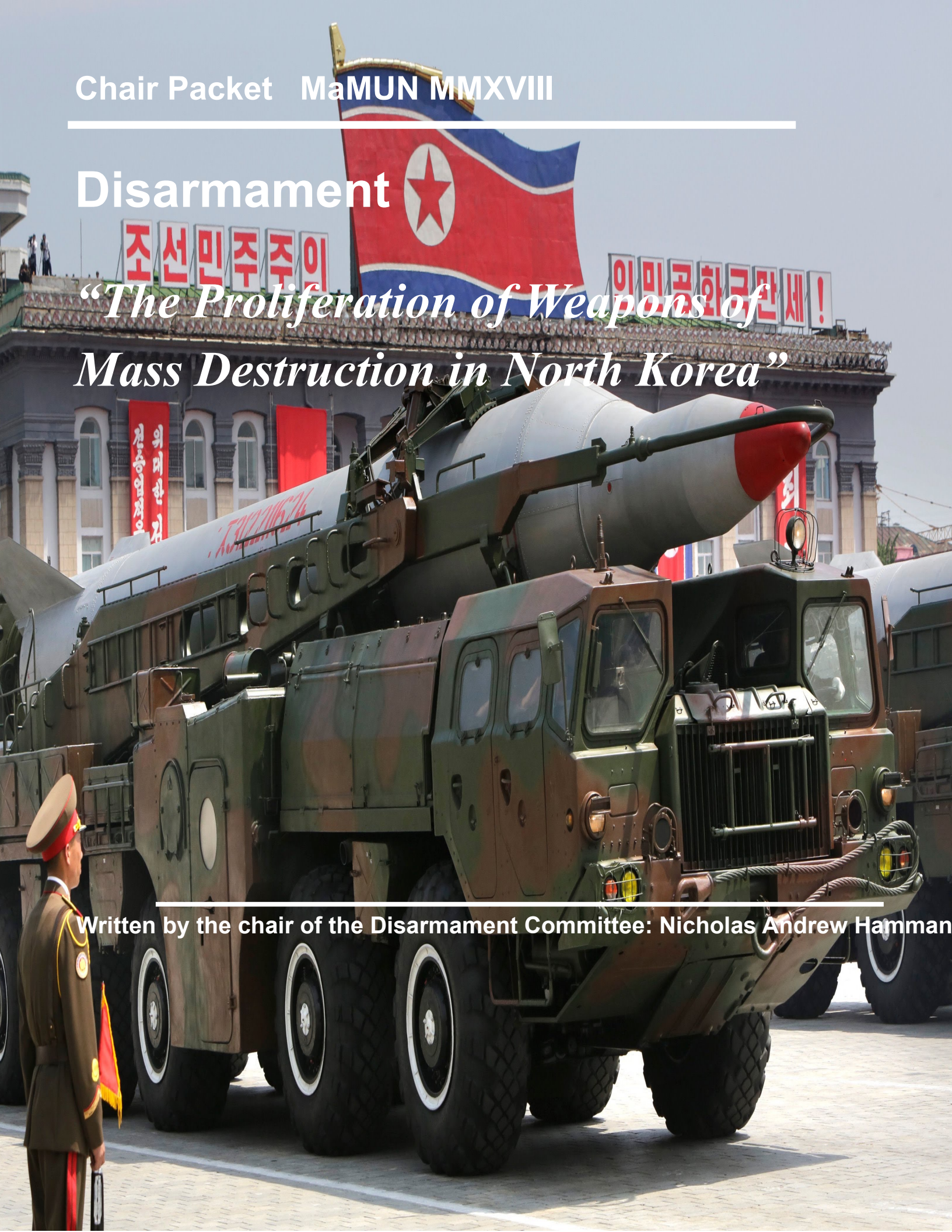


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Disarmament

*“The Proliferation of Weapons of
Mass Destruction in North Korea”*

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Forum: Disarmament
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Table of Content

