

**Raise Opposition to North Korean Aid**

Yoichi Shimada

On July 22, the South and North Korean chief delegates to the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue met for the first time in 31 months. Some in the U.S. government are moving to accept North Korea's food aid request and link it to the resumption of the six-party talks. At a meeting on July 12 with a delegation (including the author) of family members of the Japanese kidnapped by North Korea and their parliamentary and out-of-government supporters, Robert King, U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, said a condition for food aid to North Korea would be Pyongyang's acceptance of monitors who would measure circumference of children's arms before and after food aid and check if they would have really eaten food.

**A possible chain of additional concessions**

This is a dangerous approach. The North may give some of food aid only to a small number of children for the measurement and earmark the rest for secret police. Pyongyang may even make different children available for the post-aid measurement, noting that children, thanks to food aid, may look different from those subjected to the pre-aid measurement. King did not seem too naive to anticipate such developments. He may be willing to resume the talks with North Korea even if he is deceived.

A trigger to the resumption of talks tends to trigger additional concessions on the part of aid donors. We easily remember endless concessions by then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill who were desperate to make achievements in the final days of the Bush Administration. A major mistake was that they easily dropped financial sanctions as a bargaining card for making progress in the six-party talks. The sanctions were imposed on the Banco Delta Asia of Macao in September, 2005. Incumbent Assistant Treasury Secretary Daniel Glaser described the sanctions as "extraordinarily effective" with great spillover effects.

### **Food aid is hurtful and unnecessary**

Glaser, who is in charge of terrorist financing, told the Japanese delegation that the problem was China that has more than 10 banks engaged in flowing black money into North Korea. If China stops energy supply to North Korea, Pyongyang may become unable to operate centrifuges for enriching uranium. In this sense as well, the problem is China. The six-party talks chaired by China disguising itself as a bona fide third party are nothing more than a sucky play. The talks have grown more hurtful and unnecessary.

Food aid to North Korea may be used for maintaining the strength of the secret police and other suppressive organs, instead of reaching starving citizens. Therefore, food aid to North Korea would be inhuman, said Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Republican chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, at a meeting with the Japanese delegation. The North Korean leadership might want food to buy the loyalty from elite toward the centennial birthday of Kim Il Sung, said Dennis Halpin, a Ros-Lehtinen's aide well versed in North Korean problems. He emphasized that no helping hand should be lent to the Pyongyang leadership. North Korea can use money for procuring sufficient food in the international market, instead of financing nuclear missile development or concentration camps. Food aid to North Korea is tantamount to indirectly supporting its nuclear missile development and concentration camps.

Japan's prime minister and foreign minister should timely urge the nerve center of the U.S. government to refrain from giving hurtful, unnecessary aid to resume the hurtful, unnecessary six-party talks. Rather, those who can make such advice should be named to these ministerial posts promptly.

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