CW Production Capacity, Report Says,” *Global Security Newswire*, 13 October 2010, www.nti.org/gsn.

8 October 2009

Anonymous sources within the Chinese military report to *Asahi Shimbun*, that China detected Sarin gas in November 2008 and February 2009 near the city of Dandong, along the North Korean border. Chinese Special Forces detected 0.015-0.03 micrograms of gas per cubic meter during regular surveys. The Chinese suspect “an accidental release” took place during North Korea’s transport or testing of chemical agents. Pyongyang does not make any public statements responding to the press reports. Beijing steps up its surveillance of the border.

— “中朝国境でサリン検出 北朝鮮から風吹く時に2回 [Two Instances of Sarin Gas Detected from Border of North Korea],” *Asahi Shimbun*, 9 October 2009, www.asahi.com; “China Detects Deadly Nerve Gas at Border with NKrea: Report,” Agence France-Presse, 8 October 2009; “Lethal Chemical Agent Detected at North Korean Border,” *Global Security Newswire*, 9 October 2009, www.nti.org/gsn.

2007-2005

11 January 2007

In testimony before the US Senate, Lieutenant General Michael Maples, Director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency, reaffirmed US suspicions regarding North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction programs. With respect to chemical weapons, Maples stated, “DIA believes North Korea has had a longstanding chemical weapons stockpile of nerve, blister, blood, and choking agents.”

—Michael D. Maples, statement before US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, “Current and Projected National Security Threats to the United States,” 11 January 2007, p.13.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



14 September 2007

The US Department of State released the 2007 International Religious Freedom Report, which cited unconfirmed reports that North Korean prisoners detained for their religious beliefs may have been made human subjects for chemical and biological agent testing by the North Korean government. The report further notes that these allegations are very difficult to verify independently. Previous editions of the International Religious Freedom Report contain similar language.

—Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, US Department of State, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007*, 14 September 2007, www.state.gov.

10 October 2007

A South Korean lawmaker, citing intelligence data, claimed that North Korea developed a new short-range missile capable of delivering chemical warheads. The missile, known as the KN-2, is propelled by solid fuel, has a range of roughly 120 km, and may carry up to a 500 kg payload. According to one report, the KN-2 is based on the Russian SS-21 missile.

—"North Korea Develops Short-Range Chemical Warhead Capable Missile," *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*, 11 October 2007, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; Jin Dae-woong, "North Korea's New Missile Can Carry Chemical Warheads," *The Korea Herald*, 18 October 2007, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

27 November 2007

A Taiwanese official announced the government was investigating the Yicheng Company, a Taiwanese trading firm, on suspicion it had illegally exported an industrial filtering device to North Korea via China. The filtering device could be used in plutonium extraction and chemical and biological weapons manufacture.

—Debby Wu, "Taiwan Investigates Company for Allegedly Selling Nuclear-Related Equipment to North Korea," *Associated Press*, 27 November 2007, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

December 2006

In its 2006 Defense White Paper, the South Korean Ministry of Defense stated with respect to North Korea's chemical and biological weapons programs, "It is assessed that North Korea has been producing poison gas and biological weapons since the 1980s. It is believed that 2,500 to 5,000 tons of a variety of agents including nerve agents remain stored in a number of facilities...and that North Korea is able to produce biological weapons such as the bacteria of anthrax, smallpox, and cholera."

—Ministry of Defense, Republic of Korea, *2006 Defense White Paper* (English translation), May 2007, p. 74, www.mnd.go.kr; "White Paper Defines North Korea as 'Grave Threat'," *The Korea Herald*, 29 December 2006, OSC Document KPP20061229971064.

2004-2003

1 February 2004

BBC television released a documentary, entitled "Access to Evil," which alleged that North Korea had killed political prisoners using gas chambers for the purpose of chemical weapons development. The documentary featured the

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



testimony of a former North Korean prison officer, who claimed to have witnessed entire families being gassed. Supporting documentary evidence, provided by a North Korean electrical engineer who worked at the February 8 Vinalon Complex in Hamhung, where human experiments were allegedly carried out, was also presented. In response, North Korea denied chemical experiments on prisoners, and accused the United States of conducting chemical weapons experiments on North Korean prisoners during the Korean War. South Korea responded to the BBC documentary with skepticism. A spokeswoman representing South Korea's Unification Ministry stated, "We have no official comment on whether humans were used for tests...there are areas [of the documentary] that are not completely free of doubt." Activists in South Korea have alleged that the government does not want to further endanger relations with the North, and therefore is avoiding confronting North Korea over the issue.

—Andrew Ward, "North Korea Gassed Prisoners to Test Weapons, Says BBC," *Financial Times* (London), 2 February 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; "North Korea Attacks US for 'Spreading Rumors' of Chemical Tests of Prisoners," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 6 February 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; Jasper Becker and Dermot Tatlow, "North Koreans Take Revenge on Chemical Tests Whistleblowers," *Independent of Sunday* (London), 8 February 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; Samuel Len, "Skepticism Over Gas Tests; Seoul to Await Probe After Report on North," *International Herald Tribune*, 3 February 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

1 March 2004

South Korea President Roh Moo-hyun says in a holiday speech that he is confident the North Korean nuclear issue will be resolved peacefully through the Six-party Talks. Roh also reiterates his call for reducing dependence on the United States in foreign affairs and military support.

—"S Korea Presid (sic) Optimistic about DPRK Nuke Problem Settlement," ITAR-TASS News Agency, 1 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Samuel Len, "South Korean Leader Urges Less Dependence on U.S.," *International Herald Tribune*, 2 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

2 March 2004

U.S. President George W. Bush tells visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon that the second round of Six-party Talks was fruitful because the six nations have clearly demonstrated that North Korea should dismantle its nuclear program.

—"Bush Upbeat on Nuke Talks with N. Korea," Yonhap News Agency, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; South Korea Foreign Minister, US President Discuss North Korea, Iraq Issues, BBC Monitoring, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Seo Hyun-jin, "Bush Confident of N.K. Nuclear Settlement," *Korea Herald*, 4 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Bush Says Dismantling NK Nuclear Programs is a 'Paramount Concern,'" *Korea Times*, 4 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

2 March 2004

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says that the Six-party Talks last week produced "a good deal of progress" and that the United States will be patient in pursuing the current negotiations with diplomacy. Powell adds "whatever they [North Korea] are doing or not doing they will not force us or pressure us into any kind of a deal that is anything short of CVID [complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement]."

— "Powell Says US in No Hurry over North Korea Nuclear Crisis," Agence France Presse, 4 March 2004, in Lexis-

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Powell Says US 'Patient' on N. Korea Nuke Dismantlement," Kyodo News Service, 4 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Salamander Davoudi, "Powell Upbeat on N-Weapons Talks," *Financial Times*, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Ban, Powell Agree on Peaceful Solution to NK Nuke Issue," Korea Times, 6 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

2 March 2004

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan praises the outcome of the latest Six-party Talks, citing "progress" and a "noticeable step forward" toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. Annan also promises to support the six nations "on ways to mobilize the support of the international community to [the denuclearization] end."
 —"Annan Sees Progress at 6-Way Talks on N. Korea Nukes," Kyodo News Service, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "UN's Annan Calls North Korea Six-Way Talks 'Noticeable Step Forward'," *Financial Times*, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Powell, Annan Cites Good Deal of Progress at Korea Talks," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

3 March 2004

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun says his government will continue dialogue and exchanges with North Korea despite a request from U.S. officials to sever ties and press North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions.

—Hwang Doo, "S. Korea to Engage N. Korea Despite U.S. Call for Severing Ties: Roh," Yonhap News Agency, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "President Says South Korea to Pursue Dialogue with North Despite US Position," BBC Monitoring, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "S. Korea to Continue to Engage the DPRK: S. Korean President," Xinhua News Agency, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

4 March 2004

Russian Ambassador to Seoul Teymuraz O. Ramishvili says the six nations participating in the Six-party Talks need to utilize flexibility with the North Korea nuclear issue because the international community may not have the legal authority to stop North Korea's peaceful nuclear activities. He argues, "According to international law, it is impossible to stop such programs. But it could be considered in a diplomatic and political context."

—Seo Hyun-jin, "Russia Urges 'Flexibility' on N.K. Nukes," *Korea Herald*, 5 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "NK Has Right to Nuclear Development," *Korea Times*, 5 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

4 March 2004

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tells reporters that the United States is in no hurry to find a solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis, saying, "We will be patient in pursuing this policy. The president strongly believes that a diplomatic solution is possible and we are not in any urgency to achieve that solution. We want a good solution."

—"Powell Says U.S. in No Hurry over North Korea Nuclear Crisis," Channel NewsAsia, 5 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

4 March 2004

South Korea's National Security Council (NSC) proposes new security policy initiatives to enhance security on the

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Korean Peninsula and allow Seoul to play a leading role in resolving the North Korea nuclear issue. Kwŏn Chin-ho, National Security Adviser to President Roh Moo-hyun, says at a press briefing that some of the proposed measures are replacing the Korean War armistice with a "peace regime," regaining wartime command and control of ROK troops from USFK, pursuing the "peace and prosperity policy" with North Korea, and restructuring the ROK army. The NSC publication, titled *Peace, Prosperity and National Security*, marks the first time Seoul has officially released a publication concerning the nation's overall national security.

—Kim So-young, "Seoul Lays Out Security Goals," *Korea Herald*, 5 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "South Korean Government Issues Publication on Security Policy," Yonhap News Agency, 3 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Seoul Softens 'Balanced Diplomacy' in Security Initiatives," *Korea Times*, 5 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "South Korea Hopes to Play Leading Role in Resolving North Nuclear Issue," BBC Monitoring, 4 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

4-5 March 2004

According to the *New York Times*, a new CIA classified intelligence report is presented to White House officials detailing for the first time how Pakistan's Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) was able to provide North Korea with equipment and technology necessary to develop uranium-based nuclear weapons, including nuclear fuel, centrifuges and warhead designs. The assessment, partly based on interrogations of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan and his associates from KRL by the Pakistani officials, purportedly provides a history of KRL's dealings with North Korea that started in the early 1990s. According to the *New York Times*, intelligence officials also claim North Korea obtained some parts through the same suppliers and middlemen as Libya.

—David E. Sanger, "U.S. Widens View of Pakistan Link to Korean Arms," *New York Times*, 14 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "KRL Provided N Korea with All Equipment to Produce Nuke Weapons," Press Trust of India, 14 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Khan Network May Have Supplied North Korea with Nuke Material: Report," Channel NewsAsia, 14 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

7 March 2004

South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon meets with Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi in Tokyo, and the two parties agree "to communicate closely and cooperate" to settle North Korea's nuclear issue through the six-party framework.

—Seo Hyun-jin, "Seoul, Tokyo to Boost Efforts on N.K. Nukes," *Korea Herald*, 8 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Koizumi, Ban Agree to Cooperate to Settle N. Korea Nukes," Kyodo News Service, 8 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

8 March 2004

A commentary by North Korea's *Rodong Sinmun* criticizes South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon for his recent remarks made in Washington regarding inter-Korea economic exchanges. Ban said it would be difficult to conduct economic exchanges between the two Koreas unless the current nuclear issue is settled. The commentary argues that the North's desire to have a nuclear deterrent force to "defend its right to existence and sovereignty" is natural and the statement by Ban corresponds to "anti-national and anti-reunification criminal acts."

—"S. Korean Foreign Minister's Unreasonable Remarks Flailed," Korean Central News Agency, 8 March 2004,

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



www.kcna.co.jp; "Rodong Shinmun: Woegyot'ongsangbu changgwan'üi sarie matchi annün kwebyön," Korean Central News Agency, 8 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp; "DPRK Condemns S. Korea for Linking Economic Cooperation with Nuclear Issue," Xinhua News Agency, 8 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

8 March 2004

A *Rodong Sinmun* commentary calls for a "verifiable and complete withdrawal" of U.S. forces stationed in South Korea as well as a "complete, verifiable and irreversible security assurance" guaranteed by the conclusion of a peace agreement and normalization of relations." It also demands that the United States stop its demand for "nuclear renouncement."

—"Key to Resolving the (Nuclear) Issue Lies in the United States' Change of Attitude," *Rodong Sinmun*, 8 March 2004, in "N. Korea Urges Verifiable, Complete Withdrawal" of U.S. Forces in South Korea," BBC Monitoring, 9 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Rodong Sinmun on Key to Settlement of Nuclear Issue," Korean Central News Agency, 8 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp; "Rodongsimnum 'munjehaegyöläi yölsenün migugüi t'aedobyönhwa'e itta," Korean Central News Agency, 8 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp.

9 March 2004

The *Rodong Sinmun*, official daily of the Korean Workers' Party, warns that any U.S. economic sanctions as part of an effort to settle the North Korea nuclear crisis would amount to a "military operation aimed at staging a large-scale war" against North Korea.

—"Must Stop Military Commotion against the Republic," *Rodong Sinmun*, 9 March 2004, "North Korean Radio Urges U.S. to Stop War," BBC Monitoring, 9 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Rodongsimnum pan'gonghwagukkunsajöksodong'ülködöch'iwöya handa," Korean Central News Agency, 9 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp.

10 March 2004

Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson visits South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, and the two leaders issue a joint statement that "a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue is essential for the maintenance of peace and stability not only in Northeast Asia but globally." Persson announced yesterday that he may visit Pyongyang to address North Korea's nuclear ambitions and issues concerning past abductions of Japanese citizens.

—"Sweden Backs Seoul's Effort for Peaceful Resolution of Nuke Crisis," Yonhap News Agency, 10 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Swedish Premier Eyes Visit to N. Korea on Nukes, Abductions," Japan Economic Newswire, 9 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Swedish PM May Still Visit North Korea This Week," Agence France Presse, 9 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Swedish Premier Urges North Korea to Abide by International Obligations," BBC Monitoring, 11 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

10 March 2004

A DPRK foreign ministry spokesperson says that the country's reluctance to abandon its nuclear program is a response to U.S. hostile policies against North Korea. The spokesperson adds, "If [the U.S.] persists in demanding a 'verifiable, irreversible and complete abandoning' of [North Korea's] nuclear program it should first promise a verifiable, irreversible and complete abandoning of its hostile policies against it."

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



—"Spokesman for DPRK FM Denounces U.S. Reckless Stand at Six-way Talks," Korean Central News Agency, 10 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp.

12 March 2004

Mitchell Reiss, director of Policy Planning at the U.S. State Department, says that the U.S. is willing to pursue a "normal relationship" with North Korea as long as the latter "accepts international demands for complete elimination of its nuclear weapons program."

—"U.S. Will Respond to N. Korean 'Actions, Not Mere Promises'," BBC Monitoring, 13 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

12 March 2004

South Korea's National Assembly passes an unprecedented impeachment bill that strips President Roh Moo-hyun of all executive powers until the Constitutional Court rules on the impeachment case. According to the ROK Constitution, Prime Minister Goh Kun assumes power as acting president.

—Chang Jae, "Parliament Impeaches Roh," Yonhap News Agency, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Shim Sun, "Impeachment Unlikely to Stall Inter-Korean Relations, Officials Say," Yonhap News Agency, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com. Samuel Len, "South Korea Parliament Votes to Strip President of Powers," *New York Times*, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com. Anthony Faiola and Joohee Cho, "Jubilant, Rage in S. Korea; Impeachment of President Exposes Deep Ideological Rift," *Washington Post*, 13 March 2004, in ProQuest, proquest.umi.com; "South Korean Premier Pledges to Maintain Existing Policies," *BBC*, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Lower-Level Talks on N. Korea Nuke Crisis to Get into Full Swing," Yonhap News Agency, 14 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Kim So-young, "Roh Likely to Survive Impeachment Bill," *Korea Herald*, 11 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "S. Korea Urges North to Tackle Nuke Dispute Despite Impeachment," Japan Economic Newswire, 14 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

12 March 2004

White House spokesman Scott McClellan tells reporters that impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will not adversely impact the Six-party Talks on North Korea's nuclear program. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says that Secretary Colin Powell spoke with South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon, and the two officials confirmed to continue "to work together on issues of mutual concern, including things like the Six-party Talks and the Korean forces that are going to Iraq."

—"U.S. Unworried about Roh Impeachment Impact on 6-Way Talks," Japan Economic Newswire, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Impeachment Not to Have 'Special Influence' on Six-Way Talks - S Korean Minister," *Financial Times*, 18 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "South Korean Premier Pledges to Maintain Existing Policies," BBC Monitoring, 12 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Seo Hyun-jin, "Goh Stresses Business as Usual; Interim Leader Stands by Troop Dispatch, North Korea Talks," *Korea Herald*, 17 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Associated Press, in "Seoul Warns N. Korea on Nuclear Talks," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 March 2004, in ProQuest, proquest.umi.com.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



14 March 2004

A spokesman for North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland says the impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has "pushed the political situation in south [sic] Korea to an unpredictable phase and brought an unbearable insult and disgrace to the south Korean people." The spokesman holds the United States responsible saying, "The U.S. had hatched such plot for 'impeachment' in south [sic] Korea since October last year."

—"Spokesman for CPRF on 'Motion on Impeachment against S. Korean President,'" Korean Central News Agency, 14 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp; "Cho'p'yŏngt'ongtaebyŏn'in namjosŏn'esŏ'ŭi t'anhaek sat'ae'nŭn chŏngch'iballan, ŭihoe'k'udet'a," Korean Central News Agency, 14 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp.

16 March 2004

North Korea's Korean Central News Agency states that Pyongyang was forced to cancel the 15 March meeting of the North-South Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation because the impeachment of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has created a "state of anarchy and is making it impossible for both sides to have safe contacts."

—"Telephone Message to Chairman of South Side," Korean Central News Agency, 16 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp; Hans Greimel, "North Korea Stokes Dispute over Scuttled Talks, Cites South Korean 'Anarchy'," Associated Press, 16 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Sang-Hun Choe, "North Korea Claims South in 'Anarchy'," Associated Press, March 16 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

16 March 2004

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao says, "The Chinese side has completed a concept paper [on the creation of working groups for the Six-party Talks]. We have submitted the paper to the other five parties concerned for opinion." Concurrently, South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Su-hyŏk arrives in Beijing to discuss the setup of working groups and the Six-party Talks.

—"China Produces Concept Paper in Drive to Resolve N Korea Nuclear Standoff," Agence France Presse, 16 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "China Drafts Principles for Working Group on North Korea," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 16 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Ted Anthony, "South Korean Envoy Arrives in China for Talks on North Korean Nuclear Program," Associated Press, 16 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "China Foreign Minister Heads to N Korea on Rare Visit, Likely with Sweetener," AFX News, 23 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

17 March 2004

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei says he wants IAEA inspectors to return to North Korea "as early as possible" with "comprehensive" rights to examine nuclear facilities. Speaking after a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, he refers to the previous limits on IAEA inspectors prior to being expelled by Pyongyang at the end of 2002.

—Michael Adler, "UN Inspectors Would Need 'Comprehensive' Mandate in North Korea; IAEA," Agence France Presse, 18 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Michael Adler, "UN Agency to Work with US on Monitoring North Korean Nuclear Program," Agence France Presse, 19 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



19 March 2004

Referring to combined U.S.-South Korean military exercises, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson says that North Korea is forced to boost its nuclear arsenal in "quality and quantity" because the U.S. continues its "increased military threat."

—"U.S. Urged to Ponder over Unpredictable Consequences to Be Entailed by Its Provocations," Korean Central News Agency, 19 March 2004, www.kcna.co.jp; Sang-Hun Choe, "North Korea Threatens to Increase Nuclear Deterrent in 'Quality and Quantity'," Associated Press, 19 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

19 March 2004

In a report to Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Japanese Foreign Ministry calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program "in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner." The report also expresses concerns about North Korea's ballistic missile program.

—"Japan Renews Call on N. Korea to Completely Abandon Nuke Programs," Japan Economic Newswire, 19 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

24 March 2004

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il meets with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to coordinate and discuss the prospects of a third round of Six-party Talks.

—"Chinese FM Meets with North Korea's Kim Jong-Il," Agence France Presse, 24 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Associated Press, in "N. Korean Leader, Chinese Aide Discuss Arms," *Washington Post*, 25 March 2004, in ProQuest, proquest.umi.com; "N. Korea's Kim Meets Chinese FM," United Press International, 24 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

27 March 2004

Radio Pyongyang reiterates that the DPRK will never accept the demand for "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling" of its nuclear weapons programs first. The broadcast insists the United States must provide economic aid and written security guarantees first and that North Korea has the right to keep civilian nuclear programs.

—"North Korea Rejects Complete Disarmament," *Korea Herald*, 29 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "North Korean Radio Criticizes US Demand for Nuclear Dismantlement," BBC Monitoring, 27 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; Joseph Kahn, "North Korea Rejects U.S. Demand to Scrap Its Nuclear Programs," *New York Times*, 28 March 2004, in ProQuest, proquest.umi.com.

29 March 2004

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon visits Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Assistant Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo in Beijing to discuss the creation of a working group for the Six-party Talks framework. Ban also asks Li, who visited Pyongyang to discuss the Six-party Talks 23-25 March, to work to grant asylum to North Korean defectors detained in China for humanitarian reasons.

—Choi Soung-ah, "Foreign Ministers Meet on N.K. Nukes," *Korea Herald*, 30 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "China, South Korea Agree on Early Start for North Nuclear Issue Working Group," BBC Monitoring, 30 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "China, South Korea Push Six-Party Working Group," Deutsche

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Presse-Agentur, 29 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com; "Seoul, Beijing Discuss NK Nuke Issue," *Korea Times*, 30 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

30 March 2004

According to North Korean media, a North Korean engineer who provided evidence supporting allegations that North Korea conducted chemical weapons tests on humans for a February 2004 BBC documentary recanted and admitted the documents were faked. The man, Kang Pyong-Sop, was arrested along with his family by Chinese authorities as he tried to flee North Korea and was returned to North Korean authorities, according to human rights activists. It is not known under what conditions Kang admitted to North Korea that the documents were false, but rights groups note that returnees to North Korea often face torture and imprisonment.

—Sang-Hun Choe, "North Korea: Alleged Gas Chamber Witness Says He Lied," Associated Press, 30 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; "North Korean Says He Faked Documents of Chemical Tests: Official Media," Agence France Presse, 31 March 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

24 June 2004

Citing a South Korean magazine article, North Korea issues a litany of accusations against the US and South Korea, accusing them of manufacturing and stockpiling numerous chemical and biological weapons on the Korean peninsula. No evidence was provided to substantiate the bulk of the claims.

—"North Korean Daily Denounces US Preparations for Biological, Chemical War," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 24 June 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

28 July 2004

The BBC program "Newsnight" interviewed a former North Korean research scientist who claimed that North Korea regularly tested chemical agents on prisoners. The man, whose identity was concealed, claimed he had performed experiments on prisoners since 1979, with the objective of determining how much lethal gas was required to kill a human, in order to calculate the amount of agent necessary to "annihilate Seoul." The report was produced by the reporter responsible for a February 2004 BBC documentary, "Access to Evil," which documented similar claims from other North Korean defectors. The new report increased pressure on the South Korean government to address the issue, which it has avoided in order to avoid inflaming tensions with the North.

—"North Korean Scientist Recounts Chemical Tests on Prisoners," Agence France Presse, 28 July 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; "Seoul Pressed to Address Claims of Human Experiments in North Korea," *Korea Times*, 3 August 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

24 September 2004

The South Korean government announced that a South Korean businessman had illegally exported 107 tons of sodium cyanide to North Korea, via transshipment through China. Sodium cyanide is a dual-use chemical which may be used to manufacture chemical weapons, including nerve agents. The man, who did not receive government approval for the export, was sentenced to 18 months in jail. The North Korean government said, via its official news agency, that the sodium cyanide was not for chemical weapons, stating, "Deals in sodium cyanide are being done among countries on the principle of meeting each other's needs."

—Park Chan-kyong, "ROK Says Sodium Cyanide Shipped to North Korea via China Sep 2003," Agence France Presse,

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



24 September 2004, OSC Document JPP20040924000085; "North Korea Defends Imports of Toxic Chemical," Associated Press Worldstream, 5 October 2004, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

18 May 2003

According to Japanese public safety and customs authorities, six Japanese trading companies associated with North Koreans living in Japan received orders from North Korea since the late 1990s for products that could be used in the production of missiles and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons. Among the materials ordered were gas chromatography analyzers, vacuum freeze dryers, constant temperature incubation tanks, and stainless steels.

—"Six Japanese Firms Received Orders for WMD-Related Materials from DPRK," *Sankei Shimbun* (Tokyo), 19 May 2003, OSC Document JPP20030520000099.

December 2003

In an unclassified report to the US Congress, the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) assessed that North Korea has "continued to acquire dual-use chemicals that could potentially be used to support Pyongyang's long-standing chemical warfare program. North Korea's chemical warfare capabilities included the ability to produce bulk quantities of nerve, blister, choking, and blood agent, using its sizeable, although aging, chemical industry. North Korea possesses a stockpile of unknown size of these agents and weapons..."

—DCI Weapons Intelligence, Nonproliferation, and Arms Control Center, *Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions-Attachment A*, 1 July - 31 December 2003, pp. 5-6, www.cia.gov.

2002-2001

5 March 2002

General Thomas A. Schwartz, Commander in Chief of the United Nations Command/Combined Forces, United States Forces Korea, testifies before the US Senate. His assessment of the North Korean military posture included the following statement: "A large number of North Korean chemical weapons threaten both our military forces and the civilian population centers of South Korea and Japan. We assess that North Korea has very large chemical stockpiles and is self-sufficient in the production of chemical components for first generation chemical agents...North Korea can deploy missiles with chemical warheads and potentially have the ability to weaponize biological agents for missile delivery."

—Thomas A. Schwartz, Statement before the 107th Congress, Senate Armed Services Committee, 5 March 2002, p. 8.

29 August 2002

In Seoul, John Bolton, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, says that "in addition to its disturbing weapons of mass destruction activities, North Korea also is the world's foremost peddler of ballistic missile-related equipment, components, materials and technical expertise." Bolton also says that George W. Bush's reference to North Korea as being part of an "axis of evil" was "more than a rhetorical flourish--it

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



was factually correct." Bolton says the Agreed Framework is "in serious doubt" unless safeguards inspections begin soon, and there is "little doubt that North Korea has a chemical weapons program and "one of the most robust offensive bioweapons programs on earth."

—Sang-Hun Choe, "Negotiator Says N. Korea Well-Armed," *Washington Post*, 29 August 2002, www.washingtonpost.com; Martin Nesirky, "U.S. Official Calls N. Korea 'Peddler' of Missile Technology," *Washington Post*, 30 August 2002, p. 17, www.washingtonpost.com; Xinhua News Agency, 29 August 2002, in "Xinhua: US Urges DPRK To Accept IAEA Atomic Inspections," FBIS Document ID: CPP20020829000040; Kim Ji-ho, "U.S. Diplomats Meet Seoul Officials on North Korea, Presidential Race," *Korea Herald*, 29 August 2002, www.koreaherald.co.kr; Kwon Kyung-bok, "State Department's Bolton Visits Cheong Wa Dae," *Chosun Ilbo*, <http://english.chosun.com>; Kwon Kyung-bok, "Bolton Says NK 'Armed to the Teeth'," *Chosun Ilbo*, 29 August 2002, <http://nk.chosun.com/english>; "Bolton to Arrive in Seoul Today," *Korea Times*, 27 August 2002, www.koreatimes.co.kr; Hwang Chae Hun, "Hanmi 'Puk WMD' Taech'aek Hyöb'üi (Chonghap)," Yonhap News Agency, 28 August 2002, www.yonhapnews.net; Hwang Chae Hun, "Bolton, 'Geneva Hab'üi' Mirae Uryö," Yonhap News Agency, 29 August 2002, www.yonhapnews.net.

29 January 2002

US President George W. Bush delivers a State of the Union address in which he identifies North Korea, Iran, and Iraq as members of an "Axis of Evil." With respect to North Korea, Bush stated, "North Korea is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens."

—US White House, Office of the Press Secretary, "President Delivers State of the Union Address," 29 January 2002, www.whitehouse.gov.

1 January 2001

The South Korean newspaper *Sindong-a* reports that Unit 32, the most secretive element within the DPRK Nuclear and Chemical Defense Bureau, oversees chemical weapons research and production. It is further estimated that chemical warheads for the Nodong-1 are also researched and developed by Unit 32.

