



## B O L L E T I N O

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### **Press Statement of Spokesman for DPRK Foreign Ministry**

Pyongyang, August 18 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released the following press statement titled "U.S. and its following forces will be made to pay dear price for their irresponsible act" on August 18:

Shortly ago, Ukraine committed an extremely grave terrorist crime of killing tens of peaceable inhabitants and injuring hundreds through an armed invasion of the inviolable territory of Russia.

The reckless military provocations of the Zelenskiy puppet authorities are nothing but their last-ditch efforts to put under control the daily-worsening war situation at any cost and continuously get military support from the U.S. and the Western masters to prolong their remaining days and disturb the public mindset by creating the unrest in the Russian society.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry bitterly denounces the armed attack on the territory of Russia being launched by the Zelenskiy puppet authorities under the manipulation and support of the U.S. and the West as an unpardonable act of aggression and terrorism seriously encroaching upon the territorial integrity and security of a sovereign state and mercilessly killing peaceable civilians.

The reckless and intemperate military moves of the Zelenskiy puppet clique are enough to invite strong retaliation of Russia, and the stooges running amuck with the backing of their master should be completely eliminated militarily and physically.

The U.S. and its followers are held wholly responsible for the recent incident which can drive the whole of Europe into a new all-out war.

The U.S., the very one of the crisis in Ukraine, is getting more hell-bent in supporting weapons, while describing the atrocities of the Ukrainian armed bandits who are killing innocent

inhabitants and destroying peaceful villages in Russia as "legitimate military actions pursuant to the right to self-defence".

The U.S. and its followers are misleading the public opinion as if they have nothing to do with the recent incident but various heavy hardware including the U.S. and the Western tanks being discovered in the Kursk battle field every day clearly proves who is standing behind Ukraine.

The present situation is an inevitable outcome of the U.S. and the West's vicious anti-Russia confrontation policy and acts of indiscriminately driving the Zelenskiy puppet authorities into the proxy war with Russia by providing them with an astronomical amount of lethal hardware, doing serious harm to the sovereignty, security and interests of Russia. As a result, the global security environment is being pushed to the threshold of the third world war.

The time will prove what is the danger of the U.S. ignorant move to drive the Kiev authorities into a proxy war until the last Ukrainian is left, seized with a hallucinant dream to bring a strategic defeat to Russia at any cost and what consequences it will entail.

Those who do irresponsible and fearless acts will be made to pay a dear price for their acts, and provocateurs will be subject to due retaliation.

The U.S. and its followers should seriously reconsider the catastrophic disaster to be entailed by the self-destructive military provocations perpetrated by the Zelenskiy puppet clique and be wholly responsible for it.

We do not doubt that the brave army and people of Russia will deal a merciless military blow to the armed invaders and attain their goal to the last in Kursk, the hero land that defeated the large army of the Hitler fascist clique more than 80 years ago and opened a turning phase of war.

The present Kursk battle will be a prelude to the total destruction of the Zelenskiy puppet clique and the strategic defeat of the U.S. and the West.

The DPRK will always stand together with the Russian Federation that has turned out valiantly in the struggle for international justice and invariably and strongly support the sacred war of the Russian army and people to defend the sovereignty, security and interests of the state. -0-

# **Press Statement of Institute for American Studies of DPRK Foreign Ministry**

Pyongyang, August 18 (KCNA) -- The Institute for American Studies of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released the following press statement "To bolster up self-defensive power for defending security environment of Korean peninsula and region is urgent requirement of times" on August 18:

The U.S. and the ROK are going to stage Ulji Freedom Shield, large-scale provocative joint military exercises, from August 19 to 29.

Even vassal countries affiliated to the "UN Command" will reportedly take part in the exercises involving 48 rounds of various outdoor mobile training such as live firing and landing drills on the ground and in the sea and sky.

Thus, Ulji Freedom Shield fully betrays its dangerous colors as the biggest military training in the Asia-Pacific region and offensive multinational muscle-flexing involving even NATO member states.

The Institute for American Studies of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK makes public this press statement to disclose the rash confrontational moves of the U.S. and the ROK escalating regional military confrontation and contradiction by kicking off such aggressive large-scale joint military exercises despite strong internal and external opposition.

Is Ulji Freedom Shield "defensive" and "transparent"

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State recently termed the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises "regular" and "defensive", touting their "transparency."

This is no more than rhetoric to cover up the dangerous and grave nature of their joint military drills and evade international community's criticism.

It is clearly recorded in the world history of wars that in preparation for a war, aggressor states followed a series of procedures, including adoption of war policy and military operation plan for its execution, advance deployment of forces, ceaseless simulated and actual war drills and war provocation.

The current U.S. administration has more openly pursued the policy of using nuclear weapons against the DPRK by specifying the "end of regime" of the latter as a goal in its "nuclear posture review" made public after its inauguration. It has put into practice its nuclear confrontation policy against the DPRK by releasing the "Washington Declaration", establishing a new U.S.-ROK

"nuclear consultative group" and cooking up the "guidelines on nuclear strategic plan and its operation."

