

Let's be friends – North Korea (Saturday, January 15, 2005)

WARM UP

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about North Korea / South Korea / axis of evil / nuclear states / dangerous countries / Kim Jong Il / nuclear disarmament ...

MY COUNTRY: Write down two countries with which your own country is “best friends” and two countries which share hostile / non-existent / or cold relations with. Inform your partner / classmates of these international relationships.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Comment on the following:

- All nuclear weapons should be banned.
- Nuclear weapons are deterrents and have maintained world peace for a record fifty years.
- Only the ‘big’ countries such as the USA, China, Russia should have nuclear weapons.
- Both India and Pakistan should abandon their weapons, as their relations are the most likely to start a nuclear conflict.
- Too little world attention is given to nuclear weapons testing.
- Any countries trying to develop a weapons programme now should be stopped.
- The “axis of evil” countries should be threatened with Iraq-style invasion if they do not dismantle their weapons programmes.
- If it's OK for small countries like Great Britain to have nuclear weapons, then it's OK for largely populated countries like Indonesia or Brazil to have them.
- It's dangerous for Middle-Eastern countries to have nuclear weapons.
- It's OK for Israel to have nuclear weapons.
- Technology means one day all countries, and even all terrorist groups will be nuclear armed.

PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words ‘table’, and ‘talk’.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) North Korea has urged the United States to come to the negotiating table. T / F
- (b) North Korea has asked to buy nuclear weapons from the USA. T / F
- (c) North Korea has asked George W. Bush to be kinder. T / F
- (d) Mr. Bush has every intention of carrying out an Iraq-style invasion of N. Korea. T / F
- (e) George W. Bush has been a friend of North Korea since 2002. T / F
- (f) The North Koreans maintain nuclear weapons are a deterrent against an “aggressive” US foreign policy. T / F
- (g) North Korea is really using nuclear weapons as a lever to get economic assistance from the West. T / F
- (h) Pyongyang wants to focus on improving bilateral relations with America. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| (a) urged | antagonistic |
| (b) suspending | remain strong |
| (c) rhetoric | removing |
| (d) hostile | friendly |
| (e) invasion | troublesome |
| (f) stick to one's guns | recommended |
| (g) toppling | freezing |
| (h) play its hand | attack |
| (i) conciliatory | gamble |
| (j) unpleasant | language |

PHRASE MATCH: Match these words / phrases. Check your answers in the article.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) come to the | towards Pyonyang |
| (b) nuclear weapons | evil |
| (c) his rhetoric | relations |
| (d) Mr. Bush had no intention of carrying | wrangling |
| (e) axis of | its hand |
| (f) stuck to his | negotiating table |
| (g) nuclear weapons are a | out an Iraq-style invasion |
| (h) diplomatic | programme |
| (i) North Korea has tried to play | deterrent |
| (j) bilateral | guns |

GAP-FILL:

Let's be friends – North Korea (Sat 15 Jan)

bNE: North Korea has _____ the United States to come to the negotiating table for talks on _____ its nuclear weapons programme and becoming friends. One provision, however, is that US President George W, Bush be 'kinder' in his rhetoric towards Pyonyang and adopt a 'less _____ approach. All of this comes at the end of a four-day visit by American diplomats, in which the head of the US team, Curt Weldon, _____ North Korean leaders that Mr. Bush had no intention of carrying out an Iraq-style invasion of their country, nor of toppling leader Kim Jong Il. George W. Bush _____ North Korea in his "axis of evil" speech in 2002 and has stuck to his guns regarding the freezing and dismantling of the Stalinist state's nuclear weapons programme. The North Koreans maintain nuclear weapons are a _____ against an "aggressive" US foreign policy. Such diplomatic wrangling is not new. North Korea has continually tried to play its hand in using the nuclear issue as a lever in gaining financial and economic aid from the West while trying to become a member of the world's _____ nuclear club. However, their recent conciliatory moves represent a changed attitude. The (North) Korean Central News Agency reports of a need for a "future-oriented approach toward improving the bilateral relations in the new century, instead of _____ the unpleasant past."

*hostile
deterrent
repeating
outcast
urged
elite
assured
suspending*

DISCUSSION:

- (a) What do you think of North Korea's actions?
- (b) Do you think America and North Korea can resolve their nuclear problem?
- (c) Should North Korea be 'allowed' to develop nuclear weapons?
- (d) How long will it be before North Korea becomes an accepted member of the international community (i.e. be democratic)?
- (e) How long will it be before North Korea and South Korea unify?
- (f) What do you know about North Korea and its leader Kim Jong Il?
- (g) Should all nuclear weapons be banned?
- (h) Should George W. Bush follow up on Pyongyang's conciliatory gesture and go to North Korea himself to meet the N. Korean leader?
- (i) Is North Korea "evil"?
- (j) Does the USA have an "aggressive" foreign policy?
- (k) Teacher's / Students' additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

The North Korean government news agency:
<http://www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm>

For the CIA's information on North Korea:
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/kn.html>

About Kim Jong-Il
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kim_Jong_Il

South Korean news article on this story:
<http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200501/200501140043.html>

British nuclear disarmament group:
<http://www.cnduk.org/>

The Hiroshima Peace Museum site:
http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/top_e.html

FULL TEXT

Let's be friends – North Korea (Sat 15 Jan)

bNE: North Korea has urged the United States to come to the negotiating table for talks on suspending its nuclear weapons programme and becoming friends. One provision, however, is that US President George W, Bush be 'kinder' in his rhetoric towards Pyongyang and adopt a 'less hostile' approach. All of this comes at the end of a four-day visit by American diplomats, in which the head of the US team, Curt Weldon, assured North Korean leaders that Mr. Bush had no intention of carrying out an Iraq-style invasion of their country, nor of toppling leader Kim Jong Il. George W. Bush outcast North Korea in his "axis of evil" speech in 2002 and has stuck to his guns regarding the freezing and dismantling of the Stalinist state's nuclear weapons programme. The North Koreans maintain nuclear weapons are a deterrent against an "aggressive" US foreign policy. Such diplomatic wrangling is not new. North Korea has continually tried to play its hand in using the nuclear issue as a lever in gaining financial and economic aid from the West while trying to become a member of the world's elite nuclear club. However, their recent conciliatory moves represent a changed attitude. The (North) Korean Central News Agency reports of a need for a "future-oriented approach toward improving the bilateral relations in the new century, instead of repeating the unpleasant past."