—Ch'oe Yong Chae, "US Strategy Pressuring DPRK on Biological, Chemical Weapon," *Sindong-a* (Seoul) in Korean, 1 January 2002, pp. 300-313, translated in FBIS: KPP20011220000016.

18 October 2001

The DPRK claims that Japan, under the pretense of building defenses against chemical warfare, is in fact "making preparations for biological and chemical warfare."

—"Dangerous Forces of Aggression Attempting to Ignite Fuse of Biochemical War," Korean Central Broadcasting Station (P'yongyang), in Korean, 18 Oct 2001, transcribed in FBIS Document KPP20011018000112.

29 October 2001

P'yongyang's Korean Central Broadcasting Station reports on past chemical and biological warfare (CBW) research conducted in the United States, saying that "this shows how much the US warmongers have run amok recklessly to develop biochemical weapons."

—"US Past Attempt to Develop Biochemical Weapons Denounced," KCNS broadcast, in FBIS Document KPP20011029000084.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



20 November 2001

ROK Defense Minister Kim Dong Shin tells the South Korean parliament that the DPRK possesses up to 5,000 tons of biochemical weapons, stored at six different facilities.

—Yonhap News Agency broadcast, in English, transcribed in FBIS Document KPP20011120000003.

28 November 2001

South Korean military sources indicate that North Korea possesses 2,500 to 5,000 metric tons of chemical weapons. Chemical weapons (CW) agents included in this arsenal are VX, sarin, and phosgene. [Note: The figure of 5,000 tons is also used in a statement by ROK Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha on 6 May 1997. This assessment is in line with other recent estimates, ranging up to 4,500 tons.]

—Kang Tong Hyong, "Status of North Korea's Arsenal of Weapons of Mass Destruction," in *Taehan Maeil*, internet version, in FBIS Document KPP20011127000106.

2000-1997

February 2000

General Thomas Schwartz, in charge of America's 37,000 troops in South Korea, warns that North Korea has "tremendous capability" in terms of both conventional and chemical weapons despite the suffering the country has endured economically in recent years.

—Don Kirk, "North Korean Power Grows, U.S. General Warns," *International Herald Tribune*, 17 February 2000, p. 5.

May 2000

In an unclassified report, a special advisor to the commander in chief (CINC) of the UN Command in Korea reports that "USFK [US Forces in Korea] J2 assesses that the North is self-sufficient in the production of chemical components for first generation chemical agents. They have produced stockpiles estimated at up to 5,000 metric tons of several types of agents, including nerve, choking, blister, and blood."

—Stephen Bradner, "North Korea's Strategy," 1 August 2000, paper presented at the third NPEC/Institute for National Security Studies/Army War College sponsored workshop on Comparative Strategies, 12-14 June 2000, Arlington, Virginia, www.wizard.net.

June 2000

"South Korea will press North Korea to scrap or at least reduce its chemical weapons stockpile, a ROK defense official says. "North Korea is presumed to possess 2,500 to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons."

—"South Korea to Press North Korea to Reduce Chemical Weapons," AFX News Limited/Asia, 21 June 2000;

"Koreas: South Studies Proposal for both Koreas to Scrap Chemical Weapons," Yonhap News Agency, Seoul, 20 June 2000, BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific.

21 January 1999

A *New York Times* editorial, entitled "Reducing Russian Dangers," suggests that former Soviet weapons scientists might abet rogue nations in acquiring weapons of mass destruction: "There is no longer any threat of Russia's

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



deliberately attacking the United States. But Moscow's still-formidable stocks of nuclear bombs, nuclear ingredients and biological and chemical warfare agents pose a different kind of danger. Much of this material is inadequately secured, and the workers guarding it are paid poorly or not at all. That creates an unacceptably high risk that some material could be sold to potential aggressors like Iraq, Libya, North Korea, or Serbia. Many Russian weapons scientists are also unemployed or unpaid and vulnerable to foreign recruitment."

—(Editorial board), "Reducing Russian Dangers," *New York Times*, 21 January 1999, p. A22.

29 January 1999

General Stanislav Petrov, head of Russian nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces, denies the *New York Times* editorial on 21 January 1999 that suggested Russian chemical weapons technology were proliferating to foreign countries, including Iraq, Libya, North Korea, or Serbia. ITAR-TASS news agency quoted General Stanislav Petrov, as saying: "The escape or transfer of chemical weapons to third countries is out of the question."

—"Russia Denies Chemical Weapons Going Abroad," Agence France Presse, 29 January 1999.

10 March 1999

North Korea refutes US assertions that it is developing chemical weapons and instead accuses the United States of employing unconventional munitions during the Korean War.

—Edith M. Lederer, "N. Korea: US Used Banned Weapons," AP Online, 10 March 1999.

20 March 1999

South Korea is conducting military exercises in Kumchon County to deflect any North Korean agents that intend to enter the country using hang gliders, paragliders, and hot air balloons to launch chemical weapons attacks. South Korean Defense Ministry officials also report that, "For the past two years, North Korea has been importing hang gliders, motorized paragliders and hot air balloons and has been training a special unit to use them to sneak into South Korea for espionage or possible to launch biological or chemical weapons attacks."

—Sonni Efron, "S. Korea Prepares for Glider Attacks," *The Gazette*, 20 March 1999, p. C11; Sonni Efron, "S. Korea Troops Look Skyward," *Los Angeles Times*, 20 March 1999, p. 4.

21 April 1999

The North Korean Peace Committee issues a statement that accuses South Korea of developing and stockpiling chemical weapons.

—"North Korea Releases Statement on South 'Stockpile' of Chemical Weapons," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 21 April 1999.

3 June 1999

Japanese officials announce their suspicions that North Korea is developing chemical weapons.

—"Japan Suspects North Korea Has Biological and Chemical Weapons, the Foreign Ministry Said," AP Worldstream, 3 June 1999.

10 June 1999

The South Korean Ministry of National Defense (MND) estimates that the DPRK possesses eight chemicals plants, four research laboratories, and six storage facilities as chemical weapon-related facilities, and that the DPRK would

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



employ chemical weapons (CW) agents by means of "mortars, field artillery, multiple rocket launchers (MRLs), and Frog, Scud and Nodong-1 missiles on land, fire support vessels at sea, and fighters, bombers and transport aircraft in the air." The DPRK "has the capability of launching chemical munitions into our forward areas and as far as Pusan and Mokpo. The North may also dare to launch such an attack through its SOF [special operations forces] troops armed with chemical weapons."

—Katsuhiro Kuroda, "DPRK Manufactures Chemical Weapons," *Sankei Shimbun*, 10 June 2000, internet edition, translated in FBIS Document ID: JPP2000061000025.

14 June 1999

In response to Japanese media claims that the DPRK is equipped with chemical and biological weapons, the North Korean official news agency (KCNA) issues a categorical denial.

—"KCNA on Japan's Nuclear Arming," KCNA News Agency, Pyongyang, in English, 14 June 1999, transcribed in BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

October 1999

A South Korean document, originating from the defense ministry, states that North Korea is increasingly focusing on stockpiling chemical weapons. It is estimated that current stockpiles lie around 5,000 tons, five times what it was in 1997.

—David Watts, "Germ Warfare Claim," *The Times*, 13 October 1999.

March 1998

US Undersecretary of Defense Slocombe states that North Korea is "working on acquiring nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons capability that poses a threat to Japan."

—"N. Korean Weapons Threatening Japan: Slocombe," Jiji Press Ticker, 6 March 1998.

July 1998

Satellite images (Spot Image, software by Research Systems) obtained by a South Korean news agency purports to confirm that North Korea is producing chemical weapons in facilities along its northern border with China. A facility is identified in Sakchu "believed to had chemical agents into military ordnance, possibly even missile warheads."

The imagery also seems to show widespread environmental damage around the facility, leading many to believe that the facility is releasing dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere rather than neutralizing them.

—"Armed and Desperate: Satellites Show North Korean Chemical Weapons," CBN (Christian Broadcast Network), 24 July 1998, www.cbn.org.

19 September 1998

ROK government officials claim that a North Korean "kamikaze" or suicide squad "with some 140 run-down fighters . . . could be outfitted with chemical weapons including poison gas."

—"Koreas: South Says North's 'Suicide Squad' May Carry Chemical Weapons," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 19 September 1998.

1 December 1998

Japan asks the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to urge North Korea to join the

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

—"Foreign Minister Urges Chemical Weapons Body to Deter North Korea," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 3 December 1998.

February 1997

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy accuses China and North Korea of shipping "terrible chemical weapons" to Syria.

—" [Thirty] Planeloads of Iranian Arms to Hezbollah Since April: Levy," *Agence France Presse*, 3 February 1997.

23 April 1997

Hwang Chang Yop, 74, a former tutor of North Korean leader Kim Chong Il who defected to South Korea, asserts that North Korea has developed nuclear and chemical weapons that are "capable of scorching" South Korea and Japan. He also states that North Korea could potentially start a war out of sheer desperation.

—"N. Korea Capable of Nuclear attack, Defector Claims: Nation Ready for War, Report Says," *The Ottawa Citizen*, 23 April 1997.

24 April 1997

North Korea advises that the defector who claims North Korea possesses nuclear and chemical weapons is deranged and "sick with paranoia."

—"North Korea says defector is deranged and paranoid," *Chicago Sun Times*, 24 April 1997.

6 May 1997

Following the questioning of defecting DPRK Workers' Party Secretary, Hwang Chang Yop, South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha states that North Korea is believed to possess about 5,000 tons of chemical weapons. In testimony before the National Assembly Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee, he declares that North Korea operates eight chemical weapons plants in "Oaji" and elsewhere that are capable of producing 5,000 tons of chemical weapons annually. He also said that the ROK government would "urge North Korea at international meetings to join the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)." [Note 1: The foreign minister in this case was probably referring to Aoji-ri; Note 2: The figure of 5,000 tons is also referred to in a 28 November 2001 report quoting South Korean military sources.]

—"South Korean Minister Says North has 5,000 Tons of Chemical Weapons," 8 May 1997, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

7 May 1997

ROK Vice Foreign Minister Yi Ki Chu expresses "deep concern over the failure of North Korea to join the CWC [Chemical Weapons Convention]," saying that the DPRK's stockpile of chemical weapons poses a threat to the security of both South Korea and Northeast Asia.

—"South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Urges Pressure on North over Chemical Arms," Yonhap News Agency, Seoul, 7 May 1997, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

19 May 1997

Citing a threat from the DPRK, Secretary of Defense William Cohen says that the United States has increased its spending on counterproliferation measures, especially on chemical defenses. "I think the chemical weapons threat

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



is proliferating far beyond North Korea," he said.

—"Pentagon cites rising threat of chemical weapons," *Agence France Presse*, 19 May 1997.

5 July 1997

South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Chong Ha testifies that the ROK government is working with the United States to develop counter-measures to North Korean chemical and biological weapons.

—"Korea-US to counter north biological-chemical weapons," *Digital Chosunilbo*, 5 July 1997, www.metro.seoul.kr.

11 July 1997

A ROK Ministry of National Defense report claims that 1,000 tons of chemical weapons are already in the North Korean arsenal, and that the DPRK has a capability to manufacture 5,000 tons a year.

—"South Korea to Link Aid to Repositioning of North's Military Forces," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 12 July 1997.

August 1997

South Korean Joint Chief of Staff states in an official report that North Korea is developing about 15 tons of chemical weapons daily and has a stockpile of approximately 1,000 tons. Of the latter, 70 tons are actually filled in munitions and are deployed, while the remaining are in bulk storage.

—"N. Koreans' 'Amassing Chemical Weapons'," *The Daily Telegraph*, 19 August 1997, p. 13.

21 October 1997

Ch'oe Ju Hwal testifies that North Korea possessed the following chemical weapons (CW) agents in its arsenal: sarin, soman, tabun, V-agents; mustard, lewisite, hydrogen cyanide, and cyanogen chloride (*yamoshun*).

—Testimony, Hearing of the International Security Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Weapons Proliferation in North Korea, 21 October 1997.

1996-1950

March 1996

US officials believe that North Korea would definitely use chemical weapons if it attacks South Korea, but the likelihood of such an attack is quite minimal.

—"US Thinks N. Korea Could Use Chemical Arms," Japan Economic Newswire, 18 March 1996.

8 April 1996

Japanese police arrests Tanetoshi Li, 34, after he allegedly exported hydrofluoric acid and sodium fluoride to North Korea without permission from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

—"Trader Nabbed for Illegal Chemical Exports," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 8 April 1996.

11 April 1996

Citing a secret Defense Intelligence Agency report, *Shukan Gendai* alleges that North Korea has been developing an offensive chemical weapons capability since 1990. It also claims that there are plants all over the country (including

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



those at Kanggye and Sakchu) producing over 20 types of chemical warfare agents, such as sarin and potassium cyanide.

—"Real Threat: DPRK Chemical Weapons," *Mainichi Daily News*, 11 April 1996.

August 1996

Analyst Joseph Bermudez reports on 12 North Korean chemical facilities alleged to be manufacturing chemical weapons (CW) agents. Facilities include the storage depots at Kanggye and Sakchu, Factory No. 279 (CW defense equipment), and "store offices" at Maram and Chiha-ri. Six corps munitions depots specializing in CW ordnance are found at Sanum-ri, Hwangch'ŏn, Samsan-dong, Sariwŏn, and Wangjaebong. CW agent manufacturing is alleged to take place at the following cities in chemical plants: Anju, Aoji-ri, Ch'ongjin, Hamhung, Hwasung, Manp'o, Sakchu, Sariwon, Shinhung, Shin'ŭiju, and Sunch'ŏn.

—See also Table 8.2, DPRK Chemical Warfare Facilities, in Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., *The Armed Forces of North Korea* (New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2001), p. 225.

December 1996

A Korean resident in Japan, Kim Won-pong, lists nine factories in the North that are capable of producing chemical weapons (CW) agents, these being located in Anju, Aoji-ri, Ch'ongjin, Hamhŭng (two facilities), Hwasŏng, Manp'o, Shin'ŭiju, and Sunch'ŏn.

—FBIS Report: "DPRK Factories Suspected of Producing Chemical Agents," Kim Won-pong, *Kitachosen jinmingun no zensho* (Portrait of the North Korean People's Army), Tokyo, December 1996, p. 127, translated by FBIS, 17 December 1996.

