

China says it will never allow war or chaos on its doorstep as tensions escalate on Korean Peninsula

31/08/2017



Beijing has said it will not allow war or chaos on the Korean Peninsula, as two US B-1B bombers conducted a new flight in the area, joined by South Korean and Japanese fighter jets in a show of force amid mounting tensions.

The statement was <u>made</u> by defense ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang at a monthly news briefing on Thursday, Sina reports.

Six American warplanes - two nuclear-capable B-1B strategic bombers and four Marine Corps F-35Bs - held a joint flight operation with Japanese F-15 fighter jets on Thursday, Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) <u>said</u> in a statement. The squadron flew near the island of Kyushu, south of the Korean Peninsula.

Following that, the US warplanes, accompanied by South Korean F-15K fighter jets, <u>conducted</u> a joint operation over South Korea as well as bombing drills over the Pilseung range in the eastern province of Gangwon, according to Yonhap.

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The maneuvers come just two days after North Korea's launch of a missile over Japan.

Ren Guoqiang also reiterated China's position that the North Korean crisis should be resolved through dialogue, and insisted on the denuclearization of the peninsula, according to Sina, <u>citing</u> the spokesman.

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Russia also insists that there cannot be any military solution to the crisis on the Korean Peninsula. At the latest UNSC meeting, Russia's permanent representative to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, reiterated Beijing and Moscow's 'double freeze' initiative, recommending Pyongyang halt all nuclear and missile tests while the US and South Korea cease the military build-up in the region.

On Thursday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry also expressed concern, saying that the Korean issue is serious and not a computer game, Reuters reports, citing the ministry's spokeswoman, Hua Chunying.

During a previous news briefing, Hua responded to British Prime Minister Theresa May's <u>call</u> on Beijing to exert more pressure on Pyongyang voiced during her trip to Japan on Wednesday. Hua also questioned whether other relevant parties implement the UN resolutions "without holding back anything."

"They are the loudest when it comes to sanctions, but nowhere to be found when it comes to making efforts to promote peace talks. They want nothing to do with responsibility," Hua told reporters on Wednesday.

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The flyover of the North Korean medium-range missile was unanimously condemned by the UN Security Council, which convened for an emergency meeting following the test. The UN called on Pyongyang to halt their activities, which are "not just a threat to the region, but to all UN member states."

US President Donald Trump <u>said</u> on Tuesday that "all options are on the table" regarding North Korea, later <u>tweeting</u> that "talking is not the answer." Trump also said that Washington has been paying Pyongyang "extortion money" while negotiating for over two decades.

Page 3 of 3