

## North Korea's Proposal for Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula

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In-depth Report: NORTH KOREA

The Korean Central News Agency released the following report on Saturday:

Recently the DPRK government proposed a crucial step to the U.S. government to remove the danger of war, ease tension and create a peaceful climate on the Korean peninsula, prompted by the desire to join efforts of all Koreans to open up a broad avenue to independent reunification in 2015 marking the 70th anniversary of the division of the Korean nation.

The large-scale war games ceaselessly held every year in south Korea are the root cause of the escalating tension on the peninsula and the danger of nuclear war facing our nation. It is needless to say that there can be neither trust-based dialogue nor detente and stability on the peninsula in such a gruesome atmosphere in which war drills are staged against the dialogue partner.

The United States should desist from pursuing the anachronistic policy hostile towards the DPRK and reckless acts of aggression and boldly make a policy switch.

If this significant year can be made a year free from joint military exercises on the peninsula, it will greatly contribute to providing reconciliation and trust for Korea's reunification and, furthermore, for peace and security in Northeast Asia.

The message containing the proposal of the DPRK government was handed to the U.S. side through a relevant channel on Jan. 9.

The message proposed the U.S. to contribute to easing tension on the Korean peninsula by temporarily suspending joint military exercises in south Korea and its vicinity this year, and said that in this case the DPRK is ready to take such responsive step as temporarily suspending the nuclear test over which the U.S. is concerned.

And it expressed the DPRK's stand that if the U.S. needs dialogue as regards this issue, the former is ready to sit with the U.S. anytime.

If the joint military exercises staged by the U.S. in south Korea and its vicinity every year are targeted on the DPRK only, there will be no reason why the former cannot accept the DPRK's proposal.

Now is the time for the U.S. to make a bold decision for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

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