South-North Dialogue in Korea

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Office of Inter-Korean Dialogue

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Chapter I

Overview

Chapter I. Overview

The Park Geun-hye administration of South Korea (ROK: the Republic of Korea) has endeavored to resolve pending issues through dialogue between the South and North, while firmly responding to North Korean provocations by consistently maintaining its stance on the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula.

Based on these efforts, a total of 13 inter-Korean talks (six political and military talks, four economic talks, and three humanitarian and sociocultural talks) were held during 2014 and 2015.

Through the New Year's presidential press conference (January 6, 2014), the South Korean government proposed taking the occasion of Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) to hold a reunion for families separated by the Korean War, and sent a note the same day proposing that an inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting be held to discuss preparations. However, in a proposal released by North Korea's National Defense Commission on January 16, North Korea (DPRK: Democratic People's Republic of Korea) demanded the cessation of both ROK–US joint military exercises and "slander" as preconditions for taking measures to improve inter-Korean relations. In response, South Korea clarified that the ROK-US joint military exercise was an annual defensive training exercise and that the South did not engage in slander of North Korea.

On January 24, the fourth meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for Commuting, Communications, and Customs (3Cs) for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) was held, at which the two Koreas neared agreement in regard to regular daily commuting. On February 5, at an inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting, the two sides agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal.

However, on February 6, through a statement issued by the spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission, the North warned that it would be difficult to implement the agreement on the reunion for separated families without first resolving the defamation issue. Expressing regret at this stance, South Korea urged the North to implement the agreement. Inter-Korean high-level meeting was then held on February 12 and 14, where the two Koreas agreed not to slander each other and to promote the reunion for separated families as planned. In accordance with this agreement, the reunion for separated families took place at Mt. Geumgang from February 25 to 30.

Immediately after the inter-Korean high-level meeting, however, North Korea heightened military tension by firing ballistic missiles. In a response to a news reporter by the spokesperson for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) on February 27, as well as in a statement released by the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on March 11, the North criticized the South, claiming that statements related to North Korea's nuclear weapons released by the president and other government officials of South Korea constituted a "violation of the agreement on the cessation of slander." South Korea responded by expressing displeasure and urging the North to stop criticizing the president and government of the South.

On March 13, the first meeting for the operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex was held, but the two Koreas merely exchanged opinions and were unable to reach an agreement.

After this meeting, in a public written inquiry issued by the CPRF on April 23 and a special proposal made by North Korea's National Defense Commission on June 30, the North reiterated its demands for the cessation of ROK-US military exercises and "slander." South Korea refuted these unilateral and unreasonable demands and took resolute measures accordingly.

On May 23, North Korea officially notified the Olympic Council of Asia of its intention to participate in the 17th Incheon Asian Games. In a 'government statement' on July 7, the North announced that a cheering squad would also be dispatched. On July 10, in a letter from the chairman of its Olympic Committee, the North offered to hold an inter-Korean working-level meeting. On July 17, such a meeting did indeed take place to discuss North Korea's participation in the games, but due to North Korea's unilateral decision to terminate the negotiations, it ended without agreement. Later, through the liaison channel at Panmunjeom, the South and North agreed on practical issues related to the latter's participation in the games. A total of 273 North Korean athletes and staff took part in the Incheon Asian Games held from September 19 to October 4.

On August 11 South Korea, maintaining its consistent stance that pending issues should be resolved through dialogue, proposed holding the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on August 19 to discuss issues related to both parties, such as holding a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok (Korea's Thanksgiving Day).

However, a statement released by the CPRF on August 14 contained no response to South Korea's proposal; instead it urged the South to change its stance towards North Korea.

On October 3, a day before the closing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games, an official in the North's delegation to the Asian games notified South Korea that high-level North Korean officials, including Hwang Pyong-so, the Director of the General Politics Bureau of the Korea People's Army (KPA), and Choe Ryong-hae and Kim Yang-gon, both Secretaries of the Workers' Party, would participate in the closing ceremony. Accordingly, on October 4, Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on the occasion of the Incheon Asian Games took place. The two sides agreed to hold, at some time between late October and early November, the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting that the South had proposed.

However, on October 7, North Korea provoked the South by violating the Northern Limit Line (NLL). Then, under the pretext of rectifying this matter, North Korea proposed an urgent inter-Korean meeting. When the Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting was held on October 15, North Korea demanded the cessation of "slander" and the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations. In response, South Korea maintained its consistent position that the ROK government could not restrict private sector activities, and the meeting ended without any agreement.

In accordance with the agreement made at the Inter-Korean High-Level Talks held on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games, South Korea proposed, on October 13, the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. It did not, however, take place, because the North demanded the cessation of anti-DPRK leaflet disseminations by private

organizations as a precondition for such meetings. Expressing its disappointment, South Korea urged the North to change its position.

On December 29, South Korea's Presidential Committee for Unification Preparation proposed further South-North dialogue. On January 6, 2015, through a statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Unification, South Korea again urged North Korea to agree to hold "inter-Korean dialogue without regard to formalities."

However, on January 7, 2015, in a statement by the spokesman for the National Defense Commission, North Korea demanded that South Korea clarify its position on ROK-US military exercises, the unification of the two systems, the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, and competition between political ideologies. The North argued that such a clarification was a prerequisite for improving inter-Korean relations, and continued repeating this claim without responding to South Korea's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue.

South Korea clearly pointed out the injustice of North Korea's claims on every major occasion and urged the North to respond to its proposal that it enter into South-North dialogue.

In July, North Korea relented, and the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC was held. However, the meeting ended without agreement due to the difference in positions between the two parties.

At the beginning of August, South-North relations took on a new aspect. Amidst military tensions heightened by North Korea's wooden-box landmine provocation on August 4 and its firing on loudspeakers on August 20, North Korea urgently proposed an inter-Korean meeting. From August 22 to 24, an Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' meeting

was held at Panmunjeom. During the talks, the North explicitly expressed regret about its landmine provocation, and the two parties agreed to activate inter-Korean dialogue and non-governmental exchanges.

In the second half of 2015, the two Koreas undertook to implement the agreement reached at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting. From September 7 to 8, an inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting was held, resulting in both sides' agreement to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok. From October 20 to 26, the reunion took place at Mt. Geumgang. On November 26, at the working-level meeting preparing for Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks, the South and North agreed to have the First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks, at which the chief delegate of each side would be a vice-ministerial level official. At the First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks held in Gaeseong from December 11 to 12, the South and North exchanged opinions on pending issues about inter-Korean relations, such as the resolution of the issue of separated families. However, the North insisted that the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism should be a prerequisite for further discussion, and the meeting ended without agreement.

From 2014 to 2015, North Korea showed its inconsistency by veering back and forth between provocation and dialogue, which effected repeated swings inside South-North dialogue itself. After provoking the South, North Korea usually proposed urgent meetings, as if intent on resolving the situation through dialogue. But once dialogue began, it would provoke South Korea again and criticize the South Korean government. This repeatedly strained South-North relations and led to the cessation of dialogue.

While exhibiting a negative attitude towards dialogue, the North reacted defensively to loudspeaker broadcasting and the dissemination of leaflets by private organizations as well as to South Korean official statements and press reports regarding human rights and denuclearization in North Korea. Rejecting the North's unreasonable demands, the South Korean government explained that it could not control the activities of either the media or the private sector. Responding resolutely to the demand for the cessation of ROK-US military exercises, South Korea consistently emphasized that the ROK-US military exercise was an annual defensive training exercise.

Inter-Korean Dialogues (January 2014 ~ December 2015)

Field	Name	Date	Location
Political (5)	Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting	Feb. 12 and 14, 2014	Panmunjeom (Peace House)
	Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on the Occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games	Oct. 4, 2014	Incheon
	Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting	Aug. 22~24, 2015	Panmunjeom (Peace House)
	Working-Level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks	Nov. 26, 2015	Panmunjeom (Tongilgak)
	The 1st Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks	Dec. 11~12, 2015	GIC

Field	Name	Date	Location
Military (1)	Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting	Oct. 15, 2014	Panmunjeom (Peace House)
Economic (4)	The 4th Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs	Jan. 24, 2014	GIC
	The 1st Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission	Mar. 13, 2014	GIC
	The 5th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC	Jun. 26, 2014	GIC
	The 6th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC	Jul. 16, 2015	GIC
Humanitarian and Sociocultural (3)	Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting	Feb. 5, 2014	Panmunjeom (Tongilgak)
	Inter-Korean Working-Level Meeting for the Incheon Asian Games	Jul. 17, 2014	Panmunjeom (Peace House)
	Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting	Sep. 7~8, 2015	Panmunjeom (Peace House)

Chapter II

Inter-Korean Political Dialogue

Chapter II. Inter-Korean Political Dialogue

1. Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting (Feb. 12 and 14, 2014)

A. Overview

In 2014, President Park Geun-hye of South Korea (ROK) stressed the urgency and importance of resolving the separated families issue at the New Year's press conference, and the government proposed an inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting on January 6. However, North Korea rejected South Korea's proposal, citing through a note on January 9 the need for the cessation of ROK-US joint military exercises. In a statement issued by the spokesperson for the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) on January 15 and the critical proposal made by the National Defense Commission on January 16, the North again demanded the cessation of ROK-US joint military exercises and mutual slander.

Later, after consultation between the two Koreas, an inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting was held on February 5, and the South and North agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) from February 20 to 25. However, on February 6, the next day of the working-level meeting, North Korea

warned through a statement by the spokesperson for the National Defense Commission that implementing the agreement on the reunion for separated families would be difficult unless the slander issue was resolved. South Korea expressed disappointment at this and urged North Korea to implement the agreement.

On February 8, North Korea sent an urgent note proposing an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, which South Korea accepted. That Meeting took place at the Peace House in Panmunjeom on February 12 and 14.

Five South Korean delegates participated, including First Deputy Director of the National Security Office Kim Kyou-hyun as head delegate and other officials from the Blue House (Cheong Wa Dae), Ministry of Unification and Ministry of National Defense. North Korea was likewise represented by five delegates, including Deputy Director of the United Front Department Won Dong-yeon as head delegate and other officials from the National Defense Commission.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Kim Kyou-hyun** (First Deputy Director, National Security Office)	**Won Dong-yeon** (Deputy Director, United Front Department)
Delegates	**Hong Yong-pyo** (Secretary to the President for Unification) **Bae Kwang-bog** (Director General, Ministry of Unification: MOU) **Kim Do-kyun** (Director, Ministry of National Defense) **Son Jae-rak** (Director General, Office of the Prime Minister)	**Jon Jong-su** (Deputy Director, Secretariat of the CPRF) **Kim Sung-hye** (Senior Official, Secretariat of the CPRF) **Lee Sun-kwon** (Senior Official for Policy, Secretariat of the National Defense Commission) **Park Ki-yong** (Senior Official, Secretariat of the National Defense Commission)

B. Progress of the Meeting

1) The First Meeting (Feb. 12)

At the First Inter-Korean Meeting, the South and North had a total of four sessions (two plenary and two head delegate sessions). South Korea explained the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula and urged North Korea to consider the issues of a reunion for separated families on Seollal and regular reunions for separated families.

The South emphasized that the implementation of the planned reunion for separated families was the first step towards improving inter-Korean relations. It also stressed that both Koreas should build trust

with each other by carrying out that reunion as agreed upon.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ The reunion for separated families on Seollal should be held as agreed, and the issues of regular family reunions and the confirmation of the status (living or deceased) of family members for separated families should also be resolved.

○ The Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula refers to the two Koreas establishing trust through basic cooperation, which will lead to improvement in inter-Korean relations.

- Sharing South Korea's experience in agriculture and the livestock industry and promoting businesses can restore ethno-national harmony between the South and North.
- Planning of the DMZ World Eco-Peace Park and the Eurasia Railroad should be undertaken.

○ The denuclearization of North Korea is required for the proper improvement of inter-Korean relations.

North Korea demanded that South Korea cease its "slander" and military "hostilities" for the improvement of inter-Korean relations. It also linked the reunion issue to ROK-US joint military exercises by demanding that the Key Resolve and the Foal Eagle military exercises due to begin on February 24 be postponed until after the reunion for separated families.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ North Korea hopes that this meeting will provide crucial momentum for the improvement of inter-Korean relations in the future.
- ○ Due to the continuous military exercises of the South, inter-Korean relations are facing difficulties and the reunion for separate families is experiencing crisis.
  - Slander between the North and South and large-scale war exercises should cease.

However, the South repeatedly emphasized its firm stance that South Korea could not accept North Korea's demand because linking the reunions for separated families and ROK-US joint military exercises was tantamount to linking purely humanitarian issues with military matters.

The North insisted that the South Korean government control the press, with a special view to media reports on the "supreme dignity" and political ideology of North Korea, but the South clarified that it would be impossible for the government to do so. The South and North decided to continue the discussion after exchanging opinions on mutual interests, and the meeting was adjourned.

2) The Second Meeting (Feb. 14)

At the second meeting, the South repeatedly explained the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula and stressed that the reunion for separated families should take place as planned.

Comprehensive Summary of South Korea's Statement

○ The military exercises of South Korea are annual defensive training exercises.

- The reunion for separated families, which is a humanitarian issue, cannot be linked with military matters.

○ If inter-Korean trust is built, based on the reunion for separated families, South Korea can promote endeavors beneficial to both the South and North.

Comprehensive Summary of North Korea's Statement

○ Humanitarian matters and military matters can never be regarded separately.

○ The direction of North-South relations should be clarified.

- The resolution of the family reunion issue is by itself insufficient for a fundamental improvement in inter-Korean relations.

Through discussions, the two sides agreed to proceed with the reunion for separated families as planned and cease mutual slandering in order to improve inter-Korean relations and increase mutual trust. The two Koreas also agreed to continuously discuss mutual interests through Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting in the future. The outline of this agreement was announced in the form of a joint statement.

Summary of Joint Statement

- ○ The South and North agreed to hold a reunion for separated families as scheduled.
- ○ The South and North agreed not to slander each other in order to promote mutual understanding and trust.
- ○ The South and North agreed to continuously discuss issues of mutual interest and strive to improve inter-Korean relations.
  - The South and North agreed to hold an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting at a mutually convenient date.

C. Results and Trends

The South Korean media reported that "the First Inter-Korean High-Level Talks were beneficial" and the South and North "took the first step toward mutual trust."[1] It also made the evaluation that "President of South Korea Park Geun-hye and First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of North Korea Kim Jong-un seem to have reached an agreement."[2]

Under the agreement reached between the South and North, a reunion for separated families was held at Mt. Geumgang from February 20 to 25.

1 The Dong-A Ilbo, February 13, 2014; The Kyunghyang Shinmun, February 15, 2014.
2 Korea JoongAng Daily, February 15, 2014.



Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting (Feb. 12 and 14, 2014)

However, North Korea escalated military tension by firing short-range ballistic missiles on February 21 and during March 3~4. The North also asserted that statements related to human rights in North Korea released by the South Korean government and the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations were a violation of the agreement on the cessation of slander. In response, the South Korean government expressed disagreement, reiterating that it could not restrict the activities of private organizations and that in compliance with the Inter-Korean Agreement, it had not slandered North Korea. However, the North responded with a statement issued on March 29 by the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation for the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting that fiercely criticized the South Korean president for the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations. It also threatened South Korea, using the expressions such as “home of provocations,” “heap of ashes” and “sea of fire.”

Through a public written inquiry issued by the CPRF on April 23 and a special proposal made by the National Defense Commission on June 30, North Korea again demanded the cessation of ROK-US joint military

exercises and "slander," and the abolition of South Korea's National Security Law. In resolute response, South Korea clarified that ROK-US joint military exercises were an annual defensive training exercise, urged North Korea to cease repeating unilateral arguments, and encouraged it to participate in inter-Korean dialogue at the earliest possible date.

2. Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on the Occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games (Oct. 4, 2014)

A. Overview

The South and North agreed to have a subsequent meeting at the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting in February 2014. However, North Korea's launching of short-range ballistic missiles and criticism of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations strained inter-Korean relations. Accordingly, the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting could not take place.

On August 11, South Korea again proposed that the two Koreas hold the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on August 19 to discuss mutual interests, including the issue of a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day). In response, through a statement released by the CPRF on August 14, North Korea demanded changes in South Korean policy towards North Korea without responding to South Korea's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. Through the presidential speech commemorating Liberation Day on August 15 and a statement issued by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Unification on

August 18, South Korea repeatedly urged North Korea to enter into inter-Korean dialogue.

Although the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting did not take place, the South and North agreed, through the Panmunjeom liaison channel, on practical matters related to the participation of the North Korean team in the 17th Incheon Asian Games. Subsequently, a total of 273 North Korean athletes and staff in 14 sporting events participated in the Incheon Asian Games held from September 19 to October 4.

On October 3, a day before the closing ceremony, through a North Korean official participating in the Asian Games, North Korea delivered its intention to send high-ranking officials, including Hwang Pyong-so, Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA, and Choe Ryong-hae and Kim Yang-gon, Secretaries of the Workers' Party, to the closing ceremony of the Games. The South accepted this offer, and Inter-Korean High-Level Talks were held on October 4 in Incheon between the South Korean delegation and the North Korean delegation visiting South Korea to attend the closing ceremony of the Asian Games.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Delegates	**Kim Kwan-jin** (Director of the National Security Office) **Ryoo Kihl-jae** (Minister of Unification) **Kim Nam-sik** (Vice Minister of Unification) **Kim Kyou-hyun** (First Deputy Director, National Security Office) **Hong Yong-pyo** (Secretary to the President for Unification) **Kim Ki-woong** (Assistant Minister for Unification Policy, MOU) **Chun Hae-sung** (Assistant Minister for Inter-Korean Dialogue, MOU)	**Hwang Pyong-so** (Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA) **Choe Ryong-hae** (Secretary of the Workers' Party) **Kim Yang-gon** (Secretary of the Workers' Party) **Kim Yong-hun** (Head of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports) **Son Kwang-ho** (Vice Chairman of North Korean Olympic Committee)

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the beginning of the Inter-Korean High-Level Talks, the North Korean delegation conveyed greetings from First Chairman of the National Defense Commission Kim Jong-un to the president of South Korea. At the Talks, the two sides agreed on the need for the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue and to hold between late October and early November the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, which South Korea had proposed on August 11. The two Koreas also agreed to have practical discussions on the details for the meeting.

After the Talks, the North Korean delegation also had face-to-face talks with the South Korean prime minister as well as with members of

the governing and opposition parties. At the face-to-face talks with the prime minister, Hwang Pyong-so, Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA, said, “We cleared a small path this time, but let us pave a great road in the future.” After attending the closing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games, the North Korean delegation departed on the same day through Incheon International Airport.





Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on the Occasion of
the Closing Ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games (Oct. 4, 2014)

C. Results and Trends

The Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games drew national and international

attention. The press perceived it as "North Korea's surprise to underscore its team's athletic prowess" and "escape from isolation." At the same time, it expressed hopes for future inter-Korean relations, reporting that the athletes "came with the will to talk" and "conveyed greetings to the president."[3] The North Korean media also reported the high-level delegation visit to Incheon, saying that "the delegates for national reconciliation from Pyongyang went to South Korea, and this cultivated an opportunity to improve North-South relations."[4]

However, immediately after the Talks, the North provoked the South. On October 7, a North Korean coast guard vessel crossed the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the West Sea, and, on October 10, North Korea shot down balloons containing anti-DPRK leaflets disseminated by South Korean private organizations and the falling bullets caused damage to a South Korean area.

Nevertheless, on October 13, the South Korean government proposed the holding of the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on October 30 in accordance with the agreement from the Inter-Korean High-Level Talks on October 4 but North Korea did not respond to this proposal.

Through a note sent on October 26, North Korea criticized the South Korean government for overlooking the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by private organizations on October 25. Through a note sent on October 27, South Korea clarified that there would be no change in its position on the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by private organizations and urged the North to clearly express its position on

3 The Dong-A Ilbo; The Segye Ilbo; The Chosun Ilbo; The Hankyoreh, October 6, 2014.
4 The Choson Sinbo, October 5, 2014.

South Korea's October 13 proposal for the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. However, through a note sent on October 29, North Korea listed the cessation of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations as a precondition for the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting.

The Ministry of Unification spokesperson expressed displeasure on October 29 over the increasing difficulty of holding the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting due to North Korea's insistence on the cessation of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets as a prerequisite for inter-Korean dialogue, and urged North Korea to change its position.

South Korea constantly strove to build trust between the two Koreas and improve inter-Korean relations through South-North dialogue. On December 29, South Korea's Presidential Committee for Unification Preparation again suggested inter-Korean dialogue. On January 6, 2015, through a statement by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Unification, South Korea urged the North to participate in "an inter-Korean dialogue without insisting on formalities."

However, through a statement released by the spokesperson for the National Defense Commission on January 7, 2015, North Korea demanded that South Korea clarify its position on the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, ROK-US joint military exercises, unification of the two systems, and competition between political ideologies. The North stated that these were preconditions for improving inter-Korean relations. Such demands continued for a considerable period. North Korea repeated its position through a 'government statement,' National Defense Commission and CPRF statement, without responding to South Korea's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue.

3. Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting (Aug. 22~24, 2015)

A. Overview

On August 4, 2015, within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in a South Korean area along the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in Paju, Gyeonggi-do, two soldiers were injured by landmines. A joint field investigation between the Combat Readiness Inspection team of South Korea's Ministry of National Defense and the special inspection team of the UNC Military Armistice Commission determined that North Korean soldiers illegally entered the MDL and intentionally buried wooden-box landmines. On August 10, the South Korean government announced the investigation results and urged North Korea both to apologize and to punish the officials responsible. At 5 pm on that day near the MDL, South Korea commenced loudspeaker broadcasting into North Korea.

Through a statement released by the National Defense Commission on August 14 and a public warning issued by the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA) Front Command on August 15, North Korea denied that it had buried landmines in the DMZ and threatened to fire at the loudspeakers unless South Korea ceased its broadcasts. On August 20, the North Korean army fired at South Korean loudspeakers and declared a virtual state of war in the frontal zone. On that day, North Korea sent an ultimatum via the General Staff Department of the KPA to the Ministry of National Defense in South Korea demanding that "unless South Korea ceases psychological warfare broadcasting within 48 hours and completely removes the broadcasting equipment, North Korea will initiate strong

military actions that could lead to war."

On the same day, North Korea also sent a note from Kim Yang-gon, Secretary of the Workers' Party, insisting that the resumption of psychological warfare broadcasting was in essence a declaration of war. It also said that North Korea was willing to help remedy the current situation and find a way to improve inter-Korean relations. On August 21, North Korea sent another note, again from Kim Yang-gon, proposing a meeting between him and the Director of the National Security Office of South Korea. The South replied, requesting the additional participation of Hwang Pyong-so, Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA. On August 22, after more discussions through written notes, the two Koreas agreed to hold, at 6 pm on that day at the Peace House in Panmunjeom, an Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting, at which the South was represented by Kim Kwan-jin, Director of the National Security Office, and Hong Yong-pyo, Minister of Unification, while the North was represented by Hwang Pyong-so, Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA, and Kim Yang-gon, Secretary of the Workers' Party.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Delegates	**Kim Kwan-jin** (Director of the National Security Office) **Hong Yong-pyo** (Minister of Unification)	**Hwang Pyong-so** (Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA) **Kim Yang-gon** (Secretary of the Workers' Party)

B. Progress of the Meeting

1) The First Meeting (Aug. 22~23)

At the first plenary meeting held on August 22, each side expressed its respective position on the recent situation through their opening remarks.

Summary of South Korea's Opening Remarks

○ The current situation resulted from North Korea's provocation through its burying wooden-box landmines, and loudspeaker broadcasting by South Korea was a reasonable response.

- However, the North neither admitted nor apologized, but instead fired artillery.

○ South Korea cannot tolerate any armed provocation. South Korea demands that the North admit and apologize for its provocation, punish responsible officials and take measures to prevent any recurrence.

Summary of North Korea's Opening Remarks

○ Tension is building in the Bungyeyeonseon (Military Demarcation Line) area.

○ North Korea demands that South Korea immediately cease its psychological warfare broadcasting.

The South consistently demanded that, in order to remedy the tense situation, the North assume responsibility for its landmine provocation in the DMZ and its strike against South Korean loudspeakers. Only the

resolution of this issue, it explained, could ease tension and produce practical progress in inter-Korean relations and urged the North to show a sincere attitude.

The North denied its provocation and insisted that South should cease loudspeaker broadcasting in order to remedy the developing situation.

Having begun as scheduled at 6 pm on August 22, the meeting continued until the morning of August 23. In the afternoon of that day, the two sides agreed to have a subsequent discussion and adjourned the first meeting.



Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting (Aug. 22~24, 2015)

2) Second Meeting (Aug. 23~24)

Intense negotiations between the South and North continued at the second meeting. The North continued to deny its provocation and demanded the cessation of loudspeaker broadcasting by South Korea. The South presented clear evidence and firmly maintained its stance that no more provocation could be tolerated.

Although there were conflicts in opinions between the two sides throughout the meeting, the two Koreas adopted the following joint statement.

First, the North explicitly expressed regret for its landmine provocation and the South agreed to cease its loudspeaker broadcasting so long as abnormal situations do not occur. In addition, for the improvement of inter-Korean relations, the South and North agreed to hold Inter- Korean Authorities' Talks as well as to have discussions and negotiations on various issues of mutual concern.

The two Koreas also agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok and activate non-governmental exchanges in various areas.



Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting (Aug. 22~24, 2015)

Summary of Joint Statement

- ○ The South and North agreed to hold Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks in Seoul or Pyongyang as soon as possible and have discussions and negotiations on diverse issues for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.
- ○ The North expressed regret for injuries suffered by South Korean soldiers in the landmine explosion that occurred in the DMZ in the South Korean area near the MDL.
- ○ The South will cease loudspeaker broadcasting near the MDL from 12 pm on August 25 as long as abnormal situations do not occur.
- ○ The North will withdraw its declaration of a virtual state of war.
- ○ The two Koreas agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok and will continue to arrange family reunions in the future. An inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting will be held for this in early September.
- ○ Non-governmental exchanges will be activated in various areas between the South and North.

C. Results and Trends

Through the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Talks, the South and North were able to ease tension and prepare for the improvement of inter-Korean relations. The international community as well as the South Korean general public expressed support.[5] North Korea also evaluated

5 UN Statement, August 22, 2015: "A welcome to hold an inter-Korean high-level authorities' meeting"
US State Department Spokesman, August 25, 2015: "We are pleased to hear that the inter-Korean high-level authorities' meeting reached a settlement, and we support the North Korea policy of the Park Geun-hye administration."
Politics Poll by Gallup Korea, August 28, 2015: "66% of respondents were positive about

this agreement through an announcement in the media immediately afterward and expressed its intention to implement the agreement.[6]

The Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting was significant in that, by applying its military principle of responding resolutely to provocations, the South led North Korea to change its attitude and admit and apologize for its landmine provocation. It was also significant in that measures to prevent the recurrence of such provocations were undertaken. In addition, South Korea clarified that its loudspeaker broadcasting towards the North was a reasonable response to the provocation. South Korea also prepared grounds to resume loudspeaker broadcasting should any abnormal situations occur, namely provocations from North Korea.

The agreement to hold subsequent Authorities' Talks, sectoral discussions and negotiations also laid the foundation for making substantial progress to resolve pending issues between the South and North. In particular, the agreement on the reunion for separated families during Chuseok and the activation of non-governmental exchanges was a significant achievement.

Immediately after concluding an agreement at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting, North Korea withdrew its declaration of a virtual state of war and South Korea ceased loudspeaker broadcasting. An inter-Korean Red Cross working-level meeting took place from

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the results of the inter-Korean high-level authorities' meeting."

6 Secretary Kim Yang-gon's response to a Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reporter, August 27, 2015: "Based on this agreement, mutual distrust and confrontation should be eliminated and inter-Korean relations should be improved."
First Chairman Kim Jong-un, at the extended Central Military Commission meeting, August 28, 2015: "It provided crucial momentum for reconciliation and mutual trust between the two Koreas. We should cherish this agreement and achieve a favorable outcome."

September 7 to 8 and the South and North agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok from October 20 to 26. Non-governmental exchanges in the fields of public welfare, environment, and culture were also actively promoted. An exhibition of excavated relics from Manwoldae was held in Seoul and Gaeseong, and the U-15 International Youth Football Tournament and football match between workers from the South and North were held in Pyongyang.

4. The 1st Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks

A. Working-Level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks (Nov. 26, 2015)

1) Overview

In accordance with the agreement made at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting, the South Korean government sent a note from the Minister of Unification to Secretary of the Workers' Party Kim Yang-gon on September 21 and proposed a preliminary meeting to discuss the holding of Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks.

However, in a note released by the Secretariat of the CPRF on September 23, North Korea argued that it was doubtful as to whether the South was sincere about the preliminary meeting, given the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, comments on the need for a Human Rights Act in North Korea, and spreading of "rumors" regarding North Korean provocations.

Through a response sent on September 24, the South Korean

government repeatedly emphasized that the agreement from the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting should be fulfilled in good faith and urged North Korea to accept its proposal for the preliminary meeting.

On October 30, the South Korean government tried to deliver another written note to North Korea suggesting a preliminary meeting for the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks, but the North refused to accept it. Later, on November 20, North Korea sent a note from the Secretariat of the CPRF to the Ministry of Unification of South Korea proposing a working-level meeting to discuss the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks on November 26 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom. The South having accepted this proposal, a working-level meeting for the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks took place on November 26.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Kim Ki-woong** (Assistant Minister for Inter-Korean Dialogue, MOU)	**Hwang Chol** (Senior Official of the Secretariat of the CPRF)
Delegates	**Kim Chung-hwan** (Director General, MOU) **Son Jae-rak** (Director General, Office of the Prime Minister)	**Kim Myeong-Cheol** (CPRF) **Kim Chol Yong** (CPRF)

2) Progress of the Meeting

The South and North discussed procedural issues for the holding the First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks.

The delegation for the Talks was to be led by a vice-ministerial level official and the number of delegates determined at each side's convenience.

Regarding the agenda, South Korea expressed its position that since the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks would be a channel for broad discussion of various issues affecting inter-Korean relations, its agenda should also be comprehensive. North Korea took the position that the agenda should be concretely stated. Responding to South Korea's emphasis on the need for a fundamental resolution of the separated family issue, the North counter-claimed that the issue of Mt. Geumgang tourism was an urgent one.

Through these discussions, the two sides adopted a joint statement at the working-level meeting for the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks.

Summary of Joint Statement

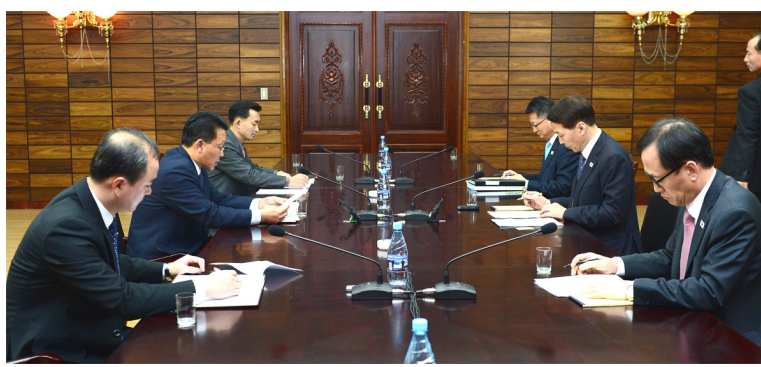
○ The First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks will be held at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) on December 11, 2015.

- The delegation for the talks will be led by a vice-ministerial level official and the number of delegates will be determined at each side's convenience.
- The agenda of the talks will be pending issues for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

○ Other practical issues will be discussed through the liaison office in Panmunjeom.

3) Results and Trends

The South Korean press assessed this meeting as "the first step towards the restoration of inter-Korean dialogue."[7] It reported that South Korea should thoroughly prepare for the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks to promote the practical improvement of inter-Korean relations.[8]



Working-Level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks (Nov. 26, 2015)

B. The 1st Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks (Dec. 11~12, 2015)

1) Overview

The First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks were held at the GIC Support Center from December 11 to 12. The South Korean delegation

7 The Hankook-Ilbo, November 27, 2015.

8 Maeil Business News Korea, November 28, 2015: "Inter-Korean authorities' talks: Small start, but expecting great outcome."
Korea JoongAng Daily, November 28, 2015: "Vice-ministerial level authorities' talks: Something is lacking, but the momentum of dialogue should be maintained."

was led by Vice Minister of Unification Hwang Boo-gi while the North Korean delegation was led by Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the CPRF Jon Jong-su.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Hwang Boo-gi** (Vice Minister of Unification)	**Jon Jong-su** (Deputy Director, Secretariat of the CPRF)
Delegates	**Kim Ui-do** (Director General, MOU) **Son Jae-rak** (Director General, Office of the Prime Minister)	**Hwang Chol** (Senior Official of the Secretariat of the CPRF) **Hwang Chung-seong** (Senior Official of the Secretariat of the CPRF)

2) Progress of the Meeting

The South participated in the Talks in order to improve inter-Korean relations by implementing the agreement made at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting. South Korea delivered its stance on pending issues regarding inter-Korean relations to North Korea.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ Faithful implementation of the agreement of August 25 is necessary for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.
- ○ Resolving the issues of the confirmation of the status (living or deceased) of separated family members, regular reunions for separated families, and individuals missing during or after the Korean War is necessary.
- ○ Non-governmental exchanges in various fields, such as sports, culture, environment, forestry, and agricultural cooperation, should be expanded.
- ○ Resolving issues regarding DMZ World Eco-Peace Park promotion and GIC commuting, communications, and customs is also necessary.
- ○ For the continuous improvement of inter-Korean relations, the North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved. South Korea hopes for a virtuous cycle progressing the improvement of inter-Korean relations and the denuclearization of North Korea.

The South proffered a fundamental resolution of outstanding issues, i.e., separated families, which in turn includes such matters as the exchange of correspondence, and confirmation as to whether missing family members are living or deceased; establishment of inter-Korean communications in the fields of environment, public welfare, and culture, creation of the DMZ World Eco-Peace Park, and resolution of the commuting, communications, and customs of the GIC, as the most urgent task to be addressed.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ For improvement of inter-Korean relations, 'creation of a positive atmosphere' is most urgent.
- ○ Urgent pending issues between North and South are the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism and the separated families issue. Complying with North Korea's political principle of simultaneous promotion and implementation, North Korea proposes that an inter-Korean working-level meeting for Mt. Geumgang tourism and inter-Korean Red Cross Talks be held simultaneously, and that the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism and the reunion for separated families take place simultaneously later.

However, the North stressed the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism as an urgent pending issue. North Korea linked the two issues of Mt. Geumgang tourism and reunion for separated families, arguing that they should be simultaneously promoted and implemented. The North demanded that South Korea agree to the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism first.

In response, South Korea stressed that it is inappropriate to link such different issues as the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism and the reunion for separated families, which is a humanitarian issue. In addition, South Korea said that the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism would require that North Korea first take responsible measures to ensure the personal safety of tourists, and prevent the recurrence of tourism-related incidents affecting safety and restoration of South Korean property rights in relation to Mt. Geumgang tourism. Accordingly, South Korea proposed an inter-Korean working-level talk for Mt. Geumgang tourism to discuss these issues.

However, the North did not respond to South Korea's proposal for an inter-Korean working-level talk, adhering to its stance that other matters, including the separated families issue, could not be discussed until the issue of the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism was resolved.



The 1st Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks
(Dec. 11~12, 2015)

Originally planned as a one-day event on December 11, it continued until the next day, December 12. However, the two sides failed to narrow the gap between their positions, and the talks ended even without a determination of the next meeting.

3) Results and Trends

After the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks, through a statement issued by the spokesperson for the CPRF on December 15, North Korea

criticized South Korea, claiming it was responsible for the rupture of the First Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks.[9]

Immediately after the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks, through a briefing by the head delegate, the South Korean government clarified that there would be no change in its basic position that inter-Korean relations could only be improved through South-North dialogue and cooperation, and that South Korea would continuously lay the foundation for peaceful unification. However, South Korea made it clear that, in this process, it would promote inter-Korean dialogue while observing important rules. It also urged North Korea to seriously consider its proposal and enter into inter-Korean talks in the future.

The South Korean media pointed out that the talks had been broken off due to the North's exclusive focus on the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism, but the tone of commentary implied that inter-Korean dialogue should be continued.[10]

9 The statement by the CPRF spokesperson, December 15, 2015: "That the inter-Korean talks awaited in expectation and interest by all Korean people should have been broken off without any outcome is an inevitable consequence of the confrontational policy of South Korea, which does not want any sincere inter-Korean dialogue or improvement in inter-Korean relations."

10 The Kyunghyang Shinmun, December 14, 2015: "The inter-Korean authorities' talks broke off: The momentum of inter-Korean dialogue should not be lost."
The Dong-A Ilbo, December 14, 2015: "North Korea harps only on the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism: The inter-Korean talks ended even without determining the next meeting."
The Seoul Shinmun, December 14, 2015: "The inter-Korean talks broke off: Inter-Korean dialogue should continue."

Chapter III

Inter-Korean Military Dialogue

Chapter III. Inter-Korean Military Dialogue

1. Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting (Oct. 15, 2014)

A. Overview

On October 7, 2014, three days after the Inter-Korean High-Level talks on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games, a North Korean coast guard vessel crossed the Northern Limit Line (NLL). In response to warning shots from a South Korean vessel, the North Korean vessel fired back, and hostilities ensued. North Korea, which had committed the provocation, sent a written note to the South proposing an urgent meeting between the two Koreas. On the same day, through a written reply, South Korea clarified that North Korea should respect and observe the NLL. South Korea also said that relevant matters could be discussed during high-level meeting or military talks between the South and North. However, upon North Korea's repeated proposal for an urgent inter-Korean meeting on October 8, South Korea sent a written note to North Korea on October 10 proposing an Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting at the Peace House in Panmunjeom on October 15. North Korea accepted this suggestion, and the Inter-Korean Military Meeting convened.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Yoo Jeh-seung** (Assistant Minister for National Defense Policy, Ministry of National Defense)	**Kim Yong-chol** (Director, General Reconnaissance Bureau)
Delegates	**Kim Ki-woong** (Assistant Minister for Unification Policy, MOU) **Moon Sang-kyun** (Assistant Chief for Arms Control, Ministry of National Defense)	**Lee Sun-kwon** (Senior Official for Policy, Secretariat of the National Defense Commission) **Kwak Chol-hui** (Deputy Director for Policy, National Defense Commission)

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the meeting, each side exchanged its respective position on the NLL of the West Sea and the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ For the improvement of inter-Korean relations, South Korea intends to build mutual trust between the South and North, which will lead to greater cooperation.
- ○ North Korea illegally crossed the NLL on October 7, and perpetrated aggressive provocation against the activities of South Korean private organizations on October 10. These military provocations violated the armistice agreement and the Inter-Korean Basic Agreement.
- ○ If North Korea truly wants improvement in inter-Korean relations, it should cease provocations immediately and observe the NLL.

Without giving any keynote speech, North Korea demanded not only a prohibition on South Korea's crossing North Korea's 'guard limit line' in the West Sea, but also the cessation of both anti-DPRK leaflet dissemination by South Korean private organizations and "slander" of North Korea.

The South emphasized that the skirmish in the West Sea occurred due to North Korea's crossing of the West Sea NLL, and stressed that it must be respected and observed. In addition, South Korea proposed the establishment of a hotline between South-North military authorities in order to prevent accidental conflicts and establish mutual trust.

Regarding North Korea's demand for the cessation of anti-DPRK leaflet dissemination by private organizations, South Korea reiterated that under its democratic system the activities of private organizations and the media could not be controlled.

The two sides having failed to narrow the gap in their positions, the meeting ended without any agreement.



Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting (Oct. 15, 2014)

C. Results and Trends

On October 16, through the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), North Korea disclosed the process and progress of the Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting. The news article distorted the truth by asserting, "South Korea obstinately avoided discussions about our sincere proposals." At the same time, it claimed that "it has become unclear whether the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting can be held as planned."

The South Korean government expressed displeasure at the distorted report of the inter-Korean meeting released by North Korea. South Korea strongly declared that North Korea should observe the West Sea NLL and that the South Korean government could not control the media or private organizations. The South also said that it sought to improve inter-Korean relations and ease tension through inter-Korean dialogue, and that it hoped the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting would be held as agreed.

The South Korean press reported, "At the meeting, only the divergent positions regarding anti-DPRK leaflets and the NLL between the two Koreas were confirmed,[11] and it was closed without any agreement." The media, however, also said, "A military meeting was held for the first time in three years and eight months, and the two sides clearly exchanged their opinions,"[12] and "it was a prelude to the Second Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting," and that "it represented a thawing in inter-Korean relations."[13]

11 The Kukmin Daily, October 16, 2014.
12 Maeil Business News Korea, October 16, 2014.
13 The Hankook-Ilbo, October 16, 2014.

Chapter IV

Inter-Korean Economic Dialogue

Chapter IV. Inter-Korean Economic Dialogue

1. South-North Joint Committee Meetings for the GIC

A. The 5th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC (Jun. 26, 2014)

1) Overview

For the purpose of discussing specific measures for the implementation of the agreement on the normalization of the GIC, the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for Commuting, Communications and Customs (the 3Cs) and the First Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission were held on January 24 and on March 13, respectively.

However, due to North Korea's passive attitude, no significant results were achieved except for the pilot practice of unrestricted daily passage. Later, inter-Korean relations became strained due to North Korea's launching of missiles and the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations. North Korea also failed to respond to South Korea's proposal made on April 22 for the holding of an Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting regarding commuting and communications issues for the GIC.

The South Korean government promoted the holding of the Fifth

South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC to advance major pending issues related to the management and operation of the GIC, including the issue of implementation of the existing agreement on the 3Cs for the GIC after the normalization of the GIC.

South Korea explained the need for a South-North Joint Committee meeting for the GIC to North Korea through the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC. On June 9, the South sent a note from the South Korean Chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC and proposed the holding of the Fifth South-North Joint Committee meeting for the GIC on June 19 at the complex.

On June 23, North Korea sent a note from the North Korean Chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC and proposed a new date for the Fifth meeting, June 26. Accordingly, the Fifth South-North Joint Committee meeting for the GIC was held at the complex on June 26.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Lee Kang-woo** (Director General, Inter-Korean Cooperation District Policy Planning Directorate, MOU)	**Park Chol-su** (Vice General Director, General Bureau for the Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone:GDSZ)
Delegates	**Lee Ju-tae** (Secretary General, South Korean Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC) **Hong Jean-suk** (Director, MOU) **Heo Jin-bong** (Director, MOU) **Na Won-chang** (Director, Ministry of Strategy and Finance: MOSF) **Jeon Je-gu** (Team Head, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy)	**Ryu Chang-man** (Office Head, GDSZ) **Won Yong-hee** (Department Head, GDSZ) **Hwang Chung-seong** (Councilor, National Economic Cooperation Committee) **Yoon Seung-hyeon** (Secretary General, North Korean Secretariat of the North-South Joint Committee for the GIC)

2) Progress of the Meeting

In its keynote speech at the Fifth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC, South Korea emphasized the importance of fulfilling the existing agreement between the South and North. In particular, South Korea urged the North to resolve commuting, communications and customs issues, including unrestricted daily passage and provision of Internet services, at the earliest possible date. In addition, South Korea demanded North Korea's faithful implementation of tax exemptions and the early operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission, both of which

had been agreed upon in 2013, and proposed the holding of relevant subcommittee meetings.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ Implementing the agreement is essential for the progressive normalization of the GIC.

○ South Korea's position with respect to this meeting is as follows:

- Immediate implementation of unrestricted daily passage commencing in July and the supply of Internet services within the third quarter are necessary.
- For the improvement of labor management and the wage system, a joint forum should be held, in which management committees, business leaders, workers' representatives, and professionals may participate.
- The personal safety of individuals remaining in the GIC should be enhanced through the resumption of discussion concerning the annex agreement on entry, exit, and stay.
- Discussions on how to attract foreign companies are needed in order to internationalize the GIC.
- A Commercial Arbitration Commission meeting should be held as soon as possible to establish commercial arbitration regulations.
- The agreement on tax exemption, reached in 2013 as compensation for the loss caused by the suspension of the GIC, should be adhered to.

However, the North avoided discussing issues raised by the South, while adhering to its existing position on labor wages, the labor-related system, and management of the GIC.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

○ Technical prerequisites for ensuring labor recruitment and improved conditions for entry and exit, and communications have already been met.

○ North Korea raises the following issues for today's discussion:

- New and additional investment in industrial districts; permission for normal economic transactions with local districts other than industrial districts.
- Development of relevant systems, such as labor and taxation, that meet international standards.
- The promotion of businesses best suited to the missions and duties of the North-South Joint Committee.

At the two meetings between the co-chairs of the joint committee from both South and North, North Korea maintained its stance. The Fifth Meeting thus ended without agreement. Both sides agreed to set future dates for the South-North Joint Committee and Subcommittee meetings through the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC.



The 5th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC (Jun. 26, 2014)

3) Results and Trends

The South Korean media showed great interest in the Fifth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC, which was held following a strained period in inter-Korean relations. It reported the major issues of the meeting and the positions of the two sides in detail.[14] North Korea released a brief report on the Fifth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC through the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA, June 26, 2015).

B. The 6th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC (Jul. 16, 2015)

1) Overview

After the Fifth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC, the South Korean government endeavored to bring about a subsequent meeting as soon as possible to discuss methods for the progressive normalization of the GIC, such as the practice of unrestricted daily passage and provision of Internet services. In this context, on July 4, 2014, the South sent a written note to North Korea through the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC to propose further meetings of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs and the South-North Joint Subcommittee for Entry, Exit and Stay for the GIC.

However, North Korea did not respond to South Korea's proposal, and accordingly, the meetings of the South-North Joint Subcommittee

14 The Kyunghyang Shinmun; The Segye Ilbo; The Hankyoreh; etc., June 27, 2014.

for the 3Cs and the South-North Joint Subcommittee for Entry, Exit and Stay for the GIC did not take place. Later, North Korea raised the issue of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations, further straining inter-Korean relations. Therefore, the meetings of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs and the South-North Joint Subcommittee for Entry, Exit and Stay for the GIC did not take place in the second half of 2014.

On December 5, 2014, North Korea announced its unilateral amendment of the existing labor regulations, including deletion of the monthly minimum wage increase (5%) for North Korean workers in the GIC, of which step it informed South Korea of such on December 8.

On December 10, the South Korean government pointed out that North Korea's unilateral revision of the labor regulations violated the existing agreement on the progressive normalization of the GIC, conflicted with the GIC Law of North Korea, and undermined the stability of the GIC, thus undermining the credibility of the entire GIC system. In addition, South Korea stressed that changes in the GIC wage system should be resolved through inter-Korean discussions, such as the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC, as stipulated in the Agreement for the Normalization of the GIC (August 14, 2013).

On December 16, 2014, the South Korean government attempted to deliver a written note to North Korea, stressing that North Korea's unilateral amendment of the labor regulations constituted a violation of its agreement with the South. However, North Korea refused to accept the note, maintaining that the revision of the labor regulations was a matter of sovereignty.

On February 26, 2015, the South Korean government suggested the

holding of the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC on March 13 to resolve pending issues related to the GIC, including the issue of North Korean labor wages. However, North Korea neither expressed any position nor responded to South Korea's proposal.

South Korea continuously urged North Korea to agree to hold an inter-Korean meeting. Finally, North Korea responded, and the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC took place at the GIC Support Center on July 16.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Lee Sang-min** (Director General, Inter-Korean Cooperation District Policy Planning Directorate, MOU)	**Park Chol-su** (Vice General Director, General Bureau for the Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone:GDSZ)
Delegates	**Kim Jong-woo** (Director, MOU) **Heo Jin-bong** (Director, MOU) **Lee Kyeong-deok** (Director, MOSF) **Lee Byeong-wook** (Team Head, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy)	**Ryu Chang-man** (Office Head, GDSZ) **Won Yong-hee** (Department Head, GDSZ) **Hwang Chung-seong** (Councilor, National Economic Cooperation Committee) **Yoon Seung-hyeon** (Secretary General, North Korean Secretariat of the North-South Joint Committee for the GIC)

2) Progress of the Meeting

South and North Korea discussed, in a total of five rounds of meetings (one plenary meeting and four co-chair meetings), pending issues related to the GIC, such as the practice of unrestricted daily passage, provision of Internet services, and North Korean labor wages.

At the meeting, the South presented improvement of commuting, communications and customs issues, advancement of the labor wage system, and renovation of the commuting and South-North connecting roads as major pending issues, and urged North Korea to respond in a positive manner.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ South Korea declared its ideas and plans for the progressive normalization of the GIC.
- Freedom of enterprise business activities should be ensured to enhance GIC competitiveness.
- Commuting, communications and customs, guarantee of personal safety, taxes and accounting systems, and various infrastructure including the commuting road should be improved.

○ South Korea's stance on pending issues is as follows:
- The labor wage system should be improved in a direction consistent with the progressive normalization of the GIC.
- 3Cs(commuting, communications and customs) systems should be improved without delay.
- An annex agreement on entry, exit, and stay should be concluded, and the South-North Commercial Arbitration Commission for the GIC should begin operation without delay.
- Cooperation is necessary for the improvement of working conditions and the GIC infrastructure, such as renovation of the commuting road.

○ South Korea expects the South-North Joint Committee and Subcommittee meetings to be held on a regular basis in order to discuss and resolve pending issues related to the GIC.

The North showed interest in the renovation of infrastructure, such as the commuting road, but adhered to its existing position on the labor wage issue, calling it a matter of sovereignty. North Korea also avoided discussing methods for the progressive normalization of the GIC, such as the improvement of commuting, communications and customs.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

○ North Korea presented its view on difficulties arising from the activation of the GIC.

- Measures for the resolution of the labor shortage problems facing tenant companies should be established.
- The issue of the construction and renovation of the commuting road should be resolved.
- Institutional restrictions that hinder activation of the industrial district project should be eliminated.

Through four rounds of meetings between the co-chairs from both South and North held after the plenary meeting, South Korea attempted to progress discussions by assuming a flexible position regarding North Korea's interests, including the wage issue. However, the North did not respond to the improvement of the commuting, communications and customs issues, and thus, the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC was adjourned without any specific agreement.

South Korea proposed a subsequent meeting to discuss pending issues related to the GIC that had been accumulating, but North Korea insisted that further meetings would be meaningless unless South Korea accepted its demands. Therefore, the two parties were unable to reach an agreement on a subsequent meeting.



The 6th Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC (Jul. 16, 2015)

3) Results and Trends

The South Korean press reported in detail the major issues of the meeting and the positions of the two countries, emphasizing that the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC resumed inter-Korean dialogue, which had been discontinued for a year.[15] North Korea briefly reported the content of the Sixth South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC through the KCNA (July 17).

2. The 4th Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs (Jan. 24, 2014)

A. Overview

The Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs is a subcommittee under the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC that discusses issues related to

15 The Kyunghyang Shinmun; The Dong-A Ilbo; The Chosun Ilbo; The Hankyoreh; etc., July 17, 2015.

the facilitation of commuting, communications and customs in the GIC, according to the Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC. Three meetings were held in 2013, and the restoration of the West Sea military communication lines and the installation of the electronic entry system (RFID) for unrestricted daily passage were agreed upon.

On January 24, 2014, the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs was held to advance the issues of GIC commuting, communications and customs, which had been discussed since the resumption of the GIC.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Hong Jean-suk** (Director, MOU)	**Lee Sun-kwon** (Senior Colonel, North Korean People's Army: NKPA)
Delegates	**Choi In-yong** (Director, Operation of the West Sea Army, Ministry of National Defense: MND) **Kang Jong-woo** (Director, MOU) **Nam Seung-hyeon** (Lieutenant Colonel, MND) **Park Tae-hee** (Officer, Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning)	**Lim Ryong-moon** (Colonel, NKPA) **Chang Bi-soo** (Colonel, NKPA) **Hong Seok-il** (Colonel, NKPA) **Lee Young-min** (Colonel, NKPA)

B. Progress of Meeting

In its delegation's keynote speech at the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC, the South stressed the importance of the resolution of GIC commuting, communications and customs issues. South Korea also defined its specific position with respect to the pilot practice of unrestricted daily passage, introduction of 50% customs sampling inspection, and discussion of technical issues related to Internet services.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ For the improvement of the GIC, the issues of commuting, communications and customs are the ones in most urgent need of resolution.

○ South Korea declared its basic position for this meeting as follows.

- Commuting: Unrestricted daily passage should be implemented around Lunar New Year's Day, on January 28.
- Communications: Technical issues related to Internet services should be discussed.
- Customs: Invasive inspection of personal belongings should be minimized and customs sampling inspection (50% document inspection) should be adopted.

In its keynote speech, the North agreed with South Korea's view regarding improvement of the commuting, communications and customs system. However, North Korea was passive in regard to the discussion of specific matters, and strongly demanded materials and equipment.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

○ North Korea suggests that the two Koreas strive to improve the commuting, communications and customs system, placing value even on small achievements.

○ North Korea posits the following opinions regarding the improvement of the commuting, communications and customs system.

- Commuting: Installment of an electronic entry system cannot necessarily guarantee smooth passage.
- Communications: Materials that can ensure normal operation of military communications should be provided.
- Customs: In order to meet South Korea's demand for customs sampling inspection, updated equipment is needed.

After the plenary meeting, South and North Korea discussed the details through sectoral meetings and co-chair meetings. Both sides agreed to practice unrestricted daily passage commencing January 28 immediately after a technical inspection, and to continue discussing the communications issue through subsequent working-level discussions on February 7.



The 4th Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs (Jan. 24, 2014)

On February 7, as a follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs, a working-level discussion concerning communications took place, at which agreement was reached on major issues related to Internet services (configuration, paths, and authentication of Internet network). The pilot operation of unrestricted daily passage commenced on January 28 after completion of technical inspection, but was suspended on May 16 due to North Korea's unilateral severance of the communications network.

3. The 1st Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission (Mar. 13, 2014)

A. Overview

On September 11, 2013, in order to preserve the investments of Korean companies in the GIC, the South and North signed the Annex Agreement for the implementation of the "Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission" for the GIC. In accordance with the agreement, the two Koreas notified each other in December of their respective committee members and completed the establishment of the Commercial Arbitration Commission for the GIC.

On March 7, 2014, the South sent a list of experts (30 lawyers, professors, and businessmen) who will be responsible for arbitration judgments regarding future disputes and proposed inter-Korean discussion for the functioning of the Commercial Arbitration Commission. Accordingly, the First Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial

Arbitration Commission was held on March 13 at the GIC.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Choi Ki-shik** (Director, Unification Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Justice)	**Ho Yong-ho** (Office Head, General Bureau for the Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone)
Delegates	**Kim Sang-kook** (Director, MOU) **Lee Yeong-ho** (Director, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board) **Lee Seok** (Research Fellow, Korea Development Institute) **Moon Byeong-cheol** (Lawyer, Kim & Chang Law Firm)	**Jong Chol-won** (Legal Counsel, Council of the National Economic Cooperation Committee) **Ho Myong-guk** (Office Head, International Trade Arbitration Commission) **Jang Guk-il** (Senior Researcher, International Trade Arbitration Commission) **Kim Yong-son** (Senior Arbitrator, International Trade Arbitration Commission)

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the First Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission for the GIC, South and North Korea discussed arbitration regulations that would be applied when the arbitration commission commenced operations. The South presented a draft on arbitration regulations and explained its stance on the jurisdiction and operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission for the GIC.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ Preparing the means to develop the GIC into an international industrial complex and resolve disputes fairly and quickly is most crucial.

○ South Korea suggests that inter-Korean discussions about arbitration procedures, and construction and operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission be held, taking into account agreements and regulations between the South and North and international regulations.

The North defined its stance on the jurisdiction, qualification of disputing parties, and other major concepts of the Commercial Arbitration Commission.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

○ Since there are differences in the legal system between the South and North, there are many general and practical issues to be discussed through the Commercial Arbitration Commission.

- General understanding and concepts of commercial arbitrations
- Jurisdiction of the commission over possible commercial disputes in the GIC
- Qualification of a disputing party

Although South and North Korea were not able to reach agreement, they agreed on the significance and necessity for a commercial arbitration system. They also agreed to continue discussing issues of conflict between the two parties, but later North Korea did not respond to the proposal for further discussion and, accordingly, no subsequent discussion took place.



The 1st Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission (Mar. 13, 2014)

Chapter V

Inter-Korean Humanitarian and Sociocultural Dialogue

Chapter V. Inter-Korean Humanitarian and Sociocultural Dialogue

1. Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting (Feb. 5, 2014)

A. Overview

On January 6, 2014, President Park Geun-hye of South Korea said, in the context of her New Year's plan, "It was a shame that a reunion for separated families was suddenly canceled four days prior to the scheduled reunion last year." She emphasized that new momentum should be created in inter-Korean relations to enable a reunion of separated families on the occasion of Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day).

The same day, the South Korean government sent a written note from the president of the Korean Red Cross proposing an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting for a Seollal reunion of separated families.

On January 9, in a written note released by the CPRF Secretariat, North Korea rejected this proposal for a working-level meeting. However, it left open the possibility of holding one in the future, saying that 'if South Korea was willing to discuss issues raised by North Korea, the two parties could meet again at a more appropriate time.'

Through a statement issued by a CPRF spokesperson on January 15, 2014 and a crucial proposal by the National Defense Commission on

January 16, North Korea demanded the cessation of both ROK-US joint military exercises and mutual slander. On January 24, the North also sent a written note from the Chair of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society proposing a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal. Considering that there were not many days remaining, the South suggested a modified working-level meeting date (January 29, 2014).

Later, following bilateral correspondence, the two Koreas agreed on an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting scheduled for February 5. Accordingly, the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting was held at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom on February 5, 2014.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Lee Deok-haeng** (Committee Executive Member, Korean Red Cross)	**Park Yong-il** (Chief Member, Central Committee, DPRK Red Cross Society)
Delegates	**Kim Seong-geun** (Director, Korean Red Cross) **Song Hye-jin** (Committee Executive Member, Korean Red Cross)	**Kim Yeong-cheol** (Member, Central Committee, DPRK Red Cross Society) **Lee Kang-ho** (Senior Official, Bureau for Guidance to the Mt. Geumgang Special Zone)

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting, the South expressed discontent with North Korea's breach of the agreement regarding a reunion for separated families that had been reached in August 2013, stressing that agreements between the South and North should be respected and observed.

With respect to the scheduling of a reunion for separated families, South Korea, taking into account the cancellation of a reunion in 2013, pressed to have it held without delay. South Korea suggested holding it from February 17 to 22 at Mt. Geumgang. It also emphasized the need for safety inspections of relevant facilities, including accommodations.

South Korea acknowledged the importance of reaching an agreement on the upcoming reunion, but prioritized the urgency of a fundamental solution for elderly separated family members, since they have waited for the past 50 years. In this context, South Korea declared the necessity of regular reunions for separated families, comprehensive confirmation of the status (whether living or deceased) as well as of the addresses of separated family members, and the exchange of correspondence.

In addition, the South also demanded discussions in good faith on South Korean prisoners of war and abductees.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ The cancellation of the reunion for separated families agreed upon last year was a great disappointment for separated families. Agreements between the South and North must be respected and observed.

○ The canceled reunion for separated families should be rescheduled and held as soon as possible.

- The reunion for separated families should be held at Mt. Geumgang from February 17 to 22.
- Inspection teams should be dispatched from February 7 for the inspection of facilities, including accommodations.

○ Finding a fundamental solution for separated families is urgent, and the issues of South Korean prisoners of war and abductees should also be discussed in good faith.

The North proposed that practical issues related to the reunion for separated families be based on the agreement reached in 2013 and that the reunion be held from February 20 to 25. North Korea also proposed that 100 individuals from each side participate as planned in 2013 and that an advance team be dispatched five days prior to the reunion.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ Practical issues related to the reunion for separated families should be based on the agreement reached last year. North Korea suggests discussions regarding the specific date, changes in the number of individuals participating in the reunion, and the advance team.
- ○ The reunion for separated families should be held from February 20 to 25.
- ○ Based on the existing agreement, 100 individuals from each side should participate in the reunion. However, one guardian may be added if necessary.
- ○ Accommodations for South Korean participants should ensure the comfort of guests as much as possible, and an advance team should be dispatched five days prior to the reunion.

Through two rounds of plenary meetings and three rounds of head delegate meetings, the two Koreas agreed to have a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal.

The agreement called for the inclusion of 100 individuals from each side at Mt. Geumgang from February 20 to 25. In addition, the two Koreas also concurred on holding another Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting, to take place after the completion of the reunion for separated families, in order to continue discussions on humanitarian issues.

Immediately after the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting, through a statement issued by the spokesperson for the Policy Bureau of the National Defense Commission on February 6, North Korea announced the possibility of cancellation of the reunion for separated families. At the Inter-Korean High-level Meeting held from February 12 and 14, 2014, South Korea adhered to its position that

purely humanitarian issues and military issues were to be kept separate. North Korea acquiesced, and the Seollal reunion for separated families was agreed to be held as planned.

It took place at Mt. Geumgang from February 20 to 25, according to schedule. After the reunion, the South sent a written note from the president of the Korean Red Cross, proposing an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting to discuss humanitarian issues. However, North Korea rejected the proposal on the grounds that the current conditions lacked the appropriate atmosphere.

Summary of Agreement

○ The reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal will be held.

- The reunion will be held at Mt Geumgang from February 20 to 25, and 100 individuals from each side will participate.
- The participants of the reunion will be those individuals included in the list exchanged between the two parties last September. A guardian may accompany if necessary.
- The group reunion will take place at the Reunion Center and Mt. Geumgang Hotel. Accommodations will be provided at Mt. Geumgang Hotel and Oegemgang Hotel.
- An advance team will be dispatched five days prior to the reunion.
- For on-site inspection of the reunion venue, South Korea will dispatch inspection teams from February 7 and their convenience will be ensured.

○ The South and North agree to continue discussing humanitarian issues through an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting after the reunion for separated families.



Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting (Feb. 5, 2014)

C. Results and Trends

The South Korean media reported that a reunion for separated families took place, three years and four months after the preceding reunion in October 2010, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting. In particular, the media reported positively on the fact that the two parties reached an agreement within four hours without experiencing any significant conflict unlike previous meetings.[16]

Meanwhile, North Korea briefly reported on the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting and the content of its agreement through the KCNA (February 5).

16 The Dong-A Ilbo; Maeil Business News Korea; The Seoul Shinmun; The Segye Ilbo; The Hankyoreh; The Hankook-Ilbo; etc., February 6, 2014.

2. Inter-Korean Working-Level Meeting for the Incheon Asian Games (Jul. 17, 2014)

A. Overview

On May 23, 2014, North Korea officially notified the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) of its intention to participate in the 17th Incheon Asian Games. Later, at the OCA Conference held in Kuwait from June 28 to 29, the chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee met the president of the Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee (IAGOC) and verbally proposed Inter-Korean Working-level Talks in July to discuss North Korea's participation in the Incheon Asian Games. On July 7, through a 'government statement,' North Korea announced that it would dispatch a cheering squad to the Asian Games. On July 10, North Korea sent a letter signed by the chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee to South Korea and proposed a working-level meeting on July 15.

Through a letter signed by the president of the IAGOC, the South suggested changing the date of the meeting to July 17, a proposal the North accepted. Accordingly, an Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting was held at the Peace House in Panmunjeom on July 17 to discuss North Korea's participation in the 17th Incheon Asian Games.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Kwon Kyung-sang** (Secretary General, Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee: IAGOC)	**Son Kwang-ho** (Vice Chairman, North Korean Olympic Committee)
Delegates	**Jeong Ki- young** (Director, International Bureau, IAGOC) **Kim Yeong-il** (Consultant, IAGOC)	**Jang Su-myeong** (Director, International Bureau, North Korean Olympic Committee) **Ko Jeong-chul** (Councilor, Korean Council for Reconciliation)

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the morning session of the first plenary meeting, South Korea proposed that practical issues, including the size of the North Korean team and the dispatch of a cheering squad, be determined as soon as possible. In addition, the South also suggested a frank and broad discussion about North Korea's participation in the Asian Games, pointing out that it was a working-level meeting. South Korea defined its position regarding issues with respect to the participation of North Korea's team and cheering squad.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ The two Koreas should discuss specific matters related to North Korea's participation in the Games, including the specific sports involved, team size, access routes, and dispatch of a cheering squad.
- ○ It is desirable that matters related to the participation of the North Korean team and its cheering squad in the Games adhere to international provisions and Games regulations.

In response, North Korea informed South Korea that the size of its team and cheering squad would be 350 members each. North Korea also expressed its position and requested that the South provide for the local training of its team and be accommodating to its cheering squad.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ The North Korean team will be composed of 350 athletes, coaches, referees, reporters, and officials. It will fly to South Korea via the West Sea direct line.
- ○ Each Korean team will play as a separate team, and use the name, national flag and national anthem of its own country at award ceremonies.
- ○ The cheering squad will be composed of 350 individuals. It will travel via the West Sea land route. The South is expected to be accommodating to the cheering squad.

At the second plenary meeting held in the afternoon, South Korea described its basic position on the issues raised by North Korea. It also requested that the North provide a clear and specific explanation of the size of its team and cheering squad.

In response, at the third plenary meeting held in the afternoon, North Korea unilaterally declared a rupture of the meeting and left, faulting South Korea's attitude. The working-level meeting thus ended without result.

