



CABINET OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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Welcome from the Dais

Welcome to the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic Korea at the Secondary Schools Interactive Crisis Simulation. My name is Sasha Boutilier and I will be the director of this glorious cabinet. In this simulation, you will be continually pushed to think on your feet, embrace different perspectives, and realistically portray leaders of a state very different from your own. I highly recommend that you examine this background guide carefully and know your character well; otherwise you will undoubtedly fall behind.

The Supreme Leader is not fond of those who fall behind, and if high-level decision making is too much to manage, there is always room in the labor camps.

On a more personal note, I was born in Toronto but have lived in the imperialist corruption of the United States for the past 13 years. I am a first year student studying International Relations and Political Science at the University of Toronto. In addition to my work at SSICSIM, I serve on the executives of the International Relations and United Nations Societies at U of T, I sit on the Editorial Boards of the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science and iAM Magazine at the Ontario Council for International Cooperation, I work as a Compliance Analyst at the G8 Research Group, and I also serve on the crisis staffs of both UTMUN and NAMUN.

Outside of class I am fond of exploring Toronto, playing the trumpet and piano, eating far too much Korean barbecue, trying to convince people that curling is interesting and talking about MUN annoyingly often.

Please feel free to contact me at the email address below with any questions you may have regarding this cabinet. We will be covering a broad range of topics; however, I suggest you dedicate particular focus to North Korea's international situation and the Six-Party Talks. On a cautionary note, there is an abundance of information available on North Korea but it can be incredibly difficult to research the country effectively due to the isolation and secrecy the North Korean government perpetuates. For that reason, in cases of conflicting information the background guide will be held as true for our committee.

Best of luck preparing for the conference!

All the best,
Sasha Boutilier
sasha.boutilier@unsoc.org

Committee Staff

Moderator: Emily Chiang

Crisis Managers: Angalee Nades, Larissa Santiago, Victoria Wicks, Harrison Perry-Daiter

Briefing from Kim Yong-Nam

December 18, 2011 Pyongyang, Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Our Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Il passed away last night from a tragic heart attack. I saw with my own eyes the sky glow red above Mount Paektu and the ice crack so loud it seemed to shake the Heavens and the Earth at our Glorious Leader's passing.

The exact future of North Korea remains uncertain, what is certain however is that the glorious Democratic People's Republic of Korea must endure! You have been gathered here as the ruling cabinet of the DPRK comprising the highest ranking ministers, military leaders, and political leaders. The future of North Korea is in your hands.

You are faced with several immediate challenges due to Kim Jong-Il's passing. First of these is determining who North Korea's new leader will be and with what degree of power they are endowed. Who will advise and assist them in their rule? Additionally, the people of North Korea though their spirit is strong will no doubt be shaken by the passing of their adored leader. How will they be informed of our leader's passing? It is unclear whether other nations are aware of Kim's passing at this time. We must work to project a strong face to the world in this time of transition lest we be preyed upon by the evil United States and its capitalist allies.

Remain ever vigilant brave comrades! In times of change the traitors come out to play. Betrayal is likely both internationally and from within this very cabinet. As the interim leader of North Korea I will be moderating your discussion and helping guide you along the path, but ultimately it is you who holds the future of our glorious nation in your hands!

Kim Yong-Nam,
Chair of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic

History of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Korean Origins: Founding Through World War II

Korea's geopolitical divide across the 38th parallel has roots in the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895). The 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki, which formally concluded this conflict, abrogated China's historical claim to Korea, stipulating under Article 1 that "China recognizes definitively its [Korea's] full and complete independence and autonomy." The signing of the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1905 formally ended Korea's diplomatic sovereignty, redefining her political status as a Japanese protectorate. This extension of Japanese interests over Korean policymaking capacity preceded annexation.

On 22 August 1910, the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty was concluded by which, under Article 1, "the Emperor of Korea [Sunjong] makes the complete and permanent cession to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan of all rights of sovereignty over the whole of Korea." Subject to Japanese political authority, Korean media, governmental bodies, and legal institutions were brought under the yoke of foreign influence. Japanese migrants settled Korea's arable land, a wave of proprietary repossession that was legalized through land reforms.

Further, naturalization efforts were pushed to the forefront of Japanese colonial policy. Starting in 1938, Korean volunteers were admitted into the Japanese Imperial Army, resulting in the formation of a Korean Voluntary Unit. Indeed, the first ten South Korean Chiefs of Army Staff were graduates of the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. General Paik Sun-Yup, who would rally United Nations forces in the Korean War Battle of Pusan Perimeter, graduated at the Japanese Mukden Military Academy of Manchukuo, and served in the Gando Special Force of the Manchukuo Imperial Army. His unit, which primarily consisted of Korean nationals, was charged with the suppression of anti-Japanese sentiment in occupied Manchuria.

Korean refugees seeking independence from Japanese imperialism largely converged in China. There, they organized into auxiliary military forces based on ideological identity, associating with either the nationalist Chinese National Revolutionary Army or the communist People's Liberation Army. However, they were united by a common motive: namely, to shed the Japanese yolk suppressing Korean independence, even though the ideological impetuses driving their campaigns of military insurrection were distinct and traced the fundamental divide characterizing later Seoul and Pyongyang administrations. Indeed, Yi Pom-Sok, a Korean independence activist leading Korean nationalists (allied with the Chinese National Revolutionary Army) would later serve as the first Prime Minister of South Korea (1948 to 1950).

In this sense understood, the South Korean administration consisted of both nationalist insurgents hostile to Japanese occupation (Pom-Sok), and of Korean enlistees in the Imperial Japanese Army (Sun-Yup). Similarly, Kim Il-Sung (see below), who fronted a Communist assault against Japanese positions in Korea and Manchuria, was later conferred leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Cairo Declaration (November 27, 1943), in which US President Franklin Roosevelt, the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek established Allied post-war goals, included provisions for the dissolution of Imperial Japan. It was decided that "the aforesaid three great powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent."

As Appleman (1998) notes, however, this initial aim was ignored at the Yalta (February 1945) and Potsdam Conferences (July-August 1945). At Yalta, Roosevelt and Churchill convened with U.S.S.R. Premier Joseph Stalin. A system of post-war trusteeship was devised, by which the U.S. and U.S.S.R. would be conceded territory from the defunct Japanese Empire. Both Roosevelt and Stalin favored a four-power trusteeship of Korea, whereby the United States, China, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom would manage divided zones until an independent administration could be formed. Stalin expressed his commitment to a four-power design following President Roosevelt's death in 1945, by informing Harry Hopkins, President Harry S. Truman's representative in Moscow. For the Western Allies at Yalta, Soviet influence in the Far East incentivized Stalin's commitment to military conflict in Japan. Indeed, it was agreed at the Tehran Conference (November 1943) that the defeat of Nazi Germany would predicate Soviet involvement in the Pacific Theatre.

Following the German surrender, Soviet forces invaded Japanese strategic targets on August 8, 1945. A secondary objective of the 1st Far East Front, led by Marshal Kirill Meretskov was to occupy the Korean peninsula. At the Potsdam Conference, the division of Korea was planned unilaterally by U.S, Soviet, and U.K delegations; that is, without Korean consent. Article 8 of the Potsdam Declaration reads, "The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine." With respect to Korea, the Declaration is important by omission: Korea was not listed as being subject to Japanese authority. A specific boundary demarcating the Soviet from American post-war Korean trusteeship was set at the 38th parallel north, a circle of latitude 38 degrees north of Earth's equatorial plane. It was considered a midway point, dividing the country into approximate halves while maintaining Seoul under U.S control.

