

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 31, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The world is facing a nuclear and humanitarian crisis on the Korean peninsula. This demands that United States forge a new relationship with North Korea, premised on the now transparent realities that the North Korean nuclear program was never intended for civilian electricity generation purposes, that North Korea's need for the fundamental tools of subsistence and economic development is desperate, and that Kim Jong Il is deadly serious about proceeding to manufacture weapons of mass destruction from plutonium and highly enriched uranium diverted from its "research" and "civilian" nuclear power plants. We must also take account of the legitimate concerns of North Korea's immediate neighbors who are acutely aware of the potential for catastrophe from nuclear miscalculations and deepening starvation simultaneously skidding out of control. To that end, I offer several suggestions to engage North Korea in a constructive dialogue.

1. The United States, through the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, should immediately cancel plans to send nuclear reactors to North Korea. The transfer of nuclear reactors to North Korea was a mistake from the onset. It was and is akin to pouring gasoline on smoldering embers. North Korea sees these plants as nothing more than nuclear bomb factories. Stopping U.S. nuclear assistance strengthens your hand in negotiating with Russian President Vladimir Putin to halt the sale of similar nuclear reactors to Iran. We must end the myth that delivering nuclear power plants into the hands of "axis of evil" nations are mere transfers of power sources. Rather, we should recognize that a nuclear plant is the pluperfect form of dual-use technology with an inherent dual personality. It can be put to peaceful civilian use, but it can also be converted to make nuclear bombs.
2. The United States should draft and secure a United Nations Security Council Resolution condemning North Korea for its actions, regardless of whether the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) successfully does so. We should seek to harness international support through the U.N., as we did successfully with the resolution condemning Iraq's weapons programs. This resolution must include the return of IAEA inspectors to Yongbyon, North Korea's known nuclear research reactor and plutonium storage facility, and allow anytime, anywhere, unfettered inspections in all of its other suspected nuclear facilities. Further, all fissile material in North Korea should be removed from that nation and all nuclear facilities should be destroyed.
3. North Korea must agree to stop exporting missile technology to other countries. Missiles are an inherently destabilizing armament and North Korea is a committed supplier to rogue regimes around the world. Such technologies should not be a legitimate export opportunity for nations such as North Korea.

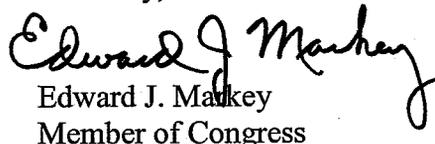
In return, North Korea would receive substantial assistance and assurances from the United States, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia.

1. Providing sufficient heat and electricity generating capacity is critical for North Korea and was the ostensible reason for the United States assistance in the 1994 light water nuclear reactor construction program. Again, we now know that North Korea cannot be trusted with any kind of fissile material, because it can be converted for military armaments. Instead, the United States would offer to *double* the electricity generating capacity of the promised nuclear reactors, in the form of oil- and coal-fired power plants. These 4,000 megawatts of new electricity generating capacity would represent a 40% increase over the current total national capacity. Our allies in the region would agree to provide for the sale of sufficient fuel to operate these plants. In addition, the United States and our allies would financially support the substantial enhancement of the existing electric power grid to handle this large increase in electricity generation. Finally, construction of the power plants would be expedited such that at least 1,000 megawatts of capacity comes online within three years. This expedited construction would bring electric power generation online at least 5-7 years earlier than the first nuclear power plant would be available under the current agreement.
2. The United States, North Korea and other regional allies would sign a non-aggression agreement. The U.S. could afford to pledge not to use its nuclear arsenal in any confrontation with North Korea. Given the overwhelming superiority of the U.S. military, such a pledge would not impact our ability to defend our citizens and our interests in the region.
3. The United States and its allies would provide substantial economic and humanitarian aid to North Korea, to alleviate the effects of the current drought and collapsed economy. The heavy fuel oil shipments, halted in November, would be restarted immediately. The United States and its allies would work with North Korea to stimulate its economy.

Our allies in the region favor a policy that engages rather than isolates North Korea. The United States must again demonstrate that we are committed to peace and to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by working with Japan, South Korea, China, and Russia to find a solution that eventually results in North Korea becoming a full citizen of the world.

The United States must work to aid North Korea's economic development, not its weapons development. I stand ready to work with you on these and other measures to end this crisis that threatens global peace and security.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress