

Putin warns of 'global catastrophe' over N Korea

7th September, 2017



Russia's president Vladimir Putin has warned that the crisis over North Korea could cause a "planetary catastrophe". He said if war broke out on the Korean Peninsula, there would be a huge loss of life. He told reporters at a meeting in China that talking and "peaceful dialogue" were the only ways to end the crisis. He warned the USA and

North Korea that talking about military action and war was very dangerous. He said: "Ramping up military hysteria in such conditions is senseless. It's a dead end." Mr Putin said North Korea would never give up its nuclear programme. He said: "They will eat grass instead of stopping their nuclear programme, as long as they do not feel safe."

Tensions in Korea are reaching very dangerous levels. On Sunday, North Korea carried out its most powerful nuclear test ever. The United Nations Security Council met after to tell North Korea to stop its testing. Many countries called for stronger sanctions against North Korea. Mr Putin said sanctions have never worked and would never work. He said sanctions against North Korea would be useless and ineffective. The US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, said North Korea was "begging for war" because of its words and actions. She said: "War is never something the United States wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited. We will defend our allies and our territory."

Sources: the-guardian.com / nation.co.ke / rte.ie

Writing

Military action is never an answer to any problem. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

crisis / catastrophe / loss of life / peaceful / military action / war / nuclear / grass / tensions / powerful / sanctions / useless / actions / patience / allies / territory

True / False

- Vladimir Putin said there could be a "planetary catastrophe". T / F
- Vladimir Putin was speaking to reporters in South Korea. T / F
- Putin said talking was the only way to end the crisis. T / F
- Putin said N. Koreans would eat grass then end their nuclear program. T / F
- On Sunday, N. Korea carried out its first ever nuclear test. T / F
- Many countries want stronger sanctions against North Korea. T / F
- A US ambassador said she was begging for war. T / F
- The ambassador said the USA still had a lot of patience left. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. planetary | a. cautioned |
| 2. broke out | b. risky |
| 3. huge | c. end |
| 4. warned | d. very big |
| 5. give up | e. pleading |
| 6. dangerous | f. global |
| 7. sanctions | g. land |
| 8. begging | h. protect |
| 9. defend | i. started |
| 10. territory | j. penalties |

Discussion – Student A

- How likely is it that war will break out in Korea?
- How much of a crisis is this?
- How important is talking?
- Is talking the only way to end this crisis?
- Who is saying the most dangerous words?
- Why does North Korea want nuclear weapons?
- Should North Korea give up its nuclear weapons programme?
- What advice do you have for North Korea's leader?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. could cause a planetary | a. of life |
| 2. there would be a huge loss | b. end |
| 3. military | c. never work |
| 4. It's a dead | d. unlimited |
| 5. as long as they | e. action |
| 6. Tensions in Korea are reaching very | f. catastrophe |
| 7. Many countries called for stronger | g. and our territory |
| 8. sanctions have never worked and would | h. do not feel safe |
| 9. our country's patience is not | i. sanctions |
| 10. We will defend our allies | j. dangerous levels |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the tensions in North Korea?
- How effective would sanctions be on North Korea?
- Why do you think the USA said North Korea is begging for war?
- Should the United States have a lot more patience?
- What kind of global catastrophe would happen if there was war?
- What do you think this situation be like next year?
- What questions would you like to ask Vladimir Putin?

Spelling

- the iicsrs over North Korea
- if war obrke out
- peaceful laudgioe
- talking about rmytial action
- ... in such inndoscoti is senseless
- give up its acnuelr programme
- very dangerous eevlls
- insnctsa against North Korea
- sselseu and ineffective
- The US ramabodssa to the UN
- our country's iencetap is not unlimited
- We will defend our asleil

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. c
6. b	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Sanctions

You think sanctions are the best way of ending the N. Korea crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pressure from China, US leaving the region or military action.

Role B – Pressure from China

You think pressure from China is the best way of ending the N. Korea crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sanctions, US leaving the region or military action.

Role C – US Leaving the Region

You think the US leaving the region is the best way of ending the N. Korea crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pressure from China, sanctions or military action.

Role D – Military Action

You think military action is the best way of ending the N. Korea crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pressure from China, US leaving the region or sanctions.

Speaking – Solutions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best solutions to the N. Korea crisis at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • Patience | • United Nations |
| • Military action | • Pressure from China |
| • Sanctions | • US leaving the region |
| • Other _____ | • USA-N Korea talks |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.