

# SUPPORT DIPLOMACY WITH NORTH KOREA



# AND A FORMAL END TO THE KOREAN WAR

## 1. CONGRESS HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO GET DIPLOMACY WITH NORTH KOREA BACK ON TRACK

- Since the US and North Korea have been engaged in talks, North Korea has not tested a single nuclear weapon or missile. If diplomacy fails, however, we will be thrust back to the senseless risk of “fire and fury” escalation with a nuclear power.
- History has shown that when the United States engages North Korea and honors its agreements, North Korea’s nuclear program remains frozen, but when the US walks away and does not engage, North Korea makes rapid progress on its nuclear program.
- Congress needs to ensure that we get diplomacy back on track.

## 2. PEACE IS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR DENUCLEARIZATION

- North Korea will give up its nuclear weapons only when its security guarantees are met by the United States
- At the root of the conflict is the unresolved status of the Korean War, which ended in 1953 in an armistice, a temporary ceasefire. The armistice recommended a permanent settlement of the war within 3 months of its signing, but that has yet to happen.
- Although the large scale US-ROK war games have been suspended, joint military exercises continue in different forms under different names, and their operation plan, which includes the collapse and occupation of North Korea, remains unchanged.
- Resolving the nearly seven decade-old Korean War and signaling a move toward building “new relations free from enmity” as promised in the Singapore agreement are necessary to establish a basis of trust for further negotiations.

## 3. A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA IS IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES

- In the absence of a peace agreement, war can resume at any time on the Korean Peninsula, and this poses a constant threat to the national security of the United States, which maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea.
- If war resumes, the US will be involved in what could escalate into a costly and protracted regional war as the US has wartime operational control over the US-ROK combined forces and is bound by the Mutual Defense Treaty to defend South Korea.
- It is in the national security interest of the United States to declare a formal end to the Korean War and negotiate a permanent peace agreement.
- Ending the Korean War, signing a peace agreement and establishing normal relations is the best way to eliminate the risk of nuclear and conventional war on the Korean Peninsula.



Ending the Korean War is  
“the only way to ensure true  
security for both Korean and  
American people.”

— President Jimmy Carter

#### 4. HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BEST BE ADDRESSED THROUGH PEACE

- Economic engagement and integration of North Korea into the global economic community are a more effective way of improving human rights than isolation through sanctions.
- Furthermore, the right to live without the fear of war is a fundamental human right. The human rights of all people on the Korean Peninsula will best be respected by a political agreement that ends the Korean War and establishes peaceful relations.
- Lastly, UN human rights rapporteur Toma Ojea Quintana recently commented sanctions are having a dire impact on the economic and social conditions of the North Korean people. If we are truly concerned about the human rights of the North Korean people, we should end the policy of sanctions and clear the way for inter-Korean economic cooperation.

#### 5. THE TWO KOREAS HAVE ALREADY DECLARED PEACE, AND OTHER UN COMMAND COUNTRIES HAVE NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

- In the Panmunjom Declaration of April 2018, the two Korea's declared "there will be no more war and a new era of peace has begun on the Korean peninsula." In September 2018, they signed a historic military agreement and committed to cease all hostile acts against each other. They have taken concrete steps to transform the DMZ into a peace zone, and the overwhelming majority of South Koreans and Korean Americans applaud the inter-Korean peace process.
- Fifteen of the seventeen member countries of the UN Command that fought during the Korean War have since normalized relations with North Korea, and many have established embassies in Pyongyang. While France has not normalized relations, it has a liaison office in Pyongyang. Only the United States has no diplomatic relations with North Korea.
- Congress should express its support for the two Korea's joint effort toward peace and cooperation and follow the rest of the world in establishing diplomatic relations with North Korea.

## STEPS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CAN TAKE:

1. CO-SPONSOR HOUSE RESOLUTION 152—CALLING FOR A FORMAL END TO THE KOREAN WAR.
2. SPEAK OUT IN SUPPORT OF DIPLOMACY AND THE PURSUIT OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA.
3. OPPOSE FURTHER SANCTIONS AND PUNITIVE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE TALKS REMAIN ON TRACK.
4. ADVOCATE SANCTIONS EXEMPTIONS TO ENABLE INTER-KOREAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN NORTH KOREA.
5. SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REUNITE KOREAN AMERICANS WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN NORTH KOREA, INCLUDING HR 1771.



KOREA PEACE NOW