Prepared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of U.S military forces on 17 August 1945, General Order No.1 reflected this designation, instructing "senior Japanese commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces... within Korea north of 38 degrees north latitude...shall surrender to the Commander in Chief of Soviet Forces in the Far East." Conversely, "ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in...Korea south of 38° north latitude...would surrender to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Army Forces in the Pacific," thereby codifying the 38th parallel designation. The Japanese formal surrender in Korea, signed on September 9, 1945, was similarly designed to reflect this North-South dichotomy, reinforcing the boundary at the latitude of 38° north.

Two treaties of formal surrender were required, with separate signatories. Yoshio Sozuki, Senior Japanese commander of ground and air forces in Korea south of the partition line and Gisaburo Yamaguchi, Senior Japanese commander of naval forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude, concluded a bilateral surrender with the United States Office of the Commanding General at Seoul.

The trusteeship system proposed at Yalta was revisited at the Moscow Conference (December 1945), whereby the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet delegates formed a Joint Soviet-American Commission. Responsible for a plan toward full Korean independence, the Commission mandated a system by which two regimes, North and South, would maintain authority for five years, adopting the political ideology of their sponsor state. Due to civil unrest in the South, the cooperative effort for Korean independence failed. On September 14 1947, the issue was presented before the United Nations where, in 1948, the General Assembly resolved that an elected national assembly would be formed, representing the entire country.

A U.N-supervised election was held in South Korea in May 1948, and selected members of the National Assembly. The Republic of Korea was established on August 14, 1948 and Syngman Rhee, became the

first president. With interests tied to the Soviet administration, which supplied military and economic infrastructure, the North prevented the U.N Election Commission from entering North Korea. The northern half formed a government in the fall of 1948, creating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), with Dear Leader Kim Il-Sung as its president.

The Eternal President: North Korea under Kim Il-Sung (1948-1994)



Kim Il-Sung, known in his later years as the Great Leader, played a pivotal role in the DPRK's governance. Born on 15 April 1912, during a tumultuous period of Japanese occupation in Korea, his early life was greatly affected by the oppressive foreigner rule. His parents, especially his mother Kang Ban Suk, were involved in anti-Japanese activism; however, whether the participation was of Korean nationalist or Christian missionary nature is unclear. As a result of the heightened Japanese control, in 1920 the Kim family fled to an area of China called Manchuria (now Northeast China).

Soon after, Kim Il-Sung would begin to forge his communist and military ideals that would later shape his entire country. On October 17, 1926, Kim Il-Sung founded the Down-With-Imperialism Union (DIU) in China. Its immediate aims were to counter Japanese rule and foster Marxism-Leninism in Korea. Its overall ambition was to defeat imperialism worldwide, and establish communist rule. This union is often considered to have laid the groundwork for the current ruling party of the DPRK, the Workers' Party of Korea.

Though his formal education was patchy at best, Kim Il-Sung was deeply involved in upholding communist ideals. In 1929 Kim Il-Sung, then only seventeen, was a member of a small underground Marxist group led by a member of the South Manchurian Communist Youth Association. However, three weeks after its establishment, it was discovered by the authorities. This landed Kim Il-Sung in jail for several months. After his return from prison in 1931, Kim Il-Sung joined the Communist Party of China (the Korean communist party no longer existed due to opposition to Korean nationalism from the Russian-based Comintern). Further, Kim Il-Sung became a part of a handful of anti-Japanese guerilla organizations based out of northern China.

One of his major commitments materialized after Japanese imperialist forces took power of Kim Il-Sung's home, the Manchurian province. This advance came after a small dynamite attack on a Japanese railroad in Manchuria in 1931 where no damage was even reported. The Japanese presence in Manchuria met resistance from a guerrilla group called the Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army, which was directed by the Communist Party of China. In 1935, Kim Il-Sung joined this organization and quickly advanced to become the political commissar for about 160 soldiers in the 3rd detachment of the second division. Two years later, at the tender age of twenty-four, Kim Il-Sung became the commander of the

entire 6th division, putting him in charge of a few hundred men who were famously referred to as the “Kim Il-Sung Division”. While in command of this division, Kim Il-Sung directed one of his most celebrated raids on the region of Poch’onbo. Despite the fact that the mission only managed to temporarily capture a handful of minor towns, it was hailed as a military success. Further, the Japanese began to regard Kim Il-Sung with trepidation and considered him a good fighter. North Korean writers only began to exaggerate the importance of the raid over time.

Due to his “success” and growing popularity, Kim Il-Sung was promoted to Commander of the 2nd operational region of the 1st Army. However, increasing military pressure from the Japan resulted in the deaths of all the other 1st Army commanders by 1940. With Japanese troops on his tail, Kim Il-Sung and his men escaped from China by crossing the Amur River and entering the Soviet Union. Here, Kim Il-Sung was sent to a Soviet camp where he was trained with other Korean Communist guerilla fighters. After his training, Kim Il-Sung fought in the Red Army until the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union was a highly influential player in starting up the Workers’ Party in North Korea. In 1945, Kim Il-Sung was appointed as the premier by the Soviets. However, conflict was brewing; in 1948, the southern Republic of Korea declared sovereignty. However, the Soviets continued to only recognize the Workers’ Party of North Korea under Kim Il-Sung as the government for both the North and South. Thus, by the end of 1949 Communism had taken a firm hold in North Korea in the form of totalitarian government and any opposition was suppressed. During this era, Kim Il-Sung began to take on his famed role as the leader of North Korea.

The Korean War was waged from 1950-1953 and is now considered to be a portion of the Cold War. During the war, the Chinese and Soviets reluctantly backed the communists of the North in their campaign to establish control over the entire Korean peninsula. On the other hand, the UN and U.S. supported the right-wing democratic government established in the South. The war began with heavy infantry attacks and air bombings. Though diplomatic measures were attempted, they largely failed and the war escalated. Finally, the violence was ended with an armistice agreement that designated the well-known 38th parallel as the border between the two countries, which is today flanked on each side with a demilitarized zone. North and South Korea technically remain at war to this day as the agreement was only an armistice.

After the end of the Korean War, Kim Il-Sung began his efforts to reinvigorate his nation. He applied communist ideals to collectivize both industry and agriculture. His hopes were to eliminate class differences and to serve the needs of the workers in the community. However, Kim Il-Sung’s path to fame wasn’t totally uncorrupt. In order to boost his support in the unstable early days, he spread false rumours that the U.S. had purposefully spread deadly diseases to North Koreans. Further, mimicking Stalin’s Great Purge, Kim Il-Sung notoriously arrested large numbers of people without trial and forced them to work in labour camps. During this period, Kim Il-Sung began to lead his country towards more independence from larger communist states. In the wake of the Sino-Soviet split, Kim Il-Sung opposed the Soviet powers because he was against the reforms of Khrushchev. However, the Cultural Revolution of China was distasteful to Kim Il-Sung who disagreed with Mao Zedong. Thus, Kim Il-Sung began to reach out in the 1960s to create stronger ties with the communist Eastern European states, as an alternative to China. Further, in 1972 Kim Il-Sung passed a new constitution to make himself the President of North Korea. Beginning in 1980, Kim Il-Sung also appointed his son, Kim Jong-Il, as future leader, and began giving him more power within the state.

