

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW Washington, DC 20520

February 16, 2024

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write you to express deep concern with the latest developments in the Russia-Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) relationship and inquire about actions the State Department is taking in response to DPRK's provision of weapons to the Russian military.

Following a summit between DPRK leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the DPRK agreed to provide Russia with weapons to support Putin's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Russia received and used DPRK ballistic missiles in Ukraine and public reporting suggests that DPRK provided Russia with shipments of ammunition and artillery shells.

Russia formerly joined the U.S. at the U.N. Security Council to impose an arms embargo on DPRK in response to Pyongyang's first nuclear tests, but since the invasion of Ukraine has actively sought to circumvent international sanctions and arms embargos. Given this behavior, it also concerns us that Russia, in violation of the arms embargo and its obligations under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), may provide the rogue Kim regime with weapons and technologies that bolster its erratic behavior and further threaten our national security. These concerns are increasingly acute given the DPRK's recent test of nuclear capable strategic cruise missiles and advanced ballistic missiles that put U.S. bases in the region within range of advanced DPRK strike capabilities.

These developments in the Russia-DPRK relationship warrant the full attention of the State Department. We ask for a prompt reply to the following questions:

- 1) Is your Department concerned that Russia will provide advanced ballistic missile and cruise missile technology to the DPRK?
- 2) Is your Department aware of any Russian efforts to provide these types of advanced materials to the DPRK?
- 3) In your assessment, is the People's Republic of China (PRC) playing in any role in the transfer of North Korean weapons to Russia?
- 4) Was Russian technology, materials, design data, and/or technical knowledge used to advance any of the DPRK's strategic or tactical missile capabilities over the past few years?

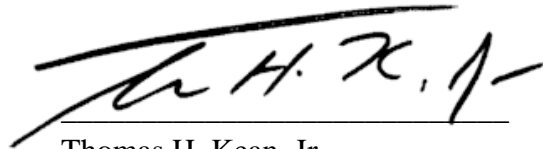
- 5) Is your Department aware of any Russian plans or past activity to provide technology, materials, design data, and/or technical knowledge to advance the DPRK's nuclear weapons program? What actions is the State Department taking to block the DPRK-Russian trade of advanced weapons?
- 6) Is your Department engaging with allies and partners with a shared interest in non-proliferation of this technology about these concerns?
- 7) Does your Department assess Russia to still be adhere to obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime?
 - a. Are you concerned that Russia's role in the MTCR, a consensus-based export control regime, will inhibit the U.S. and partner efforts to develop key capabilities to counter an increasingly aggressive China, Russia, DPRK, and Iran?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request that your Department provide the House Committee on Foreign Affairs with a briefing on this subject, and we request a written response by March 1st, 2024.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on The Indo-Pacific
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Joe Wilson
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Middle East
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress