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Committee on International Relations  
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November 4, 2005

His Excellency Pak Gil Yon  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
820 Second Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Pak:

I am writing to bring to your attention the urgency which Members of the United States Congress attach to a prompt and complete resolution of the abduction issue involving your Government and the governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea. The critical nature of this issue was apparent in the letter sent to your Mission at the beginning of this year by twenty of the Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, including the two Senators, regarding the January 2000 abduction of the Reverend Kim Dong-Shik, a South Korean citizen and the spouse of an Illinois resident. We have regrettably, until the present, received no response regarding the current whereabouts of the Reverend Kim.

The abduction issue was again brought to my attention when I met on October 27<sup>th</sup> with a delegation from Japan. The delegation included Mr. Teruaki Masumoto, the brother of abduction victim Ms. Rumiko Masumoto; Mr. Takuya Yokota, brother of abduction victim Ms. Megumi Yokota; and Professor Yoichi Shimada, Vice Chairman of the National Association for the Rescue of Japanese Kidnaped by North Korea (NARKN). I met with Ms. Megumi Yokota's parents in Tokyo in December 2002. In April of this year, I met with Mr. Masumoto and heard directly of the suffering he has endured due to the loss of his sister. The agony experienced by all of the families of abduction victims is a cause for deep concern. The particular case of Megumi Yokota, who was a 13-year-old schoolgirl at the time she was kidnaped, is deeply distressing to all parents throughout the world. The twenty-eighth anniversary of Megumi Yokota's abduction on November 15<sup>th</sup> could provide an appropriate occasion for your Government to settle this grave issue with a sincere accounting of her fate.

I noted that recent press reports indicate that your Government has now acknowledged that it is holding at least twenty-one South Korean citizens, both abductees and prisoners-of-war from the 1950-53 conflict. This is in addition to the thirteen Japanese abductees who have already been acknowledged, although the actual number appears to be substantially higher. A

His Excellency Pak Gil Yon  
November 4, 2005  
Page Two

young South Korean lady, Ms. Choi Jong-seok, has also recently written a poignant letter to Mr. Kim Jong Il seeking the release of her father so that she can prepare his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday meal. I suggest a demonstration of compassion in this case in keeping with the spirit of inter-Korean reconciliation as expressed in the Sunshine policy.

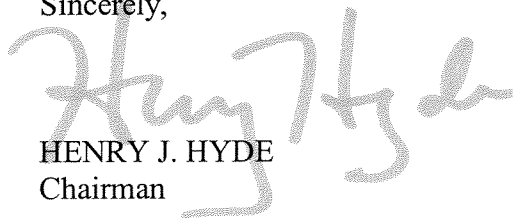
We in the United States find it particularly distressing to learn of the detention of South Korean prisoners-of-war. These comrades-in-arms, who served with our military under the flag of the United Nations, have been held against their wills and in indentured servitude for over a half-century in violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement on the Exchange of Prisoners of War. I urge their immediate return to their loved ones in South Korea.

Please take note, therefore, that the abduction issue is not just a matter of concern for the peoples of Japan and the Republic of Korea, but a question that involves universal principles of human rights which are of concern to all peoples, including the American people. Questions regarding the normalization of diplomatic relations with your Government and the lifting of the designation of your nation as a state sponsor of terrorism are issues which will draw the scrutiny of the U.S. Congress. The provision of future energy or other financial assistance requires the specific approval of the Congress. As long as the abduction issue remains unresolved, I see little chance for progress in these areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that press reports of an incident last week in the Rayburn House Office Building, where my own office is located, have raised concerns once again about the hostile intent of your Government directed at those who express concerns regarding North Korea's human rights policies. The threat made against Mr. Kim Seung-min, Director of Free North Korea Radio, as reported in the *Washington Times*, is of particular concern to the Committee on International Relations as Mr. Kim was in a House Office Building at the time and had come to Washington at the invitation of our Committee to testify at a hearing conducted by two of our subcommittees. If any unpleasant incident were to take place involving Mr. Kim Seung-min in the future, at any time or in any place, this would gravely influence Congressional attitudes about progress in U.S.-DPRK relations.

I hope, Ambassador Pak, that this letter can serve as a venue to open a candid, yet sincere, dialogue between us on the abduction issue and other matters of mutual concern. In this regard, I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



HENRY J. HYDE  
Chairman

HJH:dh/jec