SANKI SHIMBUN: DPRK SECRET UNDERGROUND FACILITY PRODUCING URANIUM (By Katsuhiro Kuroda)

SOUTH Korea, 8 June.—North Korea has reportedly utilized natural uranium produced in the country for its nuclear weapons development program. Meanwhile, Sanki Shimbun has obtained a detailed report on North Korea’s secret underground nuclear plant for natural uranium and its material production procedures. The secret underground plant is widely called “Mt. Chonma” and located at Mt. Chonma in North Phyongan Province. North Korea has operated the plant in secret since the end of 1989 for uranium production for the nuclear weapons program, the report said.

EX-MILITARY OFFICIAL WHO FLEED TO CHINA UNVEILS EXISTENCE OF PLANT

The report was drawn up based on statements by a former high-ranking military officer Yi Chun-sung [name as transliterated], 66, during interrogation by Chinese authorities. Yi is former vice director of the operation bureau of the Korean Ministry of People’s Armed Forces who served as commander in chief at a missile station. He fled from North Korea to China last year and was held in Chinese authorities’ custody. The report said that the “Mt. Chonma facility” has a uranium refining capacity of 1.3 grams a day. By simple calculation, the production during the past 10 years of operation would amount to approximately 5 kg. Concerning North Korea’s uranium production plants, there are some unconfirmed information indicating plants in Pakchon in North Pyongan Province, but this is the first time that an accurate location and details of the inside of the facility were unveiled.

According to the report, the “Mt. Chonma facility” is built in a large tunnel under the 1,116-meter mountain. Soldiers of the 2nd Division of the Engineering Bureau of the Ministry of People’s Armed Forces started constructing the facility in 1984 and completed the work in 1986. The uranium-producing operation started in 1989.

Approximately 400 people, including 35 engineers and 100 managers, are working at the plant. The rest are physical laborers who were all part of the force the North Korean Ministry of People’s Armed Forces as yet unknown. The plant is also surrounded by the Korean People’s Army including 1,116-meter mountain. Soldiers of the 2nd Division of the Engineering Bureau of the Ministry of People’s Armed Forces.

The report said that the arched entrance of the tunnel is 7 meters wide and 6 meters high. A pathway of about 2.5 km is connected to the entrance, and there is a corner at the end of the pathway. The path then turns and going along the path about 1 km, you will find a 6-km-long main tunnel with a width of 15 meters and height of 6 meters. The inside of the tunnels is covered by aluminum plates, and there are 3-meter-wide drains and ventilation openings there.

The underground plant is comprised of 10 areas—ground floor, ground level 1, ground level 2, ground level 3, 3,000 square meters each, a drying room of 400 square meters, four 400 square-meter-wide dissolution rooms for uranium extraction and refining, a room for processing uranium into containers, storage for the finished products, and a room where the workers change into anti-radiation suit or take breaks.

The report said there is a waste disposal facility in the plant in addition to the areas mentioned above. The packed uranium products are carried by the passage at the end of the tunnel and transported to an underground storage area in Anju by helicopter. The report added that although forests in the Kumchangri area, 30 km southeast of Chonma, were polluted by water discharged from the Chonma facility, the United States could not detect the Chonma plant despite the technical team’s inspections in Kumchangri.

According to Yi’s career record attached to the report, Yi graduated from P’yongyang University of Technology, and studied at Frunze (now Bishkek) military university of the former USSR from 1958 to 1962. A South Korean source said that Yi attempted to defect to a third country after fleeing to China, but it is highly likely that he was sent back to North Korea by Chinese authorities.

Mr. BROWNBACK. The U.S. has real, legitimate political and economic security interests with India. We need to engage with India on levels as soon as possible. In fact, seizing the opportunity we have to build greater ties should be one of our main foreign policy goals. That is one that is not taking place. We are, after all, the two most populous nations in the world. Our relationship should be based on shared values and institutions, economic collaboration including enhanced trade and investment, and the goal of regional stability across Asia.

I ask the President and other Members to take into consideration how we treat India versus China. In China, we are on a very aggressive relationship economically. We will be considering later in this body normalizing economic sanctions which serve only to impede the development of this relationship. Maintaining economic sanctions on India which affect the poorest parts of the country is not the way to go about this.

The Prime Minister of India, I understand, will be in Washington this fall. I believe it is incumbent upon us to lift these sanctions, and if the administration will not do it, which they have shown to date they will not, then we should.

AMENDMENT NO. 3993 WITHDRAWN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I understand there is a rule XVI problem with the amendment I have put forward. While I would dearly want to have a vote on the amendment on this bill, I understand it will be a problem. Therefore, reluctantly and regretfully, I do think this body should take up this issue, I withdraw my amendment.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I yield the floor.

Mr. M CONNELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky. He made a number of very important points.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for the duration of the hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. M CONNELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for the kind remarks, to which I listened carefully.

Mr. LOtt. Mr. President, today I have the pleasure to announce that...
President Mike Enzi, of Wyoming, has earned his second Golden Gavel award. Since the Senate recognized those dedicated Members who preside over the Senate for 100 hours with the Golden Gavel, this award continues to represent our appreciation for the time these dedicated Senators contribute to presiding over the U.S. Senate—a privilege and important duty.

Senator Enzi is not only the first in his class to earn the Golden Gavel award, but has time and time again offered his services to preside during late night sessions, on short notice, or when a greater understanding of parliamentary procedure is needed.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend our sincere appreciation to Senator Enzi for his efforts and commitment to presiding during the 106th Congress.

