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Analysis:

More silence from the DPRK on China this week, with a total output of only four stories compared to last week's five. Two of the stories this week were just extensions from stories of weeks past, with no real news reported. These articles were: **China Opposes U.S. Sanctions on Iran: FM Spokesman**, and **China Plans to Launch 30 Satellites This Year**. China is sticking with its firm stance that sanctions are not the answer to the Iranian nuclear issue, and would "render the situation tense" in the words of Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Weimin. In terms of the satellite story, the last two satellites that China has launched seem to be part of their new 30-satellite goal, an ambitious political and technological project taken on by China and **discussed in its North Korean context** last week by Scott Bruce.

KCNA also published a story about Koreans in China calling for the punishment of Lee Myung Bak, president of the Republic of Korea. In the last few weeks, KCNA has published a myriad of stories about Koreans calling for the president's punishment, but only this week have we seen the shift to Koreans in China specifically. The significance of this shift probably has less to do with North Korea's attitude toward China than it functions as a means of showing KCNA readers just how far the unrest has spread, and that Koreans have united themselves against this perceived traitor.

Finally this week, KCNA published a story about the Lunar New Year being celebrated in China. The most significant part of this story was the detailing of Wen Jiabao's speech in which he called for "need to enhance sustainable economic and social development as well as place more importance on people's livelihoods, letting the people share the achievements of reform." This nod to Wen Jiabao, who has had harsh words in the past for North Korean leaders about the need to about the people sharing in the achievements of reform were particularly interesting. Although it was far from representing a wholesale embrace of China and is far short of the commitment even of, say, inviting Ambassador Liu to an opera in Pyongyang, external observers of the DPRK scene for reform should probably not ignore this particular reference.

- Evan Koepfler

22 January 2012

China Opposes U.S. Sanctions on Iran: FM Spokesman

Beijing, January 21 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Weimin in a press conference on Jan. 19 expressed opposition to the U.S. sanctions and pressure on Iran.

He drew attention to the tensions growing in region due to the recent unilateral sanctions inflicted on Iran by the United States and other Western countries.

China is of the view that sanctions and pressure and military threats would not help resolve issues but instead render the situation tense, he added, emphasizing countries should seek negotiated settlements to the disputes among them.

23 January 2012

No China related stories were published today.

24 January 2012

Lunar New Year Celebrated in China

Beijing, January 23 (KCNA) -- Events took place in China to mark the lunar New Year.

The C.C., Communist Party and the State Council of China arranged a gathering to mark the lunar New Year at the Great Hall of the People on Jan. 21.

Present there were Hu Jintao, general secretary of the C.C., CPC and president of China, and senior party and state officials and people from all walks of life in the capital city.

Wen Jiabao, premier of the State Council, in his speech at the gathering said that 2012 is a year of important significance in the course of China's development.

He underlined the need to enhance sustainable economic and social development as well as place more importance on people's livelihoods, letting the people share the achievements of reform.

He called for pushing forward the socialist modernization drive in one mind under the leadership of the Party Central Committee with Hu Jintao as its general secretary and greeting the 18th National Congress of the CPC with excellent achievements.

JANUARY 2012

Prior to it, Hu Jintao and other senior party and state officials paid visits to former leaders to extend New Year greetings.

There were also such festive events as army-people art performance, tea party with officials of different nationalities, round-table talks with non-party personages.

25 January 2012

No China related stories were published today.

26 January 2012

No China related stories were published today.

27 January 2012

China Plans to Launch 30 Satellites This Year

Beijing, January 26 (KCNA) -- China has planned to launch 30 satellites this year, the Space Science and Technology Group Corporation of this country recently reported.

28 January 2012

Koreans in China Call for Punishment of Traitor Lee Myung Bak

Pyongyang, January 28 (KCNA) -- The General Association of Koreans in China made public a statement on Jan. 21 in denunciation of the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors' vicious anti-DPRK moves.

Traitor Lee said the "door to an opportunity" is opened and "it is necessary to remove bilateral mistrust" while visiting other countries to "win their joint efforts for ensuring stability and peace" on the Korean Peninsula from the outset of the year.

His remarks tell as if he is interested in improvement of the inter-Korean relations and dialogue with the DPRK.

Referring to this fact, the statement said that the Lee group orchestrated the provocative warship sinking and Yonphyong Island shelling incidents to bring the north-south relations to collapse.

The group committed high treason by rubbing salt into the wounds of fellow countrymen in bitter grief at the untimely passing of the father of the nation and insulting the dignity of the DPRK and

KCNA FILE NO. 7

disallowing condolatory visits to Pyongyang by south Koreans of different social strata, it pointed out.

On the contrary to its calling for "dialogue", the group has massively introduced nuclear war weaponry from the U.S. and ceaselessly staged anti-DPRK war drills aimed in collusion with outside forces, the statement said, adding this fully reveals its foul double-dealing nature.

The statement further said:

With surging indignation of the nation, the General Association and all Korean residents in China bitterly condemn the reckless moves of the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors misleading the public opinion at home and abroad to persist on its policy of confrontation with the DPRK.

The group must apologize to the entire nation for the high treason committed during the mourning over the great loss to the nation before calling for "dialogue" with reluctance.

All Koreans should continue to the last the struggle to drive out the group from the arena of history.