2017-05-31 Guo Shuxian

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0003727754>

**Solidify unity among G-7 nations to avoid ‘America first’ isolation**

9:00 pm, May 29, 2017 **The Yomiuri Shimbun**

Avoiding the isolation of the United States and solidifying unity is a way to maintain the influence of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries.

The G-7 summit held in Taormina, Italy, ended its meeting with the adoption of a statement by world leaders. Regarding free trade, a focal point of the summit this time, the statement included the wording “to keep our markets open and to fight protectionism.”

Since the inauguration of the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, antiprotectionist wording has disappeared from joint statements at major international conferences attended by the United States. This is a reflection of the thinking of the U.S. administration, which is touting “America first.”

Trump has given top priority to shrinking U.S. trade deficits and has shown a position of not ruling out even a protectionist approach that unilaterally restricts imports.

It can be welcomed that Trump, who attended the G-7 summit for the first time, compromised with other leaders to allow the specific mention of antiprotectionism in the statement.

However, in the debates, Trump referred to imposing high tariffs on trade partners, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel refuted his arguments, showing the G-7 countries are not united like a monolith.

Concerning the Paris Agreement, an international framework for measures against global warming, Trump did not deny the possibility of the United States withdrawing. This conflict with the other six countries was not resolved.

G-7 summits are held so advanced countries, which share the values of freedom and democracy, can take concerted action to lead the peace and prosperity of the world.

**Encircle North Korea**

As emerging countries are rapidly gaining power, the G-7 nations are required to coordinate more than before in their policies. Japan and European countries must persistently explain to the United States the importance of international cooperation.

It is significant that in response to North Korea’s nuclear and missile development, the statement called for a resolution by using the more explicit expression of saying the nation poses “new levels of threat.”

North Korea has already fired ballistic missiles eight times this year. It is also improving its ability to conduct surprise attacks and the accuracy of its missiles while steadily developing longer-range missiles. It is also preparing the deployment of a new type of missile for actual use. It is reasonable that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the nation “a threat to the entire world that goes beyond northeast Asia.”

Abe said emphatically at the G-7 summit, “It’s time for the international community to apply pressure [on North Korea] in solidarity.” Based on the leaders’ statement, which gave “top priority” to North Korean issues, G-7 countries must urge China, which has a strong influence on Pyongyang, to strengthen its pressure and establish an international encirclement of the country.

With the suicide bomb attack in Britain in mind, a statement on measures to fight terrorism was also adopted.

New types of cooperation among each government, internet operators and others are indispensable in preventing the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militant group and others from using the internet for agitation and to recruit terrorists. The use of state-of-the-art technology, such as the automatic detection of terrorist information, will be an important issue.

**NOTE:** <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

12. We reiterate our commitment on non-proliferation and disarmament. North Korea, a top priority in the international agenda, **increasingly poses new levels of threat** of a grave nature to international peace and stability and the non-proliferation regime through its repeated and ongoing breaches of international law. North Korea must immediately and fully comply with all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and abandon all nuclear and ballistic missile programs **in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner**. Condemning in the strongest terms North Korea's nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, we stand ready to strengthen measures aimed at achieving these objectives and **strongly call on the international community to redouble its efforts** to ensure the sustained, comprehensive and thorough implementation of relevant UNSCRs. We urge North Korea to address humanitarian and human rights concerns, including the immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

14. We reaffirm our commitment to maintaining a rules-based order in the maritime domain based on the principles of international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes through diplomatic and legal means, including arbitration. We remain concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas and **strongly opposed to any unilateral actions** that could increase tensions. We urge all parties **to pursue demilitarization of disputed features**.

19. We acknowledge that free, fair and mutually beneficial trade and investment, while creating reciprocal benefits, are key engines for growth and job creation. Therefore, we reiterate our commitment **to keep our markets open and to fight protectionism**, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices. At the same time, we acknowledge that trade has not always worked to the benefit of everyone. For this reason, we commit to adopting appropriate policies so that all firms and citizens can make the most of opportunities offered by the global economy.

- G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué

- Taormina, Italy, May 27, 2017

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0003725379>

# Japan, U.S. should enlist China to add pressure on North Korea

7:58 pm, May 27, 2017 **The Yomiuri Shimbun**

Effective and serious pressure is needed to urge North Korea, which has forged ahead with nuclear and missile development, to change its policy.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed with U.S. President Donald Trump during talks in Italy that applying pressure, not dialogue, is necessary to deal with North Korea for now.

To deter threats from North Korea, the two leaders also confirmed that Japan and the United States will take specific steps to improve their defense systems and hold “two-plus-two” security talks of their foreign and defense ministers at an early date.

Ignoring a series of U.N. Security Council statements of condemnation and sanctions resolutions, North Korea has repeatedly conducted such acts as firing a new type of ballistic missile.

Pyongyang appears to blindly believe that developing and possessing a nuclear-equipped long-range missile capable of reaching the United States is the only way for it to survive.

To make North Korea abandon its nuclear and missile development, it is necessary to seek a diplomatic solution through dialogue at some point in the future. However, no progress can be expected even if dialogue is held at this stage.

Won’t room be created for the regime of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to accept its policy change only after tough sanctions and pressure are added on both the diplomatic and military fronts?

Abe and Trump have reaffirmed a shared view that “China’s role is vital” to put pressure on North Korea. They have also agreed on the importance of Japan and the United States working together with South Korea.

**Oil supply restriction key**

The pressure that can be exerted by three countries — Japan, the United States and South Korea — and others is limited. China’s involvement is essential, as the country accounts for 90 percent of North Korean trade.

Dispatching U.S. military aircraft carriers and other forms of pressure were intended not only for North Korea, but also for China, which apparently wants to avoid military conflicts. China has suspended coal imports from North Korea, but has continued to avoid full-scale sanctions against the country.

The next key step is to seriously urge China to take measures that will have a great impact on North Korea, including limiting its crude oil supply.

The U.S. military is believed to have sailed a destroyer near an artificial island built by China in the South China Sea for the first time in seven months. Some observers believe the move was aimed at shaking Beijing to elicit cooperation over North Korea.

Both Japan and the United States are considering “secondary sanctions” that will target Chinese and other companies and financial institutions carrying out business with North Korea. It is necessary to realize a compromise by China, which has been cautious about stringent sanctions, through various approaches.

The latest Abe-Trump meeting was held in line with an agreement made at their talks in February — they agreed to hold bilateral talks whenever they both attend international gatherings. Abe and Trump have had telephone talks six times to discuss North Korea and other issues, and their mutual trust has steadily deepened.

It is crucial that based on a close relationship of the two countries’ leaders, Japanese and U.S. ministers and bureaucrats repeat exchanging views closely and coordinate their foreign policies appropriately.

**NOTE:** <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20170531_06/>

## **2 US aircraft carriers to drill in Sea of Japan**

2017/05/31 NHK

US Defense Department officials say the USS Ronald Reagan has entered the Sea of Japan for a joint drill with another aircraft carrier.

**A drill involving 2 US aircraft carriers in the waters off the Korean Peninsula is exceptional**. The US military apparently plans to use the drill to put pressure on North Korea.

**The USS Ronald Reagan** had been training south of Japan after leaving Yokosuka base, near Tokyo, on May 16th.

The flattop will conduct **a joint drill with the** **USS Carl Vinson**, which is already maneuvering in the waters off the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea launched another ballistic missile on Monday. US officials say they believe it was a "Scud" short-range missile. They say they also detected the launch of another short-range projectile.

Two US B-1 bombers flew over the Korean Peninsula with South Korean fighter jets on the same day.