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TALKING POINTSNORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM (FOR CHINA)

- o The North Korean nuclear program undermines regional stability and raises serious questions about its intentions.
 - We are disturbed by North Korea's refusal to fulfill its safeguards obligations under the NPT five years after NPT accession or to even acknowledge any of its indigenous nuclear program.
 - There is clear evidence that since 1987 the DPRK has been operating at the Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center an indigenously built nuclear reactor well suited to the production of plutonium.
 - We note with concern the construction of an indigenous probable reprocessing plant which appears unrelated to civilian needs and poses the threat of contribution to a nuclear weapons capability.
- o We do not believe that North Korea would be able to develop a nuclear weapon until mid-decade, but we must deal with this potential development as early as possible.
 - A broadly based, concerted international consensus expressed to North Korea offers the best hope of bringing about North Korean compliance with its NPT safeguards obligations, which were freely entered into.
 - (if raised) We oppose any linkage between U.S. security arrangements in South Korea and North Korean implementation of its NPT obligations. North Korea's obligation to conclude an IAEA safeguards agreement derives directly from its NPT adherence and cannot be made conditional on other factors or demands. There is broad support for this view.
 - Moreover, there is a need to eliminate the possibility of reprocessing or the potential of separated plutonium on the peninsula, a goal the U.S. has consistently pursued for over 15 years.
- o We urge your government to continue to raise these issues directly with the DPRK in your contacts, urging prompt compliance without conditions to the IAEA safeguards agreement and avoidance of destabilizing activities like reprocessing.
 - We further urge you to join with others in urging the DPRK on the safeguards issue in appropriate multilateral venues, such as the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting.

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