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## **COLD WAR ECHOES AS INTER-KOREAN DIPLOMACY GOES BACK TO BASICS**

*August 18, 2016* spacedaily.com reported: "One year after North and South Korea vowed to resume a constructive dialogue, they have instead resurrected a spirit of Cold War-era antagonism, complete with cross-border propaganda shouting matches, spy messaging and defection dramas.

Official contact between the two Koreas has never been easy, but the current situation, with all official lines of communication severed and a host of flash-point issues raising tensions, appears to be particularly volatile and fraught with risk.

"The relations between North and South Korea have never been as tense as they are now since the Cold War period of the 1970s", said professor Kim Yong-Hyun, a North Korean expert at Dongguk University. High-profile defections are suddenly back in vogue, with the North Korean deputy ambassador to Britain, Thae Yong-Ho, handing Seoul a propaganda coup this week by defecting to South Korea with his family.

Although Thae's motives were probably as much personal as ideological -- he has two children, one of school age -- South Korean officials attributed his decision to a straightforward choice between good and evil.

On his reasons for defecting, Thae "cited disgust with (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-Un's regime and admiration for South Korea's free, democratic system," said Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee.

This sort of old-school diplomatic baiting has become increasingly common at a time of almost zero cross-border contact. As tensions rose in the wake of North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January, Pyongyang shut down the two existing hotlines with South Korea -- one used by the military and one for government-to-government communications.

And last month it severed its only direct communications link with the United States when it shut down the so-called "New York channel" which had previously served as a key point of contact between North Korean and US diplomats at the United Nations.

"The total absence of channels for dialogue between the two Koreas as well as between Pyongyang and Washington is a real cause for concern," Kim Yong-Hyun said.

Inter-Korean communication has now gone back to the basics, with both sides effectively reduced to shouting across the heavily militarised border.

Banks of loudspeakers have been dusted off and brought up to the frontlines, blasting music and propaganda messages into each other's territory.

In another nod to Cold War methodology, North Korea appears to have resumed the transmission of coded messages over state radio -- presumably meant for spies operating in the South.

The short-wave transmissions -- the first of their type for around 20 years -- were picked up by the South's intelligence agency in mid-June and comprised a female announcer reading long lists of numbers for several minutes."..."

## **N. KOREA CALLS SOUTH'S LEADER 'PSYCHOPATH' OVER MISSILE ROW**

*August 18, 2016* spacewar.com reported: "North Korea on Wednesday labelled South Korean President Park Geun-Hye a "psychopath" after she made a speech slamming Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions and defending the deployment of a US anti-missile system.

In her televised address on Monday, Park had stressed that deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system was an act of "self-defence" in response to the North's expanding nuclear weapons programme.

A spokesman for the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country said Park's argument was "preposterous" and unfounded.

"This is just a lame excuse and she should know that no one will be taken in by such sophism of a puppet that can do nothing without an approval of her US master," the spokesman said.

"This is no more than nonsense talked by a psychopath," he added in a statement carried by the North's official KCNA news agency.

North Korea has threatened to take "physical action" against the THAAD deployment, saying any South Korean ports and airfields hosting US military hardware would become a target. Beijing is also opposed to the move, seeing it as a US bid to flex its military muscle in the region and undermine China's own missile capabilities.

US Army Chief of Staff, General Mark Milley, addressed those concerns during talks on Tuesday with his Chinese counterpart, General Li Zuocheng in Beijing.

THAAD is "not a threat in any way to China," Milley told Li according to a US Army statement. Deploying the system "is a defensive measure to protect South Koreans and Americans from the North Korean ballistic missile threat," he added. Milley was due to hold talks with top South Korean military officials in Seoul on Wednesday."..."

## **MERKEL SAYS REFUGEES DIDN'T BRING ISLAMIST TERRORISM TO GERMANY**

*August 17, 2016* reuters.com reported: "Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday refugees had not brought terrorism to Germany, adding that Islam belonged in the country as long as it was practiced in a way that respected the constitution. More than a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere arrived in Germany last year. The mood towards them has soured after a spate of attacks on



North & South Korea

civilians last month, including three carried out by migrants. Two of those attacks were claimed by the Islamic State militant group.

"The phenomenon of Islamist terrorism, of IS, is not a phenomenon that came to us with the refugees," Merkel said at an election campaign event for her Christian Democrats in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ahead of a regional vote on Sept. 4. Merkel said many people had traveled from Germany to Syria for training with Islamist militants. In June Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said a total of more than 800 were believed to have gone to Syria and Iraq.

"This group has worried us for several years," she said at the event in Neustrelitz, a town 100 km (60 miles) north of Berlin.

Merkel's popularity has suffered in the wake of the attacks and 52 percent of Germans think her migrant policy is bad, a poll published last week showed."..."

### **RUSSIAN MILITARY FORCES STAGING NEAR UKRAINE**

*August 17, 2016* The Washington Free Beacon reported: "The Pentagon has identified eight staging areas in Russia where large numbers of military forces appear to be preparing for incursions into Ukraine, according to U.S. defense officials.

As many as 40,000 Russian troops, including tanks, armored vehicles, and air force units, are now arrayed along Ukraine's eastern border with Russia. Additionally, large numbers of Russian military forces will conduct exercises in the coming days that Pentagon officials say could be used as cover for an attack on Ukraine.

'Russian units will likely practice reinforcing the [Crimean] peninsula through such activities as amphibious landings and air defense exercises, and this may involve the change out of equipment and long convoys of military vehicles,' one defense official said. The military exercises are an ominous sign. Similar large-scale Russian exercises were conducted near Ukraine a month before Moscow carried out the covert military operation to take over the strategic Black Sea peninsula in March 2014..."

### **CHINA WORRIED THAT JAPAN READY TO GO TO WAR OVER DISPUTED ISLANDS**

*August 17, 2016* SputnikNews.com reported: "Japan's decision to develop new anti-ship missiles sparked a wave of criticism from China, as Beijing suspects that Tokyo may be preparing for war. As part of its defense program, Japan intends to develop new missile launchers capable of protecting the remote reaches of the country, including a set of islands which are disputed between the two nations.

According to the local media, anti-ship missiles with a range of about 300 kilometers, which is enough to cover the island chain known as Senkaku Islands in Japan and the Diaoyu Islands in China, may be deployed at the Miyako-jima Island, and on the islands of the Sakishima archipelago in 2023. This development resulted in a barrage of criticism from the Chinese media which see it as a sign that Japan is preparing for an offensive war. Zhou Yongsheng, a professor at the Institute of International Relations at the China Foreign Affairs University, said that if Japan really gets its hands on these missiles, it would mean that Tokyo is ready for a hard struggle..."

### **FEDS SEE SHORTAGE IN 2018 LAKE MEAD WATER TO ARIZONA, NEVADA**

*August 16, 2016* lasvegassun.com reported: "Amid punishing drought, federal water managers are projecting — by a very narrow margin— that Lake Mead won't have enough water to make full deliveries to Nevada and Arizona in 2018. A 24-month projection released Tuesday comes with the largest Colorado River reservoir 36 percent full. But it's still expected to clear the trigger point this year to avoid a shortage declaration in 2017. For 2018, the federal Bureau of Reclamation projects missing the mark by under a foot."..."



*3Lake Mead*

### **U.S. NUKES AT TURKISH AIRBASE OF RISK OF BEING SEIZED BY 'HOSTILE FORCES,' REPORT SAYS**

*August 15, 2016* Haaretz reported: "An American stockpile of some 50 nuclear bombs stored at an airbase in southern Turkey are at risk of being captured by 'terrorists or other hostile forces,' a U.S. think tank reported on Monday. Incirlik, located just 110 kilometers (70 miles) from the border with Syria, is a major NATO base and a crucial launching pad for the U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS.

'Whether the U.S. could have maintained control of the weapons in the event of a protracted civil conflict in Turkey is an unanswerable question,' said the report by the Stimson Center, a Washington-based nonprofit institution devoted to enhancing international peace, according to AFP. While critics have long been alarmed about the nuclear stockpile at the base, the aftermath of the failed military coup in Turkey on July 15 has sparked renewed fear..."

### **RUSSIA TEASES WITH HYPERSONIC NUCLEAR GLIDER ARMED WITH ICBMs "PROGRAM"**

*August 15, 2016* spacedaily.com reported: "The lethal hypersonic nuclear glider that looks to revolutionize defense aviation could travel the distance from Moscow to London within 13 minutes and could penetrate NATO's missile defense system.

After launching initial tests on Russia's first futuristic glider last year as part of Russia's Project 4202, the aircraft believed to be the Yu-74 is "ready for action" reports Britain's Daily Star. The glider can travel at a speed of Mach 10 (7,680MPH or 12,3560kmh) and will reportedly be fit with RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missiles although details about the glider's specifications remain top secret. In April, US military officials confirmed the existence of Russia's deadly hypersonic glider.

Considered a first in a growing aviation arms race, both the US and China are now hurrying to develop comparable hypersonic gliders equipped with nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles increasing the defense gap between the military superpowers and the rest of the world.

The report on the development of Russia's hypersonic glider comes at a time when Moscow's relations with the West approach a historic tipping point driven most recently by accusations that President Vladimir Putin is attempting to intervene in the US political election after Hillary Clinton's campaign hurled a desperate allegation that the WikiLeaks file dump exposing her own bid, joined by the media and Democratic Party officials, to subvert the 2016 presidential election was all a plot of the Russians."..."

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