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Model United Nations

1-2-15

United Kingdom Nuclear Policy Paper

The United Kingdom believes that although North Korea is a sovereign nation and should be able to determine its policies with regards to their country’s nuclear programs, however being a member of the United Nations, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea must comply with the multiple non-proliferation treaties it has signed.

North Korea has signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons yet the DPRK has been attempting to develop nuclear weapons. According to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, “The NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely.  A total of 190 parties have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance,” (UNODA). As stated by Resolution 825 of the Security Council, “Having considered with concern the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) dated 12 March 1993 addressed to the President of the Council (S/25556) concerning the intention of the Government of the DPRK to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons…” (Resolution 825), North Korea has tried to terminate their commitment to the NPT, assuming, so they can develop nuclear weapons. This effort was over twenty years ago, and the DPRK is still attempting to develop nuclear technology, and opposing countries have had little effect on North Korea’s actions. The United Kingdom does not support nuclear proliferation for it is a threat to the security of the nation as cited in the “National Counter Proliferation Strategy 2012-2015,” “The proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and their delivery systems is a huge challenge which poses several serious risks to the UK’s national security. These include a CBRN attack on the UK by terrorists or a threatening state, or an international military crisis. Conventional weapon systems also present the clearest threat to the UK’s Armed Forces deployed on operations,” (National 1). Although the United Kingdom is approved by the NPT to have nuclear weapons, the country is reducing its stockpile as expressed in the Nuclear Threat Initiative, “The United Kingdom is a nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and a member of all of the major WMD nonproliferation treaties and international export control regimes. The United Kingdom ratified the NPT in November 1968 and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in June 1998. The United Kingdom's total nuclear stockpile consists of less than 225 strategic warheads that can be deployed on four Vanguard-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN). By the mid-2020s, the UK plans to reduce this number to around 180,” (Profile). In contrast, North Korea is escalating its nuclear capabilities.

Rather than placing more sanctions or using military force on North Korea, the international community should attempt the United Kingdom’s approach, which is to “encourage the DPRK to understand and work with the outside world through educational and cultural exchanges,” (UK). For example, the United Kingdom has extended its English language teaching and teacher training programs in North Korea (Promoting). In place of punishing the DPRK, the United Nations should help them learn that they can be safe without a barricade of nuclear weapons. If the other major countries would assist in the United Kingdom’s efforts to rid North Korea of its isolationist attitude toward the rest of the world, the DPRK may consider abandoning their nuclear weapons program. If North Korea doesn’t adhere to the resolution, these programs will be retracted. Aiding North Korea in opening up to the world would not only increase the safety of the world, but would possibly open new venues for international exchanges.

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