North Korea's bubble of self-reliance was popped with rising economic difficulties in the 1970s. The DPRK was attempting to become completely self-reliant and this caused trouble in the nation's economy. This was further exacerbated by decreasing trade support stemming from China's new capitalistic policies and collapsing Eastern European states. In order to help deal with economic problems, Kim Il-Sung began investing in nuclear power in the 1990s. However, this was met with staunch opposition from the U.S., who feared the negative consequences of the uranium enrichment programs in the DPRK. Surprisingly, Kim Il-Sung agreed to halt his program. However, economic problems continued to plague the country.

By the 1990s, the DPRK was largely isolated from most other countries in the world. It only continued selective trade with China, Russia, Vietnam, and Cuba, while disengaging from other former trade partners. Its floundering economy and unsuccessful agricultural sector left many in the country hapless. However, the state-run media continued to sing the praises of Kim Il-Sung. Kim Il-Sung met his death at the age of 82 on 8 July, 1994 from a heart attack. His eldest son, Kim Jong-Il took power. The nation went into mourning for their lost Great Leader who had so revolutionized their country.

The Supreme Leader: Kim Jong-Il's Rule (1994-2011)



On 8 July, 1994, Kim Il-Sung suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack, striking a sense of tragic loss in the DPRK. His son, Kim Jong-Il, assumed power as planned. Kim Jong-Il had been groomed for 30 years for this role, and had already assumed key positions in the government prior to succeeding his father. The power transition was smooth, thanks to a policy that purged anybody who opposed to Kim Jong-Il's accession well in advance of the succession.

Specifically, Kim Jong-Il took on three titles: the General Secretary of the Worker's Party of Korea, the Chairman of the National Defence Commission of North Korea, and the Supreme Leader of North Korea. Consequently, Kim Jong-Il had total control over the Workers' Party, the military, and the entire North Korean government. Despite early doubts of Kim Jong-Il's capacity to govern (given his relative lack of experience, strange and erratic temperament, and sumptuous living habits) he actually adapted to his newly acquired position of extreme power very well.

The standing North Korean ideology underwent slight changes with this new leadership. Although still a socialist society, the North Korean state and its practices moved far away from Soviet mandates of communism, and much more towards a military dictatorship. Kim Jong-Il adopted a new ideology known as "Songun" or "Army First," effectively putting the Korean People's Army at the core of every decision. The army was now the priority decision and policy maker.

In his new leadership role, Kim Jong-Il had the misfortune of having to deal with a serious economic decline during the early 1990's. In particular, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 contributed greatly to this crisis. The newly formed Russian Federation's government lost interest in supporting the North Korean economy as heavily as the Soviet government had, and instead began trading more with South Korea. Specifically, Russia refused to provide North Korea with the same energy resources that the Soviets had offered. This greatly restricted the North Korean industry, thanks to its large dependence on imported energy due to North Korea's lack of natural resources. Food rations began to be cut due to the lack of Soviet oil to fuel DPRK's mechanized agricultural system. Natural disasters and factors, such as flooding and soil erosion, caused agricultural disasters by destroying acres of fields and grazing pastures. Nearly 2 million North Korean citizens were estimated to have died of causes related to food shortages by 1997. The following year showed a slight improvement in conditions, but food shortages were to be a marked problem during Kim Jong-Il's rule.

In terms of relations with other foreign powers, nuclear capacity and buildup in the DPRK was a major source of bargaining in international deals. North Korean missile systems were one of the only marketable exports in the 1990s and consequently became a source of revenue. Sales of such nuclear capacities, especially to rogue states like Iran and Iraq, alarmed foreign powers who aimed to restrict those capabilities. In October 1994, the U.S. agreed to provide heavy fuel oil to the DPRK, if only the DPRK halted its nuclear weapons program, and later agreed to also provide food aid, economic support, and complete diplomatic acknowledgement of North Korea if the DPRK put an end to their missile production. By using nuclear power as a bargaining tool, Kim Jong-Il was able to somewhat ease tensions between U.S. and North Korea throughout the 1990s. However, these formal agreements were by no means any indication of the reduction of hostile rhetoric against the West that was taught in schools or disseminated in Western media.

South Korea also attempted to mend ties with its neighbor, beginning talks with the DPRK in April 1998 in Beijing. Leaders of both countries agreed in June of that same year on a five point plan that included points concerning visits for families separated by the Korean peninsula division. In 2001 however, the DPRK refused to help South Korea construct a railway that was to connect the two nations. Kim Jong-Il also never visited Seoul again to follow up his first visit. Instead, the DPRK essentially withdrew from the family visit agreements, closed off communication and exchanges with South Korea, and even placed more missiles near the border.

In 2008, tensions between North Korea and South Korea reached a high, especially thanks to the hard-line position taken by conservative South Korean president Lee Myung-Bak. The DPRK sent troops to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) again, threatening military action on South Korea. The year after, the DPRK refused to accept American food aid despite immense food shortages and famine, because they did not want to provide American aid works with visas. This, along with North Korea testing a rocket and nuclear bomb on April 5 and May 25, 2009 respectively, greatly exacerbated tensions with the U.S. Such conditions were in flux during the late 2000's, yet this never amounted to the economic development, success, or progress that was present during Kim IL-Sung's presidency. The DPRK remained largely isolated from the international community, making communications with other powers only when necessary. This meant both fostering relations with states what would offer food or economic aid and practicing blackmail. For example, the DPRK bombed a South Korean military base in 2010 in order to encourage foreign nations to continue sending aid packages.

Domestic Issues

Power Transition

Following the death of Kim Jong-Il, Kim Yong-Nam has taken control of the state as a figurehead. He is only in power temporarily and the most pressing issue facing this cabinet is to determine the future of North Korea's political leadership. In this power vacuum it is to be expected that different individuals, organizations, and branches of the government will attempt to assert their authority.

North Korea does consider itself democratic and has both an executive (State Administration Council) and legislative branch (Supreme People's Assembly). However, the real power in North Korea lies in the National Defence Commission (NDC). The NDC oversees the DPRK military and related departments. Kim Jong-Il consolidated power to a close group of advisors but nevertheless sought to maintain the appearance of democratic governance. The SPA still holds election but they have little effect and mainly are just designed to demonstrate a commitment to democracy.

Another significant group in North Korea is the Korean Worker's Party (KWP). The KWP is the largest political party and holds a vast majority of the seats in the SPA. It was founded by Kim Il-Sung and has been the ruling party in the DPRK since its creation.

Our glorious leader Kim Jong-Il had previously led the SPA, KWP, and NDC but with his passing, tensions are emerging between them as each strives to seize power, claiming the right to lead North Korea. Kim Jong-Il's trusted advisers and ministers will also likely seek political power in the power flux following Kim Jong-Il's passing.

Kim Jong-Il had three sons, and of them Kim Jong-Un was his chosen heir. Nevertheless, he is young and comparatively inexperienced. Furthermore, his cult of personality is only partially established. These factors leave him somewhat vulnerable if given power. Additionally, Kim Jong-Un was not always heir to his father. Until 1998, Kim Jong-Nam was considered to be the heir until he fell out of favor for illegally visiting Japan to go to Tokyo Disneyland. Kim Jong-Cheol, the third brother, was deemed too effeminate to rule and was also passed over.

Cultural Turmoil and Discontent

It is evident that the Kim family's cult of personality has garnered utter devotion from the people of North Korea to the DPRK; a portrait of Kim Il-Sung hangs in the main room of every home or office. However, it is questionable whether this loyalty is out of sincere admiration or respect for the Kim family, or simply out of fear for the consequences of mutinous behaviour. Whatever the case may be, this atmosphere of silence and passive acceptance of whatever the Kim family does has created a society in which any expressed discontent is treacherous. This makes it essentially impossible for any reform to take place. Even when North Korea was descending into chaos during the 1980s and early 1990s under Kim Il-Sung's rule, his son Kim Jong-Il never communicated any concern of an impending national crisis. This silence was due to a fear of his father's anger or offense, and the potential jeopardizing of Kim Jong-Il's future position.

If opposition and constructive criticism is lacking between two of the highest officials in the DPRK, it is not hard to imagine the hopelessness many North Korean citizens feel when they need to get their state-caused discontent and problems solved. High-ranking government officials enjoy lifestyles of endless wealth and luxury. Kim Jong-Il brags of a movie library with over 20,000 titles, and a fleet of at

least 7000 Mercedes-Benz vehicles. This indulgence is all at the expense of citizens who suffer from food shortages and immense poverty.

Severe flooding and occasional droughts in the 1990s exacerbated already existing problems of food shortages, which were largely caused by inefficient and outdated agricultural practices. Various foreign powers (the UN, China, U.S., South Korea, and Japan are the most notable) offered food aid to the DPRK, but the famine continued because of repeated natural disasters and irresponsible handling of aid packages.

Despite its emphasis on “self-sufficiency,” North Korean failed repeatedly to produce resources in order to support its starving citizens. In 2004, at least 6.4 million North Korean citizens were reportedly in need of food aid for the next year. Typhoons, an uncharacteristically severe drought, and more flooding throughout 2010 and 2011 also contributed to the DPRK’s increasingly large food deficit. Many foreign states became wary of providing food aid as there was growing concern about these resources being rerouted to the military. As the DPRK refused UN workers entrance into the country, there was no real way of ensuring emergency food supplies were being appropriately allocated.

Food deficit is not the only hardship with which citizens of the DPRK must battle. The militarily orientated and dictatorial—if not totalitarian—government forces its citizens to live in constant fear. In a very Orwellian-like fashion, the DPRK disseminates its political ideology and propaganda through education and media. Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jong-Il’s names are always preceded by a number of honorifics, which are always in a bold typeface. The glorification of *juche* (explained in depth below) and communism is accompanied by scathing narratives about the U.S. and Japan, namely that these imperialist enemies cannot be trusted. State terrorism is rampant, with police always on the lookout for rogue citizens that speak out against the leadership. Citizens are even tested on their beliefs, sometimes forced to confess political failings or recite political speeches from memory. Any failures in such tests would result in “re-education” or manual labor camps to enforce the so-called correct political beliefs. Adherence to DPRK mandated schools of thought is also enforced through arbitrary arrest and threats of punishment to the whole family for the actions of an individual.

The DPRK also exercises total control over the flow of information in and out of the country, specifically that which concerns foreign nations. International and outside media outlets (newspapers, radio, or television shows, for example) are not available. Instead, each house is equipped with a built-in speaker by which the DPRK disseminates various public address and local news. The lack of varying opinions and perspectives available to North Korean citizens creates a situation in which some citizens come to believe that their way of life is normal, in part because they have no alternate lifestyle to consider.

Juche, Ideology and the Military-Economic Balance

In 1972, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) adopted the state ideology of *juche*. Centered on concepts of political independence, self-reliance, and internal problem solving, *juche* represents an application of Marxist-Leninist philosophy to the DPRK’s late 20th century political reality. The ideology of *juche* permeates both domestic and foreign policy for North Korea; however, it also poses a fundamental contradiction in its implementation.

The first contradiction of the DPRK’s implementation of *juche* can be seen in its economic relations. North Korea has attempted to remain economically isolated from the West, in keeping with *juche*’s emphasis on self-reliance, and has been successful for the most part. However, this drive for self-reliance and rejection of trade with the West resulted in dependency first on the U.S.S.R. prior to the fall

of the Berlin Wall, and subsequently China to such an extent that currently over 60% of DPRK trade occurs with China.

North Korea is currently extremely economically under-developed. As such, it is a struggle for them to maintain a military that is even close to up-to-date. Furthermore, spending on the military necessarily takes away from other spending areas that are under-developed, such as agriculture, industry, mining, and electronics. North Korea currently has resolved this tension by focusing on the military in keeping with the *songun* ideology that is sometimes referred to as the “military-first-mentality.” There will be conflict within the Cabinet as to whether the immediate needs of the military take priority or whether more long-term economic development would ultimately prove better for North Korea both economically and military.

Based on security interests particular to North Korea, the *juche* ideology in principle treats sovereign equality and self-determination as inherent tenants of global politics. Isolationism is the natural result; North Korea’s administration relies on centralized internal mechanisms to address political, social, and economic concerns, and largely distrusts foreign cooperation. In this sense, foreign partnerships are inconsistent with the principle of *chaju*, which Lee (2003) defines as “the defense of national independence and sovereignty.” The DPRK treats foreign intervention as though it inherently serves foreign interests. In this sense, *chaju* is skeptical of international cooperation by nature. Despite this broad worldview, Kim Il Sung did encourage cooperation with other “socialist” states, among which include China, Cuba, the USSR and several African countries. This cooperation would, however, remain limited in that Kim stressed limited dependence.

The economic arm of *juche* is summarized as *charip*, or the drive for economic independence. To ensure internal self-sustainability, a socialist economy applying *charip* focuses on machine-building industry, light industry, agriculture, and transport. A self-reliant agricultural regime would guarantee a specific standard of living regardless of international circumstances. Similarly, *chawi*, or the principle of military independence, is based on the idea that self-reliance in defense guarantees control over one’s territory without excessive interference.

The requirements for a DPRK military force capable of defending state interests without foreign dependence include: 1) a nationwide system of mobilization, as well as 2) an ideological motive driving sentiments of socio-political superiority. In practice, *juche* was applied to limit the influence of Chinese and U.S.S.R. interests in DPRK institutions. As Lee (2003) maintains in *The Political Philosophy of Juche*, “eventually, North Korea repudiated both the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China as a socialist imperialist state, accusing its leaders of abandoning pure Marxism-Leninism principles to pursue capitalist gains.”

International Issues and Relations

South Korean Relations and Re-Unification

The Korean War left the peninsula split down the middle, and since that time the differences between the two Koreas have grown. In particular, the cultural, technological, and economic gap between North and South Korea is very pronounced today. Both North and South Korea have expressed interest in re-unification and have ministries or special offices devoted to that task.

However, numerous challenges stand in the way of re-unification including profound distrust, lack of agreement over governmental structure, legitimacy issues, and issues of economic burden. The DPRK is distrustful of South Korea and their close relations with Western powers such as the United States. South Korea is distrustful of North Korea as well, largely due to North Korean nuclear aspirations, DPRK aggression along the DMZ, and the erratic behavior of the DPRK. In 2007, Lee Myung-Bak was elected as president of South Korea. Lee took a hard line on North Korean relations, demanding accelerated denuclearization in exchange for South Korea's continued economic support. These demands were deemed insulting by the DPRK and negotiations were set back.

The relationship between North and South Korea continued to deteriorate and tensions came to a head in 2010 as North Korean artillery fired upon the South Korean Yeonpyeong Island. Four South Koreans were killed in this attack. South Korea immediately suspended its food aid to North Korea and only resumed it following floods in North Korea in June and July 2011. Around this time, the South Korean Minister of Unification was replaced with a more moderate successor who took a less confrontational policy towards North Korea.