Context & Historical background	Page 3
United Nations Involvement	Page 4
Perspectives	Page 5 - 6
Questions to Consider	Page 6
Key Terms & Phrases	Page 6
Work Cited	Page 7

A. Context & Historical Background

It is the goal of the United Nations and of Disarmament to have a world free of nuclear weapons. At this time, one of the more pressing issues that disarmament will debate is the issue concerning North Korea and nuclear weapons. Since the creation of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK) on September 9, 1948, the country remains one of the most self-isolated countries in the world. North Korea is known to have a nuclear program which is thought to have been founded sometime in the early 1950's, and has been developing ever since. Over time, North Korea has developed short-ranged missiles and long-ranged missiles, and have recently successfully tested their sixth and most powerful nuclear test on September 3rd, 2017. After this, the UN Security Council held an emergency meeting aimed at placing more sanctions on North Korea, as they had done many times before. North Korea has successfully established themselves as a threat that is capable of causing mass destruction, although the exact quantity of nuclear weapons that North Korea has is unidentified. China, Japan and South Korea are the most affected by this issue because they are so geographically close to North Korea. The cause of this is that there is a heightened threat to those three countries in particular.

Timeline of Events:

1959: North Korea and the USSR sign a nuclear cooperation agreement. Over the next 30 years Moscow provides the North with basic nuclear training and technology.

1970's: Kim Il-sung's requests for nuclear weapons assistance are rebuffed by both China and the USSR throughout the 1970's.

1985: DPRK accedes to the NPT.

1991: North Korea attempts to acquire Soviet scientists with knowledge of high energy physics, 13 however the scientists are detained by Soviet officials.

1998: U.S. aid is given in exchange for a halt to North Korea's missile program.

December 9, 2003: George W. Bush turns down a proposition from the North to freeze its reactors in exchange for a list of concessions.

2006: North Korea launches 7 missiles. While the short and medium range missiles (Nodong -2 and Scud) are successful, the Taepodong 2 ICBM fails

May 25, 2009: North Korea tests its second nuclear weapon, and expels the IAEA.

April 12, 2012: North Korea's test of the Kwangmyongsong-3 satellite missile fails.

B. UN Involvement

Security Council Resolution 1718:

Demands North Korea refrain from further nuclear or missile tests.

Demands North Korea return to the NPT.

Decides North Korea shall suspend all ballistic missile activities.

Security Council Resolution 1874:

Inspect North Korean cargo on land, air, and sea, if the state has reason to believe that it contains prohibited items and seize any prohibited materials or technologies

Prohibit bunkering services for North Korean ships if the state has reason to believe it is carrying illicit cargo

Security Council Resolution 2087:

Clarifying the catch-all provision

Clarifying the state's right to seize and destroy material suspected of heading to or from North Korea

Directing the sanctions committee to take action to designate individuals or entities that have assisted in sanctions evasion

Security Council Resolution 2094:

Expressed concern that North Korea was abusing immunities granted to its diplomats by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations

Welcomed the Financial Action Task Force's new recommendation on targeted financial sanctions related to proliferation and urged member states to apply the recommendations

Security Council Resolution 2270:

Prohibits states from providing any specialized teaching or training of North Korean nationals in disciplines which could contribute to North Korea's proliferation.

Emphasizes that the North Korean regime has seriously neglected to meet the needs of the North Korean people and has instead prioritized development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Decides that North Korea shall abandon all chemical and biological weapons and programs and act in accordance with the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention

Security Council Resolution 2321:

Calls on all members to reduce the number of staff at DPRK diplomatic missions and consular posts

Condemns the DPRK for pursuing nuclear weapons instead of the welfare of its people

Emphasizes, for the first time, the need for the DPRK to respect the inherent dignity of its people in its territory

Security Council Resolution 2371:

