

MEMMO

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North Korea Tests U.N. Resolve Against Nuclear Weapons

North Korea's nuclear test poses a threat to international peace and security. Left unchecked, it could provide a harmful precedent for dealing with Iran's nuclear program. North Korea is the first state to violate its commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; Iran is the second. Both countries have pursued similar political tactics and have a long history of military cooperation. The U.N. Security Council must now apply firm sanctions on both Iran and North Korea to force these rogue regimes to reconsider their nuclear programs.

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- Iran and North Korea both secretly built their nuclear programs during the course of many years in violation of their obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- Iran violated its agreement with the EU-3 by restarting its uranium enrichment-related activities just as North Korea earlier broke the terms of its 1994 agreement with the United States by running a covert uranium enrichment program and reprocessing plutonium.
- Despite breaking their agreements with the West, Iran and North Korea have both avoided most punitive action, while international action has focused on offering positive incentives for these regimes to change course.
- Iran's president and parliament have threatened to withdraw from the NPT. In 1993, North Korea issued a similar threat, which it carried out in 2003.

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- North Korea sold Iran its No Dong ballistic missile, which Iran adapted into the Shihab-3, a missile capable of striking Israel.
- U.S. intelligence analysts and scientists reportedly believe that North Korea sold uranium gas to Libya, raising the possibility that such material could be sold to Iran.
- North Korean scientists reportedly have provided nuclear know-how to Iran and have advised Iranians on constructing underground bunkers to protect nuclear facilities.
- Tehran and Pyongyang, according to the *Sunday Times* of London, have discussed a possible exchange of Iranian oil and gas shipments for North Korean plutonium, a development that would significantly shorten the timeframe for Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons.

The U.N. Security Council must take decisive action to prevent Iran—like North Korea—from developing nuclear weapons.

- The failure of the international community to take decisive action has thus far led both regimes to conclude that they can ignore the international community's demands with impunity.
- If the international community exacts real costs on the regime in Pyongyang, it may convince Iran to reconsider its pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- The Security Council also must now follow through on its stated intention to impose appropriate economic and political sanctions on the Iranian regime, including a ban on nuclear technology transfers to Iran.
- The Bush administration should use all the tools at its disposal, such as the recently passed Iran Freedom Support Act, to make clear that the United States will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

Basic Facts Summary

- Iran has mimicked North Korean tactics to advance its nuclear program while avoiding most punitive measures.
- North Korea has a long history of weapons proliferation and suspected cooperation with Iran on missile and nuclear development.
- The U.N. Security Council must take decisive action to prevent Iran—like North Korea—from developing nuclear weapons.