

The Six Party Talks and China's Role

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Part I Background

- DPRK started to develop its nuclear program since 1950s.
- DPRK became a member of IAEA in 1974 and concluded the INFCIRC/66 Safeguards Agreement for its two nuclear research facilities in 1977.
- DPRK became a party to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1985.
- DPRK signed IAEA Safeguards Agreement to accept IAEA inspections in 1992.

Two Nuclear Crisis

- **The First Nuclear Crisis**

----In April 1990, US suspected DPRK developing nuclear weapons according to satellite images and data, and requested an inspection on DPRK's nuclear facilities.

----DPRK accepted 6 IAEA inspections from May, 1992 to Feb, 1993. However, the DPRK and IAEA differed on the inspection targets and results.

----In Feb, 1993, IAEA requested a special inspection on DPRK nuclear facilities, but DPRK refused. In March, DPRK announced its decision to withdraw from the NPT. ----This was called as the first nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

• **Jimmy Carter's meeting with Kim Il-sung**

After the first crisis, US made some adjustment on its policy toward DPRK.

----Since June,1993,US and DPRK held several rounds of talks in New York and Geneva, DPRK agreed to suspend the effectuation of its withdraw from NPT.

----On 15 June,1994, the former US President Jimmy Carter paid a private visit to DPRK. He met with DPRK's top leader Kim Il-sung, reached a broad consensus on nuclear and related issues.

----In October 1994, the United States and DPRK signed the Agreed Framework, under which the DPRK agreed to freeze and ultimately dismantle its nuclear program. The Framework sought to resolve comprehensively the issues arising from the DPRK nuclear program.

• **Agreed Framework between U.S. and DPRK(1994)**

- DPRK's nuclear reactors would be replaced with two 1000MW light water reactors(LWR) power plants by a target date of 2003.
- Oil for heating and electricity would be provided while DPRK's reactors were shut down and construction halted, until completion of the first LWR power unit. The amount of oil was 500,000 tons of heavy oil per year.
- The two sides would move toward full normalization of political and economic relations.
- The DPRK would remain a party to the Nuclear NPT. IAEA ad hoc and routine inspections would resume for facilities not subject to the freeze.
- DPRK would come into full compliance with its safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

- **Dramatic Development of U.S.-DPRK Relations**

----From 1996 to 1999, US and DPRK had 6 rounds of consultations on DPRK's missile issue.

----9-12 Oct 2000, Cho Myun-luk, the Vice President of DPRK's National Defence Commission, and special envoy for Kim Jung-il, visited U.S. at the invitation of U.S. President Clinton.

----23-25 Oct 2000, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited DPRK, which was the highest level visit from U.S. since the Korean War. After that, President Clinton planed to visit DPRK, but failed to do so due to domestic pressure.

- **The Second Nuclear Crisis**

----Both the U.S. and DPRK lacked sincerity to implement the Agreed Framework .

----In Jan 2001, George W. Bush assumed office and changed Clinton's policy . He labelled DPRK as one of the evils of axis and US-DPRK relation deteriorated.

----In Oct 2002, after James Kelly, then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State finished his visit to DPRK as U.S.

President's special envoy, he claimed that DPRK acknowledged it was developing uranium enrichment program, which violated the Agreed Framework.

----In Dec 2002, KEDO stopped to provide heavy oil to DPRK and DPRK restarted Yongbyon nuclear facilities, withdrew from NPT and expelled IAEA experts.

Part II Six Party Talks

----In Jan 2003, U.S. claimed something unusual in DPRK's nuclear reactor. In March, US warned to launch a military strike on DPRK. DPRK declared that US-ROK joint military exercises targeted at invading DPRK and it would get itself ready for a nuclear war.

----China made efforts to persuade U.S. and DPRK to ease tension . From 23 to 25 April 2003, China-US-DPRK held trilateral talks , restarted the process of resolving the nuclear issue through peaceful dialogue.

----With the participation of ROK, Russia and Japan in Aug 2003, the initial trilateral talks turned into the Six Party Talks.