American Relations: Sanctions and Economic Aid

Since the Korean War, the relationship between the United States and the DPRK has been one of constant tension exacerbated by inflammatory rhetoric and alienating cultural narratives. The United States' prime focus in relations with North Korea is restraining the North Korean nuclear program. The U.S. has attempted to avoid excessive involvement in North Korea but nevertheless has provided significant economic, humanitarian, and energy assistance. Under President Bill Clinton, the U.S. pursued an incentive based policy to achieve North Korean nuclear proliferation. However, under President George W. Bush the U.S. took a more confrontational stance towards North Korea, viewing the DPRK as part of the "Axis of Evil."

In response to numerous American calls for "complete, verifiable, [and] irreversible dismantlement" of the North Korean nuclear program, the DPRK asserted that dismantlement would only be considered when the United States recognized DPRK sovereignty and economic sanctions were lifted. Under President Obama's leadership beginning in 2009, the U.S. stated its willingness to normalize relations and lift sanctions provided the DPRK agreed to dismantlement. However the DPRK rejected this and other offers of economic assistance for dismantlement. North Korea is extremely distrustful of the United States, however, which is an obvious barrier to any attempts to normalize relations.

Chinese Relations

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the DPRK has become increasingly dependent on China for economic and political support. China is a huge source of food aid for North Korea and trade with China accounts for the vast majority of all North Korean trade. North Korea is useful to China as a buffer state to hold back American influence through South Korea. China is also conducting a large amount of natural

resource development in North Korea to help support China's rapid economic growth. China also has a well-developed trade relationship with South Korea and thus maintaining Korean stability is of great importance to China, both economically and geopolitically.

China and North Korea cooperate in many ways and China has been much more accepting of the North Korean nuclear program than Russia. Nevertheless, following North Korea's 2006 nuclear weapon test China also re-evaluated its position. China both agreed to the economic sanctions on North Korea and reversed its policy of aiding North Korea by repatriating refugees.

In recent years, numerous discussions were held with China regarding the future of the North Korean nuclear program and North Korea made a commitment to end its nuclear program under Chinese pressure.

Russian Relations

The U.S.S.R. was initially one of North Korea's firmest supporters. Before the Korean War, the Soviet Union aided North Korea in defeating Japanese resistance and establishing their military and government. The Soviet Union sent aid to North Korea even during the Korean War, providing air support and military supplies. Despite some minor problems, the Soviet Union provided tremendous support to the DPRK throughout the Cold War. However following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian-North Korean relations became less close. In 2001, efforts were made to restore this relationship with Kim Jong-Il and President Putin meeting to discuss military cooperation.

Russia has called for restraint in the conflict between North and South Korea. It also has significant economic attachments to both North and South Korea, having invested in long-term economic development projects including oil pipelines and Trans-Korean railroads linking South Korea to Russia. These projects are tremendously important to the Russian economy and, in particular, attempts to further develop the Russian far-East. Russia has always firmly opposed North Korean nuclear development and revoked promises to veto economic sanctions against North Korea in 2006 following the North Korean nuclear tests that year.

North Korea and the United Nations

North Korea's relationship with the United Nations has never been one of friendship. The United Nations Security Council authorized military intervention in Korea in 1950 in response to North Korean aggression. The DPRK gained observer status to the UN in 1974 and full member status in 1991, but has never held a seat on the Security Council. The UNSC has passed a variety of sanctions on North Korea over recent years as outlined below.

2006, UNSCR 1718: In response to the North Korean nuclear test of October 2006, this resolution called for North Korea to return to the Six-party talks, suggested that shipments of cargo to North Korea be inspected for WMD, banned North Korean weapon imports and exports, banned exporting luxury goods to North Korea, and required member states to freeze assets of any involved in DPRK weapons programs. 16

2009, UNSCR 1874: In response to underground nuclear test in May 2009, this resolution imposed more severe economic sanctions and encouraged member states to search North Korean cargo.

2011, UNSCR 1985: Extends monitoring of sanctions against North Korea.

SIX-PARTY TALKS AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The Six-Party talks were first held in 2003 and are a series of negotiations focusing on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The six parties are China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States.

In 1994, North Korea and the U.S. reached the 1994 Agreed Framework which provided North Korea with energy aid in return for ceasing its nuclear program. However, this agreement fell apart in 2002 when the United States confronted North Korea with evidence of a secret uranium enrichment program.

The United States consequently ceased energy assistance to North Korea and the following year North Korea withdrew from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

There have been 5 rounds of the Six-Party talks held to date, although they are presently on hold however following North Korea's withdrawal from the talks in 2009 following UN sanctions on North Korea.

The Six-Party talks represent a significant step in multilateral East Asian security discussion and could prove a very useful forum for North Korea during the instability following Kim Jong-Il's death.

Committee Positions

Choe Thae-Bok, Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly

As a member of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Workers' Party of Korea, Choe Thae-Bok is considered one of the most popular and important figures in the party leadership. Choe has been the Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly since September 1998 and was a long-time advisor to Kim Jong-Il for nearly three decades.

Choe was born in 1930 and by 1954 had completed his education at Kim Il-Sung University, Leipzig Engineering College, and Moscow State University. He worked as a school teacher before his appointment as guidance official in the Korean Worker's Party Education Department in 1959. His popularity among students continued to grow as he served as faculty member, director of research and dean in several engineering colleges during the 1960s and 70s. In 1972 Choe was appointed section chief in the CC KWP Education Department, where he implemented the monolithic system of ideological counseling within the country's education system. He became Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Education Commission, and later the Minister of Higher Education in the 1980s. In these positions, he initiated several policies promoting science education and student exchange opportunities.

Choe was elected to the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) in 1982 and CC KWP Secretariat in 1986 before becoming Chairman of the SPA in 1998. His roles as SPA Chairman and CC KWP Secretariat allowed him to frequently travel around the world, representing DPRK in international conferences and facilitating cultural exchanges. He speaks fluent Korean, German, Russian and English.

Choe Yong-Rim, Premier of North Korea

Choe Yong-Rim has served as the Cabinet Premier of DPRK since June 2010. He is the Honorary Vice President of Supreme People's Assembly and a member of CC KWP Presidium. Described as a close friend of the Kim Jong-Il family, Choe holds various important positions in the party and government.

Born in 1930, Choe Yong-Rim participated in Communist Youth League and later attended Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, Kim Il-Sung University, Moscow State University, and the KWP Cadre Training School. He briefly served as Kim Il-Sung's personal security guard during the war in 1950. Choe began his political career in the Party Organization Department in 1956 and was promoted to Director of Presidential Office under Kim Il-Sung in 1973 and Department Director of the CC KWP General Administration Department in 1974.

Although temporarily removed from the Political Bureau in 1985 because of increasing political power, Choe remained as head of Kim Il-Sung's presidential office. In 1990, he returned to the Political Bureau as a candidate member and became Vice Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

After appointed a position in the SPA Legislation Committee and Central Public Prosecutor, Choe was involved in one of Kim Jong-Il's special tasks groups in the mid-2000s. During this period of time, he also served as Secretary-General of the SPA Presidium and Chief Secretary of the Pyongyang KWP Municipal Committee in 2009, a role usually appointed to people with close ties to the Kim family. With nearly four decades of experiences in politics, Choe became Premier of DPRK in 2010, making numerous public appearances within the country. His role as Premier comes with the power to appoint ministers and oversee domestic and economic policies

Jon Pyong-Ho, Chief Secretary of the Worker's Party of Korea

Jon Pyong-Ho is the Chief Secretary of the KWP Committee of the DPRK Cabinet and the former Director of the Munitions Industry. Since 1990 he has been a member of the National Defense Committee which manages DPRK's production and development of missiles and weapons.

After studying mechanical engineering at Moscow State University, Jon began his career at the KWP Organization Department in 1956. During his time in the department, he worked under Kim Yong-Ju to establish modernization and self-reliance in munitions production. As Deputy Director of the CC KWP Machine Industry Bureau in 1970, Jon was the driving force in consolidating a network of weapons production among the military, government and factories. He served as Vice Chairman of the Second Economy Commission from mid 1970s to 80s. Jon's long-term experience with over ballistic missile capacities of the country led to his career advancement from the late 1980s onward. Not only was he responsible for weapon sales and technology exchanges, but he also supervised several test launches of missiles and nuclear detonations during the mid-2000s.

Due to personal health issues, Jon retired as KWP Secretary and Director of Munitions Industry Department in September 2010. He however kept his membership in the Political Bureau and went on holding the title of Chief Secretary of the Cabinet's KWP Committee. Jon is known to hold close connections with Choe Yong-Rim, Premier of DPRK, and with Choe Thae-Bok, Chairman of SPA, both personally and professionally.

Kim Ki-Nam, Vice-Chairman for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland

Kim Ki-Nam is Vice Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, in which capacity he acts as the primary contact with South Korea. He has also been the Korean Workers' Party Secretary of Publicity and Information since 1989, responsible for managing the country's media and culture. His propaganda efforts supported Kim Jong-Il's succession to his father Kim Il-Sung. Born to an ironworker in 1929, Kim attended school in Pyongyang and became involved in anti-Japanese movements, eventually becoming a communist student activist. Because of his acute foreign relations skills, he was appointed a diplomatic counsel of the North Korean Embassy in Beijing in 1952 and later the ambassador. After his return to Pyongyang, he worked in the KWP Propaganda and Agitation Department under the then director Kim Jong-Il in 1967. He later became the editor of the party's magazine *Kulloja*, which includes essays and projects that help strengthen the idolization of the Kim family.

During the 1980s Kim was elected Vice Chairman of the International Reporters' Union and Director of Propaganda and Agitation Department. He has since played an instrumental role in the authorship of essays and slogans to support heredity succession. Described as "Kim Jong-Il's drinking buddy", Kim Ki-Nam is known to hold a close relationship with the Kim family though not directly related to them. With his long service in the party throughout the years, he is also frequently said to have "an iron fist in a velvet glove".

Ro Tu-Chol, Minister of the State Planning Commission

Ro Tu-Chol is the current Minister of the State Planning Commission (SPA) and a member of the Party Central Committee. Over the years he has played important roles in the SPA and 19

DPRK Workers' Party. Ro launched his official career in 1992 as the Director-General of the Electronic Automation Planning Bureau, a subsection of the SPA. Within the same year, he became the Vice Chairman of the entire SPA. In 1998, Ro was the Chairman of the Material and Supply Commission and

the Deputy of the SPA. He continued the later position through until 2009. Additionally, he was also appointed as the Vice Premier of the DPRK Cabinet. In this position, Ro travels extensively overseas and further meets with foreign delegations in DPRK.

Pak Ui-Chun, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Pak Ui-Chun was born in 1932 and is currently working as a North Korean diplomat and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK. Pak's diplomatic career was launched in 1972 when he served as the DPRK ambassador in Algeria, Syria and Lebanon. Further, he held the important position of ambassador to Russian from 1989 to 2001.

Pak Ui-Chun has been the foreign face for the DPRK for many years. Recently, he has been dealing heavily with diplomatic relations in Europe and North America, often focusing on the nuclear power development in North Korea. Pak travels very extensively in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. His aim in international relations has been to strengthen the DPRK image and work towards the future of his nation.

Hong Kwang-Sun, Minister of Culture

A filmmaker by profession, Hong Kwang-Sun was named Minister of Culture of the DPRK Cabinet in July 2012. He replaced the former minister and novelist, An Tong-Chun. The news of his appointment was unveiled simultaneously with the preview of a film called *Promise in Pyongyang*. Hong is a steadfast supporter of Kim Jong-Un and credits his family for blessing the DPRK with "happiness and prosperity to the communist country". Kim Jong-Un has in turn supported Hong since his father's death. For example, in 2010 Pyongyang International Film Festival, Hong was designated the leading official. In terms of politics, Hong became an elected member of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee in 2010. In this capacity, he was able to give a speech at the Pyongyang premiere of *Brotherhood*, a North Korean feature film about Chinese volunteers during the Korean War.

As Minister of Culture, Hong's job is two-fold: 1) Bolstering DPRK nationalism and forging a common culture centered on historical events, language and government. 2) Prevent foreign influences on the DPRK ideals.

U Tong-Chuk, Minister of State Security

General U Tong-Chuk was born in 1942 in South Pyongan Province. He studied at the Kim Il-Sung University, and currently holds the important position of Minister of State Security. Until April 2012, U was only a member of the DPRK National Defense Commission (NDC). U's professional background is in foreign intelligence collection. His career was jumpstarted in the late 1960s when he became an instructor in the Korean Workers' Party Organization Guidance Department. He was gradually promoted to better positions within internal security over the years. In 2009, U Tong-Chuk was elected to the National Defense Commission while also holding a position as a Colonel General. During the years from 2009-2012, his responsibilities lay largely in running the operation of one of the most prominent DPRK internal security networks.

One of the most influential politicians in the DPRK, U has attended many internal and foreign security meetings with intelligence officials, diplomats and foreign dignitaries. His power within the country is commanding. After the death of Kim Il-Sung, U Tong-Chuk played an important role in incarcerating and executing the officials that stood in the way of the succession of Kim Jong-Il. Loyal to the Kim family and the DPRK, U Tong-Chuk has been a discreet yet authoritative figure in DPRK politics.

Kim Yong-Chun, Minister of Defense

Kim Yong-Chun was born in 1936 and attended the Kim Il-Sung military university. Immediately after graduation, he joined the Military Political Corps, an organization that operates as a liaison between military and political leaders. Rising through the ranks quickly, obtained several command positions by the 1970s. In 1980, Kim became a candidate member on the Central Committee at the 6th Party Congress, and subsequently in 1986, was appointed Director of the General Staff Department's Operations Bureau. In the late 1980's however, he was demoted (along with then-Chief of KPA O Kuk Ryol) when a group of KPA generals challenged then-Defense Minister O Jin U in the late 1980's.

Kim made his political reappearance in the 1990's when he was promoted to General and also Director of the General Munitions Mobilization Bureau. Additionally, he was appointed Chief of Staff of Army in 1995, a position he held until 2007 when he became a Vice Chairman of the National Defence Commission.

Kim Yong-Chun is reputedly close to Kim Jong-Il, frequently accompanying him to parties and foreign trips as a member of Kim Jong-Il's court aides. He is known for exceptional bluntness and a large personality, having no tolerance for mutinous talk. As Minister of Defense, Kim Yong-Chung has absolute control over the armed forces in DPRK.

Kim Won-Hong, Head of Military Security Command

Born in 1945, Kim Won-Hong is a notable politician and military leader in DPRK. After graduating from Kim Il-Sung's Higher Party School, he served in the People's Army since 1962. He moved through the ranks to obtain the positions of Deputy Director of the KPA General Political Department and the Commanding Officer of the MSC-affiliated VII and IX Army Corps. As well, he was elected as a delegate to the 10th Supreme People's Assembly in 1998. 2004 marks his rise to Military Security Command Chief, while 2009 was the year of his promotion to General. His rapid rise to the highest levels of military was often under questionable circumstances, and most likely due to his reputed close relationship with the Kim family. He was often pictured accompanying Kim Jong-Il during inspection trips.

As the Head of Military Security Command, Kim Won-Hong communicates directly with the Supreme Leader. His role consists mainly of presiding over and supervising the policing of, or investigations into military personnel and facilities. He has considerable, if not total, access to internal intelligence and security reports. The exclusive contact he has with the Supreme Leader puts Kim Won-Hong in an unparalleled position of power concerning DPRK's military and security operations.

O Kuk-Ryol, General of the People's Armed Forces

O Kuk-Ryol has an intimate relationship with the Kim family. His father fought with Kim Il-Sung in the war against Japan. O was also one of the war orphans taken care of by Kim Il-Sung's wife, and grew up to be one of Kim Jong-Il's closest personal friends from childhood. In 1964, O began his official career as an administrator of the Air Force Academy in the People's Army Air Force. Four years later, he was promoted to Major General (*sogang*), responsible for commanding the Air Force. His rise to power coincided with Kim Jong-Il's succession, and he became a significant influence in the 1970s. In particular, he was a prominent facilitator of the *juche* ideology in the army. Additionally, he is responsible for creating the Mirim Electronic Warfare Institute, the country's foremost institution for teaching cyber warfare.

In 1988, a political dispute with then Minister of People's Armed Forces, O Jin-U, caused O Kuk-Ryol to be expelled from government affairs. After completing a 6 month re-education program, he returned to

politics as the department director of the Civil Defense Department. By 2009, he had been appointed as one of the Vice Chairmen of the National Defence Commission. Despite rumours that he has difficulty working with and managing Kim Jong-Il, alongside doubts of his loyalty to the party (considering his extensive knowledge of South Korea and son defecting to the United States), O remains one of the most powerful men in North Korea. Even with his protégées being systematically murdered to lessen his influence, his military stance and history of friendship with Kim Jong-Il make people consider him the second most powerful man in Korea.

Ri Yong-Mu, Vice Chairman of the National Defence Commission

Born in 1925, Ri Yong-Mu joined the Central Guard Battalion in 1947, at age 22. As Kim Il-Sung's brother in law, he ascended through military ranks rapidly. By 1970, Ri had gained full membership on the Party's Central Committee at the 5th Party Congress. In 1973, he was also promoted to Colonel-General and chief of Ministry of People's Armed Forces, General Political Department (GPD). After Kim Il-Sung's death, however, Ri was dismissed from both the Central Committee and GPD because of his expressed anti-Kim Jong-Il sentiments.

Ri then disappeared from government life, undergoing several years of re-education. His reformation was evidently a success, as he was appointed to a government position, becoming Vice Chairman for Administration of the Ryanggang Provincial People's Committee in 1985. He also returned to the Central Committee in 1988 as a candidate member, and a full member a year later. He is not to be confused with Ri Mu-Yong (Minister of Chemical Industry).

The National Defence Commission is defined by DPRK's 1998 constitution as "the highest guiding organ of the military and managing organ of military matters." Consequently, Ri exerts considerable control over any military operations. Given the DPRK's emphasis on militarism and the military's prominent role in consolidating government control, Ri holds tremendous power and influence in the DPRK relations.

Kim Jong-Gak, Member of the National Defence Commission

Kim Jong-Gak is a member of the North Korea military and currently member of the Politburo of the Workers' Party of Korea. He was born in 1941 in Jungsan County, South Pyongan Province and in 1959 he joined the Korean People's Army. He graduated from the Kim Il-Sung Military University and later served variously as battalion commander, deputy commander of an army corps, chief of staff, and head of a training center. Recently he was appointed to the position of Minister of the People's Armed Forces and he is responsible for the administration of Korea's military forces.

This member of the National Defense Commission has been on several trips to the DPRK- allied countries and he is recognized for his strong isolationist and traditional policy methods. He prefers not having relations with either the United States or South Korea and supports the nuclear program of North Korea. He became a popular figure within the military field and attended many visits with Kim Jong-Il and helped plan leadership in the event of the dictator's death.

Choe Ryong-Hae, Vice-Chairmen of the Korean Workers Party's Central military Commission

Choe Ryong-Hae is a North Korean politician and military official. He is also one of the four members of the decisions-making Politburo Presidium of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the Party's Central Military Commission. Born in 1950, he attended Mangyo'ngdae Revolutionary School and Kim Il-Sung University.

Because of family connections, Choe had a close relationship with North Korean leadership. After graduating, he worked as a party instructor at KISU and he made several trips abroad to meet the North Korean allies, getting a lot of foreign policy experience and contacts abroad. As the Vice- Chairman of the Korean Worker Party's Central Military Commission, he governs with military power and is responsible for the civilian leadership.

Due to his extensive service, he forged alliances with many important people of the Worker's Party, including Kim Kyong-Hui and Jang Song-Taek. Choe, with his strength and influence, helped the dictator Kim Jong-Il succeed. Apart from his political and military power, Choe appreciates sports and Korean culture, holding sway in these areas.

Ri Yong-Ho, Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army

Ri Yong-Ho is a North Korean military officer and was the Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army from 2009 to 2012. He also was a member of the central presidium of the Workers' Party of Korea from 2010 to 2012. Born in 1942, he joined the Korean People's Army in August 1959 and graduated from the Kim Il-Sung Military University. Ri Yong-ho worked as chief of staff of a division, director of the operations department of an army corps, head of a training center and was the vice-director of the operations department of the general staff. The Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army had close ties with the dictator Kim Jong-Il because of his years of military service and ascension in its hierarchy.

He is also known as a lustrous tactician and is a great problem solver with the artillery. He has a unique position as confidante and advisor of the Kim family.

(Extra Cabinet Positions Below)

Jo Yong-Su, Minister of Foodstuffs and Daily Necessities

Born into a wealthy and well-connected business family in Pyongyang, Jo Yong-Su seems to have a bright political future. However by all accounts, he was an average student who started work in the family soap factory. An opportunity from the government eventually came to him because of his family connections. He began supervising several factories of industrial goods before being appointed the Minister of Foodstuffs and Daily Necessities.

Food in the DPRK is not only a fundamental social issue, but also a serious political issue. Shortage of food sources often results in starvation or even death in the country. Citizens suffer from hunger while the military is constantly underfed. The ability to control the supply and distribution of food is thus instrumental to the well-being of North Korea.

Kang Min-Chol, Minister of Mining

Kang Min-Chol completed his education in Pyongyang University with a degree in material science. He was immediately hired by North Korea's biggest mining company upon graduation. There he greatly improved the efficiency of the mine and was then promoted to director of the company. Even though his promising results at work was at the expense of mine workers' health and safety, Kang was soon recommended to be the Minister of Mining by the government.

The majority of North Korea's national power relies on coal power plants, making mining especially crucial to the country. Disruption to coal supply can easily result in a standstill of industrial and military

operations. As Minister of Mining, Kang holds the responsibility to oversee all mine workers and to further enhance the efficiency of energy supply.

Pae Tal-Jun, Minister of State Construction Control

Pae is a graduate of the Bratislava University of Czechoslovakia, specializing in architecture. His career began in 1966 as a city planner. After conducting and planning several successful city schemes, he became the Vice Chairman of State Construction in 1983. After that, he was elected as the Chairman of the Korean Union of Architects and also appointed to the position of Minister of State Construction Control.

As such, Pae has control over the coordination and logistics of all infrastructure and construction projects in the DPRK. His approval is necessary for any plan, meaning he has extensive, if not absolute, power over basic services (i.e. electricity, sewage) that are in dire demand to those living outside of Pyongyang. Pae also has access to confidential and highly influential information such as maps of the entire country. This includes plans of military bases, secret tunnels, and building blueprints.

Yi Kyong-Sik, Minister of Agriculture

During his youth, Yi Kyong-Sik was awarded a scholarship to study at Kim Il-Sung University, where he studied economics and management. The son of peasant farmers changed government agencies with his ability of speech and of political management. He replaced Kim Chang-Sik as the Minister of Agriculture. He is in charge of planning North Korea's agricultural system, through controlling the access to the farmland and directing the Korean farmers' labor. Through this monitoring, he can quantify the amount of food is consumed inside the country.

The North Korean farmers are a big part of the population and he can easily influence their lives by any decision he makes, creating big consequences. Food has been a big issue, whether the lack or surplus of it in North Korea and the Minister of Agriculture has to deal with it very carefully when making policy changes.

Ri Mu-Yong, Minister of Chemical Industry

Ri Mu-Yong graduated in chemistry at Pyongyang University and suffered chemical burns during his first years out of university. He was a lead scientist and he ascended due to the dictator Kim Jong-Il focus on chemical weapons. The Ministry of Chemical Industry has the control of the entire chemical industry in North Korea. He controls the production of the chemical weapons, the production of fertilizers for the agriculture field, and normal chemicals to other industries. He is also known for being able to produce a large amount of chemical munitions in a short period of time and is an influential military figure who has the power of controlling a large number of skilled scientists.

Han Kwang-Bok, Minister of the Electronics Industry

Han Kwang-Bok was born in 1946 and began her career as an Electrical Engineering student at Moscow State University. Later on, she got qualifications after graduating from Kim Chaek University of Technology. She was hired by the North Korean government to design basic computer weapons systems, as she pursued her graduate studies in the industry of computer science. Due to her leadership skills, Han got the position of Minister of the entire electronics industry of North Korea.

As the Minister, she is responsible for the production of the most advanced technologically products in the country. She supervises every computer system, including those in advanced weapons and develops new weapons systems. She has the control of the most skilled workers of North Korea and her influence

as an important role for the survival of the industry. Anything that requests technology passes through Han's hands first. The Minister also has a friendly relationship with China, often promoting Chinese-North Korean relations. Her goal is to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

Pak Su-Gil, Minister of Finance

Born in the province of North Hamgyong, Pak Su-Gil was identified by his aptitude for math and he enrolled at Kim Il-Sung University to pursue it. Later on he also developed an aptitude for macroeconomics and he was appointed as the head of finance for his province. He got the position of Chair of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee before being appointed as the Minister of Finance of North Korea. He controls the North Korean money supply and provides loans to businesses.

He has the ability of printing the currency and, along with Ro Tuchol, plans the domestic budget. Pak budgets money on a particular scale and many businesses in the country seek his favor.

Ri Myong-Su, Minister of People's Security

He is the Colonel General and the DPRK's Minister of People's Security. Also, he is the Director of the National Defense Commission Administrative Bureau. Ri Myong-Su's career started during the Korean War, serving in various positions in the army and in 1995 he became the director of the KPA General Staff Operations Bureau. This position made him responsible for connecting the orders of the country's high command and the armed forces. He joined the KPA Special Operations Command Group, where he was in charge of managing military contingency plans and operations.

In 2007, Ri became the Director of the National Defense Commission Administrative Bureau and in 2011, he became the Minister of People's Security. In this position, he leads the regular North Korean police forces and his role is to protect the constitutional rights of the people, lives and their assets. He is also responsible for non-political policing and investigation, where he is in charge of the non-political prison system. The Minister of People's Security has been seen in public with Kim Jong-Il, due to his high ranking position. He also has earned respect after the dictator's father's death Kim Il-Sung. At the moment, he was helping to guide the III Army Corps that had as a goal to protect the government against attacks. His high skills made Kim Jong-Il to keep him as one of his closest political advisors.

Kim Ui-Sun, Minister of State Inspection

Kim Ui-Sun took part of the North Korea Army Intelligence Unit and displayed a very uncommon talent in espionage, achieving great results when others could not. His talent made him rise to the position of the Minister of State Inspection, where he saw the need to eliminate corrupt businesses. Also, in this role, he is in charge of investigating individuals and corporations suspected of malpractice and undermining activities.

Kim controls the secret police and has all the files of every business and most people in North Korea. What the Minister of State Inspection knows may be compromising for many leaders of North Korea, and all of them will do their best to maintain a good relationship with him. Every suspicious activity will be investigated by the Ministry of State Inspection, which can always be considered on finding something inaccurate.

Pak Kil-Yon: Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Pak Kil-Yon was born in 1943 and is a North Korean diplomat. He has also served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as ambassador to Canada. Pak graduated at Pyongyang University of International Affairs. He has served in the North Korean diplomatic corps since 1969,

where he was a Consul to the embassy in Myanmar. He also served in Singapore, and then internally as the director-general of the American Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There, he was named as chief representative for the North Korean UN mission and served as ambassador to countries such as Colombia and Cambodia, before adopting his present role.

Committee Procedure

This committee will be run in a perpetual moderated caucus system. In other words, in the absence of other points or motions the moderator will call for those wishing to speak to raise their placard. There will be no speakers list.

Meetings will be moderated by Kim Yong-nam. Speaking time will be at the discretion of the chair. Below are listed the accepted points and motions in descending order of disruptiveness.

Accepted Points and Motions (Descending Order of Precedence)

- Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Order, Point of Inquiry
- Motion to Suspend the Rules: temporarily alters procedure recorded here. Requires a 2/3 majority.
- Motion for a Moderated Caucus: Requires topic, duration, and speaking time. Requires simple majority.
- Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: Suspends debate allowing Cabinet members to talk amongst themselves. Requires simple majority.
- Motion to Introduce an Article: Specifies a directive or communique to be introduced.
- Motion to Introduce an Amendment: No vote required to introduce an amendment. If it is approved by the sponsors it is a friendly amendment and is automatically added to the article. If unfriendly, simple majority is required to pass the amendment.
- Motion to Enter Voting Procedure: Enters voting procedure on previously introduced and specified article. Requires simple majority to move to vote.

Voting Procedure

Members may vote yes, no, or abstain. Abstentions do not change number of votes necessary to pass an article. Simple majority is required to pass legislation.

Committee Action:

Members may propose the following articles, one sponsor and three signatories are required for each. Committee directives supersede personal directives.

1. Directive: Orders DPRK government to take a specific action.
2. Communique: Conveys written message from DPRK Cabinet to any other entity. Can be designated as public or classified.
3. Press Release: Statement from DPRK Cabinet to public. Can be released internally to DPRK only or to the international media.

Personal Directives

Members may use the following directives through personal notes to the Crisis staff.

1. Departmental Directive: Utilizes member's portfolio to take specific, possible action.
2. Request for Information: May be sent to any department or office.
3. Personal Communique: Specific message to any other entity.

Suggested Research Sources

North Korea Leadership Watch
<http://nkleadershipwatch.wordpress.com/>

National Committee on North Korea
<http://www.ncnk.org/>

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists:
<http://www.thebulletin.org/>

North Korea News:
<http://www.nknews.org/>

Neanara:
<http://www.naenara.com.kp/en/index.php>

Korean Central News Agency:
<http://www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm>

United Nations DPRK:
<http://kp.one.un.org/latest-messages/>