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Korea

North and South Korea at a turning point after 70 years

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The situation on the Korean Peninsula has become more tense recently, with North Korea still conducting a series of missile tests from late last year into this year. Former US State Department official Robert I. Carlin and a nuclear scientist recognized the situation on the Korean peninsula as the most dangerous since 1950 in January this year. [1]

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[1] Robert I. Carlin and Siegfried S. Hecker, 38 North, 11 January 2024 "Is Kim Jong Un Preparing for War?"

[2] North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly meets once or twice a year to decide on the country's budget, amendments to laws, and personnel matters for state institutions.

[3] Official name of South Korea.

[4] Official name of North Korea.

[5] There are roughly two North Korean broadcasts that can be heard in East Asia: the Pyongyang Broadcasting Station (PBS) and the Korean Central Broadcasting Station (KCBS). The former is an "all-Korea" service aimed primarily at South Koreans and ethnic Koreans, and the latter is the main full-service domestic radio network.

[6] According to ANN's poll conducted on January 20 and 21, those who said they "support" Kishida's cabinet decreased 0.9 points from last month to 20.4%, the lowest percentage since the inauguration of the administration. ANN: All-Nippon News Network.

[7] The *Rodong Sinmun* is a North Korean newspaper that serves as the newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK).

[8] Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote in his memoir that Kim Jong-un told him in 2018 that he needed US forces in South Korea to protect himself from China. The present writer will never condone the presence of the US troops in South Korea. But it will reflect the ethnic sentiment of the Korean people to some extent regardless of the truth of that remarks. See Mike Pompeo, *Never Give an Inch, Fighting for the America I Love*, Broadside Books, 2024, 61-62.

[9] *Yomiuri Japan News*, 25 January 2024, "Tokyo Set to Build Underground Shelter in Event of Missile Attack".