**Involvement of the U.S. regarding North Korea**

The Secretary of the Treasury is a member of the Presidential cabinet and is fifth in the presidential line of succession.  The main role of the Secretary of the Treasury is to lead the U. S. Department of the Treasury[[1]](#footnote-1), and its goal is to "promote economic prosperity and ensure the financial security of the United States".[[2]](#footnote-2) The current secretary is Steve Mnuchin.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), a financial intelligence and enforcement agency started its current sanctions program for North Korea in 2008 when President Obama enacted Executive Order (E.O.) 13466.[[3]](#footnote-3) Currently, the U.S. has placed sanctions on 26 persons and 8 banks associated with North Korea, which "freeze any property ... within U.S. jurisdiction" and "prohibit transactions by U.S. citizens with any of the sanctioned individuals or groups".[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Background Information and Past International Action Regarding North Korea**

In the past three decades, North Korea has come under fire from the international community for its nuclear proliferation program. This program is illegal because according to the rules of the NPT, a treaty which North Korea signed into, only the P5 nations (US, UK, China, France and Russia) are permitted to hold nuclear weapons. In the past, although negotiations succeeded in delaying North Korea's nuclear development program, they eventually collapsed because of Pyongyang's repeated violations of agreements.

Since North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed 8 resolutions that sanction North Korean imports and exports. Sanctions include the banned exporting of coal, iron, lead, seafood,[[5]](#footnote-5) valuable materials such as gold and silver[[6]](#footnote-6), an arms embargo[[7]](#footnote-7), a prohibition on joint ventures and North Korean citizens working abroad, as well as a cap on oil and petroleum imports.

**Proposed solutions**

The focus during committee should be to weaken North Korea's economy by cutting it off from natural resources, revenue and to set new protocol for future negotiations with Pyongyang.

A full oil import ban should be enacted that prevents the DPRK from importing petroleum. Oil gives the DPRK the ability to transport the materials it needs to develop its nuclear weapons and also cripples its military, a great source of pride. Through this, the DPRK will come to the negotiation table with a disadvantage because they need an operational military.

Moreover, the U.S. should combat one of North Korea's most advanced sources of income; hacking. North Korean hackers can hack banks with weak security and use the interconnected system of banks to make illegal transfers to North Korea accounts. To solve this, the U.S. should drive the development of the security industry and subsidize costs for companies that improve security in foreign nations. Also, big banks should implement security measures that prevent large transfers of funds to banks with weak security until the completion of background checks.

In the past, agreements were not kept because of improper and substandard protocol. In the future, the delivery of incentives for all agreements must be based on the fulfillment of the whole agreement and all portions must have been verified by U.S. or international inspectors. Moreover, the rewards must be spread out over a long period of time to prevent North Korea from immediately resuming its nuclear program after the delivery of all aid. The failure to fulfill any provision of any agreement will result in the ceasing of all sources of incentives.

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