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Analysis:

Given the amount of international pressure and attention focusing this week on North Korea for its announced missile launch, KCNA's discussion of China's attitude toward the whole affair is of particular interest.

This week saw the KCNA coming out with what appears to be a completely false rendering of a *Cankao Xiaoxi* (参考消息 /Reference News) article and a highly misleading, if not completely disingenuous, reading of a *Huanqiu Shibao* (环球时报 /Global Times) editorial about the missile which implied that the DPRK had China's support for the launch. Neither of the two Chinese papers cited are marginal rags; in fact, they are the most prevalent daily papers in China dealing with foreign affairs. KCNA will often read these papers in search of pro-North Korea arguments, but it does not appear in the past to have simply made them up.

In addition to its (presumably) purposeful misreading of the Chinese press, the KCNA again employed stories of Koreans in China coming out in force to support the DPRK and its goals of defaming both Lee Myung Bak and defending the launch of their satellite. Two stories were published this week again vowing to punish the Lee group and its conspirators. One of these further discussed the recent "escalations" of the conflict by the Lee group, saying that, "Kim Kwan Jin, puppet minister of defense, [is] the mastermind of the most hideous provocations, of desperately crying out for 'punishment' on Yonphyong Island, while asserting 'the north will surely provoke.'"

Two stories were also published this week defending the launch of the DPRK's satellite. One of these stories was again a statement from Koreans in China who touted the honor and glory that the launch brings to the memory of Kim Jong Il. The article goes on to discuss the claims of South Korean leaders that the launch is just a "disguised missile test" to which the people responded "such a remark can only be made by those who fear the might of the DPRK." Lacking a strong Chinese government defense of the launch, KCNA resorts to placing the words in the mouths of Koreans in China.

Furthermore, a story derived from China's *Huanqiu Shibao* also defends the launch saying that the world should give the DPRK a

chance to “show its sincerity.” The article also mentions the fact that the DPRK has invited foreign experts to the launch site to indeed confirm that it is indeed an innocuous satellite and not something more sinister. This launch is the central issue that led to the damaged peace talks between the DPRK and United States who claimed that the launch was a thinly veiled test of North Korean rocket technology. The actual *Huanqiu* article was in fact titled “Pressuring North Korea is Hard, because Pressuring US-ROK-Japan is also Hard” and included multiple critiques of the DPRK.

The single story published this week citing China and economic affairs detailed the achievements of the DPRK. The KCNA recollection of the *Cankao Xiaoxi* spent a majority of its time recounting the various parks and statues built in honor of the centenary birth of Kim Il Sung. The article noted that the Chinese press was in awe of the fact that, in terms of economics, “Everything in the DPRK is now oriented to the commemorations of the centenary of birth of the President.” While it is possible that the KCNA simply got the date wrong, the only article about North Korea in the March 14 print issue of the *Cankao Xiaoxi* is in fact a roundup of international criticism of the DPRK for its missile launch, and the only online article that could be found, by [Zhang Li](#), [simply notes that North Korea has not completely closed down for business](#) since Kim Jong Il’s death and has made some positive steps with SEZ laws. That North Korea would take a story about economic development and turn it into a Chinese celebration of monuments to the Kim family in Pyongyang is curious indeed.

Finally, one story was published that returned to an old theme, that being increased cooperation of China on the world stage, detailing the recent cooperation between China and Albania in terms of politics, economy, culture, education. Whether or not the North Korean press is “learning the lesson” from China’s development and relatively-more-standard press is another question entirely.

- Adam Cathcart and Evan Koepfler

18 March 2012

DPRK's Economic Achievements Introduced by Chinese Paper

Pyongyang, March 18 (KCNA) -- The Chinese paper *Cankao Xiaoxi* on March 14 carried an article titled "DPRK greets centenary of birth of President Kim Il Sung in new spirit".

The army and people of the DPRK deeply grieving over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il are dynamically speeding up the

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grand march for building a thriving nation true to his behests, the paper said.

Everything in the DPRK is now oriented to the commemorations of the centenary of birth of the President, it noted.

A street peculiar to Korea in which the formative art and peculiar layout of a park have been applied at the best level is now under construction in Mansudae area of Pyongyang, it said, adding modern apartment houses and a theatre look magnificent.

A ceremony of unveiling the equestrian statues of the President and Kim Jong Il was held with splendor at the Mansudae Art Studio in February, it said, and continued:

Miracles and innovations are taking place in all fields of economic construction as evidenced by the construction of the Huichon Power Station and the Tanchon Port project progressing at a final phase and the mass-production of vinalon and fertilizers with materials and fuel available in the country.

It also introduced the construction of a series of production, service and cultural centers for improving the standard of people's living including the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm, the Pothonggang Aquatic Products Shop and the construction of the Pyongyang Folk Park.

19 March 2012

No China related stories were published today.

20 March 2012

Koreans in China Vow to Punish S. Korean Group of Traitors

Pyongyang, March 20 (KCNA) -- Jo Kuk Je, director general of the General Affairs Department of the General Association of Koreans in China, on Mar. 12, made public a statement titled "Let us resolutely punish the heinous Lee Myung Bak group of pro-U.S. and pro-Japanese sycophantic traitors in the name of the nation."

The statement expressed the towering wrath of the organization and all the Koreans in China at the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors which is coming out more provocatively, far from kneeling down and apologizing for the thrice-cursed provocations.

It is another reckless confrontation racket of the traitors who go reckless, unaware of the mounting indignation of the Korean people who turned out in the just sacred war of retaliation. The

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group is not aware of how powerful the arms of the strong revolutionary army of Mt. Paektu are and how fierce an actual war will be, the statement said, and went on:

The present situation is calling upon the 70 million compatriots to turn out in the sacred war to mete out severe and historic judgment to Lee Myung Bak group of sycophantic traitors.

The General Association and all the Koreans in China will continue cursing and denouncing the group of traitors until they get down to their knees and apologize.

The Liaoning Regional Association of the General Association of Koreans in China, too, issued a statement on Mar. 13 and denounced the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors which was going on the rampage, far from apologizing for its thrice-cursed and heinous provocations.

21 March 2012

Koreans in China Condemn Lee Myung Bak Group for Escalating Confrontation

Pyongyang, March 21 (KCNA) -- The Shenyang branch of the General Association of Koreans in China issued a statement on Mar. 13 denouncing the south Korean regime for driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula into the worst phase.

The statement accused Kim Kwan Jin, puppet minister of defense, the mastermind of the most hideous provocations, of desperately crying out for "punishment" on Yonphyong Island, while asserting "the north will surely provoke."

The "Cheonan" warship case and Yonphyong Island shelling incident much touted by the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors are obviously the farces orchestrated by them and it deserves punishment for the crimes against the nation, it noted.

The Koreans under the Shenyang branch will join the compatriots at home in the dynamic struggle to wipe out the Lee group and achieve the cause of national reunification, it stressed.

22 March 2012

DPRK's Satellite Launch Will Show Off Its Space Technology: Koreans in China

Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA) -- The General Association of Koreans in China on March 19 made public a statement "Launch

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of Satellite Kwangmyongsong-3 will show off DPRK's space technology".

The statement said the planned launch of an earth observation satellite in honor of the Day of the Sun will be a great auspicious event demonstrative of the fixed will of the DPRK to glorify for all ages the revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il.

The proud news makes us miss Generalissimo Kim Jong Il more ardently than ever as he made the DPRK rank itself with dignity among nuclear weapons states, and led it to manufacture and launch satellites, while leading the nation's on-ward march toward 2012, it said.

The south Korean puppets are alleging that the launch is a "disguised missile test", but such a remark can be made only by those in fear of the might of the DPRK, it said.

The world will clearly see no one on earth can match the might of the DPRK led by the dear respected Kim Jong Un, great brilliant commander of Songun, and its huge scientific and technological potentials, it stressed.

No Ground to Assert What DPRK Is Going to Launch Is Not Satellite: Chinese Newspaper

Beijing, March 21 (KCNA) -- Huan Qiu Shibao on March 20 carried an article titled "The DPRK should be given an opportunity of showing sincerity." The paper issued by the People's Daily Office of China said:

The DPRK announced that it would launch an observation satellite Kwangmyongsong-3 in the middle of April. This announcement surprised the people but the DPRK's assertion has every reason. The international community should observe it with calm and give the DPRK an opportunity of proving its honesty.

The reason for the strong reaction on the sides of the U.S., Japan and south Korea lies not in the type of satellite but in the carrier rocket Unha-3.

According to their theory, a rocket has just the same principle as a ballistic missile and it is convertible to a ballistic missile any time. But there is no evidential proof that what the DPRK is going to launch will not be a satellite.

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The DPRK announced that it would invite world's experienced experts and journalists to the launching station to prove that it is a satellite that it plans to launch.

This also reflects the DPRK's sincerity when viewed from another angle.

It is the intention of the DPRK to settle disputes by taking note of the world reaction and by increasing transparency. This attitude deepens people's trust that what the DPRK is going to launch may be truly a satellite.

In case the DPRK proves it, this will considerably downplay the reasoning the U.S., Japan and south Korea will make to pressure the DPRK citing the UN "Resolution" 1874. It is because the DPRK has refused to accept the UN "resolution" and the UN does not have any regulations curbing a sovereign country from launching an earth observation satellite from its own land.

As the DPRK asserts, the U.S., Japan and south Korea launched even spy satellites for military use.

UN "Resolution" 1874 offers the DPRK enough reason to chide south Korea where the situation is similar to it.

Under these circumstances, the international community should take time before denouncing the DPRK and shaping a new confrontation policy and take this opportunity to monitor the DPRK so that it may increase transparency and refrain from converting a rocket into an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

If the DPRK truly intends to develop the missile, that will aim to defuse the threat coming from afar and survive. This requires the neighboring countries to jointly work to make the DPRK feel safe so that it can refrain from developing ICBM. In particular, those countries hostile to the DPRK are required to study how to dispel mutual hostility.

In fact, whether the DPRK's satellite launch will deteriorate the regional situation or not depends on the response of the U.S., Japan and south Korea. They all benefited from "missile crises" of the DPRK in the past.

They developed spy satellite and missile defense system and tried to develop long-range ballistic missile system. This time will be of no exception. In case the U.S., Japan and south Korea strongly respond, the situation will naturally turn worse.

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Therefore, parties concerned should wait with calm for the DPRK's publication of the results of the launch.

At present, the DPRK does not seem to cancel the launch plan. So, there is no need to take more hostile approach to the DPRK.

Cooperation among Different Countries

Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA) -- China and Albania Saturday agreed to strengthen exchanges to push forward bilateral cooperation in politics, economy, culture, education and other areas.

Cuba and Costa Rica Friday signed two agreements to strengthen the relations between the two countries in the political and cultural fields.

23 March 2012

No China related stories were published today.

24 March 2012

Chinese Diplomats Pay Floral Tribute to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA) -- Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK Liu Hongcai and staff members of the Chinese embassy here Saturday visited the Mansudae Art Studio to lay a floral basket before the equestrian statues of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il there on the occasion of the 100th day since the demise of Kim Jong Il.

After laying the floral basket before the statues, they paid tribute in boundless reverence to the peerlessly great men who performed undying exploits for the development of the DPRK-China friendship and the human cause of independence.

Koreans in China Pay High Tribute to Kim Jong Il: GAKC Chairwoman

Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA) -- Koreans in China pay high tribute to General Secretary Kim Jong Il, sun of Juche and lodestar of national reunification.

Choe Un Bok, chairwoman of the General Association of Koreans in China, said this when interviewed by KCNA Friday now staying in the homeland to take part in the commemorations of the 100th day since his demise.

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Kim Jong Il, endowed with ardent love for the country and the nation, demonstrated the dignity and national power of the socialist homeland before the whole world, she noted, and went on:

He was a peerless patriot and great father of the nation as he devoted all his life to the people's happiness and the country's reunification.

All Koreans are honoring the memory of him in the humblest reverence.

Strong yearning for him finds a more vivid manifestation in boundless reverence for the dear respected Kim Jong Un who is identical to him.

It is the expression of the most ardent patriotism for us to hold Kim Jong Un in high esteem.

The revolutionary feats of Kim Jong Il will shine forever under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.