Although no agreement was reached at the meeting, on August 19, North Korea dispatched its delegation to the drawing ceremony of the Incheon Asian Games (August 21) and suggested discussing the North Korean team's participation via documents. South Korea accepted this suggestion. Later, both sides discussed the participation of the North Korean team through the liaison channel at Panmunjeom. They agreed on the size of the team, the access routes, and the need for the team to be well-accommodated. Accordingly, its participation in the Incheon Asian Games was settled.



Inter-Korean Working-Level Meeting for the Incheon Asian Games (Jul. 17, 2014)

C. Results and Trends

Responding to the Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting for the Incheon Asian Games, the South Korean media released news focusing on the facts.[17] Through various media and other channels, North Korea disclosed the content of the meeting. While criticizing the South, the North continuously expressed its intention to participate in the Games.

North Korea dispatched athletes and staffers totaling 273 to the 17th Incheon Asian Games. In the medal rankings, North Korea came 7th. It also dispatched high-ranking officials to the closing ceremony of the Games. National and international media showed great interest in their visit, and reflected on its potential impact on the future of inter-Korean relations.

3. Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting (Sep. 7~8, 2015)

A. Overview

Pursuant to the 'agreement made on August 25' between inter-Korean high-level authorities, on August 28, the South sent a written note from the president of the Korean Red Cross proposing an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting on September 7 to discuss the separated families issue, including a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day). North Korea accepted this

17 The Kyunghyang Shinmun; Dong-A Ilbo; The Chosun Ilbo; Korea JoongAng Daily; The Hankyoreh; etc., July 18, 2014.

proposal on August 29, and an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting was held at the Peace House in Panmunjeom from September 7 to 8.

List of South and North Korean Delegates

Classification	South Korean Delegation	North Korean Delegation
Head Delegate	**Lee Deok-haeng** (Committee Executive Member, Korean Red Cross)	**Park Yong-il** (Chief Member, Central Committee, DPRK Red Cross Society)
Delegates	**Kim Seong-geun** (Director, Korean Red Cross) **Cho Sang-jun** (Committee Executive Member, Korean Red Cross)	**Kim Yeong-cheol** (Member, Central Committee, DPRK Red Cross Society) **Kim Yeong-cheol** (Member, Central Committee, DPRK Red Cross Society) *The above two are different individuals with the same name.

B. Progress of the Meeting

At the meeting, South Korea emphasized that the advanced age of separated family members made a fundamental solution to the separated families especially urgent. For comprehensive confirmation of relatives' status (living or deceased) and addresses, South Korea suggested that South and North Korean Red Cross exchange the full list of separated families of each side within 2015. In addition, South Korea also stressed the need for a comprehensive exchange of correspondence and regular reunions for separated families.

Regarding the upcoming reunion for separated families on the

occasion of Chuseok, South Korea suggested successive visits to Seoul and then Pyongyang from October 4 to 9. In addition, it proposed that 100 individuals participate in the reunion from each side as planned, but the number of accompanying guardians be increased from one to two, in view of the advanced age of separated family members. It also raised the issues of South Korean prisoners of war, abductees, and detainees and insisted on relevant discussions between the South and North.

Summary of South Korea's Keynote Speech

○ Fundamental solutions for the separated families issue.

- Each side should create and exchange a comprehensive list of separated families and with each other within the current year.
- The exchange of correspondence should be expanded, and video messaging is also needed.
- Regular reunions are necessary, and the visit of hometowns and family graves should also be promoted.
- The two parties should strive for the fundamental resolution of the issue of persons who went missing during and after the war.

○ The reunion of separated families on the occasion of Chuseok.

- South Korea suggests successive visits to Seoul and Pyongyang from October 4 to 9.
- South Korea suggests that a minimum of 100 individuals from each side participate, and that the target number for the confirmation of status (whether living or deceased) be increased from 250 to 300.
- Considering the advanced age of most separated family members, the number of accompanying guardians should be increased.
- Issues related to the dispatch of an advance party and facility inspection teams should be discussed in accordance with previously established guidelines.

The North agreed with South Korea's view of the need for a solution for the separated families issue, but also argued that, according to the agreement reached at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting, the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting should focus on practical issues related to the reunion for separated families. North Korea proposed that the reunion be held at Mt. Geumgang from October 20 to 26, and that an advance team be dispatched five days prior to the reunion.

Summary of North Korea's Keynote Speech

- ○ The reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok should be held from October 20 to 26.
- ○ The number of participants in and candidates for the reunion should be 100 and 200 for each side, respectively.
- ○ Since the separated family members are in their declining years, one accompanying guardian is permissible if necessary.
- ○ The locations of the reunion should be the Reunion Center at Mt. Geumgang and the Mt. Geumgang Hotel.
- ○ An advance team should be dispatched five days prior to the reunion.

Through 2 rounds of plenary meetings and 11 rounds of head delegate meetings held from September 7 to 8, South and North Korea agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok and to continue discussing fundamental solutions to humanitarian issues.



Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting (Sep. 7~8, 2015)

Besides holding the reunion for separated families, the two Koreas also agreed to find fundamental solutions for humanitarian issues. The South and North agreed to hold inter-Korean Red Cross talks in the near future to broadly discuss mutual interests.

As agreed upon, the reunion for separated families took place at Mt. Geumgang from October 20 to 26. A total of 972 individuals in 186 families from the two parties were briefly reunited through this family reunion.

Summary of Agreement

○ The reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok will be held.

- The reunion for separated families will be held at Mt. Geumgang from October 20 to 26.
- The number of participants will be 100 for each side, and one or two accompanying family members are permitted for those participants with mobility difficulties.
- The two Koreas will exchange requests for the confirmation of status, i.e., whether living or deceased (September 15), written replies (October 5), and final lists (October 8). The target number for relatives whose status (whether living or deceased) is to be confirmed will be 250 for the South and 200 for the North.
- Other practical issues, including the reunion protocol and the dispatch of an advance party, will be discussed following previously established guidelines.

○ The South and North agreed to devise fundamental solutions for humanitarian issues.

- The two Koreas agreed to have inter-Korean Red Cross talks in the near future to discuss broad issues related to future reunions for separated families and other mutual interests.

C. Results and Trends

The South Korean press highlighted the significance of scheduling the first reunion for separated families to take place since February 2014, after a hiatus of one year and eight months. In particular, it stressed that this agreement with the North was the first obtained since the 'agreement on August 25.'[18]

18 The Kyunghyang Shinmun; The Kukmin Daily; The Dong-A Ilbo; Maeil Business News Korea; The Chosun Ilbo; Korea JoongAng Daily; etc., September 9, 2015.

Meanwhile, North Korea's KCNA briefly reported on the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-level Meeting and the contents of the agreement that had been reached (September 8).

Appendix

1. Chronicle of Inter-Korean Relations
2. Agreements from Inter-Korean Dialogue

1. Chronicle of Inter-Korean Relations

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	1	• In the president's New Year's address, President Park Geun-hye states: - "South Korea will strengthen its security and risk management system against possible North Korean provocations. South Korea will build a foundation for peaceful unification by actively promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula." • North Korea delivers a New Year's address. - "For improvement of inter-Korean relations, creation of a positive atmosphere is necessary. North Korea will work together with anyone who values the nation and wishes for reunification regardless of his past. We will actively seek improvement in inter-Korean relations."
	3	• Regarding North Korea's New Year's address, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification announces: - For the improvement of inter-Korean relations, North Korea should exhibit a sincere attitude to build mutual trust.
	6	• In the presidential New Year's press conference, - President Park proposes the establishment of a foundation for the unification of the Korean Peninsula as a key task of this year's state administration. She also emphasizes the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, reinforcement of humanitarian support, expansion of non-governmental exchanges, and resumption of reunions for separated families. - Regarding public concern about the cost of unification, President Park stresses that the unification of the Korean peninsula will provide a great opportunity for the South Korean economy, asserting "Unification is a bonanza."

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	6	• In a note sent from the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, South Korea proposes that an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting for a reunion for war-separated families be held on the occasion of Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) on January 10 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom.
	9	• In a note by the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF), North Korea refuses South Korea's proposal for an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting due to South Korea's military exercises. • Regarding North Korea's note, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment at North Korea's linking of annual military exercises and humanitarian issues and urges the North to respond positively to the proposal for a reunion for separated families.
	15	• In a statement by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, North Korea demands the cessation of ROK-US joint military exercises, citing a 'crisis in inter-Korean relations.'
	16	• North Korea's National Defense Commission calls for the following in the form of 'critical proposals': - ①taking practical measures to improve inter-Korean relations; ②taking practical measures to cease all military hostilities against the other party; ③taking practical measures to prevent nuclear disaster.
	17	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea's distortion of the facts regarding North Korea's 'critical proposals.' He emphasizes that the separated families issue is an urgent, purely humanitarian matter not to be linked with political or military issues. • Through a discussion at the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC, the two Koreas agree to convene a meeting of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for Commuting, Communications and Customs (the 3Cs) for the GIC on January 24.
	24	• The fourth meeting of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC is held.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	24	- The South and North discuss the implementation date of unrestricted daily passage, simplified customs clearance process such as sampling inspections, and the method of providing Internet services. The two Koreas agree on a pilot test of unrestricted daily passage from January 28 and the holding of a working-level meeting for communications on February 7. • In an open letter, North Korea's National Defense Commission urges South Korea to respond positively to North Korea's 'critical proposal.' - North Korea's 'critical proposal' is neither a false peace offensive nor a psychological warfare tactic and "North Korea will take practical measures to cease all military hostilities that aggravate the other party along the front lines on land, in the air, and on the sea, including the five islands in the West Sea." • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification defines South Korea's position on North Korea's open letter. - It is impossible to decide whether the 'critical proposal' is a false peace offensive based on a single statement. North Korea should show its sincere attitude through its actions from now on. • In a note sent from the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society to the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross, North Korea accepts South Korea's proposal for a reunion for separated families. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification welcomes North Korea's acceptance of South Korea's proposal for a family reunion.
	27	• In a note sent from the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, South Korea proposes a schedule for a reunion for separated families (Feb. 17~22). It also proposes that an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting be held on January 29 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom. • North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department Secretariat office sends a note to the National Security Office of South Korea's Blue House. - North Korea demands the cessation of South Korean naval fire exercises, warning that continuous exercises will cause dire consequences.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	28	• South Korea's Ministry of National Defense sends a note from the director general for Policy Planning Bureau. - South Korea emphasizes that reunions for separated families should not be affected by its annual military exercises. It warns that it will strongly punish any North Korean provocation.
	31	• Regarding the delayed North Korea's response to South Korea's proposal for an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting, South Korea's Minister of Unification expresses disappointment at the North's ambiguous attitude and urged it to respond positively to the proposal for a reunion for separated families without delay (in his speech of encouragement at the Manghyang Gyeongmo Ceremony).
2	3	• The South and North agree to hold an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting on February 5 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom to discuss a reunion for separated families.
	5	• The Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting is held. The two Koreas agree to have a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal from February 20 to 25 at Mt. Geumgang.
	6	• South Korea's Ministry of Unification delivers its New Year's briefing to the president. - As a plan for 2014, it reports three strategies (the establishment of sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula, the operation of the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula, and preparation for the unification era on the Korean Peninsula) and nine major projects. • In a statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department, North Korea expresses the possibility of its withdrawing from the agreement on the reunion for separated families, saying that it will not fulfill the agreement as long as South Korea continues to slander its political ideology. • Responding to the statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification announces its position that the agreement on the reunion for separated families must be observed. South Korea expresses displeasure at North Korea's threat to withdraw from the agreement on the reunion for separated families.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
2	7	• The working-level discussion of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC is held. - The two sides concur on the configuration and route of Internet network and the method of providing Internet services.
	8	• In a note sent from North Korea's National Defense Commission to South Korea's Blue House, North Korea proposes an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting.
	10	• The two Koreas agree to have an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on February 12 at the Peace House in Panmunjeom.
	12	• The Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting is held. The two Koreas broadly discuss pending issues related to inter-Korean relations, including the reunions for separated families and the cessation of mutual slander, but the meeting is adjourned without any specific agreement. - South Korea's head delegate: Kim Kyou-hyun (First Deputy Director, National Security Office); North Korea's head delegate: Won Dong-yeon (Deputy Director, United Front Department).
	14	• The Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting resumes and the two sides agree on a joint statement. - The reunion for separated families will take place as planned. - To enhance mutual understanding and trust, the South and North will refrain from slandering each other. - The South and North will continue to discuss mutual interests and strive to improve inter-Korean relations. - Another Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting will take place at a mutually convenient date.
	18	• At the Cabinet meeting, South Korea's president orders fundamental measures to resolve the issue of the reunions for separated families. - "The number who passed away without meeting their separated family members after applying for a family reunion reached 3,800 last year. Fundamental measures for frequent family reunions are necessary."
	20	• The reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal is held at Mt. Geumgang (Feb. 20~25).

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
2	20	- 1st (Feb. 20~22): 82 South Korean participants briefly reunited with 178 separated family members from the North. - 2nd (Feb. 23~25): 88 North Korean participants briefly reunited with 357 separated family members from the South.
	21	• A discussion between South-North telecommunications business operators for the 3Cs for the GIC is held. The schedule for the establishment of Internet network is discussed. • North Korea launches four short-range projectiles.
	24	• In a note sent from South Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency director to North Korea's National Veterinary Quarantine Committee chair, South Korea expresses its intention to support preventive measures to contain and ultimately eradicate foot-and-mouth disease, and proposes a working-level meeting. • A North Korean coast guard vessel thrice crosses the Northern Limit Line (NLL) 24km to the west of Yeonpyeong Island (Feb. 24~25).
	25	• South Korea's president makes a statement announcing the Three Year Plan for Economic Innovation, and clarifies a plan for launching a committee to prepare for unification. - For true peace on the Korean Peninsula and a great leap forward for South Korea, it is necessary to prepare for unification. - South Korea will seek systematic and constructive unification by launching a presidential committee to prepare for unification. - South Korea will canvas people from all walks of life for their opinions on unification, and create a detailed blueprint of the unified Korean Peninsula.
	27	• North Korea launches four ballistic missiles. • Kim Jeong-wook, a South Korean detained in the North, holds a press interview. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification announces its position, which is to urge North Korea to release and repatriate without delay the South Korean it is detaining.
	28	• North Korea refuses to receive South Korea's note urging it to repatriate the South Korean it is detaining.
3	1	• In her congratulatory speech on the March 1 Independence Movement Day, President Park emphasizes the importance of unifying the Korean Peninsula and establishing a fund for unification, and proposes regular reunions for separated families.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	4	• North Korea launches seven multiple rocket launchers into the East Sea.
	5	• In a note sent to South Korea's National Security Office, North Korea's National Defense Commission insists that the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations constitutes violation of South Korea's agreement to refrain from slander. • In a note sent from the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, South Korea proposes an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting on March 12 at Panmunjeom to discuss fundamental solutions for regular family reunions.
	6	• Regarding the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, South Korea's National Security Office sent a note to North Korea's National Defense Commission stressing its stance that South Korea cannot restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association. It also demands that North Korea assume a responsible attitude.
	7	• In a note sent from the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society to the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross, North Korea claims that it is not the right time for a working-level meeting to discuss the separated families issue. It insists that the important humanitarian issue of regular family reunions cannot be resolved through an inter-Korean Red Cross meeting. • In a note sent from the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, South Korea emphasizes its position that the reunions for separated families should not be discontinued due to political or military matters, and urges the North to respond positively to its proposal.
	11	• In a statement by the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, the North announces that its implementation of the agreement is at a critical crossroads.
	13	• The 1st Meeting for the Operation of the Commercial Arbitration Commission for the GIC is held. - The South and North agree on the importance of the arbitration system and exchange mutual opinions focusing on the arbitration procedures. They agree to continue discussions in the future.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	24	• In a keynote speech at the Nuclear Security Summit, the South Korean president stresses that realization of a 'world without nuclear weapons' should begin on the Korean Peninsula though a resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.
	26	• North Korea launches two Rodong missiles into the East Sea. • Regarding the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat, via media coverage, threatens South Korea with 'catastrophic consequences for inter-Korean relations.'
	27	• In an interview with a (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reporter, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes South Korea's president by name, sans title, insisting that her speech at the Nuclear Security Summit about the North Korean nuclear issue constitutes a violation of the agreement on the cessation of slander reached at the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. • Regarding North Korea's allegations of slander, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses the opinion that slandering the South Korean president is also a violation of the inter-Korean agreement. Expressing displeasure, he urges the North to avoid such recurrence.
	28	• South Korea repatriates a North Korean boat apprehended on March 27 for trespassing across the NLL in the West Sea. • North Korea's Korean People's Army (KPA) General Staff spokesperson insists that South Korea's seizure and repatriation of the North Korean fishing boat is the 'behavior of maritime ruffians.' • In her speech in Dresden, Germany, entitled "An initiative for Peaceful Unification on the Korean Peninsula," South Korea's president announces three proposals for establishing a basis for peaceful unification. - Resolution of humanitarian issues for South and North Koreans: regular reunions for separated families; joint South Korea-UN promotion of health care support for North Korean mothers and infants (through their first 1,000 days). - Establishment of public welfare infrastructure for prosperity both in the South and North: creation of an 'agricultural village complex'; economic cooperation and development (South Korea: investment in transportation, communication, and construction; North Korea: permission to develop underground resources); triangular (South Korea-North Korea-Russia and South Korea-North Korea-China) cooperation projects.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	28	- Restoration of ethno-national harmony between the South and North: exchanges of historical items, culture and art, and sports; economic education for the North Korean workforce; joint development of educational programs for future generations. - President Park proposes the foundation of an 'inter-Korean exchange and cooperation office' to implement her three proposals.
	29	• In a statement by the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, regarding the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets, North Korea threatens to turn the South into a 'heap of ashes' and 'sea of fire.' • North Korea holds a press conference involving the repatriated sailors.
	30	• In a statement by its Foreign Ministry, North Korea states that in order to strengthen nuclear deterrence, it has no choice but to engage in new forms of nuclear testing. • A spokesperson for the Ministry of Unification announces South Korea's position on the statement by the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. - North Korea's announcement is a violation of the inter-Korean agreement. To discourage the recurrence of such behavior, South Korea issues a strict warning to the North.
	31	• North Korea carries out maritime live fire exercises in the West Sea. - North Korea fires 500 artillery shells (approximately 100 of which hit South Korean territory south of the NLL). In return, South Korea fires 300 artillery rounds at the North.
4	1	• Regarding North Korea's criticism of the Dresden speech (via the KCNA on March 31), a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification demands more careful words and acts from North Korea given its preposterous behavior, which includes outright slander against the South Korean president's diplomatic activities. The spokesperson also urges the North to respond positively to the Dresden proposal.
	6	• A Mongolian cargo ship sinks off Yeosu (April 4), and several North Korean crew members are rescued. South Korea repatriates the rescued crew members (3 in total) and recovered corpses (2 bodies) to the North via Panmunjeom.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
4	11	• South Korea's Ministry of National Defense joint investigation team releases an interim announcement stating that it found clear evidence indicating drones that had crashed on its territory had been sent from the North.
	12	• North Korea's National Defense Commission spokesperson denounces the Dresden speech as a theory of 'absorptive unification' and 'preposterous sophistry.' He criticizes South Korea on the grounds that it slandered the North by fabricating false information, such as the claim that 'hunger' and 'pain' are prevalent there.
	14	• North Korea's CPRF Secretariat insists, in its truth disclosure report, that the drone incident is the 'second fabrication after the Cheonan incident.' • Regarding this report, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announces in a briefing that the drones were 'undoubtedly sent from the North.' South Korea urges that it cease slandering the South.
	15	• North Korea's National Defense Commission State Security Agency insists in its truth-disclosing report that the 'rumor of North Korea sending' drones is absolutely fabricated. It proposes a joint investigation of relevant incidents.
	16	• South Korea's Ministry of National Defense spokesperson states in a briefing that North Korea's proposal for a joint investigation constitutes 'low-grade psychological warfare to foment internal discord' and accordingly not worth discussing.
	22	• South Korea proposes a working-level meeting for the 3Cs on April 29 through a note by the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC.
	23	• The president of the DPRK Red Cross Society offers his condolences for the sinking of the ferry, Sewol, in a note sent to the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross. • In written, open questions to the South Korean president, North Korea's CPRF insists that South Korea clarify its position on whether it supports the improvement of relations or competition, unification or anti-unification, and peace or war. The CPRF shifts the responsibility for the strained inter-Korean relations onto the South.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
4	24	• North Korea's Korean Council for Reconciliation offers its "condolences for tragic news" of the sinking of the Sewol ferry in a note sent to South Korea's Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation. • The North Korean Committee for the Practice of the June 15 Joint Declaration offers its condolences to the South Korean Committee for the Practice of the June 15 Joint Declaration for the sinking of the Sewol ferry, expressing deep sorrow.
	25	• At the South Korea-US Summit, the two countries confirm their resolve to cooperate on the North Korean nuclear issue.
	27	• In a statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's CPRF, North Korea maligns the South Korean president in connection with the South Korea-US Summit. North Korea warns that it will never tolerate those who challenge the dignity, ideology, and 'parallel advance' policy of North Korea.
	28	• Responding to the statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's CPRF, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification states, "North Korea's continuous use of unspeakable profanity and coarse words is depravity that violates the agreement on the cessation of slander." He urges the North to discontinue its absurd behavior and cooperate in achieving inter-Korean harmony and successful coexistence. • In a statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission, North Korea threatens to take measures more severe than boosted fission weapon tests or new intercontinental ballistic missile tests.
	29	• North Korea carries out maritime live fire exercises in the West Sea. About 50 artillery shells are fired for about ten minutes from around 2 pm (none of which hits a South Korean area).
	30	• North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson announces in a statement: "There is no expiration for North Korea's declaration on March 30 that new types of nuclear tests will be conducted."
5	8	• South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announces the results of its scientific investigation into North Korea's mini-drones. It presents clear (smoking gun) evidence proving they originated in the North.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
5	8	- Analysis of the drones' flight path showed that both the launch site and return sites of all three drones are in North Korean territory.
	11	• The spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission State Security Agency denies South Korea's investigation results regarding the drones, and repeats its claim that a joint investigation is necessary.
	12	• South Korea's Ministry of National Defense spokesperson asserts during a briefing: - (Regarding the joint investigation) 'It is absurd that North Korea wants to investigate its own crime.' - (Regarding the behavior of the North Korean regime) 'It should cease such behavior immediately.'
	13	• Responding to the statement by South Korea's Ministry of National Defense spokesperson (May 12), North Korea insists, in a critical statement released by its National Defense Commission, that it is a 'bald disclosure of South Korea's ambition for absorptive unification and a clear declaration for ideology competition.' It threatens the South with a 'retaliatory attack by all North Korean people.' • North Korea's CPRF spokesperson states that if the South does not severely punish its National Defense spokesperson and those behind him, even the Blue House will not be safe.
	14	• During a regular briefing, a deputy spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea's threat of provocation and agitation/ propaganda and urges it to reflect on its own words and deeds.
	19	• North Korea's CPRF Secretariat calls on the South to reveal the truth about the Sewol ferry disaster, which it insists was no accident but premeditated murder and an intentional massacre.
	20	• The president of the (South) Korean Red Cross, in a note sent to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, offers its condolences in regard to the building that collapsed in Pyongcheon, Pyongyang. • The South Korean navy fires a warning shot at North Korean warships that crossed the NLL (2 coast guard ships and 1 patrol ship).

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
5	21	• In a public press statement, North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command threateningly states that South Korean warships are direct, intended targets, and that if the South provokes incidents in the five islands in the West Sea, it will face a military strike without warning.
	22	• North Korea fires two artillery shells 14km to the Southwest of Yeonpyeong Island (south of the NLL) which land 150m from a South Korean warship on a patrol mission. The South Korean warship fires 5 artillery shells in response which land near a North Korean warship on patrol north of the NLL. • The North Korean Committee for the Practice of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the Korean Council for Reconciliation sent a message to the Roh Moo-hyun Foundation to commemorate 'the 5th anniversary of his death.' • The head of the South Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean General-Level Military Talks issues a note to the head of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean General-Level Military Talks warning against firepower provocations on South Korean warships and declaring that a stern response will follow such provocations.
	23	• North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command issues a press statement asserting that the claim of a strike on a South Korean patrol corvette is false. • North Korea expresses its intention to participate in the Incheon Asian Games (Sep. 19~Oct. 4).
	27	• North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command spokesperson maintains that the 'source of the shooting' presented by South Korea's Ministry of National Defense has not been identified, and criticizes the holding of an emergency meeting of security ministers (May 23) as a 'hypercritical deception.'
	29	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson issues a statement criticizing remarks made by both a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense and by Minister of National Defense Kim Kwan-jin, and threatens the South with 'severe punishment.'
6	1	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement expressing displeasure at North Korea sentencing (May 30) South Korean Missionary Kim Jeong-wook to hard labor for life and demands his release and repatriation.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	3	• A drifting North Korean ship is rescued in the East Sea. One of the three rescued crew members, intent on returning to the North, is repatriated via Panmunjeom.
	5	• A spokesperson for the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society makes a statement claiming that the defection of the two rescued crew members constitutes unjust detainment. He threatens that 'if they are not repatriated without delay, the North will respond firmly.'
	6	• In her Memorial Day speech, the South Korean president urges the North to cease nuclear development and provocative threats. • Regarding the appointment of Minister of National Defense Kim Kwan-jin to the Director of the National Security Office, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat issues a press statement threatening that 'inter-Korean relations will not be able to avoid a bigger catastrophe and there will be risk of war.'
	9	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes, via a statement, the establishment of the North Korean Human Rights Office in South Korea as 'aggressive and subversive anti-DPRK scheming.' He threatens the South with 'merciless firepower.' • In a note sent to the North Korean chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC, the South Korean chair of the committee proposes that the 5th South-North Joint Committee Meeting for the GIC be held on June 19.
	10	• In a note sent to North Korea's United Front Department, South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea for incarcerating South Korean Missionary Kim Jeong-wook and sentencing him to hard labor for life. It proposes an inter-Korean authorities' working-level meeting on June 17 at Panmunjeom to discuss this issue.
	12	• In a note sent to South Korea's Ministry of Unification, North Korea's United Front Department rejects South Korea's proposal for an inter-Korean authorities' working-level meeting to discuss the issue of Missionary Kim Jeong-wook. • In a press statement, South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment that North Korea should have refused its proposal for an inter-Korean working-level meeting despite its unilateral seizure and detention of a South Korean national. It urges the North to respond positively to the proposal.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	16	• A drifting North Korean ship is rescued by South Korea in the East Sea (June 13). All five rescued crew members are repatriated after expressing a desire to return to the North. • South Korea rescues a crew member from a drifting North Korean ship in the East Sea, who subsequently expresses the intent to defect to the South.
	23	• In a note sent to the South Korean chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC, the North Korean chair of the committee proposes that the 5th South-North Joint Committee Meeting be held on June 26.
	24	• The South Korean chair of the committee agrees to North Korea's proposal in a note sent to the North Korean chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC. • Regarding the ceremony of the 64th anniversary of the Korean War, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes South Korea for 'rationalizing the scheme for its invasion of the North and being absorbed with invading North Korea by using nuclear weapons.'
	26	• North Korea fires three short-range projectiles into the East Sea. • Regarding South Korea's military exercises around Yeonpyeong Island, North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command threatens, in a critical report, that the 'only restraint on a North Korean strike is an order from the Supreme Commander.'
	29	• North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles.
	30	• North Korea's National Defense Commission announces a 'special proposal' calling upon South Korea to take practical measures for the cessation of slander and military hostilities and the undertaking of reconciliation and cooperation.
7	1	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement announcing South Korea's position on the 'special proposal' of North Korea's National Defense Commission (June 30). - South Korea asserts that North Korea's proposal lacks sincerity. It urges the North to demonstrate sincerity regarding the resolution of the nuclear issue and to sincerely participate in inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
7	2	• North Korea fires two short-range projectiles into the East Sea.
	6	• North Korea's official for military practice in the West Sea Zone notifies in writing that if South Korea violates the entry/exit order for the GIC, North Korea will impose more severe penalties.
	7	• North Korea's Republic Government insists, via a 'government statement,' that the South should cease war exercises in preparation for invading North Korea and instead implement inter-Korean agreements such as the June 15 and October 4 Declarations. It also announces North Korea's dispatch of a cheering squad to the Incheon Asian Games. • During a briefing a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification urges that the North cease its repetitious, irrational claims and enter into inter-Korean dialogue without delay. - To ensure the success of the Asian Games, South Korea announces that in view of the North's dispatch of a cheering squad, it plans to make necessary preparations in accordance with international practices in consultation with the organizing committee.
	8	• South Korea's official for military practice in the West Sea Zone announces via a note that pending issues related to the GIC, such as the issue of maintaining order, should be resolved not through unilateral measures but through inter-Korean discussion.
	9	• North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea.
	10	• The chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee proposes, via a note sent to the chair of the Asian Games Organizing Committee, an inter-Korean working-level talk around July 15 at Panmunjeom to discuss the participation of the North Korean team in the Incheon Asian Games and the dispatch of a cheering squad.
	11	• Via a note, South Korea proposes an inter-Korean working-level talk on July 17 at the South Korean area in Panmunjeom.
	13	• North Korea fires two short-range missiles into the East Sea.
	14	• Near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in Goseong, North Korea fires 100 artillery rounds (from multiple rocket launchers and coastal artillery) into the East Sea.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
7	15	• North Korea's commuting inspection center unilaterally notifies South Korea's Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee (KIDMAC) that from July 18 it will impose strengthened penalties on those who violate the entry/exit order of the GIC.
	17	• An inter-Korean working-level meeting is held at Panmunjeom to discuss the participation of the North Korean team in the Incheon Asian Games. - In response to South Korea's demand for specific descriptions and confirmation regarding the North Korean team and cheering squad, North Korea unilaterally declares a rupture of negotiations and withdraws.
	19	• The head of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean Working-Level Meeting shifts the responsibility for the rupture of negotiations onto the South. He threatens that North Korea will reconsider its participation in the Asian Games.
	21	• North Koreas' National Defense Commission spokesperson claims that North Korea's launch of missiles is a legitimate exercise of sovereignty and that ROK-US joint military exercises should cease. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification urges the North to exhibit a sincere attitude if it truly wishes to participate in the Incheon Asian Games and improve inter-Korean relations.
	26	• North Korea fires a short-range missile into the East Sea.
	28	• The president of the DPRK Red Cross Society sends a note to the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross announcing that on July 27 a corpse was found which, appearing to be that of a South Korean resident, will be sent to the South via Panmunjeom on July 30.
	30	• North Korea fires four short-range projectiles into the East Sea near Mt. Myohyang.
	31	• North Korea's Korean National Peace Committee spokesperson threatens the South that it will 'fire at the Blue House' if the Ulchi-Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercises do not cease.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
8	8	• North Korean Olympic Committee notifies the Secretariat of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) that North Korea will participate in the Incheon Asian Games group drawing ceremony (August 20~22).
	11	• In a note sent to the head of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, the head of the South Korean delegation proposes the holding of the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on August 19 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom, in order to discuss such issues of mutual interest as a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day). • South Korea's Ministry of Unification announces that South Korea will draw from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Funds to support the North Korea mother and child health project led by the WFP (USD 7 million) and WHO (USD 6.3 million).
	12	• A North Korean fishing boat crosses the NLL. It retreats after the South Korean Navy fires warning shots.
	13	• In a press statement, North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command inaccurately claims that South Korea fired indiscriminately at a North Korean fishing boat, and threatens the South with reprisals.
	14	• A statement by North Korea's CPRF repeats the demand for cessation of UFG exercises and rescission of the May 24 Measure. It argues that on the occasion of National Liberation Day the two Koreas should resolve fundamental issues first. • Regarding the Incheon Asian Games, North Korea submits an application through the OCA for the participation of 150 athletes in 14 sporting events.
	15	• In her Liberation Day speech on August 15, the South Korean president proposes inter-Korean communication in the areas of environment, public welfare and culture. She urges the North to renounce nuclear weapons and respond positively to its proposal for an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting.
	17	• North Korea's Korean People's Army (KPA) General Staff spokesperson issues a statement threatening the South with

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
8	17	preemptive strikes if the UFG exercises are not halted. • Director of the United Front Department Kim Yang-gon, on behalf of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee (Asia Pacific) presents a memorial wreath in Gaeseong on the occasion of the 5th anniversary (August 18) of the death of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.
	18	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement urging the North to respond positively to South Korea's August 11 proposal for an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. • Denouncing the UFG exercises, North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson makes a statement threatening the South with a "higher level of self-defense."
	19	• Regarding the Incheon Asian Games group drawing, the delegation to the North Korean Olympic Committee visits the South (August 19~23). It conveys a letter containing the dispatch plan of a North Korean team composed of 273 individuals, including 150 athletes. It proposes that the two Koreas discuss practical issues later, through an exchange of documents. • At a Cabinet meeting, the South Korean president emphasizes that the two Koreas should begin building mutual trust with small, practical undertakings. She urges the North to respond to her August 15 proposal.
	22	• In response to North Korea's letter, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification announces during a regular briefing that the South accepts the North's proposal for discussions via documents, and will promote necessary discussions.
	26	• South Korea's Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee dispatches a letter to the North Korean Olympic Committee soliciting its standpoint with respect to the size of the North Korean team and its mode of travel.
	28	• On KCNA TV, the vice chairman (Son Kwang-ho) of the North Korean Olympic Committee announces that North Korea's cheering squad will not be dispatched to the Asian Games.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
8	29	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification states, during a regular briefing, that the South welcomes the participation of the North Korean team and cheering squad in the Asian Games. Regarding the provision of convenience, he explains that while South Korea will follow international practices, it will cooperate with the North to contribute to inter-Korean relations. • North Korea's CPRF spokesperson claims that the South should completely cease all ROK-US joint military exercises if it is truly interested in inter-Korean dialogue.
9	1	• North Korea fires a short-range projectile into the East Sea from Chagang-do.
	4	• North Korea's Uriminzokkiri dismisses rumors of an 'Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting' and proffers the cessation of the UFG exercises, implementation of the existing South-North joint agreements, and resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism as prerequisites for inter-Korean dialogue.
	5	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment at North Korea for not responding to South Korea's proposal for an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. He urges the North to respond positively. • The president of the DPRK Red Cross Society informs the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross in a note that South Koreans who had illegally entered the North will be repatriated via Panmunjeom on September 11. • In a note sent to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross expresses South Korea's intention to take custody of those South Koreans.
	6	• North Korea fires three short-range projectiles from Wonsan into the East Sea.
	7	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson demands the cessation of ROK-US joint military exercises and the withdrawal of US troops.
	8	• Three North Korean residents rescued (Sep. 7) by the South in the seas around Dokdo Island are repatriated via Panmunjeom.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	11	• In a note sent to the North Korean chair of the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC, the South Korean chair proposes a September 18 meeting for the Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs to discuss the issues of unrestricted daily passage and Internet services. • The 94-member advance party for the North Korean team participating in the Incheon Asian Games visits the South. • North Korea repatriates South Korean residents who illegally entered the North via Panmunjeom.
	12	• In a note sent to the president of the DPRK Red Cross Society, the president of the (South) Korean Red Cross comments on the repatriation (Sep. 11) of South Koreans and demands the release and repatriation of Kim Jeong-wook, who is held by the North.
	13	• The spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting criticizes the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations as an anti-DPRK psychological scheme and threatens the South with retaliatory strikes. The spokesperson claims that the North cannot respond to the proposal for an inter-Korean dialogue unless this issue is resolved. • In a note sent to South Korea's Blue House National Security Office, North Korea's National Defense Commission Secretariat Office expresses a position similar to that of the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-level Meeting. • In a note sent to the South Korean chair of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC, the North Korean chair argues that meetings of the Joint Committee for the 3Cs cannot be resumed unless the issue of the GIC violation order is resolved and the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets ceases. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification comments that the South is observing the agreement on the cessation of slander, but the North is distorting the truth. He expresses displeasure at North Korea's threat to exact revenge on South Korean private organizations, and calls for North Korea's participation in inter-Korean dialogue.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	14	• In a note sent to North Korea's National Defense Commission, South Korea's Blue House National Security Office provides a response similar to the comment (Sep. 13) by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Unification. • In a note sent to the North Korean chair of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC, the South Korean chair expresses displeasure at the way in which North Korea raises issues irrelevant to the GIC as prerequisites for a Joint Subcommittee meeting. He urges the North to respond positively to South Korea's proposal for a Joint Subcommittee meeting.
	15	• In a note sent to South Korea's Blue House National Security Office, North Korea's National Defense Commission Secretariat Office repeats the substance of its note sent on September 13. • In a note sent to the South Korean chair of the South-North Joint Subcommittee for the 3Cs for the GIC, the North Korean chair repeats that the 3Cs issue cannot be resolved without a resolution of the issue of anti-DPRK leaflets.
	18	• Through the International Military Sports Council, North Korea notifies the South of its intention to participate in the World Military Pentathlon Championship (Oct. 2~11 in Yeongcheon, Gyeongbuk).
	19	• A North Korean coast guard vessel crosses the NLL in the West Sea.
	20	• In an interview with a KCNA reporter, the spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-level Meeting notes that the 'North will monitor South Korea's reaction to the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets on September 21.'
	22	• Regarding the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets (Sep. 21) by South Korean private organizations, a spokesperson for North Korea's CPRF criticizes the South, demanding punishment for the leader of the dissemination. The spokesperson also announces that there will be no inter-Korean dialogue.
	24	• In her keynote speech at the UN General Assembly, the South Korean president proposes a vision of a unified Korean Peninsula in which issues regarding North Korean nuclear weapons and human rights no longer exist.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	24	- The president urges the North to renounce nuclear weapons and improve public welfare. - The president emphasizes measures for the implementation of the COI (UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea) recommendations and international interest in the issue of human rights of North Korean defectors. • South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announces that the model of the mini-drone found near Baengnyeongdo Island was the same as that of the drones found in Paju from March to April.
	25	• In his keynote speech at the '2014 Korea Global Forum,' South Korea's Minister of Unification stresses that the South is willing to resolve all issues through discussion and urges the North to respond positively to the proposal for inter-Korean dialogue.
	26	• Responding to the South Korean president raising the issues of North Korean nuclear weapons and human rights in her speech at the UN General Assembly, North Korea's CPRF makes a statement denouncing President Park, and again uses her name instead of her title.
	27	• North Korea's National Defense Commission spokesperson denounces South Korean president's speech at the UN General Assembly.
	28	• In his speech at the UN General Assembly, North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong reemphasizes North Korea's intention to become a nuclear power. He denounces South Korea for raising the North Korean human rights issue and proposes reunification along federal lines.
	29	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification denounces, during a regular briefing, North Korea's harsh invective against the South Korean president's speech at the UN General Assembly. He repeatedly urges the North to enter into inter-Korean dialogue as there are pending issues to discuss.
10	2	• North Korea's CPRF announces, "North Korea is determined to achieve independent reunification, peace and prosperity based on North-South joint agreements." It insists that the South should implement these agreements.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	3	• Through an official participating in the Asian Games, North Korea notifies the South of the plan to have some of its high-ranking officials visit the South (South Korea accepts).
	4	• High-ranking North Korean officials (Director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, Hwang Pyong-so, and Secretaries of the Workers' Party, Choe Ryong-hae and Kim Yang-gon) visit the South. The two Koreas agree to have the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting between late October and early November.
	7	• A North Korean coast guard ship trespasses across the NLL near Yeonpyeongdo Island, resulting in hostilities between the South and North. • North Korea sends a note proposing an urgent inter-Korean meeting regarding the inter-Korean hostilities that occurred near the NLL in the West Sea. It proposes a meeting between North Korea's Reconnaissance General Bureau director, Kim Yong-chol, and South Korea's National Security Office Director, Kim Kwan-jin. • South Korea sends a note stressing that the West Sea NLL should be respected and observed, and stating that relevant issues can be discussed at an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting or Military Talks.
	8	• North Korea sends a note reiterating its proposal for an urgent inter-Korean meeting. - The South responds with a note proposing an inter-Korean military authorities meeting on October 15 (the North accepts).
	10	• North Korea provokes the South by shooting down balloons containing anti-DPRK leaflets disseminated by South Korean private organizations. Some falling bullets damage a South Korean area in the Civilian Control Line. South Korea fires back at the North. • South Korea sends a note severely warning North Korea about shooting in retaliation for the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets.
	11	• The North Korean team participates in the Incheon Asian Para Games (Oct. 11~25).
	12	• A spokesperson for the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting urges the South to change its position, advising, 'The South still has a chance to choose.'

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	13	• At the 2nd meeting of the Committee for Unification Preparation, the South Korean president emphasizes the importance of inter-Korean communication, and her expectation that the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting offer an opportunity to improve inter-Korean relations. - The president also comments on the hypocritical attitude of North Korea (high-ranking officials visit to the South vs. the NLL hostilities and the MDL shooting) and stresses that South Korea will maintain consistent policies. • In a note sent to the head of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, the head of the South Korean delegation proposes the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on October 30 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom.
	15	• An Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting is held at Panmunjeom, but adjourned without agreement. - The North demands the prohibition on South Korea's crossing North Korea's 'guard limit' line in the West Sea, cessation of disseminating anti-DPRK leaflets and cessation of slander. - The South reiterates its stance that the NLL should be observed, and that the government can control neither the media nor the activities of private organizations.
	16	• In a public press statement, North Korea's KCNA criticizes South Korea's position at the Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting, and warns the South that it will deliberately fire upon private disseminators of leaflets. It also speaks of a gloomy outlook for plans of an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. • South Korea expresses disappointment at North Korea's distortion of the contents of the Inter-Korean Military Authorities' Meeting and its threat to fire upon private organizations. The South expresses its position that it seeks improvement in inter-Korean relations and the easing of tension through inter-Korean dialogue, and that it expects to have the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. • Through deliberation of the South and North Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council, South Korea decides to provide KRW 550 million (the North spent KRW 230 million) to cover part of North Korea's expenses for participating in the Incheon Asian Games.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	20	• In a note sent to the head of the South Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean General-Level Military Talks, the head of the North Korean delegation criticizes the South for broadcasting a warning, as well as for firing shots at North Korean soldiers patrolling along the MDL, and threatens the South with retaliatory measures. • In a note sent to the head of the North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean General-Level Military Talks, the head of the South Korean delegation emphasizes that South Korea's measures against the North Korean provocative crossing of the MDL (Oct. 18, 19) were justified. Expressing disappointment at North Korea's behavior of shifting responsibility onto the South, he demands measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. He warns that South Korea will respond resolutely to any provocation.
	22	• The North Korean delegation to the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting demands in a statement that South Korea change its attitude towards the issue of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets as a precondition for an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. It threatens the South with the collapse of inter-Korean relations.
	23	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification urges the North to cease its unilateral arguments and to respect inter-Korean agreements.
	26	• In a note sent to South Korea's National Security Office, North Korea's National Defense Commission Secretariat Office expresses displeasure that although that the daytime dissemination (Oct. 25) of anti-DPRK leaflets by conservative organizations was canceled, the South Korean government had neglected to prevent their nighttime dissemination. It advises the South to consider whether an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting can be held after such conduct.
	27	• South Korea's National Security Office clarifies, in a note sent to North Korea's National Defense Commission, that there is no change in South Korea's stance on the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by private organizations. It demands that the North first express its position on the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	28	• In a note sent to North Korea's National Defense Commission, South Korea's National Security Office urges the North to clearly express its stance toward South Korea's proposal for the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting (Oct. 30) by October 29.
	29	• In a note sent to South Korea's National Security Office, North Korea's National Defense Commission Secretariat Office complains that the South is neglecting to prevent the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets and thus is causing the collapse of the 2nd Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting. It demands that the South choose between either holding an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting or allowing the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification reiterates South Korea's position on the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets. The spokesperson expresses disappointment at North Korea for causing the collapse of the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting (Oct. 30) by setting the cessation of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets as a prerequisite for the meeting.
	30	• The Gyeoremal-keunsajeon South-North Joint Compilation Committee meeting is held in Pyongyang, and the committee members visit the North (Oct. 30~Nov. 8).
11	1	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson clarifies, via a statement, its 'core position': ①There can be no inter-Korean dialogue or improvement in inter-Korean relations without the cessation of anti-DPRK leaflet dissemination. ②Anyone disseminating anti-DPRK leaflets will be punished. ③The dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets will be reported to the UN and other international organizations.
	2	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement expressing strong displeasure at North Korea's behavior: North Korea distorted the truth by insisting that the South Korean government supports the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets and declared that inter-Korean dialogue will be discontinued accordingly. The spokesperson warns the North that the South will respond firmly to any threat to the safety of the South Korean people.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
11	2	• The North Korean team (32 athletes) participates in the Yeoncheon International Youth Football Tournament (Nov. 2 in Suwon; Nov. 3~11 at the Center for Unified Korean Future).
	6	• In a press statement, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat criticizes the establishment of the Charter of Unification by South Korea's Committee for Unification Preparation as the reflection of a desire for absorptive unification.
	10	• North Korean soldiers approach the MDL near Panmunjeom. South Korean soldiers fire warning shots before withdrawing.
	11	• Upon North Korea's demand (Oct. 29) for Ebola quarantine equipment for North Korea's GIC commuting inspection center, South Korea decides to support (rent) 3 heat sensing cameras (installation scheduled for Nov. 20).
	15	• North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department spokesperson announces North Korea's 'position in principle': ①There will be neither improvement in inter-Korean relations nor inter-Korean dialogue if South Korea maintains its anti-DPRK stance. ②Behavior that defeated previous inter-Korean agreements should be avoided. ③South Korean authorities should behave properly to promote national reconciliation and solidarity. • Regarding South Korea broadcasting a warning and firing warning shots (Nov. 10) at North Korean soldiers approaching the MDL, North Korea's KPA Front Command issues a press statement describing it as a military provocation against routine patrolling. It threatens the South with a retaliatory strike. • Regarding the press statement from North Korea's KPA Front Command, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff expresses displeasure at North Korea's criticism of South Korea's justified actions. It declares that the South will justifiably take measures against North Korean provocations occurring near the MDL and will respond severely to any provocation.
	20	• North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson issues a statement to this effect: - 'The hostile actions of the US make it impossible for the North to suspend new nuclear tests.' - 'War deterrence will be strengthened infinitely.'