14 April 1995

According to the *Seoul Shinmun*, "North Korea is estimated to have up to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons, most of which is sarin (GB) gas...and only a limited stock of other types of chemical weapons, such as those that have suffocating and blood-affecting properties."

—"South Estimates DPRK Has 5,000 Tons of Chemical Weapons, Mostly Sarin," *Seoul Shinmun*, 15 April 1995, p. 1, in BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

March 1995

According to Yonhap, "North Korea has stockpiled about 1,000 tons of chemical weapons including those of sarin...North Korea, he said, is capable of producing 4,500 tons of chemical weapons a year in peace-time and 12,000 tons in war."

—"South Says North Korea Has 1,000 Tons of Chemical Weapons," Yonhap news agency, Seoul, 21 March 1995, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

22 September 1995

South Korea's National Unification Board submits a report to the National Assembly that says North Korea has about one ton of biological and chemical weapons, and that they can be delivered by FROG-5s, FROG-7s and Scud missiles. The report lists the following biological and chemical agents: blister agent, nerve agent, choking agent, blood agent, tear gas, cholera, plague, anthrax, and hemorrhagic fever.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



—Kang Söng Bo, "Puk Saenghwahangmugi 1 Ch'önt'on Poyu/Yöndaegüpkkaji Hwahaksodae P'yönsöng Hullyön," *Kyunghyang Shinmun*, 23 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr; Kim Rang Ki, "Puk, Saenghwahangmugi 1 Ch'ön t Poyu/T'ong'ilwön Kukkamjaryo," *Chosun Ilbo*, 23 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr; "Seang-Hwahangmugi/1 Ch'ön t Poyu/Pukhan/T'ong'ilwön Kukkamjaeryo," *Taehan Maeil*, 23 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

23 September 1995

South Korea's Foreign Ministry submits a report to the National Assembly that says North Korea has between 1,000 and 5,000 tons of biological and chemical weapons (combined). The report says that most of North Korea's artillery and multiple rocket launchers are capable of delivering chemical weapons to Seoul. Furthermore, North Korea's Scud missiles are capable of striking all of South Korea.

—Kim Yön Kwang, "Puk Hwahangmugisudo'gwan'I Sajönggwan/Scud Changch'ak Ddaen Hanbando Chön'yök," *Chosun Ilbo*, 24 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

29 September 1995

In testimony before the National Assembly, General Kim Hong Rae, South Korean Air Force Chief of Staff, says that North Korea has deployed about 600 FROGs and Scuds. Kim says that North Korea has chemical weapons, and is developing nuclear weapons. General Kim also says the United States has three intelligence satellites monitoring North Korean military activities.

—Kyodo News Service, "N. Korea Said to Have Deployed Hundreds of Missiles," Japan Economic Newswire, 29 September 1995, in Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, www.kinds.or.kr; Hwang Yu Söng, "'Puk Missile 6 Paekki Chakchön Paech'i'/Kongch'amch'ongjang Kukkam Tappyön," *Donga Ilbo*, 30 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr; Lee Chung Kün, "'Puk Scud 6 Paekki Chakchönbaech'i'/Hanbandojön'yök'I Sajönggwon/Konggunbonbu Kukkam," *Kyunghyang Shinmun*, 30 September 1995, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr; Hō Yong Pöm, Hong Sök Chun, and Kwön Sang Ŭn, "Puk, Scud Subaekki Paech'i/Kongch'amch'ongjang Kukkamdappyön/Namhan Chön'yök Sajönggwon," *Chosun Ilbo*, 30 September 1995, p. 1, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

22 February 1994

In a white paper, the South Korean National Unification Board claims that North Korea has eight functional chemical weapons plants and three laboratories working on biological weapons capabilities. The government white paper also alleges that its northern neighbor has 1,000 tons of stored bio-chemical weapons.

—N. Korea Operates Eight Chemical Weapons Plants: Seoul," *Agence France Presse*, 22 February 1994.

22 March 1994

Recent DPRK military defector Yi Chung Kuk states that "North Korea has chemical weapons enough to demolish the southern part of the peninsula without using nuclear weapons."

—"N. Korea Has Enough Chemical Weapons to Demolish South: Defector," *Agence France Presse*, 22 March 1994.

April 1994

Sgt. Yi Chung Kuk, who defected to South Korea on 18 March [1994], tells a news conference that North Korea has

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



the technology to mount chemical weapons onto Scud missiles though it is not capable of mounting nuclear weapons.

—"Defector on Chemical Warfare Capability, Leadership and Food Shortage," Kyodo News Service, 28 April 1994, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts; "N. Korea's Scuds Said Capable of Carrying Chemicals," Japan Economic Newswire, 28 April 1994.

April 1994

Yi Chung Kuk, a former member of the People's Armed Forces Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau, alleges link between the "February 8 Vinalon Complex" and chemical weapons production. He further alleges that the father of "vinalon," a synthetic fiber produced in North Korea, also contributed his expertise to North Korea's weapons of mass destruction research and development, including chemical weapons.

—FBIS Report: "DPRK's Yi Sung-ki, Reputed 'Godfather' of Chemical, Nuclear Weapons, Profiled," 25 April 2001, Document ID *KPP20010425000114*.

26 September 1994

The South Korean National Unification Board accuses North Korea of testing chemical weapons on its political prisoners. The unification board also reports to the National assembly that North Korea currently possesses about 1,000 tons of chemicals for use in a war.

—"North Korea Alleged Using Detainees in Chemical Weapons Tests," AP, 26 September 1994.

15 January 1993

The North Korean Foreign Ministry denies that its government is developing and stockpiling chemical weapons and its official position against the development of such unconventional weapons has not changed from before: "The Korean People's Democratic Republic has never had any chemical weapons and the stand of its government, which comes out against its development, production, stockpiling and application, has not changed a bit."

—Vladimir Nadashkevich, "North Korea Has No Chemical Weapons," ITAR-TASS, 15 January 1993.

28 April 1993

A Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) broadcast declares that "It is a fact known to the world that the DPRK, which sets store by international law and has complied with it in good faith, has no chemical weapons."

—KCNA, "DPRK Has No Chemical Weapon Plant," 28 April 1993, Transcribed in Joint Publications Research Service, JPRS-TND-93-012, 4 May 1993.

May 1993

Analyst Joseph Bermudez reports that North Korea is estimated to have the capacity to "produce at least 4,500 tons of chemical agents annually, and it has already stockpiled 1,000 tons of chemical weapons."

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "North Korea's Chemical and Biological Warfare Arsenal," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 5, No. 5, May 1993, p. 228.

29-30 May 1993

North Korea successfully tests Nodong-1 missile. The missile is suspected of being able to deliver a chemical

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



payload.

—David E. Sanger, "Missile Is Tested by North Koreans," *The New York Times*, 13 June 1993, p. 7.

February 1992

Kim Il Sung directs that protective masks be provided to the entire population of the DPRK. Regular nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) defense drills are also required of both military and civilian personnel. [Note: Apparently, this is the first time that such extensive training and equipment have been given to the civilian population in North Korea.]

—From ROK MND, *White Paper*, 1999, www.mnd.go.kr.

23 October 1992

The ROK Agency for National Security Planning claims the DPRK had "six chemical-weapons storage centers, each outfitted with a stockpile of 1,000 tons of material—a portion of which the military keeps in the payloads of artillery pieces."

—"North Korea Said to Have Chemical- and Biological-Weapons Capabilities," UPI, 23 October 1992.

18 November 1992

North Korea categorically refutes all South Korean claims that it is developing a chemical weapons stockpile. It states that the South Korean propaganda is baseless for it is counting pharmaceutical and medicinal facilities to be part of the alleged chemical weapons' infrastructure. North Korea also charges that the US government has placed "as many as 25,000 drums of chemical weapons of 10-odd types, including poisonous gas" in South Korea.

—"North Korea Denies Reports of Chemical Weapons Production," BBC, 18 November 1992, Summary of World Broadcasts.

24 November 1992

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev says that his country has urged North Korea to open itself up to inspections of nuclear facilities and to join the Chemical Weapons Convention.

—"Russia Calls on North Korea to Agree to Nuclear Inspections," BBC, 24 November 1992.

1991

Offensive roles of the nuclear and chemical defense units in the Korean People's Army are codified in a military manual, *Konggyokchon* [Offensive Warfare], published at the Kim Il Song Military University. According to this 1991 manual, in wartime and during conduct of military operations, nuclear and chemical defense units would be organized into chemical reconnaissance and flame-thrower units.

—Kim Kwi Kun, "DPRK to Operate Nuclear-Chemical Defense Units in All-Out War," *Choson Ilbo* (Internet version), 7 December 1999, translated in FBIS Document FTS19991208001896.

8 November 1991

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo announced that the ROK would not manufacture, possess, or use either nuclear or chemical weapons. President Roh also encouraged the North Korean government to make a reciprocal pledge.

—T. R. Reid, "S. Korean Leader Pledges Policy of No Nuclear Arms," *Washington Post*, 8 November 1991, p. A27.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



11 June 1990

US Secretary of Defense Cheney says that 23 countries have plans to develop chemical weapons, and that 10 others, including North Korea, already possess chemical weapons.

—"Hwahangmugi-T'ando Missile Pukhan Kaebalgyehoek/Cheney Mi Kukpang Palg'hyö," *Joongang Ilbo*, 12 June 1990, p. 2, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

22 June 1990

In a speech before the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, US Secretary of Defense Cheney states that 23 countries are involved in developing a chemical warfare program, to one extent or another. Cheney notes that "...23 foreign countries have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programs, and 10 have, or may have, biological warfare programs. Once again, that would include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and North Korea."

—Robert MacKay, "Cheney: 23 Nations May Have Chemical Weapons Programs," UPI, 22 June 1990.

1989

DPRK government announces its desire for "turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free, peace zone as well as a zone free from chemical weapons."

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "North Korea's Chemical and Biological Warfare Arsenal," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 5, No. 5, May 1993, p. 226.

January 1989

The reported inventory of chemical weapon (CW) agents in the DPRK includes sarin (GB), tabun (GA), phosgene (CX), adamsite (DM), mustard agent family and blood agents (hydrogen cyanide).

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "CW: North Korea's growing capabilities...," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 14 January 1989, p. 54.

January 1989

North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Young Nam states that his country was not involved with producing or storing nuclear and chemical weapons and was not interested in importing such weapons either.

—"Major step forward for North Korea," *The Daily Yomiuri*, 15 June 1991, p. 6.

January 1989

Chemical weapon (CW) agents are reportedly produced at 11 locations in North Korea.

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "CW: North Korea's growing capabilities...," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 14 January 1989, p. 54.

29 January 1987

ROK Minister of Defense, Lee Ki Baek tells the *Korea Herald* that "North Korea has stockpiled some 180 to 250 metric tons of chemical weapons, including mustard gas and nerve gas."

—"Defense Minister on DPRK Submarine, Rocket Test," *The Korea Herald*, 29 January 1987, p. 1, in FBIS-APA-87-020, 30 January 1987, p. E4.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



May 1985

A senior participant at the 7th ROK/US Military Committee Meeting says "it is quite likely that North Korea would use its chemical weapons . . . and has stockpiled considerable amounts of chemical weapons."

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "North Korea's Chemical and Biological Warfare Arsenal," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 5, No. 5, May 1993, p. 226.

1984

Korean People's Army (KPA) officer (phonetically rendered as "Ting Jung Chen") is named chief of the [KPA's?] External Business Affairs bureau based on his success in CW agent production. [Note: According to testimony from Ch'oe Ju-Hwal, a DPRK defector, the position described is usually held by a KPA officer with a rank of general. This organization may be part of the "Yongaksan Company" in the External Economic General Bureau under the Second Economic Committee.]

—Testimony, Hearing of the International Security Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Weapons Proliferation in North Korea, 21 October 1997.

May 1979

The US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) reports that "North Korea has developed a protective chemical weapons (CW) capability. It is further estimated that the DPRK would proceed with development of an offensive capability, including the production and weaponization of CW agents.

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "North Korea's Chemical and Biological Warfare Arsenal," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Vol. 5, No. 5, May 1993, p. 226.

Late 1970s

Kim Jung Chan, a Korean People's Army (KPA) officer who served as military attaché in the North Korean embassy in East Germany, reportedly obtains "technical know-how" for the production of chemical weapons (CW) agents from the East German government.

—Testimony, Hearing of the International Security Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Weapons Proliferation in North Korea, 21 October 1997.

Late 1970s

Ongoing, large-scale production of chemical agents reported in North Korea, including cyanogen chloride, as well as limited production of mustard and Tabun.

—"South Korea Says North Has Biological, Chemical Weapons," Kyodo News Service, 23 October 2 1992; Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "CW: North Korea's growing capabilities...," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 14 January 1989, p. 54.

1966

The Soviet Union resumes technical assistance to the DPRK in 1966, including nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) training materials. Moscow also provides "small quantities" of mustard and nerve agents to North Korea.

—Pak Tong-sam, "How Far Has the DPRK's Development of Strategic Weapons Come?" *Pukhan*, January 1999, pp. 62-71, translated in FBIS Document ID: FTS19990121001655.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



1961

Kim Il-sung announces the "Declaration for Chemicalization," an effort said to include construction of research and production facilities for chemical weapons production.

—Republic of Korea, Ministry of National Defense, *White Paper 2000*, www.mnd.go.kr.

1961

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) establishes the "chemical bureau" (later designated as the Nuclear and Chemical Defense Bureau in 1981) under the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces.

—"North Said Owning Enough Chem-Weapons to Wipe out South," Japan Economic Newswire, 22 March 1994.

1957-1961

Under the "First Five-Year Plan," North Korea begins development of an offensive, chemical weapons production capability.

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "CW: North Korea's growing capabilities...," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 14 January 1989, p. 54.

1954

The Korean People's Army (KPA) establishes regular chemical/biological units. [Note: Considering this occurs following the Korean War (1950-53), these units were most likely defensive in training and material.]

—Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., "CW: North Korea's growing capabilities," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 14 January 1989, p. 54.

1950s

North Korea reportedly receives sarin (GB, nerve agent) from the USSR. Pyongyang later builds chemical weapons plants with technical assistance from the Soviet Union. [Note: The source provides no details concerning the exact nature of these "chemical weapons plants."]

—"South Says North Korea Has 1,000 Tons of Chemical Weapons," Yonhap News Agency, Seoul, 21 March 1995, BBC Summary of World Broadcasts.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.

