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Kim Yo Jong, Vice-department Director of WPK Central Committee, Issues Press Statement

Kim Yo Jong, vice-department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), issued the following press statement Tuesday:

The U.S. and the south Korean army desperately started joint military exercises further accelerating the instable situation despite the unanimous denunciation and rejection at home and abroad.

The joint military exercises are divided into an "exercise of the staff for crisis control" from Aug. 10 to 13 and a "combined command exercise" from Aug. 16 to 26. They are the most vivid expression of the U.S. hostile policy towards the DPRK, designed to stifle our state by force, and an unwelcoming act of self-destruction for which a dear price should be paid as they threaten the safety of our people and further imperil the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The dangerous war exercises pushed ahead by the U.S. and the south Korean side disregardful of our repeated warnings will surely make them face more serious security threat.

Whatever the scale and mode, the joint military exercises are of aggressive nature as they are a war rehearsal and preliminary nuclear war exercise for further rounding off the preparations for putting into practice the operational plan with the preemptive strike at us as the gist.

Every March and August, military tension and the danger of conflict flare up in and around the Korean peninsula due to the war frenzy of the U.S. and south Korea.

Now the U.S. doggedly pushes forward with the aggression war drills at such a sensitive time as now when the international eyes are focused on the development of the situation on the peninsula. It is indeed a chief architect destroying peace and stability in the region. This also proves that "diplomatic engagement" and "dialogue with no strings attached" touted by the present U.S. administration is hypocrisy to cover up its aggressive nature.

The prevailing situation proves once again that we were quite just when we decided to steadily build up the capabilities for national defence.

For peace to settle on the peninsula, it is imperative for the U.S. to withdraw its aggression troops and war hardware deployed in south Korea.

As long as the U.S. forces stay in south Korea, the root cause for the periodic aggravation of the situation on the Korean peninsula will never vanish.

The reality proves that only substantial deterrent, not words, can ensure the peace and security of the Korean peninsula, and that it is a vital requirement for us to build up the force powerful enough to fully contain the external threats to us.

We have already clarified that we will counter the U.S. on the principle of power for power and goodwill for goodwill.

We will put more spur to further increasing the deterrent of absolute capacity to cope with the ever-growing military threats from the U.S., i.e. the national defence capabilities and powerful preemptive strike for rapidly countering any military actions against us.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my deep regret at the perfidious behavior of the south Korean authorities.

I release this press statement upon authorization.

State Emergency Measures Taken to Recover from Flood Damage in DPRK

State emergency measures are taken to eradicate the aftermath of flood and heavy rain as soon as possible in the DPRK.

The central team for guiding the project for recovery from flood damage is staffed by officials of the Cabinet, ministries and national institutions.

The team scrupulously organizes the work for acquainting itself with the problems arising in powerfully backing the reconstruction project in several disaster-hit areas in South Hamgyong Province and other regions and for taking timely measures for resolving them on the spot.

Prompt measures are taken to stabilize the life of the residents in the flood-hit areas.

Ministries took steps for providing the people with food, non-staple food, condiments and others.

Necessary medicines are being supplied and the quality of drinking water thoroughly ensured to prevent various diseases.

Hundreds of medical workers were urgently dispatched to the disaster-stricken areas to conduct medical examination and treatment for the residents and builders. They further intensify the emergency epidemic prevention work with adequate disinfectants and epidemic prevention tools.

Officials of ministries and national institutions sent the aid materials they prepared with sincerity to share sorrow with the people in the disaster-hit areas, thus giving full play to the fine traits of helping and caring for one another more sincerely at a time of hardship, which prevail in society.

The reconstruction campaign gets brisk.

While making a field survey, officials of the State General Bureau of Design push ahead with drawing up the arrangement plans and designs for the dwelling houses to be built in the flood-hit areas and providing technical manuals urgently needed for the reconstruction of damaged structures.