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**November 12, 2013****Top Headlines*****Chosun Ilbo***

Former President Roh Suspected of Changing Wording  
of 2007 Inter-Korean Summit Transcript to Prevent Controversy  
over Northern Limit Line

***JoongAng Ilbo***

President Park Orders Probe into Shoddy Restoration  
of Nation's No.1 National Treasure Sunghyemun  
and Punishment of Those Responsible

***Dong-a Ilbo***

Former President Roh Returns Plans  
for Electronic Government System after Retirement

***Hankook Ilbo***

ROK Seeks to Impose Health Insurance Fees  
on Financial, Inheritance and Endowed Incomes

***Hankyoreh Shinmun***

Prosecution's Investigation Team in Charge of Spy Agency's  
Election Meddling Scandal Wrecked by Power Struggle

***Kyunghyang Shinmun***

Workers Still in Dire Straits

***Seoul Shinmun***

Auditor Nominee: "State Audit Agency Is Not Designed  
to Check President"

**Domestic Developments**

1. President Park Geun-hye will hold a summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on November 13, during which they will discuss Seoul's participation in the "Najin-Hasan Development Project" of North Korea and Russia. The Russian President is set to arrive in Seoul early on November 13 for a one-day trip. (Chosun)

**International News**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior  
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1. In a November 11 commentary, the *Rodong Sinmun*, the official newspaper of North Korea's Workers' Party, asserted that Pyongyang will never take preliminary steps to denuclearize in order to resume the Six-Party Talks. (Chosun)
2. According to sources knowledgeable about North Korean affairs, Pyongyang's experiments with a market economy since June 28, 2012 have resulted in a surge of prices and exchange rates. (Chosun)

## Media Analysis

### North Korea's Nuclear Issue

Right-of-center *JoongAng Ilbo* carried an op-ed that said on Monday (November 11): "Washington has refused to accept China's request for concessions by insisting that Pyongyang's commitment [to denuclearization] is a precondition, but in fact, it does not have room to handle the thorny issue. A former senior [ROKG] official who is well-versed in ROK-U.S. relations said that among the top U.S. officials at the Secretary level or higher, no one takes the North Korean issue seriously. After all, the ROK has to step up its efforts to resolve this crisis. While reinforcing its military readiness against the North's threats, it must form a creative road map to win the agreement of America, China and the North. ... We must persuade the U.S. to make it clear to the North that it cannot deal directly with Washington without going through Seoul. We must also improve inter-Korean relations by assisting the North in a way that does not hurt the ROK's pride. Most of all, the strategy must be implemented consistently whether a conservative or a liberal administration wins power in the ROK, just as West Germany pushed forward hard-line policies and engagement policies toward East Germany for two decades."

### Philippines Typhoon Disaster

Left-leaning *Kyunghyang Shinmun* editorialized: "We cannot view this disaster in the Philippines as just a fire across the river, because it represents a danger all humanity faces in common. Recently, we have seen frequent natural disasters around the world on a growing scale. Large-scale disasters do not recognize national borders. It is high time for the international community to join forces to prevent and adapt to climate change, one of the causes of this disaster."

## Editorial/Opinions

### *Consistency is the Key*

(*JoongAng Ilbo*, November 11, 2013, Page 32)

By Ahn Hee-chang, a senior fellow of the JoongAng Ilbo Unification Research Institute

"Among top U.S. officials, no one takes the North Korea issue seriously," a former senior official said.

When I was a junior reporter on the police beat in the early 1980s, I heard an anecdote from my superior. "During a flood, a body floated down and reached a certain police jurisdiction along the Han River," he said. "But the next day, the body had moved to the neighboring jurisdiction. Because it was not a high-profile case, there was sort of a ping-pong game between the two precincts."

Such an episode wouldn't happen today, but they did in the past. I once reported on such a ping-pong match between two precincts over a body that was found in a car accident.

The North Korean nuclear crisis, which has plagued us for more than two decades, reminds me of such ping-pong matches. Maybe the North Korean nuclear program is an unwanted corpse and the United States and China are playing a ping-pong game over who deals with it. South Korea is the local resident exposed to the risk of contagion from the body on the street.

The United States and China have put some effort into resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis. The 1994 Geneva agreement between Washington, Pyongyang and Beijing increased political and economic pressures on the North.

But over the long stretch of 20 years, delicate “national interests” in international politics are being applied to the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. The core issue is whether ending the North’s nuclear program is truly a national interest for the United States and China – or just talk?

In the past, the two countries used their armed forces to decide matters they could not resolve. When a newly unified Vietnam supported the Soviet Union in the China-Soviet border conflict and oppressed Chinese residents in Vietnam, China used its armed forces against Vietnam in February 1979. America, for its part, used its military power to reverse Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1991 and then to invade Iraq in 2003.

If the United States and China had really put together their power over the past 20 years, would we still have a North Korean nuclear crisis? Even without using armed forces, they could have found a general resolution. But that has not been the case. We have to wonder if Washington and Beijing are treating the nuclear crisis as an excuse to seize hegemony in Northeast Asia and control of the two Koreas.

Speculation was high that the United States and China would step up their efforts to resolve the nuclear crisis after their summit in early June. But the latest developments showed that analysis to be premature. China is persuading the United States and North Korea to resume the Six-Party Talks by asking Washington to ease its preconditions for the talks. The United States has been demanding that the North respect the 2012 agreement, in which it promised to stop nuclear and missile tests, end its uranium enrichment program and allow inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Although China was adding economic pressure on Pyongyang, North Korea-China trade has increased. Washington has refused to accept China’s request for concessions by insisting that Pyongyang’s commitment [to denuclearization] is a precondition, but in fact, it does not have room to handle the thorny issue.

A former senior [ROK] official who is well-versed in ROK-U.S. relations said that among the top U.S. officials at the Secretary level or higher, no one takes the North Korean issue seriously.

The ROK has to step up its efforts to resolve this crisis. While reinforcing its military readiness against the North’s threats, it must form a creative road map to win the agreement of America, China and the North. Although opinions are split in the South on how to resolve the nuclear crisis, the public agrees that a war cannot be tolerated and that the South cannot indefinitely pay the expense of ending the nuclear program.

We must persuade the U.S. to make it clear to the North that it cannot deal directly with Washington without going through Seoul. We must also improve inter-Korean relations by assisting the North in a way that does not hurt the ROK’s pride.

Most of all, the strategy must be implemented consistently whether a conservative or a liberal administration wins power in the ROK, just as West Germany pushed forward hard-line policies and engagement policies toward East Germany for two decades.

### **Arguments against U.S. Decline Emerging**

(Hankook Ilbo, November 11, 2013, Page 31; Excerpts)

By Washington Correspondent Lee Tae-gyu

At a keynote speech during the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ (CSIS) Global Security Forum in Washington on November 5, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said that a “U.S. decline” is a false idea. “We must not fall prey to the false notion of American decline,” he said. “That is a false choice. We remain the world’s only global leader.”

We may not take Hagel’s remarks at face value since a U.S. decline is considered a fait accompli. But we may see his remarks as showing the U.S.’s determination that it will not decline in terms of military power. It is noteworthy that these remarks have come when an increasing number of people are making a case against a U.S. decline. This seems to indicate that the U.S. is restoring confidence by overcoming views of American decline, which gained ground in the early 2000s.

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When we follow the counter-arguments against the U.S. decline, we can find some holes in their seemingly reasonable logic. For example, some argue that the U.S.'s reluctance to intervene in an international issue is related to the U.S. decline. This sounds right at first, but this is closely aligned with neoconservatives' logic, which is currently on the rise in the U.S.

Neoconservatives, also called conservative hawks, ask the U.S. to intervene in global foreign policy issues, linking intervention to the U.S.'s power. On the opposite side of this argument, there is isolationism, which asks the U.S. to withdraw from the international community, as well as "diplomatic curtailment," which is an Obama-style pragmatic policy. We should note that talk of the U.S. decline is an attractive political slogan and an extension of criticism of President Obama.

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