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THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

The attached text of an Interview by a Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the replacement of fuel rods at the 5-Megawatt Experimental Nuclear Power Station, dated 3 May 1994, is being circulated to all Member States of the Agency at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

TEXT OF INTERVIEW

**BY A SPOKESMAN OF
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CONCERNING THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL RODS AT THE
5-MEGAWATT EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

3 May 1994, Pyongyang

WE HAVE RECENTLY EXCHANGED TELEX MFSSACES SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) CONCERNING THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD AT THE 5-MEGAWATT EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

WE DECIDED TO PLACE THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD STRICTLY UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE IAEA, OUT OF THE CONSISTENT POSITION TO SHOW THE HONESTY OF OUR NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, DESPITE OUR UNIQUE STATUS AFTER A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE EFFECTUATION OF OUR DECLARED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT).

HENCE, WE DECIDED TO ALLOW THE IREA INSPECTORS TO BE PRESENT AT THE PLACE OF THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD AND VERIFY THE NON-DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IAEA THAT WE ALLOWED INCLUDE THE OBSERVATION OF THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD, CONTAINMENT AND SURVEILLANCE OVER ALL REPLACED FUEL AND OTHER SUFFICIENT INSPECTIONS NEEDED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CONTINUITY OF SAFEGUARDS.

AND WE DID NOT DELAY THE ISSUE OF ENTRY VISAS TO FIVE INSPECTORS SELECTED BY THE IAEA SIDE.

THUS, WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN TO PROVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF OUR NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES DESPITE OUR UNIQUE STATUS.

THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, THE IAEA SECRETARIAT IS RAISING AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND FOR SELECTING, PRESERVING AND MEASURING SOME FUEL AT THE TIME OF THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD.

THE SELECTIVE MEASUREMENT OF THE FUEL ROD CAN NEVER BE ALLOWED BECAUSE IT MEANS ROUTINE AND AD HOC INSPECTIONS IGNORING OUR UNIQUE STATUS FOLLOWING THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE EFFECTUATION OF OUR DECLARED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NPT.

THE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES WE CAN ALLOW IN OUR VOLUNTARY MEASURE OF GOOD WILL AT THIS MOMENT ARE ONLY INSPECTIONS TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS NO DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO OTHER PURPOSES, SO AS TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF SAFEGUARDS IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR UNIQUE STATUS.

IT IS, TRUTH TO TELL, THE EXPRESSION OF OUR BEST WILL THAT WE DECIDED THIS TIME TO PLACE ALL THE REPLACED FUEL ROD UNDER THE COWTAINMENT AND SURVEILLANCE OF THE IAEA AND ALLOW THE INSPECTORS TO VERIFY NON-DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL.

YET THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT IS PERSISTING IN ITS UNTENABLE DEMAND. OPENLY IGNORING OUR UNIQUE STATUS. THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT IT IS STILL TAKING A PARTIAL ATTITUDE, REMAINING BLINDLY +SUSPICIOUS+ AGAINST US. THIS IS A PATENT PROOF THAT THE PARTIALITY OF THE AGENCY CONTINUES EXPANDING.

THE DEMAND FOR SELECTIVE MEASUREMENT OF THE FUEL ROD ON THE PART OF THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT, WHICH FAKED UP +INCONSISTENCY+ IN THE PAST EVEN BY DESTROYING ITS JUDGING SAMPLE, IS IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS A PROOF THAT IT IS INTENDING TO RESORT TO PRESSURE ON THE DPRK BY INVENTING ANOTHER +INCONSISTENCY.+

IT MUST NOT GO UNNOTICED THAT THE AGENCY HAS NOT YET SENT ITS INSPECTORS GROUP, ALTHOUGH WE ALLOWED AN INSPECTION FOR THE CONTINUITY OF SAFEGUARDS AND EVEN THE SOCALLED +UNFINISHED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES+ WHICH WERE RAISED AT THE TIME OF THE INSPECTION IN MARCH.

THIS CLEARLY PROVES THAT THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT SOUGHT AN INSIDIOUS POLITICAL PURPOSE WHEN IT RAISED OUR +NUCLEAR PROBLEM+ AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

SUCH BEING THE SITUATION, IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT, IF WE ALLOW THE SELECTIVE MEASUREMENT OF THE FUEL ROD, THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT WILL FIND A NEW PRETEXT FOR A PRESSURE ON THE DPRK.

WE CAN NO LONGER ALLOW THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT TO USE OUR +NUCLEAR PROBLEM+ AS A POLITICAL EXPEDIENT.

IF THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT REFUSES TO ACCEPT OUR REASONABLE PROPOSAL AND PERSISTS IN ITS UNREASONABLE DEMAND, WE WILL HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO REPLACE THE FUEL ROD ACCORDING TO OUR OPERATION PLAN.

THE REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD IS AN URGENT ISSUE WHICH CAN BE DELAYED NO LONGER EITHER FROM THE TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW OR FOR THE SECURITY SAKE.

WHETHER THE IAEA INSPECTORS ARE PRESENT OR NOT, THE SPENT FUEL ROD COUNTER, THE THERMO-LUMINESCENCE DETECTOR AND MONITORING APPARATUSES INSTALLED BY THE IAEA AT THE EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR POWER STATION ARE OPERATING CONTINUOUSLY, AND THIS MEANS THAT OUR REPLACEMENT OF FUEL ROD IS CARRIED OUT STRICTLY UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF THE IAEA.

HE WILL PLACE ALL THE REPLACED FUEL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE IAEA AND ALLOW ITS MEASUREMENT WHEN THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IS RESOLVED IN A PACKAGE DEAL AT THE FUTURE DPRK-USA TALKS.

IF THE IAEA SECRETARIAT CARRIES THE SITUATION INTO THE EXTREMITIES DESPITE OUR UTMOST MAGNANIMITY AND GOOD WILL, WE WILL RESOLUTELY COUNTER IT.

THE IAEA SECRETARIAT MUST PONDER IT OVER AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUE.