

UNOG
DPRK

CONFÉRENCE DU DÉSARMEMENT



LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
REPRÉSENTANT PERSONNEL
DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
À LA CONFÉRENCE DU
DÉSARMEMENT

PALAIS DES
NATIONS
CH-1211 GENEVE

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
Personal Representative
of the Secretary-General
to the Conference on
Disarmament

TELEFAX

ACTION ^{NH}
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Objet/Subject	DPRK's nuclear test: reaction in the CD and DPRK's response ✓		

At its 1137th plenary meeting today the Conference on Disarmament, the representatives of Australia, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina), Canada, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia and Venezuela expressed regret and deep concern about the DPRK's nuclear test on 25 May. China referred to a statement by its Foreign Ministry on the test, but stated that in view of the different nature of the Conference of Disarmament (as opposed to the Security Council), it refrains from repeating its content and urged all parties to keep calm and persist in the effort to seek a peaceful solution through dialogue. The UK also avoided a specific mention of the DPRK, only noting that the "event over the weekend" reinforced the urgency with which the Conference on Disarmament must play its role. The United States and France were silent about the test.

The Republic of Korea noted that the test by the DPRK undermined the security of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia and also posed a grave challenge to the international non-proliferation regime, adding that the test was an unacceptable provocation and a contravention of Security Council resolution 1718 (2006), a view echoed by Japan, Russia and others. It urged DPRK to immediately return to the NPT regime. Japan noted that a nuclear test by the DPRK, combined with its buildup of ballistic missiles, constitutes a grave threat to the security of Japan, and stressed that it strongly protests and resolutely condemns it.

Referring to the statement made by its Foreign Ministry on 25 May concerning the nuclear test by the DPRK, Russia stressed that it cannot be considered other than a violation of Security Council resolution 1718, which was adopted under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, thus making its implementation by UN Member States obligatory. It also noted that the test is a serious blow to the international effort to strengthen the nonproliferation regime and undermine progress on the CTBT. Yet Russia added that there is no alternative other than a policy of diplomacy in the framework of the Six-Party talks.

Australia, Canada and Norway highlighted the current positive international climate for disarmament and nonproliferation, which made the nuclear test by the DPRK all the more troubling, disappointing and regrettable. New Zealand, referring to the statement by its Foreign Minister, strongly condemned the nuclear test and called upon the DPRK to return immediately to the Six-Party talks. Also condemning the test, Brazil with Argentina, noted that they expect the DPRK to rejoin the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state and called upon it to sign the CTBT. Hungary and Venezuela also expressed their concern about the nuclear test.

In response, the DPRK referred to its announcement on 29 April that the Security Council Presidential statement on the DPRK's launch of a peaceful satellite infringed upon its own sovereignty and that it could not help undertaking a nuclear test and ballistic missile tests in order to safeguard its national sovereignty if the Security Council did not withdraw its unjustified action. In the absence of any further action by the Security Council, it continued, the DPRK acted just as it had announced. It further noted that in view of the Council's actions against the DPRK, particularly its sanctions, the country will take appropriate action to defend its sovereignty. The DPRK also indicated that in view of the nature of the statements made by the Republic of Korea and Japan, the DPRK could not rule out the possibility that they might have a negative impact on its consideration on the proposal for a programme work of the Conference contained in document CD/1863, thus actually threatening to block the work of the CD.