

Korean Peninsula must be Freed from US Imperialist Politics of Domination

The Korean peninsula, once again, is witnessing heightened tensions and the situation is feared reaching the brink of war. For the last two months, the US President Donald Trump and other leaders are loudly declaring that they have bid a goodbye to the “failed approach” and the “strategic patience” observed by the previous US government towards the Korean question and they have resolved to pursue a tough line.

Where does the problem – the source of tensions - lie?

The US imperialists have their own version. They say that the leaders of North Korea are persisting in a nuclear and missile programme in violation of all directives, bans and admonitions of the International Forums and disregarding all advice and warnings from big nuclear powers such as US. North Korea’s massive weapon programme poses dangers the peace and stability in the region and the possibility of North Korea unleashing a war against South Korea and Japan is quite imminent.

The realities are otherwise. The politics of intervention and domination pursued by the US imperialists in the Korean peninsula are at the root of all trouble and tensions. In the post-Second World

War period (1950-53), the US imperialists had invaded Korea with wild ambitions to colonise the entire Korea. The Korean people in the North as well as South valiantly fought against this invasion. The Chinese volunteers too had fought shoulder to shoulder with the Korean people in support and solidarity with their cause. But the war ended with a Treaty, which temporarily divided Korea into north and south providing for a reunification of Korea later in a voluntary and peaceful manner without foreign intervention. Since then, the South Korea continued to be under the control of US. The US continues to station a 28000-strong military base in South Korea on the plea of providing protection to it. In reality, it reduced South Korea into a US satellite. The intervention of US and the presence of its armed forces in South Korea continue to be a big impediment in the relations between North and South Korean people and their attempts for unification. Not only this. The US imperialists are engaged in all sorts of conspiracies, machinations and provocative actions to widen the rift, inflame hostilities, tensions and conflicts among the people of both States in an attempt to perpetuate their own stay in South Korea and extend their control to North Korea. The US imperialists are also having a 40000- strong military base in Japan. They are pursuing a strategy of establishing their domination over the entire Asia-Pacific region and are using South Korea and Japan as a tool in their game. As the US imperialists see China as a potential foe in the region, they are militarily preparing for a bigger challenge. So the strategic aims and designs of US for domination had further aggravated the problem. Inflaming the tensions in the region had become a necessity for it. The US imperialists are using one pretext or other to dump their arms in South Korea, build sophisticated weapons systems around North Korea and militarise the entire Asia-Pacific region.

North Korea is preparing in its own way to face the challenge posed by the US and its allies. The testing of nuclear arm and missiles is only a part of it. It questions the US intervention into the affairs of Korea and the stationing of US armed forces in South Korea and Japan. It opposes the provocative military exercises of US in combination with South Korea and Japan and the military activities of US in the entire Asia-Pacific region. The US moves to install THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) in South Korea became a serious matter of concern for North Korea. This anti-ballistic missile system is most deadly as it is having a range of 200 km and capable of reaching an altitude of 150 km. It can shoot down the ballistic missiles in the terminal phase of their flight. The strategic community even in US question the efficacy of its so called left launch cyber and electronic techniques that are meant to intercept North Korea’s missiles at a take off stage. There is wide opposition in the world to the installation of this system. Moon Jae-in, the leader of South Korea’s Opposition Democratic Party has described the THAAD as an act of hubris (an arrogant pride) and opposed it. A controversy arose in South Korea on who would bear the costs of THAAD

and it subsided for the time being on the assurance from US that it will bear the costs. The Democratic Peoples' Republic of (North) Korea is very much disturbed by the move to install the THAAD and it is contemplating on the plans to make it ineffective and effectively counter it.

A dangerous cycle of moves and counter moves had set in the Korean peninsula. It has become a play with nuclear weapons- the weapons of mass destruction. While the question before the North Korea is how to defend itself from a most powerful and ferocious enemy preparing to pounce on it, the question before the US is how to contain and bend North Korean people into submission so that its wild ambitions of domination over the Asia-Pacific region can be realized easily.

As a part of their diplomatic offensive, the US Secretary of State Tillerson has warned the North Korea: "The era of strategic patience is over and while all options are on the table, President Trump is determined to work closely with Japan, with South Korea, with all our allies in the region and with China to achieve a peaceable resolution and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. "Certainly we do not want to, for things to get to military conflict. If they elevate the threat of their weapons programme to a level that we believe require action, then, that option is on the table". On April 27, 2017, the US President Donald Trump has thundered: "There is a chance that we could end up having a major, major conflict with North Korea". Tillerson urged the members of UNSC to act before North Korea does. He called on the States to sever diplomatic and financial ties with North Korea. He warned that "the threat of a nuclear attack on Soeul, or Tokyo, is real, and it is only a matter of time before North Korea develops the capacity to strike the US mainland". The US also sought to pressurize China and Russia asking them to use their influences to bring the leaders of North Korea on to a 'right track.'

But China and Russia have their own interests in the region; they have their own political assessments of the conflict. They have their own conflict with the strategic aims and designs US pursued by the US and its allies in the whole Asia – Pacific region. So, they would only be guided by them in their positions and actions.

China and Russia have told US in clear words that the military threats won't help and they are completely unacceptable to them. China has suggested, dialogue and negotiations are only way out; "first talk and action later".

In response to this, Donald Trump came out with a talk which sounded conciliatory. He said, "if it be appropriate for me to meet him (the President of North Korea, Kim Jong – ed), I would absolutely, I would be honoured to do it". But, in no time, it proved to be a false posture. The White House Spokes-man clarified that there would be no meeting until the US conditions are met. The North Korea must first "dismantle, for its own sake". It's nuclear and missile programme before any talk between the two countries can be thought of. Meanwhile, the missile defence system installed in South Korea has gone into operation. So, the source of tensions and conditions for its escalation remain unchanged.

China knows that a disarmed or weakened North Korea not only threatens the security and existence of North Korea but also brings the threat of US and its ally's right to its door steps. It will place its foes in a better position politically and militarily. China is not prepared to allow it. A negotiated settlement between North Korea and US seems to be preferable for it in the present situation as it hopes that it will not only reduce the tensions, at least for the time being, but also put a check on the US attempts to dump the weapons systems and its military activities in the Korean peninsula and Asia-Pacific region. We must closely watch the course of developments in the coming days.

The Korean people have fine traditions of fighting against imperialism and aggression. And they cannot be cowed down by the might of imperialist powers. Korean people's struggle for an end of all sorts of US interference in the affairs of Korea and withdrawal of US armed forces together with all their weapon systems including the THAAD from South Korea is fully justified and this alone will create minimum necessary conditions for the Korean people to live in peace and without tensions. The Korean must rely on their own unity and struggle in the present struggle to defend themselves and the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of their own country as well as peace that are threatened by the US imperialists and their allies. The Korean people can be assured that the support and solidarity of working class and oppressed people and peace loving forces in India and world will always be with their just struggle.
