

N. Korea

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national studies at the College of William & Mary in Virginia. Analysts say the regime has enough plutonium for about eight nuclear bombs.

The deal "requires a certain amount of trust that the North Koreans are not being thoroughly deceptive," said Ted Galen

Carpenter of the libertarian Cato Institute. "The North Koreans have violated every single agreement they've ever signed on nuclear matters over the last decade and a half."

Bush and his top diplomatic aides said they plan to watch carefully to make sure North Korea follows through on its promises. That process began today, when North Korea blew up the cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor complex before television cameras in an apparent

gesture of good will. "The next 45 days will be an important period for North Korea to show its seriousness of its cooperation," Bush said in announcing the agreement from the White House Rose Garden. "I'm under no illusions that this is the first step."

National security adviser Stephen Hadley said the United States will review North Korea's submission.

Bush branded North Korea part of the "axis of evil" with Iraq and

Iran in 2002 and cut off diplomatic talks initiated by the Clinton administration. Four years later, North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test.

In recent months, the Bush administration has negotiated actively with China, Japan, South Korea and Russia. Its agreement to take North Korea off the State Department's list of terrorism sponsors in 45 days unless Congress intervenes will leave Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria on the list. Some conservatives said North

Korea cannot be trusted to carry out its side of the bargain.

"If I am not satisfied with the verification mechanisms developed, I would not support the easing of sanctions on North Korea," said Republican presidential candidate McCain.

Democrats and liberals were cautious. Obama said "critical questions remain unanswered," including North Korea's plutonium production, uranium enrichment and engagement in proliferation.

A few experts were more optimistic. Jim Walsh, an international security expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said history might record yesterday's development as the moment when North Korea entered the community of nations, much as Libya did several years ago.

"With the closure of this reactor, North Korea's nuclear weapons program is capped and frozen," he said. "At a minimum, I think we're safer today than we were a year ago."

N. Korea's economy unlikely to benefit soon, analysts say

Secretary of state says nearly all restrictions on trade will remain

BY JAE-SOON CHANG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The North Korean people are told to remain on constant vigil against American attack, and that the food shortages and constant blackouts they suffer are caused by U.S. sanctions.

Better relations with Washington, signaled by the latest progress in their nuclear standoff, could eventually lead to an improvement in the dire economic situation of the country's 23 million people. But with many steps to go in North Korea's disarmament process, analysts say that is unlikely to happen anytime soon.

The United States said yesterday it would lift key trade sanctions against the North and remove it from a U.S. terrorism blacklist as a reward for the government submitting a list of its nuclear programs.

"North Korea is likely to use the rapid progress as propaganda to its people, saying: 'We won a diplomatic victory,'" said Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University. "That would give North Korean people expectations for a better life."

The North's removal from the terror list, which will happen 45 days later, would theoretically clear the way for the impoverished nation to seek low-interest development loans from U.S.-controlled international lenders, such as the International Mone-

tary Fund.

But such loans are not possible unless Pyongyang makes significant progress in dismantling its nuclear programs and opening up to the outside world. Washington's easing of trade sanctions under an act limiting trade with enemy countries will also have little effect on the North's economy as it remains the subject of a host of other sanctions.

The actions "won't bring any immediate benefits to the North's economy," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies. "They're only meaningful in that they symbolize a shift in the U.S. hostile policy toward the North."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also said in an opinion article contributed to the Wall Street Journal yesterday that

"nearly all restrictions" to be lifted with regard to the enemy act "will remain in place under different U.S. laws and regulations."

Still, progress would pave the way for the remainder of the economic aid — pledged to the North under the disarmament agreements — to flow into the country more smoothly.

Pyongyang was promised 1 million tons of oil worth of economic aid under the nuclear pacts. But only about 40 percent of that has gone to North Korea so far, which had earlier caused the North to slow its work to disable the nuclear reactor. If work on disabling the reactor picks up, more of the oil and energy aid could begin flowing again.

North Korea faces the worst food shortages in years because of severe floods that devastated

its farmland in 2007. The country has relied on foreign handouts to feed its population since mismanagement and natural disasters devastated its economy in the mid-1990s. As many as 2 million people are estimated to have died of hunger then.

The North's goodwill could also overcome obstacles to de-

livery of Washington's promised food aid of 500,000 tons and encourage other nations to join in providing humanitarian assistance, analysts said. More aid will depend on whether the North allows monitoring to ensure it reaches the needy — something it has been touchy about in the past.

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Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Navy (Navy), after carefully weighing the operational and environmental consequences of the proposed action, announces its decision to support and conduct current and emerging Department of Defense (DoD) training and research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities in the Hawaii Range Complex (HRC), and upgrade or modernize range complex capabilities to enhance and sustain training and RDT&E. The Navy considered applicable Executive Orders, including an analysis of the environmental effects of its actions outside the United States or its territories under the provisions of Executive Order 12114 (*Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*) and the requirements of Executive Order 12898 (*Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations*). The proposed action will be accomplished as set out in Alternative 3, described in the Final EIS/OEIS as the preferred alternative. Implementation of the preferred alternative could begin immediately. Because the Navy is required by section 5062 of Title 10 of the United States Code to organize, train, equip, and maintain combat-ready forces, ongoing training and RDT&E activities within the HRC will continue at current levels in the event that the proposed action is not implemented.

The decision was made after consideration of potential environmental consequences of the operationally viable alternatives. The Navy identified a reasonable range of alternatives, based upon the criteria set out in the Final EIS/OEIS, that would satisfy its purpose and need. Alternatives considered in the Final EIS/OEIS were identified as the No-action Alternative, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3. Alternatives 1 through 3 include the No-action Alternative in their descriptions. Alternative 3 was selected because it allows the Navy to meet its future warfare training and RDT&E mission objectives while avoiding increases in potential effects on marine mammals above baseline levels of mid-frequency and high-frequency active sonar hours associated with anti-submarine warfare training in the HRC. The ROD describes applicable mitigation measures for the selected alternative.

The ROD has been distributed to all those individuals who requested a copy of the Final EIS/OEIS and agencies and organizations that received a copy of the Final EIS/OEIS. The full text of the ROD is available for public viewing at <http://www.govsupport.us/navynepahawaii/downloads.aspx>. Single copies of the ROD will be made available upon request by contacting the Public Affairs Officer, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Attn: HRC EIS/OEIS ROD, P.O. Box 128 Kekaha, Hawaii, 96752-0128; email: feis_hrc@govsupport.us; or calling the Public Affairs Officer at (866) 767-3347.

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