According to them, nuclear-powered submarines of the U.S. frequented the waters near the Korean peninsula in 2023, seven times as much as in 2022, and the number of flights of its fighters and bombers in the sky above it has quadrupled. Against this backdrop, nuclear carrier strike groups are being deployed there one after another along with massive introduction of U.S. latest war hardware such as F-35 stealth fighters and SM-6 ship-to-air interceptor missiles into the ROK.

F-16 fighters, which had been stationed in the Kunsan air base, were transferred to the Osan air base near Seoul to form a "super-powerful wing." And U.S. offensive military assets are concentrated on areas near the southern border of the DPRK.

Worse still, the number of outdoor mobile training, staged as part of Ulji Freedom Shield, increased to 38 in 2023 and 48 in 2024, and has turned into provocative special warfare ones, the keynote of which are "occupation of Pyongyang" and "beheading operation."

Notably, the above-mentioned military exercises, including a drill simulating a nuclear confrontation with the DPRK, bring to light clearer the provocative nature of Ulji Freedom Shield as a prelude to a nuclear war.

"Transparency" of the joint military drills touted by the U.S. is no more than trickery to deceive the international community.

Most of the countries, which are to "observe" whether the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises are staged in conformity with the requirements of the Korean Armistice Agreement, are member states of the "UN Command" or NATO member states under the control of the U.S. So it is clearly evident that it is utterly impossible to expect any neutrality or impartiality from them.

All facts prove that Ulji Freedom Shield is neither "defensive" nor "transparent" but the most offensive and provocative war drills for aggression in the world.

What impact have the U.S.-led joint military exercises had on international peace and stability

It is the typical method of the U.S. to pursue its unilateral and absolute security by infringing upon other countries' security and interests.

It is clearly evidenced by the fact that the U.S. and its vassal countries have staged more than 200 joint military drills in different parts of the world annually and they have become more threatening in their nature.

As for RIMPAC kicked off in 1971 against the former Soviet Union, the joint military maneuvers didn't disappear despite the end of the Soviet-U.S. Cold War but have developed into the world's biggest multinational maritime joint military drills under the pretext of "defeating" new "virtual enemy."

From late July to early August this year, RIMPAC was staged in the largest-scale ever, involving 40 warships, three submarines, 150-odd aircraft and 25 000 troops from 29 countries.

International security experts unanimously commented that the forms and contents of RIMPAC clearly prove that they are aimed at laying siege to and deter China.

U.S.-led joint military drills are being staged frequently also in the European region, distressed by the world's worst-ever security crisis brought by the Ukrainian situation, to spark off great concern of the international community.

The U.S.-led joint military exercises Steadfast Defender were staged in the largest scale ever since the end of the Cold War near the border of Russia from January to May this year with the involvement of more than 90 000 forces, at least 50 warships including aircraft carriers, 80-odd fighter jets and over 1 100 combat vehicles.

The exercises, aimed at restoring the ever-dampening atmosphere of supporting Ukraine among European countries and inducing NATO member states to increase military expenditure, fully show the hostile intention of the U.S. to militarily deter Russia and seize military hegemony in the region.

It is the fact never to be concealed and denied that the U.S.-led joint military drills are the grave root cause of escalating military confrontation and causing unabated instability across the world.

What is the best way to ensure peace and stability

Shortly ago, the U.S. secretaries of State and Defense and the assistant to the president for National Security of the White House, in an article they jointly contributed to the press, betrayed the sinister intention to seize military hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region by inveigling not only regional vassal countries including Japan and the ROK but also countries outside the region.

This shows that the U.S.-led joint military drills have nothing to do with "preserving regional security" touted by it and its allied forces but serve as a political and military means to take more countries on the confrontation chariot driven by it to realize its hegemony.

Actually, major NATO members are taking part in the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises recently under the signboard of member states of the "UN Command" and the military nexus between Japan, the ROK and NATO is getting further tightened.

The U.S., which included in its defense budgets the "Pacific deterrence plan" of drastically reinforcing its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region in recently years, has annually increased the allotment for carrying it out. This predicts that the U.S. and its vassal countries would more openly engage in military intervention in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity.

The prevailing situation requires the independent and sovereign states to constantly maintain the balance of power for preventing a war by stockpiling the greatest deterrence for guaranteeing their sovereignty, security and interests in every way in the current and future uncertain security environment.

The more frequently the U.S. and its vassal countries commit collective military provocations, the stronger the deterrence of justice for neutralizing the threat from them and ensuring regional and global peace and stability will become.

We will continue to make crucial efforts to build up strong defence capabilities for creditably defending our state sovereignty, security, interests and territorial integrity and change the security environment of the Korean peninsula and the region in our favour. -0-