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November 21, 2012**Top Headlines****Chosun Ilbo**

Single Candidacy Talks Break Down

JoongAng Ilbo, Hankook Ilbo, Hankyoreh Shinmun, Seoul Shinmun, All TVs

Liberal Presidential Hopefuls at Odds over Questions of Public Poll for Single Candidacy

Dong-a Ilbo

Liberal Presidential Hopefuls Fail to Narrow Differences on How to Unify Candidacy

Kyunghyang Shinmun

Liberal Presidential Hopefuls Playing "Russian Roulette"

Domestic Developments

According to an ROKG source, the Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) is considering buying a stake in a U.S. uranium enrichment facility in New Mexico at the request of uranium enrichment company URENCO, which owns the plant. (Chosun)

Considering the ongoing ROK-U.S. negotiations to revise their bilateral atomic energy agreement, experts speculate that the ROK's investment in the U.S. facility may allow the two countries to find a way to get around the nuclear agreement's ban on the ROK's domestic enrichment. (Chosun)

International News

During a November 19 speech at the University of Yangon in Burma, President Obama urged North Korea to follow Burma's example and give up its nuclear ambitions. (Chosun, Hankyoreh, Kyunghyang, Seoul, All TVs)

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ia Analysis**President Obama's Visit to Burma**

Editorials in major newspapers touched on President Obama's November 19 speech at Yangon University in Burma, in which he urged North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions and follow Burma's path to peace and democracy.

Right-of-center *JoongAng Ilbo* editorialized: "President Obama's message came after Pyongyang stressed the need for dialogue with Washington through the *Rodong Sinmun*, the official newspaper of North Korea's Workers' Party, and the *Choson Sinbo*, a Pyongyang mouthpiece in Japan. In this regard, President Obama's proposal amounts to a reply. President Obama's message also represents a strong challenge to Pyongyang to change its course given its violations of agreements over the past four years. East Asia faces a turning point. Leadership changes are taking place in China, the ROK and Japan. North Korea, too, is in the process of consolidating an unprecedented power succession. A power struggle between America and China is ongoing, with China and Japan engrossed in territorial disputes. Those are signs of a lot of energy being expended on a new world order. Pyongyang should change its lopsided trajectory and join the new tide of the 21st century. We urge North Korea to seize this golden opportunity before it is too late."

An editorial in conservative *Dong-a Ilbo* observed: "President Obama's remarks indicate his resolve to deal more proactively with the North Korean issue during his second term. At the same time, they amount to an ultimatum to North Korea that if it were to launch a long-range missile, conduct a nuclear test or stage provocations against the ROK as it did four years ago to gain the upper hand in negotiations, the United States would no longer tolerate it. Above all, it is up to North Korea whether it will break the deadlock on the Six-Party Talks and U.S.-North Korea talks and accept aid from the international community. If the North is truly willing to talk, it should not miss this opportunity. ... Burma, which has become an attractive investment destination for leading international companies, is a perfect model for North Korea in terms of reform and opening up. Since the winds of change are blowing through a Northeast Asia in transition, North Korea should stop going against this general trend and join efforts for democratization, reform and opening up."

Left-leaning *Hankyoreh Shinmun* editorialized: "When he was president-elect in 2008, President Obama also hinted at the possibility of a proactive approach to North Korea by stressing the need for 'tough and direct foreign policy.' However, the North responded by launching a long-range missile and conducting its second nuclear test in April and May the following year, pouring cold water on the dialogue mood. The trend has continued up to now. North Korea should grasp the extended hand from President Obama and come forward to make a breakthrough in improving relations with the United States by declaring a moratorium on nuclear and missile testing. The ROK government should also make every effort to create an atmosphere conducive to improving U.S.-North Korean and inter-Korean relations."

ions/Editorials**Burma's Spring, North Korea's Winter**
(*Dong-a Ilbo*, November 21, 2012, Page 31)

During his visit to Burma, U.S. President Barack Obama openly urged the North Korean leadership to give up its nuclear weapons program and choose the path of peace and progress. He is the first U.S. president to visit Burma. Obama

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underscored what he said in his 2009 inauguration speech, and called on the North to return to dialogue. He said, "When I took office as President, I sent a message to those governments who ruled by fear. I said, in my inauguration address, 'We will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.'"

President Obama dramatically contrasted North Korea with Burma, which is moving toward democracy and opening up after pursuing decades of isolation under its military junta. Burmese President Thein Sein, who took office in March of last year, released Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest, held free elections, and allowed International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections. Obama pledged to provide \$170 million to Burma over the next two years.

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While Burma is turning toward democracy and opening up amid international support, North Korea remains isolated under its dictatorship. The North Korean regime is much more oppressive than Burma's military junta. The Kim Jong-un regime is bent on developing its nuclear weapons through uranium enrichment. The North is also creating tension near the Northern Limit Line (NLL) by stepping up submarine infiltration exercises and drills using its long-range artillery guns.

Since launching full-scale reform and opening up last year, Burma has drawn \$40.4 billion in foreign investment, 4.8 times greater than the investment made over the previous 22 years from 1988 to 2010. Burma, which has become an attractive investment destination for leading international companies, is a perfect model for North Korea in terms of reform and opening up. Since the winds of change are blowing through a Northeast Asia in transition, North Korea should stop going against this general trend and join efforts for democratization, reform and opening-up. If the North loses this opportunity, the Kim Jong-un regime will have to suffer for a much longer time.

Obama's Message for North Korea in Burma
(Hankyoreh Shinmun, November 21, 2012, Page 31)

During his visit to Burma on November 19, U.S. President Barack Obama sent a special message to North Korea. He said he would help North Korea if the country chooses the path of peace and progress. Obama also noted, "We do not need to be defined by the prisons of the past. We need to look forward to the future."

These remarks are not very different from the messages that the United States has sent to the North thus far. However, it is significant that he made these remarks directly to the North in Burma, which was once in a similar situation as the North politically and economically. Obama's remarks indicate his intention to shift his second administration's North Korea policy from "strategic patience" to "constructive engagement." With a significant change in the geopolitical landscape taking place in countries surrounding the Korean Peninsula, the ROK and North Korea should pay close attention to Obama's remarks.

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North Korea and Burma had been in a similar political and economic situation until recently. The countries were ruled by dictatorships for a long time, isolated from the outside world, and their people suffered from international economic sanctions. The ruling forces sought to achieve security and economic development by relying on China, their neighboring power. However, signs of change emerged [in Burma] earlier last year when Thein Sein, a reform-minded pragmatist within the regime, took office. Since taking power, Sein has pursued reform and opening up steadily. He released Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest, allowed her National League for Democracy (NLD) party to participate in the election, eased harsh media censorship, freed political prisoners, and scrapped the fixed exchange rate. During his first-ever presidential visit to Burma, Obama pledged to provide considerable economic assistance.

Despite the peculiarities of the Korean Peninsula, such as the division of the two Koreas, the North's nuclear issue, and dynastic succession, Burma's reform and opening up has great implications for North Korea. This may be why President Obama sent a message to North Korea during his visit to Burma.

When he was president-elect in 2008, President Obama also hinted at the possibility of a proactive approach to North Korea by stressing the need for "tough and direct foreign policy." However, the North responded by launching a long-range missile and conducting its second nuclear test in April and May the following year, pouring cold water on the dialogue mood. The trend has continued up to now. North Korea should grasp the extended hand from President Obama and come forward to make a breakthrough in improving relations with the United States by declaring a moratorium on nuclear and missile testing. The ROK government should also make every effort to create an atmosphere conducive to improving U.S.-North Korean and inter-Korean relations.

North Korea Must Seize Opportunity

(JoongAng Ilbo, November 21, 2012, Page 34)

On a visit to Myanmar following his re-election, President Barack Obama urged North Korea to scrap its long-cherished nuclear ambitions and take the path toward reform. In a nationally televised speech in Yangon in the long-oppressed state, Obama said he demanded that Pyongyang choose one of two options: "put down its nuclear weapons and move toward peace and progress" or continue down its current path. In the former case, Obama said, North Koreans could expect America to reach out and help them. He also emphasized that his visit to Myanmar was proof that he keeps such promises.

When he was president-elect in 2008, Obama hinted at the possibility of an aggressive approach to the recalcitrant regime in Pyongyang by stressing a need for "tough and direct foreign policy." Obama has again extended a hand to the North immediately following his re-election. Four years ago, North Korea flatly dismissed Obama's proposal by firing a long-range missile and conducting its second nuclear test. After that, America turned to a passive "strategic patience." Though Washington managed to strike a deal in February with Pyongyang to provide nutritional aid in return for a suspension of nuclear tests and missile launches, North Korea broke the agreement with a test missile launch. Obama's offer this time can be understood as his third reconciliatory gesture.

President Obama's message came after Pyongyang stressed the need for dialogue with Washington through the *Rodong Sinmun*, the official newspaper of North Korea's Workers' Party, and the *Choson Sinbo*, a Pyongyang mouthpiece in Japan. In this regard, President Obama's proposal amounts to a reply. President Obama's message also represents a strong challenge to Pyongyang to change its course given its

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violations of agreements over the past four years.

East Asia faces a turning point. Leadership changes are taking place in China, the ROK and Japan. North Korea, too, is in the process of consolidating an unprecedented power succession. A power struggle between America and China is ongoing, with China and Japan engrossed in territorial disputes. Those are signs of a lot of energy being expended on a new world order. Pyongyang should change its lopsided trajectory and join the new tide of the 21st century. We urge North Korea to seize this golden opportunity before it is too late.

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Korean Electric Power Corporation Considers Buying a Stake in U.S. Uranium Enrichment Facility
(Chosun Ilbo, November 21, 2012, Front page)

By Reporters Lee Ha-won and Cho Jae-hee

A U.S. company that specializes in enriching uranium has asked the ROK to buy a stake as it expands a plant in New Mexico, a government source said Tuesday. Korea Electric Power Corp. is studying the prospect of buying into URENCO U.S.A.

The government views the offer as a potential avenue to bypassing ongoing talks with Washington on a bilateral pact signed in 1974 that prohibits the ROK from enriching uranium and reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods.

Some U.S. experts also apparently support the potential deal since it could reduce the list of Seoul's demands in talks to revise the atomic energy pact.

One U.S. nuclear expert who participated in a joint ROK-U.S. nuclear energy conference in Washington already proposed that the ROK buy a stake in URENCO's New Mexico facility or the U.S. Enrichment Corporation as an alternative to revising the bilateral pact.

The ROK feels purchasing stakes in foreign enrichment facilities would guarantee stable supplies of the radioactive material.

In 2009, Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power acquired a 2.5 percent stake in the French nuclear power company Areva.

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