• **1st Round of the Six Party Talks (27 - 29 Aug 2003)**

DPRK position: U.S. abandon its hostile policy; to conclude a legally binding treaty of mutual non-aggression; no "early inspection" before U.S. giving up hostile policy.

U.S. position: willing to solve the issue with negotiation; willing to make big concessions when DPRK agrees to completely abandon its nuclear program: a written guarantee of no invasion with the Congress approval; reducing international sanctions; providing some economic assistance.

- **2nd Round of the Six Party Talks (25-28 Feb,2004)**

Key Points of Discussion:

A) **setting the goal of denuclearization.** DPRK made clear that it would abandon nuclear weapons program as long as U.S. abandon hostile policy. U.S. made clear that it wouldn't invade DPRK and wouldn't make regime change, and would normalize its relation with DPRK after its concerns solved. U.S. proposed to have comprehensive, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization.

B) **identifying the steps for the first phase of denuclearization.** DPRK proposed that it would freeze its nuclear activities as the first step, while the other parties take corresponding steps. China, ROK and Russia promised to provide energy assistance under certain conditions. U.S. and Japan would do their part.

- **3rd Round of the Six Party Talks (23-26 June, 2004)**

Key points of discussion:

Parties reaffirmed their commitment for the objective of denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula; emphasised the need for a peaceful solution in line with the principle of "commitment for commitment, action for action"; parties put forward different ideas and proposals.

DPRK believed that the talks were candid and lots of consensus were made, but deadlock was not broken due to the lack of trust between the U.S. and DPRK.

• **4th Round of the Six Party Talks (26 July-7 August, 13-19 Sept 26, 2005)**

- The six parties unanimously reaffirmed that the goal of the six-party talks is the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.
- The DPRK committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and returning, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to IAEA safeguards.
- The United States affirmed that it has no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and has no intention to attack or invade the DPRK with nuclear or conventional weapons.
- The DPRK and the United States undertook to respect each other's sovereignty, exist peacefully together, and take steps to normalize their relations subject to their respective bilateral policies.
- The six parties undertook to promote economic cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and investment, bilaterally and/or multilaterally. China, Japan, ROK, Russia and the U.S. stated their willingness to provide energy assistance to the DPRK
- The six parties committed to joint efforts for lasting peace and stability in Northeast Asia.
- The directly related parties will negotiate a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum.
- The six parties agreed to take coordinated steps to implement the aforementioned consensus in a phased manner in line with the principle of "commitment for commitment, action for action."

- **5th Round of the Six Party Talks (9 Nov – 11 Nov 2005, 18 Dec – 22 Dec 2006, 8 Feb – 13 Feb 2007)**

Feb. 13, 2007, joint document on the first step toward the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

- DPRK will shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility and invite back IAEA personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verifications.
- Six parties agreed on the establishment of five working groups on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, normalization of DPRK-U.S. relations, normalization of DPRK-Japan relations, economy and energy cooperation as well as Northeast Asia peace and security mechanism.

• **Banco Delta Asia (BDA) issue and Its Impact**

- **15 Sept, 2005**, DPRK funds in BDA were frozen after the US Treasury designated the bank a "primary money laundering concern".
- **9 Oct 2006**, DPRK conducted its first nuclear test.
- **14 Oct, 2006**, UN Security Council passed No.1718 Resolution, condemning DPRK's test and introduced sanctions against DPRK.
- **31 May 2007**, US chief representative Christopher Hill said Pyongyang appeared ready to honor a February agreement of shutting down its nuclear plants in exchange of energy aid. But the failure of the funds' transfer greatly hampered the landmark deal because the DPRK refused to take any substantive steps to fulfill its 60-day commitment until it got the \$25 million.
- **16 June 2007**, Hill said the frozen funds were transferred to a Russian bank and the DPRK would get the money back no later than 18th of June. Washington agreed to release the funds in a bid to push the nuclear negotiations forward.

