

Worrisome Military Agreement and End-of War Declaration

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Hello. This is 'Armful(Han-a-reum)' of the Catholic University of Korea, responsible for the first speaker of the 2018 University Unification Association Symposium 'Undergraduate Non-summit regarding the inter-Korean summit'. We are going to raise an issue on comprehensive military agreement (CMA) and end-of war declaration.

1. Introduction.

Starting with the Pyeongchang Olympics earlier this year, the two Koreas are easing strained ties and achieving historically unprecedented achievements. Besides, North Korean-U.S. relations is also lessening its tension. Therefore, the relationship between two Koreas and North Korean-U.S. earns a lot of attention not only domestically but also internationally. On the other hand, however, some people are critical of this rosy picture. So we've investigated the gains and the losses of current situation. Of course, it would be a great pleasure for us if we could achieve positive results in two Koreas and North Korean-U.S. relations as we see it, and look forward to a peaceful and unified Korean Peninsula. However, it's more than meets the eye, because we are dealing with North Korea. We tried not to under- or overestimate North Korea. As you may know, North Korea has lost the confidence of South Korea and international community due to its inconsistent attitude for decades. Our presentation starts here. We will start with presenting key agenda of CMA followed by views of two Koreas on end-of war declaration, and finally suggesting the need for a proper understanding of North Korea.

2. The point.

To begin with, CMA is about reducing military tensions in three spaces : land, sea and air. First of all, on land, two Koreas agreed to set up a buffer zone of 10 kilometers, north and south 5km respectively, on the basis of the Military Demarcation Line, and to stop artillery firing and outdoor maneuvers of the regiment level. Second, on sea, two Koreas agreed to set a maritime

buffer zone of 80 km, spanning from Deokjeokdo to Chodo in the West Sea and Sokcho to Tongcheon in the East Sea. In this maritime buffer zone, artillery firing and naval drills will be suspended. Thirdly, in the air, the two sides will set a 40 km-wide no-fly zone for fixed-wing aircraft along the western part of the MDL and a 80 km-wide one along the eastern side. (10 km for helicopter, 25 km for unmanned aircraft) But they set exceptions for emergencies, such as when aircraft need to be used to extinguish wildfires or transport patients.

The two sides also agreed on operational procedures to prevent accidental military clashes in the implementation of military talks.

First: We agreed on a total of five procedures, including two warning broadcasts and two warning shots, before taking military action on land and sea. Second: We agreed on a four-step process which require us to go through warning communication and signals, cut-off flights, and warning shots, before taking military action in the air. Third: In order to push for the withdrawal of all guard posts (GPs), we agreed to withdraw 11 posts from North and South Korea within 1 kilometer of each other by the end of December 2018. Fourth: The three-way consultative body between two Koreas and the U.N. was established to remove landmines and demilitarize. Han River estuary was set as a common water zone, and the safety of the joint survey and civilian access is militarily guaranteed.

Based on the military agreements, Let me explain our concerns. First of all, overall, the current military agreement has a greater disadvantage to South Korea than North Korea. Because up until

now, military provocations have been made from North to South Korea. Since North Korea was in the position of offense and South Korea was in the position of defense, the limitations of aerial reconnaissance or surveillance posts may not be as disadvantageous to North Korea. But for South Korea, aerial reconnaissance and surveillance posts serve as the "eye and ear," absolutely necessary means of survival for national security. In that sense, current agreement is against South Korea. The next concern is military imbalance.

In terms of the conventional military balance, the difference between South and North Korea can be characterized as qualitative versus quantitative. South Korea is superior in quality and North Korea is superior in quantity. In this context alone, there seems to be no significant problem in current constraints, but the problem is that North Korea has exclusive dominance since it holds weapons of mass destruction (WMD) such as nuclear weapons and firearms by not carrying out full denuclearization. The Northern Limit Line (NLL) is rather worrisome. The suspension of South and North Korea's artillery firing and naval maneuvers at the NLL, where military clash most frequently occurred, could have a negative impact on coping with the North's sudden attack. This is because North Korea angers with little or no provocation. The biggest concern is end-of war declaration that North Korea comes out with. It literally refers to a public announcement to the international community that the state of war between the countries is completely over. However, there is a difference between two Koreas' view of the North's end-of war declaration. South Korea's views on end-of war declaration are as follows. South Korea hope end-of war declaration serve as a stepping stone to resolve the North Korea-U.S. hostility and achieve a peace treaty. South Korea believe that after the end-of war declaration, two Koreas can implement blueprint for peace on the Korean Peninsula. However, North Korea's views on end-of war declaration are quite far from the previous views. North Korea's desire is to gain justification for changing its image from a pariah state to a normal state and lifting sanctions. I would like to say two concerns about North

Korea's end-of war declaration before denuclearization : One is that, as mentioned above, two Koreas' conflicting views, and the other is that North Korea's ulterior motive. As an example, the third paragraph of the North Korean-U.S. Joint Statement on June 12, 2018, states that "Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK) commits to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula"¹⁾, but the day before, North Korea issued statement in the North Korean state's newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, erasing the term "complete". It can be interpreted that North Korea has no intent to denuclearize. Because North Korea does know the meaning of the term "complete". Since the first inter-Korean summit and various statements to the end-of war declaration today, North Korea has been emphasizing the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula under a consistent slogan of "by our people." North Korea has called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops for years. For example, in the fifth of the government statement issued by the DPRK in 2016, it argues that "We should declare the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South Korean Peninsula, which has a right to use nuclear weapons".

3. Conclusion.

In conclusion, North Korea has caused nuclear crisis in order to obtain the political benefits it needs. And based on that, the vicious circle of nuclear package deal kept repeated, and if things are getting less favorable for them, North Korea immediately broke off the deal.

In other words, if South and North Korea improve their relationship and really want to move forward to peace treaty, no one will block the way. However, North Korea, as we know, is very unusual opponent to approach and interpret in our common sense. Therefore, we should slow down and go over step by step in cooperation with the international community. This concludes our presentation. Thank you.

1) original text :

http://www.hani.co.kr/arti/international/international_general/848770.html#csidxde2f7a614bab3c3b8339f6091acec08