Press Release

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Pak Gil Yon,
Permanent Representative of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the United Nations

At the General Debate of the First Committee

New York, 15 October 2007
Mr. Chairman,

Today, the world still remains gravely threatened by the policy of the so-called “super power” based on unilateralism, high-handedness and preemptive nuclear strikes.

The moves such as rapid development of nuclear weapons of new types and establishment of missile defense system worldwide, among others, prove that the “super power” has crossed a redline in executing its strategy that envisages pre-deterring the emergence of potential challenging forces after the end of cold war.

Mr. Chairman,

The key issue for ensuring the world peace and security is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons on the globe through nuclear disarmament.

If we are forced to accept the logic that big countries alone are entitled to possess nuclear weapons and attack or threaten small countries, the humankind will never realize its desire for a peaceful and prosperous world.

Some countries are pursuing only one aspect of non-proliferation, regarding nuclear disarmament as one thing and proliferation as another.

It is alleged that there will no longer nuclear threats once proliferation is hold in check. This is no more than a pretext for monopolizing nuclear weapons by evading nuclear disarmament.

There can be no non-proliferation apart from nuclear disarmament. As long as nuclear weapons and nuclear threats exist, their proliferation is inevitable.

If the nuclear weapon states are truly in favor of the international peace and security, and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, they should come up with a timetable for their nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we are looking forward to early convening of the 4th special session of the UNGA devoted towards disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The overall situation of the Asian region remains tense with the Korean peninsula in its centre.

The missile defense system of the United States is already being deployed openly in Asia while it is still controversial in Europe, and an undisguised move to form a new military alliance is going on as well.

It is no longer secret that such moves are targeting the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its neighboring countries.

The root cause of the present instability in the Korean peninsula and Asian region is the
US hostile policy on the DPRK of more than half a century.

For the DPRK, small in its territory and population, and still in shortage of almost everything, it is not easy to safeguard the national sovereignty single-handedly in the face of the collective hostile power politics of the US and her followers.

The only way for the DPRK is to strengthen the defensive military capability of the country by its own effort even though it requires the further tightening of a belt. This underlines the necessity of the Songun politics of our great leader General KIM JONG IL.

Mr. Chairman,

Denuclearizing the Korean peninsula is the lifetime teachings of the great leader President KIM IL SUNG, and a peaceful resolution to the nuclear issue is our consistent position.

The DPRK has made sincere efforts to this end, thus enabling the announcement of the Joint Statement of September 19, 2005, followed by the agreements on the initial and second phase steps on February 13 and in the late September respectively as a result of the several rounds of the six party talks held so far.

It is, indeed, a courageous political decision and a clear manifestation of its will towards denuclearizing the Korean peninsula for the DPRK to halt the operation of the Nyongbyon nuclear facility, a parent body of our independent power industry built with tremendous human and material resources, with a view to their eventual dismantlement.

Hence, the full implementation of the September 19 Joint Statement rests with the other five parties fulfilling their own obligations on the basis of the principle of “actions for actions”. It depends particularly on how practical measures the United States and Japan will take to end their hostile policies on the DPRK.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is, in essence, directly linked to the removal of the US hostile policy and its nuclear threats against the DPRK.

The United States should do away with the legal and institutional arrangements antagonizing the DPRK through delisting the latter from the terror-sponsoring-states and lifting sanctions of the trade with enemy act.

The DPRK will continue its sincere endeavors towards peace and security in the Korean peninsula and region.
Thank you.