• **6th Round of the Six Party Talks** (1st phase 19-22 Mar 2007, including 1st head of delegation interval meeting 18-20 Jul, 2nd head of delegation interval meeting 10-12 Jul, 2008; 2nd phase 27-30 Sep 2007, including 3rd head of delegation interval meeting 8-11 Dec, 2008

3 Oct 2007 joint document: the Parties confirmed the implementation of the initial actions provided for in the February 13 agreement, agreed to push forward the Six-Party Talks process.

- The DPRK agreed to disable all existing nuclear facilities subject to abandonment under the September 2005 Joint Statement and the February 13 agreement.
- The DPRK agreed to provide a complete and correct declaration of all its nuclear programs in accordance with the February 13 agreement by 31 December 2007.
- The DPRK and the United States remain committed to improving their bilateral relations and moving towards a full diplomatic relationship. The two sides will increase bilateral exchanges and enhance mutual trust.

Part III Difficulties and China's Role

DPRK satellite /missile launch, nuclear test and UN resolutions

- 4 satellite launches

- Aug, 1998, Kwangmyongsong-1

- April, 2009, Kwangmyongsong-2

- April, 2012, Kwangmyongsong-3(failed)

- Dec, 2012, Kwangmyongsong-3 Unit 2

- 3 nuclear tests:

- 1st test on 9 Oct, 2006

- 2nd test on 25 May,2009

- 3rd on 12 Dec, 2013

- UN Security Council Resolutions/sanctions:

- 1718 Resolution,14 Oct, 2006, against DPRK 1st nuclear test

- 1874 Resolution,12 June, 2009, against DPRK 2nd nuclear test

- 2094 Resolution,7 March, 2013, against DPRK 3rd nuclear test

● Interactions among parties concerned after 2008

- US special representative to DPRK Stephen Bosworth visited Pyongyang in Dec, 2009
- sinking of the Cheonan in March and shelling of Yeonpyeong in November 2010 brought DPRK-ROK relation down to the bottom
- US and DPRK held 2 rounds high-level dialogues in July and October, 2011.
- Kim Jong-il passed away at the end of 2011.
- US and DPRK held the 3rd high-level dialogue in Beijing(23-24 Feb 2012) and announced the "leap day" agreement on 29 Feb
- DPRK conducted 2 satellite launches in April and July 2012; UN Security Council passed 2087 Resolution; DPRK announced the ending of Six Party Talks, 9·19 Joint Statement and denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula

● Interactions among parties concerned

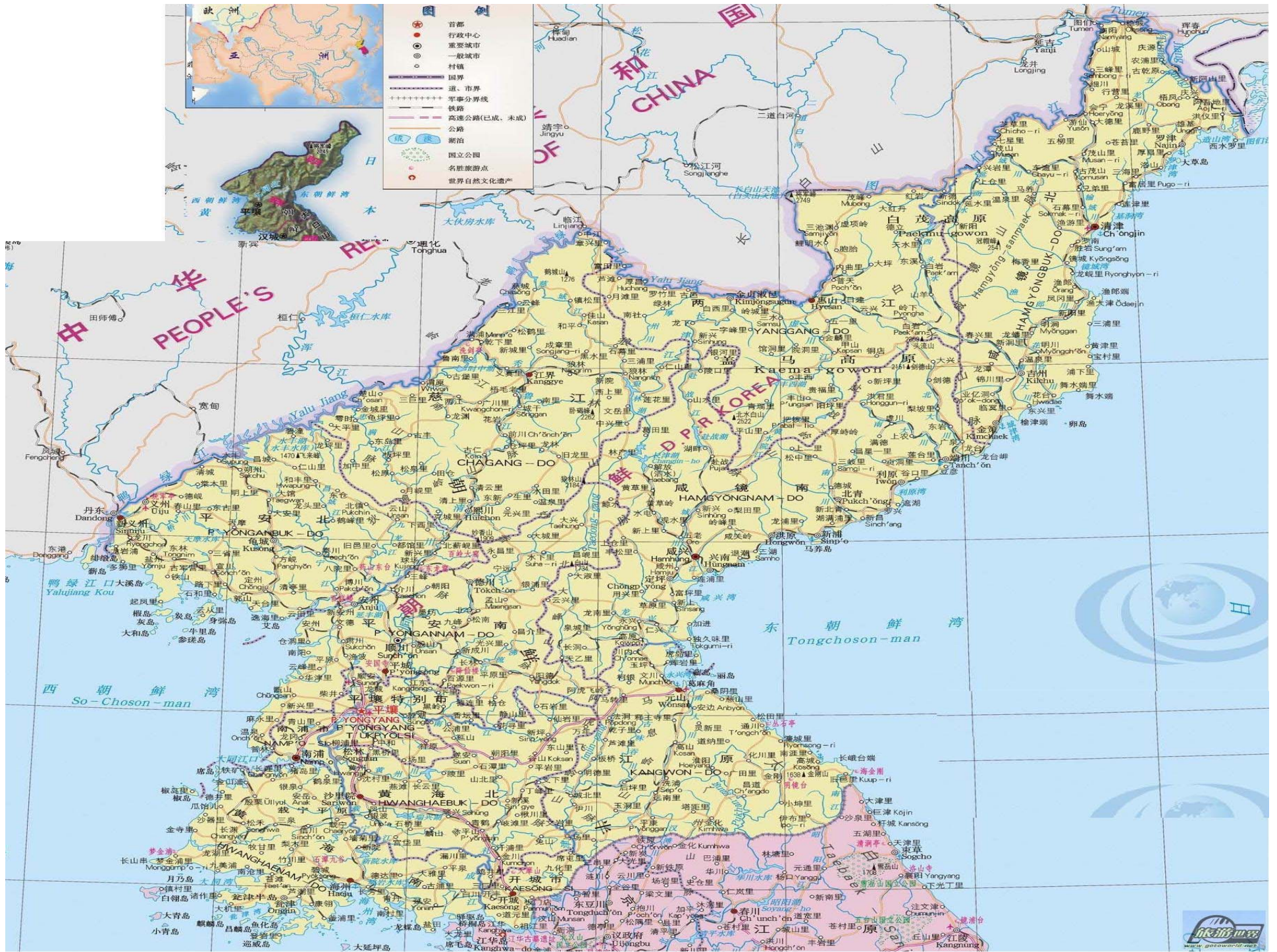
----Premier Wen Jiabao visited DPRK in Oct 2009.

----In Feb 2010, China's proposal US-DPRK engagement→ preliminary meeting →resumption of the Six Party Talks, agreed by other parties in principle.

----22-24 May 2013, Choe Ryong Hae, Kim Jong-un's special envoy and member of DPRK's Labour Party Standing Committee visited China, and said that DPRK willing to go back to the Six Party Talks; to halt nuclear test and long-rang missile launch during talks.

----7-8 June 2013, China-US summit in Sunnylands, California.

----25-28 July 2013, Vice president Li Yuanchao visited DPRK and attended the commemoration ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War armistice Agreement.



● China's role

China has been working hard and contributed a lot for the proper solution of the nuclear issue, to safeguard peace and stability of the Peninsula, realize the denuclearization of the Peninsula as well as the long lasting peace and stability of Northeast Asia.

China creatively proposed and established the Six Party Talks, which is a pioneering undertaking not only in China's diplomatic history but also in China's participation and cooperation on regional security issues.

● 3 aspects of China's role

----persuade the parties for their reconciliation.

----facilitate the talks

----uphold 3 principles: to safeguard peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula; to realize denuclearization of the Peninsula; to solve the relevant issue through dialogue and consultation

● Prospect of the Six Party Talks

The Six Party Talks is still the most practical and effective mechanism for achieving the goals of realizing denuclearization and safeguarding peace and stability of the Peninsula. It remains to be the best platform to discuss the relevant issues on the Korean Peninsula and in the North East Asia. The 9·19 Joint Statement has a realistic significance and provides the only road map for the way ahead.



DPRK media reports KimJong-un's appearance after 40 days absence(2014.1014)

