

MILITARY STRENGTHS OF THE ROK AND THE DPRK

- The DPRK is superior to the ROK in the active-duty forces. It has half as many troops and twice as many major weapons including tanks, artillery, warships and aircraft as the ROK. Regarding mobilized reserve forces, the DPRK has an edge over the ROK in the terms of the manpower immediately available for mobilization during a short war, but the overall manpower mobilization capability of the ROK and the DPRK is estimated to be equal. In terms of overall capability potential to conduct war, the ROK is estimated to have an edge over the DPRK.

- The ROK finds advantage in war sustainability with superior military science and technology, defense industry and mobilization ability. However, it falls behind the DPRK in the production capability of military hardware such as artillery, tanks and submarines that would be used immediately in the initial stages of war. South Korea must not overlook the massive war material stockpiles and efficient wartime preparation efforts.

- The DPRK is currently estimated to produce and export SCUD missiles. The DPRK's long-range weapons pose the ROK a serious threat over the ROK. It also must be noted that the DPRK's possession of chemical and biological warheads and potential to produce nuclear weapons are the major factors that could alter the characteristics of a future war on the peninsula.

- The DPRK's numerical superiority over the ROK in major combat units and equipment is expected to continue for the coming decades. However, the DPRK's defense burden will grow more and more unbearable as the economic gap with the ROK widens which will result in narrowing the gap of military power.

ARMS CONTROL ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

- The ROK government believes that an arms control process is necessary if reunification efforts are to proceed. Inter-Korean arms control talks are influenced by several key variables: political detente, military balance, economic burdens, and nuclear issue. Political detente and the resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue are absolute preconditions for arms control.

- Although the simultaneous admissions of the two Koreas into the United Nations, and the adoption of the Basic Agreement seemingly marked the beginning of a new era in inter-Korean relations, it is clear that recent detente is not strong enough to facilitate further progress. The