Chinese pundits flay Trump's hard-line policy on North Korea

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Beijing, 22 Sep (Xinhua) -- After US President Donald Trump recently made his remarks on the "complete destruction of North Korea" at the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA], on 21 September he applied further pressure on the North Korean side by announcing a new round of severe sanctions on North Korea. Kim Jong Un, the top North Korean leader, said that North Korea will resolutely take action to strike back.

North Korea's nuclear missile development means without a doubt that it is clinging obstinately to its course, but repeatedly applying pressure by the United States will not help to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. Analysts maintain that the most pressing matter of the day is not to be bent on increasing unilateral sanctions but to take care of the security concerns of North Korea in order to halt its progress in nuclear missile development.

News Facts

Trump announced on 21 September that he had signed an executive order to extend the scope of sanctions on North Korea and to authorize the US Department of the Treasury to impose sanctions on any individuals or entities engaged in trade contacts with North Korea and any financial institutions that assist and facilitate the related trade transactions. Any vessels and aircraft that have visited North Korea will be banned from entering the United States within 180 days.

In his speech delivered at the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September, Trump said that the nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles are a threat to the whole world, and that "if the United States is forced to defend itself or its allies, then there will be no choice but completely destroy North Korea."

In response to the pressure from the United States, North Korea's Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] on 22 September quoted a statement from Kim Jong Un, the top leader of North Korea, saying that Trump has made remarks humiliating his country and himself in front of the world and that he himself is considering how to take the toughest countermeasure in that regard.

In-depth Analysis

With regard to the new round of war of words between North Korea and the United States and the fact that the United States is imposing additional sanctions on North Korea, Wang Junsheng, an expert on the Korean Peninsula issue at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [CASS], said that verbal attacks will not be able to solve the problem, the ef-
fect of the sanctions on North Korea will hardly show up in the near term, and only dialogue and negotiation is the right way to take.

Wang Junsheng said that the Trump regime pretty much believes in sanctions and maintains that hard-line heavy pressure will be able to solve the Korean Peninsula issue, and that is where he goes wrong in his policy towards North Korea.

As a matter of fact, continued heavy pressure will make North Korea feel that its own security concerns are not going to be addressed through dialogue and will further solidify North Korea's existing idea that it must develop nuclear missiles in order to ensure its own security.

Sanctions are medium- and long-term measures, but since North Korea has recently sped up the advancement of its nuclear missile programme, so the most pressing demand of the day is to prevent North Korea's nuclear missile development rather than stepping up the pressure on North Korea.

First Comment

In order to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, it is necessary to "have commitments for commitments and action for action."

Whether it is to achieve non-nuclearization on the Korean Peninsula or to establish a peace mechanism, both North Korea and the United States are the key parties who are in control of the "key" to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Recently on the Korean Peninsula, on the one hand there are continued nuclear missile activities while on the other hand there are frequent military exercises. Between the United States and North Korea, there are constant verbal attacks with threats of "destruction" and "tough countermeasure," and the United States is repeatedly stepping up sanctions on North Korea. This kind of development will only make the situation even more worrying.

North Korea should not cling obstinately to its dangerous course while the United States should also effectively implement its commitment of the "four no's" to North Korea, and all parties concerned need to play a constructive role in easing the tensions.

The Korean Peninsula is once again facing a moment of making choices. It is necessary that all parties work together towards the same goals and address one another's legitimate concerns. There is still hope for peace so we must not give it up, and negotiation is the only solution so we must spare no effort to seek its success.

Background Link

The 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly opened at the UN headquarters in New York on 12 September. In his speech delivered at the general debate of the UN General Assembly on 19 September, Donald Trump attacked North Korea without restraint when the North Korean representative was just sitting a few meters away from him. In addition, Trump also criticized Iran and talked at length about his idea of "America First."

That was the first time that Trump had taken to the podium in the United Nations and his speech was more than 40 minutes long. However, his speech has brought about questioning by many in the audience. Some representatives in the audience believed that it was a wrong speech delivered to a wrong audience at a wrong time.

During the session of the UN General Assembly, Trump attended a lunch meeting with the leaders of Japan and South Korea on 21 September. At the beginning of the meeting, he informed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in about the new sanctions imposed on North Korea.

The United Nations General Assembly is the principal discussing, inspecting, and examining organ. It is composed of all UN member states. The UN General Assembly holds its regular sessions from September to December every year. The regular sessions are usually divided into two phases. The first phase is one for general debate, and the second phase is one in which the General Assembly examines and discusses the various topic items on the agenda. The general debate is considered an annual summit meeting of the UN General Assembly, at which leaders or senior representatives from 193 member states gather together and state their respective views on world issues.

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