

PREFACE

Half a century has already passed since the Korean peninsula was divided into two. The feelings of severance and hostility between the South and the North stemming from the national division have caused great pain and loss to Koreans, who had lived in a single unified nation for over 1,300 years.

Korea was divided into two parts against the will of its people. The division was a by-product of the Cold War which rapidly escalated during the post-World War II era.

As we stand on the doorsteps of the 21st century, it seems clear that the international environment that caused the division in the past has now remarkably changed. With the demise of the Cold War that had been characterized by confrontation between states, the international community today is marching into a new era of reconciliation and cooperation. In addition, two other nations which had been divided for decades, Germany and Yemen, have already achieved their unifications.

This new environment provides both hope and a task for Koreans, whose country now remains the last divided nation of this century that still suffers from the confrontation and conflict of the Cold War. To Koreans, therefore, unification is no longer a matter of sentiment; it has become a task to be carried out in the present reality.

Though intra-Korean relations have yet to come out of the tunnel of darkness, I firmly believe that our desire to open a new era of reconciliation and cooperation on the Korean peninsula and to achieve unification through independent, peaceful, and democratic means will be fulfilled in the near future. As a direct party to the Korean question, we will do our best to pioneer the future of the Korean peninsula.

The Republic of Korea wishes to accomplish unification through the cooperation with the international community. We wish to create a unified Korea that contributes to the peace and prosperity of the world. The unified Korea would respect such universal values as liberty, human rights, welfare, and market economics. For these reasons, we would like to call our unification process the “unification *with* the world.”

Included in this White Paper are the historical background of the division of Korea, the description of South Korea’s unification formula, and the contents of the major unification policies implemented by the government of the Republic of Korea. In addition, the details and current status of intra-Korean dialogue and exchanges of people and commodities are also presented.

This White Paper will enable you to trace the efforts our government has made to achieve the unification during the

last half a century. Furthermore, it will also help you to make an informed comparison between the two different approaches to unification by South and North Korea.

I hope that this book will help general readers as well as students of the Korean question to expand their understanding of the division and unification of the Korean peninsula.

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O-kie Kwon

*Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of National Unification*

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ABBREVIATION

Agreed Framework— Agreed Framework between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

ARMISTICE AGREEMENT — Agreement between the Commander-in-chief, United Nations Command, on the one hand, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, on the other hand, Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea

Basic Agreement — The Agreement on Reconciliation, Non- aggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between the South and the North

July 7 Declaration — The Special Presidential Declaration for National Self-Esteem, Unification, and Prosperity

DMZ — Demilitarized Zone

DPRK — Democratic People's Republic of Korea

KEDO — Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization

KNCU Formula — Korean National Community Unification Formula

KNRC — National Red Cross of the Republic of Korea

KOC — Korean Olympic Committee

IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency

LWR — Light-Water Reactor

MAC — The Military Armistice Commission

NKOC — North Korean Olympic Committee

NPT — Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

RCSNK — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea

ROK — Republic of Korea

SUPPLY AGREEMENT — Agreement on Supply of A Light-Water
Reactor Project to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organiza-
tion and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea

UNCURK — The United Nations Commission for the Unificaton and
Rehabilitation of Korea

UNTCOK — The United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea

WFP — World Food Program

WMO — World Meteorological Organization