

**Simulation Setup:**

It is June of 2024, in the last year of the U.S. administration that took office in January of 2017. Despite concerns of the Vice President and Secretary of State about North Korea's existing nuclear weapons holdings, the U.S. President had previously agreed with North Korea to halt joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea as long as North Korea froze its nuclear and ballistic missile development programs. One of South Korea's light water nuclear reactor sites was shut down for six months at the beginning of the year due to operational problems after three months of operation with fresh fuel in some of the reactors. Working at a faster pace than originally expected, South Korea has commissioned a pilot scale molten salt reactor fuel reprocessing facility. Using accumulated stocks of tritium recovered from its heavy water reactors, South Korea has the capability of purifying sufficient weapons usable material within ninety days for building a nuclear weapons arsenal comparable to that held by North Korea during North Korea's development freeze. It would then take another three months for South Korea to use material accumulated in compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to build their nuclear arsenal and mate it to weapon delivery systems capable of devastating North Korea.

Over objections leading to resignations by some experienced U.S. intelligence personnel, the Vice President and former intelligence apparatus colleagues of the Secretary of State have overseen preparation of a report claiming that North Korea is pursuing clandestine uranium enrichment, something that the North Korean government knows is incorrect. Having received this report, the U.S. President has ordered a major military operation off the coast of North Korea, with the announced inclusion the simulation of delivery of battlefield nuclear weapons. North Korea then claimed incursions into its territorial waters and airspace and fired conventional artillery into South Korean territory in response. North Korea also performed an atmospheric nuclear explosion test over the Pacific Ocean with weapon flown on a ballistic with intercontinental range that had been developed, but not tested, before the previously agreed upon development freeze. The missile flew over Japan on its way to a remote location in the North Pacific Ocean. North Korea is also known to have fleets of miniature fishing boat scale surface vessels of miniature submarines that are thought to be capable of launching short range nuclear armed missiles from the surface or conducting suicide nuclear attacks on port cities. The U.S. President issued a demarche, threatening military action if North Korea does not agree to an inspection-verified program that would commence within 90 days and eliminate its stock of weapons grade fissile materials and tritium by the end of calendar year 2014. In one or more rounds in the following order, your leader is to issue statements of 20 to 100 words, concerning its response:

South Korea, Japan, China, North Korea, USA, Taiwan.