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
11	20	• South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson warns that the North will face a firm response from the international community if the nuclear-related situation in the North worsens. He urges the North to take measures to improve human rights in accordance with the recent resolution. • The South and North discuss South Korea's Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation officials visit to the North (Gaeseong) in relation to the inter-Korean youth exchanges on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day.
	21	• In a press statement North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command criticizes South Korea for conducting its Safeguarding the Nation drill. It recalls the Yeonpyeongdo Island artillery clash and warns that South Korean troops will be 'buried in the deep blue sea forever. • Regarding conservative groups' rally denouncing the North on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the Yeonpyeongdo Island artillery clash, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson issues a statement claiming that it constitutes an insult to the supreme dignity of the North, and threatens the South with merciless punishment. • Kim Dae-jung Peace Center officials and the North discuss Lee Hui-ho's visit to the North (Gaeseong).
	22	• North Korea's CPRF Secretariat declares, via a press statement, that 'the anti-DPRK concoction of a human rights agreement is an open declaration of war' that they 'will not tolerate.'
	23	• North Korea's National Defense Commission issues a statement announcing that the US responded to North Korea's release of an American with the adoption of a resolution. It threatens that the US will be the 'first target of North Korea's retaliatory strike.' • Responding to the statement by North Korea's National Defense Commission, South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly denounces North Korea's provocative behavior, such as its threat of nuclear war. It sternly warns that should the North take additional measures to worsen the situation, it will face a firm response from the international community. Finally, it urges the North to take measures to improve human rights in accordance with the UN resolution on North Korean human rights.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
11	24	• North Korea's Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation spokesperson defines South Korea's agreement with the UN resolution on North Korean human rights as an 'absolute denial of the North Korean regime' and a 'declaration of war.' The North threatens the South with 'destructive consequences.' • The Rajin-Hasan coal transportation pilot project is carried out (Nov. 24~28).
12	4	• A spokesperson for North Korea's Korean Council of Religionists criticizes the installation of a Christmas tree on Aegibong Peak.
	6	• North Korea's Uriminzokkiri announces that the North revised the labor regulations for the GIC (Nov. 20) and removed the 5% limit on increases in the minimum wage.
	9	• The Council for South and North Korean Historians discusses (in Gaeseong) the South-North joint excavation and research project for Manwoldae in Gaeseong and Koguryo ancient tombs in Pyongyang.
	10	• Regarding the announcement (Dec. 6) of the North's unilateral revision of labor regulations, South Korea expresses its firm position that it can never accept the revision.
	11	• Responding to the South Korean president's remarks on North Korean nuclear and human rights issues, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson gives an interview criticizing the South Korean president by name and sans title.
	12	• Regarding North Korea's recent caustic invective against the South Korean president, in which she is referred to without her title, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses severe displeasure during a regular briefing and demands the North engage in self-reflection. • In a press statement, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat dismisses South Korea's discussion of unification as a 'scheme of regime confrontation' for absorptive unification.
	15	• North Korea twice refuses (Dec. 15 and 16) to receive South Korea's note regarding the North's revision of labor regulations for the GIC.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
12	16	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment at North Korea's refusal to receive a note sent from the South. The spokesperson states that the South will not accept any regulatory revision without an inter-Korean agreement, and will instead take resolute measures.
	19	• South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson welcomes the passage of the UN resolution on North Korean human rights. He urges the North to take specific and practical measures to improve human rights.
	20	• North Korea's Foreign Ministry makes a statement categorically rejecting the UN resolution on North Korean human rights. The ministry announces the nullification of all agreements, including the September 19 agreement, and the strengthening of North Korea's self-reliant defense potential, including nuclear weapons. • North Korea's CPRF Secretariat argues, via a press statement, that the strained inter-Korean relations were caused by South Korea's confrontation policy and demands that South Korea reverse its policy.
	21	• Regarding the press statement of North Korea's CPRF Secretariat, South Korea urges the North to cease shifting responsibility and enter into inter-Korean dialogue. • In a press statement North Korea's CPRF Secretariat criticizes the dissolution of the Unified Progressive Party as an act of "political terrorism."
	22	• During a regular briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses "severe disagreement" with North Korea's unilateral argument regarding the dissolution of the Unified Progressive Party. The South urges the North to discard its "intention to exploit South Korea's internal conflict for its own gain." • The UN Security Council (UNSC) decides to take up the 'issue of North Korea' regarding its human rights violations as an official agenda item (11 in favor, 2 against, and 2 abstentions).
	23	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs defines South Korea's position on the UNSC's decision to take up the issue of North Korean human rights as an agenda item: The South expects that there will be an in-depth discussion to improve North Korean human rights at the UN Security Council in the future.

2014		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
12	25	• Regarding the UNSC's decision to take up the issue of North Korean human rights as an agenda item, a spokesperson for North Korea's CPRF claims that South Korea actively participated in the UN human rights scheme and threatens the South with "punishment without mercy."
	26	• North Korea repatriates South Korean residents who had illegally entered the North to the South via Panmunjeom.
	29	• In a note to the director of the United Front Department, the vice chairman of the Committee for Unification Preparation proposes an inter-Korean discussion on January 2015 to discuss mutual interests, such as the issue of separated families.
	31	• In her New Year's address in 2015, the South Korean president predicts: - "Based on strong security, the South will end 70 years of division filled with division and conflict. The South will lead changes in the North and build a practical and concrete unification foundation to blaze a trail for unification."

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	1	• In its New Year's speech, North Korea expresses an active intention to improve inter-Korean relations, mentions 'big changes in inter-Korean relations,' 'top-level talks' and 'the resumption of high-level meeting,' and reiterates its previous positions, such as its demand for the cessation of ROK-US joint military exercises. • South Korea's Minister of Unification makes a positive assessment of North Korea's New Year's speech. Reaffirming the necessity for inter-Korean dialogue, he states, 'Inter-Korean dialogue should be held in the near future without insisting on formalities.
	6	• During a Cabinet meeting, the South Korean president urges the North to enter into inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement reiterating South Korea's proposal to hold 'inter-Korean dialogue without insisting on formalities.' He urges the North to respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue if it has an intention to improve inter-Korean relations.
	7	• North Korea's National Defense Commission spokesperson insists that the South should clearly express its position on the matters the North proposed in its New Year's address (Jan. 1) as prerequisites for the improvement of inter-Korean relations. • Responding to the statement by North Korea's National Defense Commission spokesperson, South Korea urges the North to 'Cease repeating arguments that are unhelpful for inter-Korean dialogue and participate in inter-Korean dialogue without delay for the practical improvement in inter-Korean relations.'
	8	• The National Assembly of the ROK Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee adopts the Resolution on the Implementation of the Inter-Korean Agreement on the Cessation of Mutual Slander that urges the government to take measures against the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by private organizations.
	9	• North Korea refuses to receive the Resolution on Unification Preparation based on National Consensus and the Resumption of Inter-Korean Dialogue sent by the South, saying that it is acting on a 'directive from the ruling office.'

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	10	• North Korea's KCNA reports that the North sent a message (Jan. 9) to the US, stating that it will suspend nuclear tests if ROK-US joint military exercises cease.
	11	• South Korea declares that North Korea's nuclear tests are prohibited by the UNSC, and the North is expected to comply with this decision. The South stresses that ROK-US joint exercises and nuclear tests cannot be linked.
	12	• In a New Year's presidential press conference, the South Korean president affirms that the South, commemorating the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day, will strive to improve inter-Korean relations and build a foundation for peaceful unification.
	15	• In a group meeting, South Korea explains its position to private organizations responsible for the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets and solicits their wise decision.
	19	• South Korea's foreign and security agencies report their activities to the president. • At this point, the South Korean president emphasizes practical inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation to prepare for unification.
	20	• North Korea holds a government-party-organization joint conference. The conference demands the 'cessation of regime confrontation' and adopts an appeal for the 'resumption of Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting and the possibility of sectoral discussions.' - The appeal was sent to five South Korean institutions: Blue House; chairman of the National Assembly; Saenuri Party; New Politics Alliance for Democracy; and Korean Red Cross (Jan. 21).
	21	• South Korea announces that it cannot consider North Korea's 'appeal' as an official response to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. South Korea urges the North to cease its unilateral propaganda and respond to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue without delay. • During an interview with a KCNA reporter, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations and threatens to reject South Korea's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue if the South fails to control it.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
1	22	• In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the ambassador of the Permanent Mission of North Korea to the UN demands the cancellation of the Resolution on North Korean Human Rights.
	23	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson demands the rescission of the May 24 measure. • South Korea expresses disappointment at North Korea's insistence of linking the issue of separated families, a purely humanitarian issue, with the rescission of the May 24 measure. South Korea reiterates its urging that the North respond positively to its proposal for inter-Korean dialogue.
	25	• North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department issues a statement arguing that the South should not misjudge, distort, or ridicule the veracity and intention of its proposal, and threatens the South with "stern punishment." • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification issues a statement expressing disappointment at how North Korea, through a statement by its National Defense Commission Policy Department, distorted and criticized South Korea's intention to improve inter-Korean relations, and failed to respond to its proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. He urges the North to respond positively to this proposal.
	29	• In his memoirs, former President Lee Myung-bak discloses information related to inter-Korean relations, such as closed-door-meetings for a summit. • Via a press statement, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat criticizes South Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, referring to him by name and without title, for remarking that, "The North Korean nuclear issue is a cancerous tumor for inter-Korean relations."
2	4	• During an interview with a reporter, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson proposes prerequisites for inter-Korean dialogue, such as "exhibiting the intent to improve inter-Korean relations by taking credible measures."
	5	• During a regular briefing a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification highlights the absence of justification for the prerequisites to inter-Korean dialogue, and urges the North to enter into inter-Korean discourse. • North Korea's CPRF spokesperson strongly criticizes former President Lee Myung-bak for disclosing secret inter-Korean interaction in his memoirs.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
2	8	• North Korea fires five short-range missiles into the East Sea.
	11	• North Korea's CPRF fulminates in a special announcement: - "South Korea joined the anti-DPRK scheme of the US and creates treacherous situations." - The CPRF threatens the South with 'shameful destruction,' calling it 'a target of retaliatory strike.' • North Korea refuses to receive a note from the (South) Korean Red Cross which states that it will supply powered milk formula to the North on humanitarian grounds.
	12	• South Korea expresses displeasure at the North's threatening remarks. The South declares that it will respond firmly to any provocation, and urges the North to respond positively to its proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. • A spokesperson for North Korea's Council for South Korean Human Rights criticizes South Korea's National Security Law as 'uncommon and unjust, as it exterminates human rights', and demands its abolition.
	17	• During a regular briefing on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary (Feb. 19) of the Inter-Korean Basic Agreement, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification urges the North to respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue and to exhibit a responsible attitude, so as to overcome national division.
	19	• On the occasion of the Manghyang Gyeongmo Ceremony for Separate Families, South Korea's Minister of Unification stresses the importance of inter-Korean dialogue and practice in resolving the issues of separated families, South Korean prisoners of war and abductees.
	23	• The Park Geun-hye administration selects 'opening a channel for practical inter-Korean cooperation' as one key item of the reform agenda (24 items) for its third year in power.
	24	• North Korea unilaterally announces a raise in the minimum wage of North Korean workers at the GIC (5.18% raise from USD 70.35 to USD 74). • The ROK-US Combined Forces Command officially announces the beginning of the KR/FE exercises on March 2, and notifies the North.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
2	26	• South Korea announces that it cannot accept North Korea's demand regarding the GIC, and urges the North to cease its unilateral actions. South Korea attempts to deliver a note from the South Korean chair of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC proposing the 6th committee meeting for Mar. 13, but the North refuses to receive it.
3	1	• In her congratulatory speech on the March 1 Independence Movement Day, President Park repeatedly insists on inter-Korean dialogue and emphasizes that the two Koreas should strive to mark a milestone in national unity on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day.
	2	• A spokesperson for North Korea's Korean People's Army (KPA) General Staff issues a statement criticizing ROK-US joint military exercises as a 'nuclear war rehearsal for the invasion of North Korea.' He threatens the South with 'merciless firepower.' • A spokesperson for North Korea's Foreign Ministry states that ROK-US joint military exercises 'may cause accidental damage to the North.' The spokesperson threatens that 'the North will respond to any trivial provocation with a justified unification war.' • North Korea fires two short-range missiles into the East Sea. • South Korea's Ministry of National Defense spokesperson warns during a regular briefing that 'firm and severe measures will be taken in response to North Korean provocations.' • Regarding anti-DPRK leaflets, North Korea's Uriminzokkiri threatens the South with 'directed firepower' and 'responses with artillery and missiles.'
	3	• North Korea's CPRF announces, via a statement, that 'the opportunities for inter-Korean dialogue and the improvement of inter-Korean relations have already passed.' He argues that 'only the final showdown of the two Koreas' competition for power remains.' • Responding to the statement by North Korea's CPRF, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea's threat of military retaliation during a regular briefing and urges the North to cease its threats. • North Korea submits an application to the International University Sports Federation to participate (108 athletes in 8 sporting events) in the 2015 Gwangju Summer Universiade (Jul 3~14).

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	9	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement announcing that the South cannot accept the North's unilateral measures regarding the GIC, and stresses that any systemic improvement should be decided through inter-Korean discussion. He urges the North to respond positively to its proposal for a South-North Joint Committee meeting.
	10	• North Korea's CPRF Secretariat issues a press statement denouncing the linking of the assault on the US ambassador with North Korea. It criticizes the rally against pro-North Korea forces held by conservative groups as an 'insult to the supreme dignity of the North and the North Korean flag' and threatens that the South will 'pay with blood.'
	12	• North Korea's Uriminzokkiri argues that the revision of the labor regulations for the GIC is the 'exercise of legislative authority and is thus not subject to discussion with the South.' It demands the 'regulation of the retrieval of goods by South Korea and the rescission of South Korea's May 24 measure.'
	13	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses during a regular briefing disappointment over North Korea cancelling the South-North Joint Committee meeting for the GIC on March 13, ignoring the inter-Korean agreement.
	14	• Regarding the remark, 'absorptive unification team', by Vice Chairman of the Committee for Unification Preparation Jeong Jong-wook, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson denounces both the Committee for Unification Preparation as a 'scheming institution for absorptive unification and unification preparation as absorptive unification preparation.' He argues that the South should apologize and the Committee for Unification Preparation should be dissolved.
	15	• Responding to the statement by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea's argument, and urges the North to cease its unilateral argument, including rude remarks directed toward the head of a state. The spokesperson also urges the North to respond positively to the South's effort to lay a foundation for peaceful unification.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	16	• In his inaugural address, South Korea's Minister of Unification, Hong Yong-pyo, proposes the policy direction of advancing the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula through communication and integration.
	17	• South Korea's joint investigation team announces in an interim report that the hacking of the Korea Water Resource Corporation (K-water) nuclear power plant data was committed by North Korea (use of a unique North Korean malicious code; traces of access by a North Korean IP). • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification denounces, via a statement, North Korea continuation of cyber terrorism attacks on the South and the international community and urges the North to cease doing so immediately. • North Korea's Uriminzokkiri denies the accusation of hacking the K-water nuclear power plants data.
	18	• During an interview with a KCNA reporter, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson caustically dismisses the inaugural address of South Korea's Minister of Unification as "sophistry lacking sincerity" and "provocation and insult."
	19	• South Korea's 14-person delegation to the GIC tenant companies visits the North (Gaeseong) and meets a North Korea's Vice Director of the General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone, Park Chol-su. - South Korea's delegation attempts to propose that the revision of the labor regulations was an issue for inter-Korean discussion, but the North refuses to receive the proposal.
	22	• Regarding the plan of the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations, North Korea's KPA front troops, via a public notice, threaten the South with 'indiscriminate strikes to destroy the balloons' and 'repeated punitive strikes.' • Regarding the North's criticism and threats, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff sternly warn the North, declaring that the South will respond firmly to North Korean provocations.
	24	• A spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department reiterates the position that the North has nothing to do with the sinking of the South Korean Navy corvette Cheonan, and demands the rescission of the May 24 measure.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
3	24	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification rejects, during a regular briefing, North Korea's argument and reaffirms that the North should act responsibly for the May 24 measure to be rescinded.
	25	• South Korea's Committee for Unification Preparation members visit the GIC (to inspect health services), and North Korea rejects their visit to North Korean facilities.
	26	• In a speech for the '5th anniversary of the loss of the Cheonan naval personnel', South Korea's president urges the North to cease provocations, and emphasizes that national unification should be achieved so that the sacrifice of the Cheonan naval personnel will not have been in vain.
	27	• In a press statement North Korea's CPRF Secretariat repeats its existing argument that the sinking of the Cheonan warship was a scheme perpetrated by the South and US, and derogatorily refers to President Park only by name, without her title. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement expressing displeasure both with North Korea's detention of a South Korean and with its claim regarding the Cheonan incident, and urges the North to repatriate the South Korean immediately. - The South attempts to send a note to this effect, but the North refuses to receive it. • On the occasion of the 1st anniversary (Mar. 28) of the Dresden declaration, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification explains the achievement of the Dresden initiative and urges the North to respond actively and positively.
	28	• North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson criticizes the UN Human Rights Council for adopting the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK and threatens to take severe measures.
	30	• Responding to the planned establishment of the UN North Korean Human Rights Office in Seoul, North Korea's Secretariat issues a press statement threatening the South with 'merciless punishment.'

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
4	2	• Regarding North Korea's unilateral revision of the labor regulations of the GIC, South Korea sends an official document to GIC tenant companies requesting that they "comply with existing regulations until an inter-Korean agreement is reached."
	3	• North Korea fires four short-range ballistic missiles.
	10	• The North Korean delegation visits the South to participate in the Gwangju Summer Universiade Delegation Meeting (Apr. 10~14).
	22	• The deadline for wage payment in the GIC is extended to April 24. • On the occasion of attending the Bandung Conference, North Korea's Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly President Kim Yong-Nam fulminates, 'The US hostile policy toward the North creates crisis on the Korean Peninsula,' and 'The South's anti-unification attitude interferes with the improvement of inter-Korean relations and with unification.'
5	1	• South Korea announces its position on the promotion of non-governmental exchanges for the restoration of ethno-national harmony during the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day.
	5	• A preliminary meeting (May 5~7) for the June 15 joint ceremony is held in Shenyang; The Gyeoremal-keunsajeon South-North Joint Compilation Committee meeting is held (May 5~11) in Shenyang.
	8	• North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command issues an emergency warning and threatens to fire upon South Korean vessels trespassing into North Korean territorial waters. • South Korea's Ministry of National Defense expresses displeasure at the North's threat and announces that the South will take severe counter-measures against such provocations. • During an interview with a reporter, South Korea's Committee for the Joint National Ceremony Preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation Day and the 15th Anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration announces that the South and North have agreed to hold a joint ceremony on June 15 and August 15 and have reached a tentative decision to hold the June 15 ceremony in Seoul.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
5	9	• North Korea reports, via the KCNA, success in launching underwater ballistic missiles from a submarine.
	12	• The South Korean president holds a meeting of foreign affairs and security ministers. - South Korea will respond sternly to North Korean provocations and threats, i.e., threat of targeted strikes across the NLL and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) tests. - GIC issues should be handled in accordance with basic principles and resolved through inter-Korean discussion.
	13	• A spokesperson for North Korea's General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone asserts that the South's interference in the GIC wage issue constitutes an infringement of its sovereignty and threatens to withdraw the GIC workers.
	14	• Responding to the statement by the spokesperson for North Korea's General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone, South Korea explicitly notes North Korea's unjustifiable behavior regarding the GIC and urges the North to respond positively to its proposal for inter-Korean dialogue without delay. • South Korea's Committee for the Joint National Ceremony Preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation Day and the 15th Anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration proposes a working-level meeting from May 19 to 20 in Gaeseong to discuss additional matters related to the joint ceremonies between the South and North.
	15	• A spokesperson for North Korea's Committee for the June 15 Joint Declaration Practice asserts that the agreement regarding the June 15 ceremony was distorted. • South Korea proposes, through the Secretariat of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC, the 6th South-North Joint Committee Meeting in a note, but the North refuses to receive it.
	18	• Responding to the South Korean president's remark on the North Korean regime, North Korea's National Federation of Labor Organization spokesperson delivers a personal attack on the South Korean president.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
5	20	• North Korea cancels UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's visit to the GIC, planned for May 21. • Via a statement, a spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department threatens the South, warning that North Korea's nuclear weapons have become more compact and diversified, long-range missiles have become more precise, and the SLBM tests were successful. He dismisses the UNSC as an institution beholden to the dictates of the US. • During a regular briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense responds to the statement of the spokesperson of North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department by urging the North to cease all threats and provocations, including the development of ballistic missiles. • During the meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the South Korean President expresses disappointment at North Korea's cancellation of his visit to the North.
	21	• DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee spokesperson criticizes the South Korean president for urging the North to resume reunions for separated families.
	22	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification issues a statement strongly denouncing North Korea's repeated slander against the South Korean president and government and urges the North to cease doing so immediately and respond to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. • In response to the statement by the DPRK Red Cross Society spokesperson, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification, during a regular briefing, expresses dismay at the North's linkage of the humanitarian issue of separated families with political/military issues and urges the North to cease such linkage. • The two Koreas agree on 'confirmation', regarding the GIC wage (KIDMAC, tenant companies, and the representatives of branch offices signed). • South Korea holds government-ruling party consultation to discuss pending issues related to inter-Korean relations. The South Korean government stresses its position that it will continue inter-Korean dialogue, while pointing out the North's wrongdoings.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
5	24	• North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department denies, via a statement, the accusation that the North sank the South Korean naval corvette Cheonan, and demands a joint investigation. The department also demands the rescission of the May 24 measure ahead of inter-Korean dialogue. • North Korea's CPRF spokesperson makes a statement asserting that self-defensive nuclear weapons are a means to protect the dignity and independence of the nation and criticizes the South for raising tensions between the two Koreas.
	26	• On the occasion of a Cabinet meeting, the South Korean president remarks that North Korea's SLBM tests and reign of terror are ruining North Korean lives, and South Korea is facing internal and external difficulties. • South Korea's Committee for the Joint National Ceremony Preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation Day and the 15th Anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration reiterates its proposal for a meeting for the South-North joint June 15 ceremony at any time and any place at the North's convenience.
	27	• North Korea's Institute for National Unification White Paper threatens and personally attacks the South Korean president using caustic invective.
	28	• South Korea condemns the North for making personal attacks against and slandering South Korea's head of state.
	29	• Responding to the promotion of the establishment of the UN North Korean Human Rights Office in Seoul, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat issues a press statement fulminating that it considers this a 'declaration of confrontation' and threatening the South with 'merciless punishment.'
6	1	• North Korea's Committee for the Joint National Ceremony Preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation Day and the 15th Anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration sends a letter to South Korea's committee proposing the separate holding of the June 15 ceremony in each country.
	2	• North Korea requests that South Korea provide heat sensing cameras to detect those with MERS entering the GIC.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	3	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson dismisses South Korea's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue as "political fraud" and "deception to control public opinion," and demands that the South 'implement the joint declaration and cease war exercises for invading North Korea.'
	4	• South Korea defines its stance that it respects all inter-Korean agreements and that specific implementation methods necessitate discussion between the two Koreas. South Korea urges the North to desist from its absurd assertions and respond positively to the South's proposal for dialogue. • Regarding South Korea's ballistic missile tests, North Korea's KPA Strategic Force spokesperson denounces the South Korean president using harsh invective.
	5	• The North Korean Committee for the Practice of the June 15 Joint Declaration spokesperson shifts the responsibility for the cancellation of the June 15 joint ceremony to the South. • South Korea provides MERS inspection equipment (3 heat sensing cameras) as requested by the North.
	6	• In her speech commemorating Memorial Day, the South Korean president stresses that peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula is the only path to overcome difficult problems, such as North Korean nuclear threats, and urges the North to renounce nuclear weapons and enter into inter-Korean dialogue.
	7	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes the South Korean president's commemorative speech on Memorial Day as the expression of an ambition for absorptive unification and therefore a severe provocation.
	8	• In a congratulatory speech at the National Assembly Korean Peninsula Forum, South Korea's Minister of Unification remarks that the spirit of accepting the other side and jointly achieving peace, as described in the July 4 Joint Declaration, the June 15 Joint Declaration and October 4 Declaration, should be maintained.
	11	• Regarding South Korea raising the issue of the human rights of overseas workers, the DPRK Red Cross Society spokesperson dismisses it as an 'unacceptable challenge' and 'intolerable insult,' and threatens to 'destroy the anti-DPRK human rights scheme of the puppet party.'

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	12	• North Korea refuses to receive a note sent from the South demanding the release and repatriation of a South Korean held by the North.
	14	• During a regular briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification urges the North to respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue if it has any intention of respecting and implementing the June 15 Joint Declaration. • Responding to the press statement that reported the possible connection between the 'MERS malignant code' and the North, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat issues a press statement denouncing it as an 'atrocious anti-DPRK provocation' and criticizes the South Korean president, referring to her by name and without title.
	15	• In response to criticism by the North of South Korea's president and the MERS outbreak, South Korea expresses dismay with the North and urges it to cease such criticism and respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. • North Korea announces the 'position of the DPRK government': ①Resolve the issues of inter-Korean relations and unification independently; ②Refrain from regime unification; ③Cease war rehearsal for invading North Korea; ④Create a positive atmosphere for the improvement of inter-Korean relations, including the cessation of provocations; ⑤Take practical measures for the implementation of South-North joint declarations. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification makes a statement urging the North to cease escalating military tensions, participate in inter-Korean dialogue without proposing unjustifiable prerequisites, and allow non-governmental exchanges.
	18	• South Korea rescues (June 16) a North Korean boat drifting near Ulleungdo Island and repatriates all five crew members.
	22	• South Korea's Gwangju Summer Universiade Organizing Committee reports that the North canceled (June 19) its participation due to the establishment of the UN North Korean Human Rights Office in Seoul. It expresses disappointment at the North's cancellation of its participation on political grounds and urges the North to participate.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	23	• The UN North Korean Human Rights Office is established in Seoul. • North Korea sentences two South Koreans held by the North (Kim Gook-ki and Choi Choon-gil) to 'hard labor for life. • A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses, via a statement, strong displeasure at North Korea's sentencing of these South Koreans and urges it to release and repatriate all South Koreans held by the North, including Kim Jeong-wook and Ju Won-moon, without delay. • North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson denounces the establishment of the UN North Korean Human Rights Office in Seoul as a political provocation and criminal act, and threatens the South with a "super-hardline response."
	24	• North Korea's CPRF argues, via a statement, that inter-Korean relations have 'collapsed due to the establishment of the UN North Korean Human Rights Office in Seoul' and argues that the 'time for discussion has passed.' • During a press conference, South Korea's Minister of Unification announces that the South is 'open to inter-Korean dialogue and will strive for change in the North instead of merely waiting.' He expresses the South's intention to aid the North regarding the damage incurred by drought.
	25	• North Korea's National Defense Commission makes a statement declaring that the 'Second Korean War plan of the US' has reached the actual battle phase. It declares that the North's anti-US struggle has entered a new stage and demands that the 'US cease its hostile policy toward the North.' • South Korea holds a South and North Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council. The council deliberates and decides on the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund provision totaling KRW 8,478 million for the restoration of the South Korean section of the Gyeonwon Railroad (KRW 3,306 million), the joint excavation of and research on Gaeseong Manwoldae (KRW 2,172 million) and private organizations' forest/environment project (KRW 3 billion).
	26	• South Korea imposes financial sanctions on third-country nationals associated with North Korea's arms trade.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
6	27	• Regarding South Korea's imposition of financial sanctions on the North, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat asserts in a press statement that the South is 'trying to destroy inter-Korean relations intentionally' and threatens the South with 'stern punishment.'
7	1	• On the occasion of the 17th National Unification Advisory Council Launch Meeting, the South Korean president expresses the South's position that the two Koreas can discuss all pending issues, and urges the North to participate in dialogue. She emphasizes that the North should renounce nuclear weapons and return to being a responsible member of the international community.
	2	• Regarding a speech commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Second Battle of Yeonpyeong by South Korea's Minister of National Defense (In the event of another North Korean provocation, the commander of the force will also be punished), North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes it and threatens that the North will 'reduce to ashes the place from which these provocations originate.'
	3	• During a briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification responds to the statement by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson by expressing displeasure at North Korea's interference in the internal affairs of South Korea and urging it to desist immediately.
	6	• South Korea's Committee for the Joint National Ceremony Preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation Day and the 15th Anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration proposes a working-level meeting in Gaeseong to the North Korean committee to discuss the joint ceremony for National Liberation Day.
	8	• Regarding the five rescued (Jul. 4 in the East Sea) North Korean crew members (of the five, two decided to be repatriated and three expressed the intention to defect), North Korea's Uriminzokkiri demands that the South repatriate all five crew members. It threatens that it will respond firmly if all crew members are not repatriated. • North Korea's Asia Pacific spokesperson states that Lee Hui-ho's visit to the North has not been confirmed, and warns, "If the South insults and slanders our supreme dignity, it can be canceled."

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7	8	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification, during a briefing, expresses disappointment at how North Korea raised the prospect of cancelling Lee Hui-ho's visit to the North. The spokesperson reaffirms South Korea's position that the South Korean government will support Lee Hui-ho's visit, and will repatriate two rescued crew members, excluding the three members who expressed a clear intention to defect.
	9	• North Korea proposes the 6th Meeting of the South-North Joint Committee for the GIC on July 16 through a note. • South Korea accepts the North's proposal for a meeting of the South-North Joint Committee through a note.
	10	• On the occasion of the Committee for Unification Preparation Private Panel Intensive Forum, the South Korean president requests discussion of specific and practical measures related to unification preparation, including inter-Korean health and medical services cooperation (e.g. provision of vaccines for North Koreans). • North Korea criticizes the South for repatriating only two of the rescued crew members. The North demands personal information regarding the three crew members who expressed an intention to defect and a meeting between them and their family members. • South Korea expresses its stance that the North's demands are inappropriate based on international practices.
	11	• Approximately ten North Korean soldiers cross the MDL, and the South fires warning shots.
	13	• Regarding the remark of a researcher at the US Center for Nonproliferation Studies, "possible production of anthrax bacterium by the Pyongyang Biotechnology Research Institute," a spokesperson for North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department criticizes both South Korea and the US.
	14	• On the occasion of the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club Meeting, South Korea's Minister of Unification reaffirms the South's position that the South will continue to seek inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation necessary for the building of a foundation for unification and the restoration of ethno-national harmony. • North Korea holds a press conference involving Ju Won-moon, who is held by the North.

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7	14	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification issues a statement expressing dismay at North Korea for unilaterally holding a press conference involving Ju Won-moon and for not responding to the South's request to release and repatriate a South Korean held by the North. • South Korea repatriates two North Korean crew members via Panmunjeom (rescued on July 4 in the East Sea; excluding the three members who expressed their intention to defect). • Regarding the three North Korean crew members who expressed an intention to defect, the DPRK Red Cross Society spokesperson made a statement alleging that the South is 'forcefully holding' them.
	15	• Regarding the remarks made on July 10 at the Committee for Unification Preparation by the South Korean president that 'The North should respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue and inter-Korean cooperation,' a spokesperson for North Korea's CPRF denounced the South Korean president, referring to her by name, sans title, and argued that 'she is trying to avoid responsibility for the collapse of inter-Korean relations.' • A spokesperson for North Korea's National Federation of Labor Organization claimed that the remarks of the South Korean president have 'sinister intentions.'
	16	• The 6th South-North Joint Committee for the GIC is held, at which the two Koreas explain mutual interests and exchange opinions. Despite South Korea's flexible position, the North does not respond positively to improvements in the 3Cs and the meeting ends without agreement.
	17	• In his congratulatory speech on Constitution Day, Chairman of the National Assembly Jeong Eui-hwa proposes a National Assembly chairman meeting between the South and North. • South Korea's Vice Minister of National Defense requests via a note that North Korea's Ministry of People's Armed Forces Deputy Manager attend the Seoul Defense Dialogue. • A spokesperson for North Korea's Council for South Korean Human Rights criticizes South Korea's admission of three North Korean crew members (defectors) as a provocation and insists upon their repatriation without delay.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
7	19	• Regarding the proposal for an inter-Korean meeting by South Korea's Chairman of the National Assembly, Jeong Eui-hwa, and the invitation to the Seoul Defense Dialogue by South Korea's Ministry of National Defense, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat makes a press statement announcing that 'inter-Korean dialogue cannot be used as a means of political cajolement.' It argues that the South should admit inter-Korean joint declarations and express its position of implementing them first.
	20	• Responding to North Korea's denunciation of the South's intention toward inter-Korean dialogue through a press statement by the CPRF Secretariat, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment during a briefing, and urges the North to respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue. The spokesperson also urges the North to join in improving inter-Korean relations, which will lead to unification.
	23	• Regarding the 'hacking scandal' of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS), North Korea's CPRF Secretariat makes a press statement criticizing the South Korean president, referring to her by name instead of her title. The CPRF instigates anti-government struggles, arguing that the NIS should be dissolved.
	25	• Regarding the South Korean President's remark on the North Korean nuclear issue, "the biggest obstruction hindering peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula," North Korea's National Federation of Labor Organization spokesperson criticizes the South Korean president, referring to her by name and without title. • North Korea's KPA representative in Panmunjeom spokesperson criticizes South Korea's naval gunfire exercises in the West Sea and threatens the South with 'directly aimed firepower.'
	26	• Appearing on KBS' Inside the Issue, South Korea's Minister of Unification urges the North to respond positively to the South's proposal for an inter-Korean dialogue and explains the government's stance on pending issues, including the resumption of tourism and the reunions for separated families.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
7	27	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification strongly condemns North Korea's low-grade caustic and inflammatory invective and slander during a briefing and urges the North both to observe its denuclearization obligations and to respond positively to the South's proposal for inter-Korean dialogue.
	30	• The July 31 additional working-level meeting for the non-governmental joint August 15 ceremony on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day is canceled due to the refusal of the North, which proposes a discussion by fax. • Uriminzokkiri criticizes the July 27 dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean conservative organizations and threatens the South with "merciless retaliatory strikes."
	31	• North Korea announces its non-participation in the 2015 Mungyeong Military World Games.
8	4	• A landmine provocation occurs in the DMZ. • Responding to South Korea's reaction (unjust detention and forced confession) to the July 30 press conference by Lim Hyeon-soo, a Korean-Canadian pastor held by the North, North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department spokesperson denounces it as 'sophistry' and an 'anti-DPRK confrontation scheme' during an interview with a KCNA reporter.
	5	• On the occasion of the groundbreaking ceremony for the restoration of the Gyeongwon Railroad, the South Korean president urges the North to acknowledge the South's sincerity and participate in seeking national unity. • Lee Hui-ho visits the North (Aug. 5~8). • South Korea attempts to send a letter to the North proposing an inter-Korean high-level authorities' meeting, but the North refuses to receive it.
	7	• North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly Presidium announces a revised Pyongyang Standard Time, 30 minutes behind Korea Standard Time, which will be applied from August 15 in accordance with government ordinance. • During a briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses concern over possible interference with the restoration of ethno-national harmony between the South and North caused by the North's standard time change.

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8	10	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment at North Korea's standard time change and concern that it might increase ethno-divergence between the South and North. The spokesperson also stresses that the North should respond positively to the proposal for inter-Korean dialogue to discuss not only exchanges and cooperation but also inter-Korean standard time. • Responding to North Korea's refusal to receive a letter (Aug. 5) from South Korea's Minister of Unification proposing a high-level authorities' meeting to broadly discuss mutual interests between the two countries, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment during a briefing, and urges the North to respond positively. • South Korea's Ministry of National Defense strongly denounces North Korea's landmine provocation in the DMZ and urges the North to apologize and punish those responsible.
	11	• Regarding the South Korean president's expression of disappointment at North Korea's standard time change, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson dismisses it as a political provocation and criticizes the South Korean president by name, without using her title.
	12	• Responding to the statement by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, a spokesperson for South Korea's Minister of Unification expresses displeasure at North Korea's threats and slander against the South Korea's head of state during a briefing and urges the North to cease such behavior. • Regarding the UFG exercise, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson threatens the South with 'merciless fire showers,' saying 'Both the White House and the Blue House are within gunshot range.'
	13	• South Korea's National Assembly unanimously adopts a denunciation of North Korea's DMZ landmine provocation.
	14	• North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department, demanding evidence, dismisses the accusation that it planted landmines in the DMZ. • In a note, North Korea denies the accusation of planting landmines in the DMZ.

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
8	14	• South Korea warns in a note that the North will pay a heavy price for its landmine provocation. • Regarding the dissemination of anti-DPRK leaflets by South Korean private organizations, North Korea's KPA front troops, in a public statement, threaten the South, 'There is a limit to our patience.'
	15	• In her congratulatory address on National Liberation Day, the South Korean president emphasizes that the South will respond firmly to North Korean provocations and urges the North to participate in inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation and thereby seize the opportunity to improve public welfare and achieve economic development. • North Korea changes its standard time to 'Pyongyang Standard Time' (officially Standard Time of Democratic People's Republic of Korea), which is 30 minutes behind Korea Standard Time. • In a public warning, North Korea's KPA Front Command declares that psychological warfare broadcasting is a direct provocation of war and threatens to strike the South without mercy if the South does not cease its broadcasting. • North Korea's National Defense Commission spokesperson demands, via a statement, the cessation of the UFG exercise and threatens the South with a severe military response.
	16	• Regarding the South Korean president's remarks regarding North Korean purges, anxiety and provocative threats in her congratulatory speech on the 70th anniversary of National Liberation Day, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson denounces them as ludicrous statements that 'severely insult the dignity and regime of North Korea,' and derogatorily refers to the South Korean president by name instead of her title.
	17	• Responding to the statement by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification issues a counter-statement expressing strong displeasure at North Korea's distortion and criticism of the South's sincere proposals and its reiteration of unspeakable slander against the South Korean president. The spokesperson repeatedly urges the North to participate in inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation to mutually seek peaceful unification.

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8	17	• South Korea's KIDMAC and North Korea's General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone sign the agreement on the Minimum Wage and Wage Calculation in the GIC.
	19	• Regarding the South Korean president's remarks on North Korea in her congratulatory address on National Liberation Day, North Korea's National Federation of Labor Organization spokesperson dismisses them as 'ludicrous statements pursuing confrontation' and derogatorily refers to the South Korean president by name instead of her title.
	20	• North Korea demands in a letter that the South cease its psychological warfare broadcasting and express its intention to strive to remedy the current situation. • North Korea fires on South Korea's loudspeakers. • North Korea sends an ultimatum demanding that unless South Korea ceases psychological warfare broadcasting within 48 hours and completely removes the broadcasting equipment, North Korea will initiate strong military actions that could lead to war. • Kim Jong-un calls an emergency extended meeting of the Workers' Party Central Military Commission. - Kim Jong-un insists that the landmine provocation and strike against loudspeakers are fabricated, commands the KPA front troops to be fully armed for war by 5 pm on August 21, and declares a virtual state of war. He dispatches military commanders.
	21	• In an urgent press statement, North Korea's KPA Supreme Command denies firing towards the South and argues that South Korea's responsive shootings are provocations. It threatens the South with deserved punishment, warning that the North is watching the South's response to its ultimatum. • In a note to the North Korea's KPA General Staff, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff declare that the South will strongly punish any continuation of North Korean provocations, and that the North will pay a heavy price. • In a note to North Korea's United Front Department director, South Korea's Minister of Unification attempts to send a note stating that South Korea's loudspeaker broadcasting is a justifiable response to North Korean provocations, and that the South will respond firmly to any provocation and threats. However, the North refuses to receive it, finding fault with the name of the sender.

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8	21	• North Korea insists via a note that the two incidents which occurred in the MDL are irrelevant, and warns that it will monitor the South until the deadline noted in the ultimatum has passed. • North Korea sends a note proposing a meeting between Secretary of the Workers' Party Kim Yang-gon and Director of the National Security Office Kim Kwan-jin. • South Korea sends a note demanding that the Director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, Hwang Pyong-so, participate in the meeting instead of Secretary of the Workers' Party Kim Yang-gon.
	22	• North Korea responds via a note that both Director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA Hwang Pyong-so and Secretary of the Workers' Party Kim Yang-gon will participate in the meeting and requests that both the Director of the National Security Office Kim Kwan-jin and Minister of Unification Hong Yong-pyo participate in the meeting. • South Korea accepts the North's request via a note and proposes a meeting at Panmunjeom at 6 pm. • North Korea sends a note accepting the South's proposal. • The Inter-Korean High-level Authorities' Meeting (Aug. 22~24) is held. The North expresses regret for the DMZ landmine provocation and promises prevention of its recurrence. The meeting resolves the DMZ landmine provocation issue peacefully and paves the way for ending continuous provocations. - The two Koreas agree on the following: ①An inter-Korean authorities' meeting will be held; ②The North will express regret for the DMZ landmine explosion; ③South Korea's loudspeaker broadcasting will cease; ④North Korea will rescind its declaration of a virtual state of war; ⑤A reunion for separated families will be held on the occasion of Chuseok and an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting will be held in early September; ⑥Non-governmental exchanges will be activated.
	25	• The Director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA Hwang Pyong-so appears on the KCNA TV and insists that the landmine provocation has been fabricated by the South.