Regrets North Korea's massive diversion of its scarce resources toward its development of nuclear weapons and a number of expensive ballistic missile programs

Reaffirms the Council's support for the Six Party Talks, calls for their resumption, reiterates its support for commitments made by the Six Parties, and reiterates the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia

Decides North Korea shall not deploy or use chemical weapons and calls on North Korea to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention and comply with its provisions

Security Council Resolution 2375:

Reiterates its deep concern at the grave hardship that the people in the DPRK are subjected to, condemns the DPRK for pursuing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles instead of the welfare of its people

Reaffirms its support for the Six Party Talks, calls for their resumption, and reiterates its support for the commitments set forth in the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 issued by China, the DPRK, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States

C. Different Perspectives

North Korea:

The Security Council's 5 permanent members are the only countries allowed to have nuclear weapons. North Korea not being one of them, feels that it is threatened. North Korea has developed a Nuclear weapons program, and has set a goal for themselves to reach nuclear equilibrium with the United States military... but if asked politically, any North Korean representative will not acknowledge that any nuclear program exists.

The United States of America:

Time and time again, North Korea has threatened to destroy or at least fire at the United States of America using nuclear weapons. The United States is concerned and at the very least cautions about the activity in North Korea. President Trump has suggested that a better relationship with Russia would help repress the threat from North Korea. If North Korea were to continue to test and eventually use weapons of mass destruction, this would effect the United States in the sense that they would always be on guard and cautions... almost like another Cold War. In response to Kim Jong-un's statement: "Our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the US and make the US rulers dare not talk about military option." President Trump replied, "America and our allies will never be intimidated. We will defend our people, our nation's, and our civilization, from all who dare to threaten our way of life."

Russia:

Russia is allies with North Korea, and has been supportive of their nuclear program from the very beginning. Russia is responsible for giving North Korea the necessary information that was needed for North Korea to start their program, and have continued to provide education and information to North Korea and their nuclear program.

South Korea:

The South Korean government works closely with the USA to address the activity in North Korea. North Korea announced that they would denuclearize in exchange of peaceful relations with the USA and the South Korean government and the elimination of economic sanctions. South Korea has not yet shown interest in having peaceful relations with North Korea, in fact, South Korea has actually expressed that relations with North Korea would be counterproductive. Yet, it is important to note that South Korea and North Korea share a physical border.

China:

China would be one of the most affected by this issue, because it is one of the five nuclear weapon states allowed by the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty and because it shares a physical border with North Korea. To give insight on how China feels the issue should be approached, one of its ambassadors said, “Honestly, I think the United States should be doing much more than now, so that there’s real effective international cooperation on this issue.” As North Korea becomes more and more capable with nuclear weapons, the more threatened China is.

Iraq, India and Libya:

These countries are the only other countries other than North Korea that have not signed the NPT. Seeing that there are only four countries that have not yet signed the NPT, these 4 countries will tend to take similar positions, although with different perspectives, concerning Nuclear Proliferation

D. Key words

Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons: (commonly called the Non-proliferation Treaty(NPT)) is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology

Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention: which prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons

Chemical Weapons Convention: which is a treaty that forbids the development, production and stockpiling of Chemical weapons worldwide

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.

Weapons of Mass Destruction: a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon able to cause widespread devastation and loss of life.

International Atomic Energy Agency: which is the world’s central and autonomous intergovernmental agency that works for the peaceful development of atomic energy

Catch All Provision: a portion of a contract or law intended to cover all possibilities not covered by individual terms

Ballistic Missile: a missile with a high, arcing trajectory, which is initially powered and guided but falls under gravity onto its target.

E. Questions to consider

In what ways could North Korea be eradicated of all nuclear weapons?

How can a form of compromise be proposed?

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Useful Website: <http://www.americansecurityproject.org/ASP%20Reports/Ref%200072%20-%20North%20Korea%E2%80%99s%20Nuclear%20Program%20.pdf>

