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**STATEMENT DATED 1 JUNE 1994
BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

The attached text of a statement by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 1 June 1994, is being circulated to all Member States of the Agency at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This text was received by the Secretariat before the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the Agency.

STATEMENT
BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1 June 1994, Pyongyang

On 30 May, the United Nations Security Council, on the basis of a scenario worked out by some Member States, adopted a statement of its President slandering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and containing the groundless assertion that the fuel rods in the DPRK's 5-MW experimental power reactor had to be removed strictly in compliance with the practical needs of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as if the opportunity to select, separate and preserve fuel rods had been lost.

It was entirely wrong for the Security Council to discuss the question of the DPRK on the basis of an erroneous judgement arrived at by the Secretariat of the IAEA.

It is only a few days ago that negotiations on refuelling of the reactor were held between the DPRK and the IAEA's Secretariat.

The main question discussed during the negotiations was the preservation of technical possibilities for the future measurement of removed fuel rods, and there was considerable discussion of the reasonableness of the method proposed by the DPRK at present.

The Secretariat negotiating team said it would seriously study that method, and the two sides agreed to continue discussing it in future negotiations.

Also, it was confirmed that none of the fuel rods already removed had been diverted, and practically the entire current refuelling exercise is proceeding in the presence of Agency inspectors and under close surveillance by inspection cameras.

We must ask what justification the Security Council had to put the question of the DPRK on its agenda and discuss it now.

By rights, the Security Council should have called into question not the DPRK, but some persons within the IAEA's Secretariat.

Before the start of refuelling, we requested the IAEA's Secretariat several times to take necessary measures such as ensuring that IAEA inspectors were present and the timely removal of seals.

However, the Secretariat failed to send any inspectors until refuelling had begun, thus clearly neglecting its duty as an international organization.

That was the doing of some persons within the Secretariat.

When we allowed an "additional inspection", to make up for the "inspection left incomplete" at the time of the inspection mission in March, they shunned our offer, thus intentionally ignoring the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 31 March.

Also, it was the IAEA's Secretariat which distorted the facts by talking as if the negotiations had broken down and hurriedly transferring the problem to the Security Council without a clear explanation, categorically rejecting the method proposed by the DPRK even before the Secretariat's negotiating team, which had promised to study it, arrived back at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna.

These actions were aimed at putting the DPRK "in the dock" and justifying the Secretariat's past behaviour in concocting "inconsistencies" with regard to the DPRK on the basis of false information.

Very naturally, the DPRK, which has engaged only in peaceful nuclear activities as a honourable, independent and sovereign State, will not yield before such unreasonable actions on the part of the IAEA's Secretariat and allow itself to be treated as an "offender".

Accordingly, the Security Council, instead of finding fault with the DPRK, should have taken issue with some officials of the IAEA's Secretariat who have placed obstacles in the way of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear activities, hatched a sinister political plot to shift blame to the DPRK and transferred the problem to the United Nations.

Also, the Security Council presidential statement was self-contradictory in unreasonably urging the DPRK to permit the selection, segregation and securing of fuel rods in order to preserve the possibility of future measurements.

Since we have a unique status after the temporary suspension of the effectuation of our declared withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it is clear that we cannot accept routine and ad hoc inspections such as those which would have been involved in the selective preservation of fuel rods.

Full understanding of this was reached during the recent negotiations with the Secretariat team.

Although we are refuelling the reactor at a time when we have a unique status, we are doing our utmost to maintain the transparency of our nuclear activities.

The refuelling is taking place in such a manner as to fully preserve the technical possibility of measuring the fuel rods as requested by the IAEA when our unique status comes to an end.

The method being applied by the DPRK is a completely scientific and realistic one invented by our scientists and facility operators, whose co-operative spirit is motivated by their persistent desire to demonstrate the uprightness of the DPRK's nuclear activities.

The feasibility of the method has been fully proved in experiments.

With this method, it will be possible to reproduce the channel and order of any fuel rod and measure the fuel rods correctly in the future.

At the recent negotiations in Pyongyang, we gave the IAEA side a full explanation of our refuelling method and suggested, with the best of intentions, that negotiations be held at any time if there were more questions to be discussed.

There have been attempts these past few days to manufacture an “urgent” situation by alleging that the pace of refuelling is too fast.

Since the refuelling operation is part of the DPRK’s purely peaceful nuclear activities and since technical possibilities for ensuring the continuity of safeguards and measuring fuel rods in the future are fully guaranteed, there are no grounds for taking issue with the pace of refuelling.

Refuelling proceeded at a rather fast pace some time ago because it was necessary to determine the maximum efficiency of the refuelling machine.

This is normal in peaceful nuclear activities, and it should hardly have caused surprise.

Against that background, at a time when everything was progressing normally the Security Council discussed – without any examination – a biased report submitted by some officials of the IAEA’s Secretariat and hurriedly adopted a presidential statement.

That is really hard to understand.

It did so either because it is too obtuse to see the reality or because it was subject to some sinister political influence.

If the Security Council is being manipulated by certain member States, ignoring its noble mission to be responsible for world peace and security, it will stand shamed before History.

The original basis for the existence of an international organization is impartiality.

If the IAEA's Secretariat and the United Nations Security Council, lacking impartiality, insist on pressure and display an unreasonable attitude, we shall no longer feel any need to be restricted by such pressure.

It is more than intolerable that we have suffered from major obstacles to our peaceful nuclear activities, restricted by the unilateral demands of the IAEA's Secretariat.

If pressure is put on us again, we shall no longer bow to the Secretariat's unreasonable demand but go our own way – completely unhindered.

This is the unshakeable will of the Korean people, who regard independence as their lifeblood.

If some officials of the IAEA's Secretariat declare that the technical possibility of carrying out measurements on fuel rods has been lost or if the Security Council puts pressure on the DPRK, threatening "sanctions" under the pretext, we shall take decisive counter-measures, freeing ourselves from unreasonable restrictions rather than tolerating them, in order that we may continue with our peaceful nuclear activities.

We shall respond at any time with complete sincerity to proposals to deal with the issue fairly and to resolve it peacefully through dialogue.

But we shall counter uncompromisingly any tendency to put unjustifiable pressure on us and to infringe – however slightly – our sovereignty.