

NHK Interview October 14, 2008

1. How do you see the new US-DPRK agreement?

Answer: The United States attempted to push for too much from North Korea. First, the Six Parties on July 12 reached a basic agreement on the outline for a verification protocol. Afterward, the USA attempted to expand the protocol to include “international standards.” This refers to the procedures used by the IAEA in their inspections. But already the Six Party Talks had limited the IAEA role to one of “consultation.” China and Russia did not support Washington’s effort. Seoul also became uncomfortable with Washington’s continuing effort to get more out of North Korea. Finally Ambassador Hill had to back down and settle for what had already been agreed in the Six Party Talks.

2. What will happen at the next Six Party Talks?

Answer: The newly reached US-DPRK agreement of early October is quite comprehensive but will not be finalized until the next Six Party Talks convene and formally adopt the protocol. Some of the key elements in the US-DPRK bilateral understanding could be rejected by North Korea at the Six Party Talks, such as including the taking of samples and applying the Verification Protocol to the uranium enrichment and proliferation activities. We might expect the discussions about the protocol to become complicated and drawn out.

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