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8	27	• Through an interview with a KCNA reporter, North Korea's Kim Yang-gon proffers, 'Based on this agreement, mutual distrust and confrontation should be eliminated and inter-Korean relations should be improved.' He also states that 'the South and North should cooperate to improve inter-Korean relations and achieve unification.
	28	• On the occasion of the extended Central Military Commission meeting, Kim Jong-un declares, 'The agreement reached at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting provided crucial momentum for reconciliation and mutual trust between the two Koreas. We should cherish this agreement and achieve a favorable outcome.' • South Korea proposes via a note an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting on September 7.
	29	• North Korea accepts via a note South Korea's proposal for an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting on September 7.
9	1	• On the occasion of a Cabinet meeting, the South Korean president expresses the opinion that if the two Koreas observe the August 25 Agreement, they can put an end to continuous inter-Korean tensions and cooperate to achieve peace and unification.
	2	• Regarding the 'expression of regret' in the agreement from the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting, North Korea's National Defense Commission Policy Department spokesperson states that the South 'interprets it to its own advantage' and argues that the South should be prudent in word and deed so as not to spoil the improving atmosphere of inter-Korean relations.
	3	• Regarding the South Korean president's remarks on 'North Korea's landmine provocation' on the occasion of the South Korea-China Summit, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson warns, in an interview with a KCNA reporter, 'The South should be very careful about its behavior in order not to ruin the possibility of improvement in inter-Korean relations.'
	4	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses disappointment during a briefing in response to North Korea's behavior criticizing the South Korean president's remarks made while visiting China and threatening not to

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Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	4	implement the agreement reached at the Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting. The spokesperson emphasizes that the North should cease such behavior and faithfully implement the inter-Korean agreement in order to usher in a new era of improvement in inter-Korean relations.
	7	• The Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting is held (Sep. 7~8 at the Peace House in Panmunjeom). - The two Koreas agree to hold a reunion for separated families on October 20~26 and an inter-Korean Red Cross meeting in the near future to broadly discuss mutual interests, including reunions for separated families. • North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson states, "The excuse for the US presence in the South as described in the August 25 Agreement is no longer valid" and urges 'the withdrawal of US troops.' He warns that 'if incidents with unknown causes and consequent armed conflicts occur on the Korean Peninsula due to the anti-DPRK military actions of the US, the North will hold the US responsible.' • North Korea's Council for South Korean Human Rights declares that it has revealed 'crimes against humanity and human rights committed by the US' and announces the results of an Investigation Report. It demands the 'withdrawal of US forces' and calls for an 'anti-American independence struggle.'
	9	• In her keynote speech at the Seoul Defense Dialogue, the South Korean president urges the North to cease its parallel pursuit of nuclear weapons and economic growth and instead seek true development through reform and liberalization. She stresses that the North should find a normal resolution through inter-Korean dialogue and exchange.
	15	• The South and North exchange confirmation requests regarding the status (whether living or deceased) of separated family members. • North Korea's Nuclear Scientific Research Center director, in an interview with a KCNA reporter, announces, "All nuclear facilities in Yongbyon have been upgraded and the center has resumed operation." The director asserts that "if the US and other hostile forces continue their indiscriminate, hostile policies, the North will respond with nuclear force."

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	16	• The inspection (Sep. 16~17) of the Mt. Geumgang facilities is conducted for the upcoming reunion for separated families. • Regarding South Korea's National Assembly passing a 'bill on North Korean Human Rights', North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes it as "an unacceptable provocation that will degrade inter-Korean relations to the level of confrontation and war" and reaffirms the North's 'stern response.'
	17	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, in an interview with a KCNA reporter, criticizes US interference in the improvement of inter-Korean relations and stresses 'uriminzokkiri (on our own).'
	19	• Regarding South Korea's National Assembly partial agreement with the North Korean Human Rights Act, a spokesperson for North Korea's General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea criticizes it as a "flagrant pro-confrontation act," asserting that "the South needs to resolve its own human rights issues."
	23	• Regarding South Korea's attempt to enact the North Korean Human Rights Act, the DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee spokesperson dismisses it as 'a blatant provocation that attempts to turn the mood of reconciliation and appeasement back to confrontation,' thereby presenting 'a complete challenge to national unification.' • North Korea rejects the visit of South Korea's National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee to the GIC over the issue of the North Korean Human Rights Act. • Regarding the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) holding a panel forum on North Korean Human Rights (Sep. 21), North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson perceives it as 'a political scheme that seeks to overthrow the North Korean system.'
	24	• Regarding South Korea promoting 'the creation of special forces trained for the destruction of nuclear facilities,' North Korea's CPRF Secretariat denounces it in a press statement as a 'military provocation' and threatens the South with 'merciless punishment.' • Regarding the attempt of South Korea's National Assembly to enact the North Korean Human Rights Act, a spokesperson for North Korea's Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee criticizes it as an 'unacceptable political provocation' and emphasizes that the North will 'strongly fight against it.'

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
9	28	• In her keynote speech at the 70th UN General Assembly, the South Korean president proposes a vision of a unified Korean Peninsula and stresses the importance of resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. She advises that the North should seek reform and open up instead of instigating additional provocations, and urges the North to participate in establishing mutual trust and cooperation by implementing the August 25 Agreement.
	29	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson caustically dismisses the South Korean president's keynote speech at the UN General Assembly as both a 'ludicrous statement seeking confrontation between the Korean peoples' and 'nonsense' and warns that 'reunions for separated families are now in crisis.'
	30	• In a briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification expresses dismay at North Korea's arbitrary distortion and criticism of the South Korean president's UN speech and threats to discontinue reunions for separated families. The spokesperson urges the North to sincerely implement the August 25 Agreement.
10	1	• In her speech on Armed Forces Day, the South Korean president urges the North to cease the development of long-range nuclear ballistic missiles immediately and cooperate with the South and the international community. • North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong delivers a speech at the 70th UN General Assembly arguing that peaceful space activities are the right of a sovereign country under international law, and nuclear tests are a self-defensive measure against the hostile policy and nuclear threats of the US.
	2	• Regarding the speech of North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification, during a briefing, urges the North to observe the UN resolutions and strive to achieve Northeast Asian and world peace along with the South and the international community.
	3	• Responding to the South Korean president's keynote speech at the 70th UN General Assembly, North Korea's KCNA dismisses it as a 'ludicrous confrontational statement that ruins the mood of improvement in inter-Korean relations' and warns that the 'future of reunions for separated families is uncertain.'

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	5	• The South and North jointly conduct forest pest control for pine trees at Mt. Geumgang (Oct.5~7). • A South Korean held by the North, Ju Won-moon, is repatriated through Panmunjeom.
	7	• North Korea's Foreign Minister expresses the opinion that 'The current armistice agreement cannot maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula,' and urges the US to respond positively to the North's proposal for 'the abolition of the Korean Armistice Agreement and the conclusion of a peace agreement.'
	8	• The two Koreas exchange the final lists of individuals who will participate in the reunion for separated families.
	12	• The Gyeoremal-keunsajeon South-North Joint Compilation Committee meeting is held (Oct. 12~19 at Mt. Geumgang).
	14	• The South-North Joint Excavation of Gaeseong Manwoldae Exhibition (Oct. 14~Nov. 6 in Seoul; Oct. 15~Nov. 15 in Gaeseong) and the Gaeseong Symposium (Oct. 15 in Gaeseong) are held. • In a note to the (South) Korean Red Cross, the DPRK Red Cross Society reports that former Vice President Ri Chung-bok has been appointed chairman of the Central Committee.
	15	• South Korea's Minister of Unification emphasizes the necessity of an institutional mechanism for the expansion of peace and expresses the opinion that the August 25 Inter-Korean Agreement contains the possibility of peace (Korea Forum).
	16	• The South Korea-US Summit adopts the 2015 South Korea-US Joint Statement on North Korea. - The two leaders reaffirm the 'utmost urgency and firm will' regarding the North Korean nuclear issue and warn the North against nuclear and missile provocations. The two leaders are willing to provide a bright future for the North if it shows an intention to renounce its nuclear and missile programs.
	17	• For the first time since the August 25 Agreement North Korea resumes its denunciations of the South Korean president, referring to her by name instead of her title (Rodong Shinmun; Uriminzokkiri).

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	19	• North Korea's KCNA and Rodong Shinmun criticize the South Korea-US Summit and its adoption of the 2015 South Korea-US Joint Statement on North Korea. • Regarding the 2015 South Korea-US Joint Statement on North Korea, North Korea's Uriminzokkiri criticizes it as 'pro-American subservient Quislingism,' and 'begging confrontation between the Korean peoples.'
	20	• The 20th Reunion for Separated Families is held (Oct. 20~26 at Mt. Geumgang). - First (Oct. 20~22): The North Korean visiting party (96 applicants and 45 guardians) reunite with the South Korean participants (389 individuals). - Second (Oct. 24~26): The South Korean visiting party (90 applicants and 164 guardians) reunite with the North Korean participants (188 individuals).
	22	• South Korea urges the North to return to the Six-party Talks at the 10th Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). • North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, in an interview with a KCNA reporter, opposes the entry of a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier into the Port of Busan and emphasizes the necessity of the conclusion of the North Korea-US peace agreement.
	27	• In her administrative policy speech on the 2016 budget bill, the South Korean president stresses the expansion of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation and resolution of the issue of separated families. - The South will actively seek inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation to restore ethno-national harmony and endeavor for complete confirmation of the vital status of separated family members and regular reunions for separated families.
	28	• The South-North Workers Football Match is held (Oct. 28~31 in Pyongyang). - A delegation representing both the Federation of Korean Trade Unions and the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions comprising 162 individuals visits the North.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
10	29	• South Korea expresses strong disappointment at the North's criticism of the 'standardization of history textbooks' in the South and urges the North to sincerely implement the August 25 Agreement and endeavor to improve inter-Korean relations. - Immediately after the South announced (Oct. 12) a plan to improve the history textbook issuance system, North Korea's main media, including the Rodong Shinmun and Uriminzokkiri, criticizes the 'standardization of history textbooks.'
	30	• South Korea sends a note proposing a preliminary meeting for inter-Korean authorities' talks, but the North refuses to receive it.
11	1	• The 6th South Korea-Japan-China Summit adopts the Joint Statement for Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation. - The three leaders reaffirm their positions supporting denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and agree to sincerely implement the UNSC resolutions and the September 19 Joint Statement, oppose actions that create tensions on the Korean Peninsula and violate the UNSC resolutions, and continue to strive for the early resumption of the meaningful Six-party Talks.
	11	• At the Seoul Dialogue for Human Rights, the South Korean president stresses that the North should endeavor to improve human rights and the quality of life for North Koreans.
	13	• In a joint interview with the affiliates of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, the South Korean president emphasizes the importance of a North Korean attitudinal shift for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.
	15	• At the G20 Summit, the South Korean president states, "If North Korea renounces its nuclear program and agrees to open up and cooperate, South Korea will support infrastructure investment in Northeast Asian regions, alongside the international community."
	17	• South Korean Lee is repatriated via Panmunjeom.
	18	• Counter-responding to South Korea's call for a positive response to its proposal for an inter-Korean meeting, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson, in an interview with a KCNA reporter, alleges that the South is trying to shift responsibility to the North, and insists that the South must 'create an atmosphere conducive to inter-Korean dialogue.'

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
11	20	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the UN General Assembly's third committee's adoption of the Resolution of North Korean Human Rights and urges the North to take measures to improve North Koran human rights. • North Korea proposes, in a note, a working-level meeting for Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks on November 26 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom, and the South accepts the proposal.
	21	• At the 18th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the South Korean president emphasizes the importance of consistently delivering the international community's messages to the North so that it can transform. • Regarding the Resolution of North Korean Human Rights approved by the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson categorically rejects it, calling it a 'political provocative document,' and declares that the North will 'respond accordingly.'
	22	• Regarding South Korea's live fire exercise plan (Nov. 23) in the vicinity of the northwest islands on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the 'Yeonpyeong Island Provocation', a spokesperson for North Korea's KPA Southwest Front Command threatens, "If South Korea carries out a live fire exercise targeting North Korean waters, North Korea will respond with merciless retaliation."
	24	• In response to the South Korean president's remarks on the North Korean nuclear issue (including international cooperation regarding North Korean nuclear weapons) at the G20 Summit, North Korea's CPRF Secretariat denounces it in a press statement as a "national disgrace and shame" and insists on the 'legitimacy of North Korea's right to possess nuclear weapons' and the 'strengthening of nuclear deterrence.'
	26	• The Working-level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks is held (at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom). - The two Koreas agree to have the 1st Inter-Korean Authorities Talks (vice-ministerial level) on December 11 at the GIC.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
11	26	• Regarding the South Korean president's remarks on the North Korean nuclear program (i.e., North Korea should make a strategic decision by renouncing its nuclear program and altering its policy direction) made during her official overseas trips, North Korea's KCNA denounces them as the 'creation of an obstacle to the improvement of inter-Korean relations' and an 'act of betrayal to ruin the mood of the dialogue ahead of time.'
	27	• Regarding South Korea's 'Yonhap News' press release regarding the international conference materials (Nov. 26), including Kim Jong-un's reign of terror, presented at the Institute for National Security and Strategy, North Korea's CPRF spokesperson criticizes it as a 'political provocation' and a 'slander against the North's supreme dignity.'
	28	• North Korea tests an SLBM.
	30	• During a regular briefing, a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense declares that North Korea's SLBM development and testing violate the UNSC resolution. • Responding to North Korea's establishment of a field maintenance support center to the west of a South Korean region and its criticism of South Korea's field tactical training, the Ministry of Unification urges, during a regular briefing, that the North refrain from creating unnecessary tension. • Regarding the meeting of the head delegates of South Korea, the US and Japan participating in the Six-Party Talks for the North Korean nuclear issue, North Korea's Rodong Shinmun criticizes it as an "anti-DPRK nuclear commotion led by the South along with foreign countries." • The Council for South and North Korean Historians gives a briefing on the results of the '2015 South-North Joint Excavation of Gaeseong Manwoldae.' - 19 buildings and 3,500 relics were found; a piece of Goryeo-era metal type (estimated to be created as late as 1361) was unearthed 255m west of the Sinbongmun site, the southernmost part of the west buildings in Manwoldae.

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
12	1	• At a special speech at UNESCO, the South Korean president announces that the North Korean nuclear and human rights issues represent threats to regional stability and peace and that "a unified Korean Peninsula will greatly contribute to world peace and development as both a symbol of global peace and a new engine of growth."
	4	• In response to a report that the North is excavating a new tunnel at a nuclear test site in Pyanggye-ri, Gilju-gun, Hamgyeongbuk-do, a spokesperson for the US State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs urges the North to abide by its promise of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
	9	• In a speech at the 8th Asian Parliamentarian Assembly Plenary Meeting, the head of the delegation representing North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, An Tong-chun, emphasizes that the 'replacement of the armistice agreement by a peace agreement' and 'unification along federal lines' are required for stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula.
	10	• At the newly built Pyeongchoen Revolution historic site, North Korea's Kim Jong-un remarks on nuclear power and hydrogen bombs.
	11	• The 1st Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks are held (Dec. 11~12 in the GIC).
	15	• North Korea's CPRF spokesperson states that the rupture of negotiations for the 1st Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks is an "inevitable consequence of the South's confrontation policy" that includes obstruction of the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism.
	16	• Responding to the statement about 'US Approval of Mt. Geumgang tourism' by North Korea's CPRF spokesperson (Dec. 15), a spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification rejects it during a regular briefing, categorically declaring, "It is not true at all."
	20	• Regarding South Korea's position that the safety of visitors should be assured prior to the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism, North Korea's Uriminzokkiri argues that 'the highest level of personal safety for visitors to Mt. Geumgang was already promised in 2009 when the chairman of Hyundai (Hyun Jeong-eun) visited Pyongyang.'

2015		
Mon.	Day	Key Events
12	21	• A spokesperson for South Korea's Ministry of Unification deputy refutes, during a regular briefing, North Korea's argument that 'the highest level of tourist safety was already promised six years ago (Dec. 20),' saying that it is a "matter for inter-Korean authorities to discuss."
	23	• The South Korean Women's organizations, including the Korean Women's Associations United, hold a joint cultural event, the 'Inter-Korean Women's Meeting for National Reconciliation/ Unity and Peace/Unification, at Gaeseong for all Korean women.'
	24	• South Korea's KIDMAC and North Korea's General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone sign the Agreement on the Standard of Land Use Fee in the GIC. • A spokesperson for the National Special Investigation Committee for Truth Identification on US Soldiers' Crimes North Korea's Office criticizes the Anthrax tests of US forces as "an American version of Japanese Unit 731's tests" and argues that the South should also be judged for embracing them.
	29	• North Korea's Secretary of the Workers' Party and Director of the United Front Department, Kim Yang-gon, dies.
	30	• In response to the death of Kim Yang-gon, South Korea sends a telegram of condolence from South Korea's Minister of Unification to the United Front Department.

2. Agreements from Inter-Korean Dialogue

☐ Political Dialogue

- Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting Joint Statement (Feb. 14, 2014)
- Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting Joint Statement (Aug. 25, 2015)
- Working-level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks Joint Statement (Nov. 26, 2015)

☐ Humanitarian and Sociocultural Dialogue

- Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting Agreement (Feb. 5, 2014)
- Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting Agreement (Sep. 8, 2015)

□ Political Dialogue

Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting Joint Statement

The South and North conducted an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on February 12 and 14, 2014 at the Peace House in Panmunjeom and reached agreement on the following.

1. The South and North agreed to hold a reunion for separated families as planned.

2. The South and North agreed not to slander each other in order to promote mutual understanding and trust.

3. The South and North agreed to continuously discuss mutual interest and strive to improve inter-Korean relations.

The South and North agreed to hold an Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting on a mutually convenient date.

February 14, 2014

Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting
Joint Statement

An Inter-Korean High-Level Authorities' Meeting was held from August 22 to 24, 2015 at Panmunjeom.

At the meeting, Kim Kwan-jin, Director of the National Security Office, and Hong Yong-pyo, Minister of Unification, represented the South. Hwang Pyong-so, Director of the General Politics Bureau of the KPA, and Kim Yang-gon, Secretary of the Workers' Party, represented the North.

The two sides, having discussed various issues to ease the recently heightened military tension between the two Koreas and improve inter-Korean relations, reached agreement on the following.

1. The South and North agreed to hold Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks in Seoul or Pyongyang without delay, and to have discussions and negotiations on diverse issues to improve inter-Korean relations.
2. The North expressed regret for injuries suffered by South Korean soldiers in the landmine explosion that occurred in the DMZ on the South Korean side near the MDL.
3. The South agreed to cease loudspeaker broadcasting near the MDL from 12 pm on August 25 as long as abnormal incidents do not reoccur.
4. The North agreed to rescind its declaration of a virtual state of war.
5. The South and North agreed to hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok and continue to arrange family reunions in the future. An Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting will accordingly be held in early September.
6. The South and North agreed to activate non-governmental exchanges in various areas between the two countries.

August 25, 2015

Panmunjeom

Working-Level Meeting for the Inter-Korean Vice-Ministerial Level Talks Joint Statement

The South and North held a Working-Level Meeting for Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks on November 26 in 2015 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom, and reached agreement on the following.

1. The South and North agreed to hold the 1st Inter-Korean Authorities' Talks on December 11 at the GIC.

① The delegation for the Talks will be led by a vice-ministerial level official and the number of delegates will be determined at each side's convenience.

② The agenda of the Talks will be pending issues for the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

2. The South and North agreed to discuss other practical issues through the liaison office in Panmunjeom.

November 26, 2015

Panmunjeom

□ Humanitarian and Sociocultural Dialogue

Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting Agreement

The South and North had an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting for the reunion for separated families on the occasion of Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) on February 5 in 2014 at Tongilgak in Panmunjeom, and reached agreement on the following.

1. The South and North will hold a reunion for separated families from February 20 to 25 at Mt. Geumgang.
   ① The number of participants will be 100 for each side who were included on the lists exchanged between the two sides last September. A guardian may accompany if necessary.
   ② The format and method of the reunion will follow previously established guidelines but the outdoor venue will be held indoors due to weather conditions.
   ③ The location of the reunion will be the Reunion Center at Mt. Geumgang and Mt. Geumgang Hotel and accommodations will be provided at Oegemgang Hotel and Mt. Geumgang Hotel for South Korean participants.
   ④ The two sides will dispatch an advance party five days prior to the reunion.
   ⑤ For on-site inspection of the reunion venue, South Korea will dispatch inspection teams on February 7 and the freedom to conduct their duties will be ensured.

2. The South and North agree to hold an Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting after the reunion for separated families to continue discussing humanitarian issues. The meeting date will be decided through discussion via an exchange of documents.

February 5, 2014

Lee Deok-haeng	Park Yong-il
Head, South Korean Delegation	Head, North Korean Delegation
Inter-Korean Red Cross	Inter-Korean Red Cross
Working-Level Meeting	Working-Level Meeting

Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting Agreement

The South and North held the Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting from September 7 to 8, 2015 at the Peace House in Panmunjeom, and reached agreement on the following.

1. The South and North will hold a reunion for separated families on the occasion of Chuseok from October 20 to 26, 2015 at Mt. Geumgang.

① The number of participants will be 100 for each side, and one or two accompanying family members are permitted for those participants with mobility difficulties.

② The two Koreas will exchange requests for confirmation of living status (whether living or deceased) on September 15, written replies on October 5, and final lists on October 8. The target number for relatives whose status (living or dead) is to be confirmed will be 250 for the South and 200 for the North.

③ Other practical matters, including the reunion protocol and dispatch of an advance party, will follow previously established guidelines, but can be discussed through Panmunjeom if necessary.

2. The South and North agreed to devise fundamental solutions for humanitarian issues. They agreed to hold an inter-Korean Red Cross talk in the near future to discuss broad issues related to future reunions for separated families and other mutual interests.

September 8, 2015

Lee Deok-haeng Head, South Korean Delegation Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting	Park Yong-il Head, North Korean Delegation Inter-Korean Red Cross Working-Level Meeting

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