COMMENDING DAVID REDLINGER AND THE NATIONAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

Mr. Daschle. Mr. President, when I was in high school there was a great deal of discussion in the Senate and across the country about our country’s role in preserving and promoting world peace. With the end of the cold war, the focus of that debate has changed dramatically. The arms race with the Soviet Union and the threat of communism spreading in Europe are, thankfully, a part of our history. The challenge of promoting peace, however, is as relevant today as it was at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

From Northern Ireland to the Middle East; from Africa to Asia, too many innocent lives are destroyed by war and violence. We must be creative in developing and adapting strategies for peace. Thankfully, there are young people across the country who have given thoughtful consideration to how to create and sustain peace in the world. The National Peace Essay Contest recognizes high school students who have articulated a commitment to peace, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize one of those young people.

Tomorrow, I will meet with David Redlinger of Watertown, South Dakota who is this year’s South Dakota winner of the National Peace Essay Contest. David’s essay on Tajikistan and Sudan stemming from the polarization of cold war operation amongst nations. The changing nature of conflicts toward regionalism, coupled with the United States’ domestic pressures to create foreign policy for the sole benefit of America, led to perpetuated inaction that has threatened both regional security and the promotion of democracy, supposedly the cornerstone to United States foreign policy. More than just symbols of communism’s bygone era crumbled in 1991; the foundation of foreign policy for the leader of the free world.

Regional instability pervades attempts to form legitimate governments. Tajikistan is juxtaposed with the extremely unstable regions of Afghanistan, Chechnya, and the other former Soviet Republics. Daniel Pipes wrote, “Peace and stability in the region depend in large part on Afghanistan, and its future stability will largely determine developments in Tajikistan.” The fragile balance of power that has existed in the region could easily be upset. With new nuclear powers, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and China, it is necessary that the United States form policies that would help mitigate proliferation and support regional security.

Barnett R. Brown, Director of the Center for the Study Central Asia at Columbia University, in testimony stated that, “...structural conditions virtually guaranteed that inevitable disputes over the future of the country would escalate into chaotic and bloody warfare, and that neighboring states would act, sometimes brutally, to protect their own security to solve these quandaries between the national themselves can lead to the destabilization of the region. The United States never took an appropriate role in promoting regional security. Mr. Rubin calls for the integration of Tajikistan into a coalition of Central Asian countries to render stabilization of the region. The United States’ policy must direct attention towards this region if peace and stability are to be established. Intervention, not inaction, will best reduce the animosity amongst the countries.

Democratic ideas are also critical to peace. Unfortunately, United States’ policy did not help the struggling new democracy of Tajikistan. Davlat Khudonazarov, a President candidate in Tajikistan of 1991 re-calls in testimony to congress, “At political meetings I would talk about America and about American values, about the values of American democracy. It was my hope that these ideas would become a symbol of truth for my people, truth and justice for my people. Unfortunately, the people who would return to democracy were radical Muslims who were destitute and hungry and their own security. They were unable to establish their life in place. The leader of the free world did not fulfill its duty in promoting democracy to a country that was asking for it. United States policy was not clearly oriented in 1991 and never answered Tajikistan’s cries for help.

This inaction led to Tajikistan’s thrust towards civil war. It is estimated 500,000 to 600,000 internally displaced people, and left more than 1 million innocent civilians dead. The United States never seized the opportunity for the advancement of democratic ideals in Tajikistan. Furthermore, regional security was compromised because of the absence of meaningful U.S. policies.

Senator Akhmedov, former President of Philosophy at Tajik State University and Chairman of the Committee for Religion of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan, relates the conflict most significantly to religious and political struggles after the fall of communism. Mr. Akhmedov credits the political differences of the Party of Islamic Renaissance of Tajikistan (PRT) and the Democratic Party of Tajikistan (DPT) to the social differences between these two groups. Despite their modern perspectives against the Islamic traditionalists in the fight for control of the country, while inversely the democratic forces did not. The United States neglected to form policies to promote the democratic ideals. Thus, Tajikistan was left to fight for itself without the tools a free society could utilize. America, because of democratic ideals, would have helped the democratic ideals Davlat Khudonazarov and other Tajiks has asked for. Therefore, Tajikistan lost its autonomy to the repression of democracy and the destabilization of the region.

Sudan has also been plagued by struggle. The conflict has resulted in a total of 6 million deaths and 600,000 internally displaced people, and the worst famine in the world this century. The war continues because, as according to Francis Deng, a former ambassador from Sudan, it is a “zero-sun conflict.” Lengthy wars cannot reach resolution without significant intervention. The United States has not implemented policies that have resulted in the necessary change for the Sudanese people. The universal goals of regional security and the promotion of democracy have been discarded for a conflict which, “... Even by the tortured yardstick of Africa, a continent riven by armed conflict, the scarcely visible war ravaging southern Sudan has surpassed most measures...” The conflict rates the continent’s most deadly...” The Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) of the southern part of the country is generally moderate Muslims have been in conflict with the Northern Islamic Front (NIF), Islamic fundamentalists and seek to have the SPLA assimilate culturally.

In the region, Kenya, Egypt, and Uganda have all felt the effects of the conflict. Kenya has felt the economic impact of refugees, while Egypt has felt a security threat from the Islamic fundamentalists. Uganda on the other hand was politically drawn into the conflict because of President Museveni’s support of the SPLA. The security of the region can easily become weakened when all these factors collide. The extension of the civil war outside the borders of Sudan means that a full scale war could easily ignite in the hot desert sand. The United States never intervened with peacekeepers or policies that would marginalize the African conflict. Instead, domestic issues and pressures took precedence, while NGO’s were expected to provide humanitarian aid. Conflicts as the Sudanese conflict are woven into the roots of the conflict, and not simply surface level corrections with humanitarian aid. Clearly, Uganda cannot maintain effective and meaningful support Sudan, but the United States, because of its nonpartial status, can provide for the protection of the Sudanese, help to establish peace and security, and examine the situation and formulate policies to best support the goal of regional security.