

North Korea threatens to drop treaty that ended Korean War

Michael Zielenziger
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

TOKYO — North Korea threatened Tuesday to abandon the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War if the United States launches sanctions to punish the country for trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The threat came a day after reports that the Bush administration is developing plans for sanctions against Pyongyang that would include halting its weapons shipments and cutting off the flow of money from Koreans living in Japan. Such money is crucial to North Korea and helps to keep its economy afloat.

North Korea's threat increases tensions in Asia while the United States would prefer to focus on another troublesome adversary, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Pyongyang upped the ante in its war of words with the United States,

charging that Washington is poised to launch a military blockade that would cripple the country.

A spokesman for the North Korean People's Army said such a move would force his nation to abandon the cease-fire that has left the Korean peninsula divided for 50 years.

"The KPA (Korean People's Army) side will be left with no option but to take a decisive step to abandon its commitment to implement the armistice agreement as a signatory to it and free itself from the binding force of all its provisions, regarding the possible sanctions to be taken by the U.S. side against the DPRK (North Korea)," said the statement, issued by the Korea Central News Agency, quoting a military spokesman.

The spokesman said the "grave situation created by the undisguised war acts committed by the U.S. in breach of the armistice agreement

compels the Korean People's Army side, its warring party, to immediately take all steps to cope with it.

"If the U.S. side continues violating and misusing the armistice agreement as it pleases, there will be no need for the (North) to remain bound to the armistice agreement uncomfortably."

North and South Korea remain technically at war, and North Korea's withdrawal from the armistice would theoretically leave Pyongyang free to launch new assaults against South Korea. Its withdrawal also would force the United Nations to abandon its peacekeeping mission in the demilitarized zones. U.S. soldiers stationed along the tense border between the countries technically serve under U.N. Command. U.N. forces signed the original treaty with North Korea and China.

Last week, the International

Atomic Energy Agency voted to ask the U.N. Security Council to explore ways to force Pyongyang to comply with an international treaty banning proliferation of nuclear weapons. North Korea recently bowed out of the treaty and booted international inspectors out of the country, saying it intends to start producing electricity from its tiny reactor at Yongbyon. Weapons experts think the country intends to reprocess spent plutonium to develop nuclear bombs.

The North Koreans fear that the Bush administration intends to attack its regime after concluding a military campaign against Iraq, and they say that only face-to-face talks with Washington can resolve the standoff.

The country demands a non-aggression pact promising North Korea's sovereignty.

© 2003, Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Israeli troops kill top Hamas fugitive

Christine Spolar
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops killed a top Hamas fugitive and destroyed the home of another militant in the Gaza Strip on Monday in what appeared to be a second day of retaliation against the influential Islamic militant group.

The attacks followed other violence in Gaza over the weekend, including the deaths of six members of Hamas in an explosion Sunday and the killings of four Israeli soldiers in an attack on a tank Saturday for which Hamas claimed responsibility.

Monday's action was characterized by some Israeli media as the launch of a fierce operation in Gaza against Hamas, which is blamed for dozens of deadly assaults. Israeli army officials would not discuss the

breadth of the latest army assault.

In the death of the Hamas militant, Israeli troops leaped from a van filled with vegetables as Riyadh Abu Zeid traveled along Gaza's coastal road, the Associated Press reported. In an exchange of gunfire, Abu Zeid was wounded, the army said.

Israeli troops seized Abu Zeid, who died as he was being taken by helicopter to an Israeli hospital, the army said.

The army described Abu Zeid, 32, as a senior member of Hamas' military wing who had organized attacks against Israeli targets in the Gaza Strip and suicide bombings inside Israel.

Earlier Monday, Israeli tanks and helicopters surrounded the five-story home of Ahmed Ghandour, reportedly a top aide to a Hamas bombmaker. Ghandour, who re-

mains in hiding, allegedly is linked to planning the weekend tank attack in which four Israeli soldiers died.

Army officials said troops ordered people out of the building in Gaza City, and Palestinian gunmen attacked. Soldiers returned fire, the army said. Hospital officials later said a Palestinian policeman and a suspected militant were killed and five people wounded. The house was destroyed.

The focus on Hamas comes three weeks after Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz hinted that Israel might take over Gaza. Pressure is mounting on Gaza and Hamas amid failed attempts at a cease-fire among Palestinian factions.

On Monday, Israel and the Palestinians sent delegations to London to meet with mediators from the Unit-

ed States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union to discuss a possible peace plan. The Mideast mediators have been working for months with little success.

Israel appeared to be preparing other fronts in its war against Palestinian militancy. According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, the Israeli army plans to double the capacity of the Ketsiot detention center east of Gaza, to 2,400 prisoners.

Israel's detention centers are packed after more than two years of arrests in the West Bank and Gaza since the outbreak of the violence in September 2000 and, according to media reports here, about 5,000 Palestinians are held by Israel.

© 2003, Chicago Tribune. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

Grand Opening Special

T-Mobile Buddy Time!
\$10.00 on any Get More Plan

Unlimited Mobile to Mobile Now Available

600 Nationwide **WHENEVER** minutes
Unlimited Weekends
Free Nationwide
Long Distance and Roaming
\$39.99 a month



Get a **FREE** Nokia 3390

Totally Cellular

Erb Memorial Union, U of O
541-346-4054

T-Mobile authorized dealer

Limited time offer. Coverage not available in all areas. Credit approval, activation fee and one-year service agreement required with \$200 early termination fee per number. Applicable taxes, assessments, toll and roaming charges additional. Unused minutes do not carry forward to a subsequent billing cycle. Any fraction of a minute used is rounded up and billed at the full minute rate; calls are measured from the time the Network begins to process the call (before the phone rings or the call is answered) through its termination of the call. Weekends defined as midnight Fri. through midnight Sun. All minutes include free domestic long distance and roaming (but not for credit card or operator-assisted calls) on the national GSM digital network of T-Mobile and its U.S. roaming partners. Your use of the service constitutes acceptance of the T-Mobile terms and conditions including the mandatory arbitration clause. Our PCS system is not compatible with analog TTY, which may prevent or delay emergency calls. Additional restrictions apply; see printed materials for details. Offer valid in select T-Mobile markets only and subject to change without notice. T-Mobile is a registered trademark of Deutsche Telekom AG.

Humanity and Environment
Working for the world. Making a difference.

Career Fair 2003
Wednesday, February 26, 2003
10:00AM-3:00PM - EMU Ballroom

Career Center
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Career Expo Event Monday, February 24, 2003
Social Service Job Applications • 3:00-4:00PM • Room 12 Hendricks Hall
Application forms, particularly for government jobs, can be complicated, long, and highly detailed. Learn some tricks and key words to make sure your application rises to the top! Two representatives from the Oregon Department of Human Services will provide insight into the hiring process from the initial application and résumé up through the interview process.

Upgrade your Résumé to Professional Strength
Career Center
 220 Hendricks Hall • (541)346-3235 • <http://uocareer.uoregon.edu>

ODE stories are archived on-line at www.dailyemerald.com