

World Affairs:

North Korea -US Summit is Welcome - Many Pitfalls Ahead

Passing through a bumpy and uncertain road with all signs of possible collapse the US President Donald Trump and North Korea's President Kim Jong-un have finally sat in June 12, 2018 Summit and released a Joint Statement.

North Korea's state media has welcomed the outcome of the Summit as "historic." It said, Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump have decided to leave the past behind. The world would see a major change.

We know, before the Summit, Trump gave all available bad names to Kim. "Little rocket man on a suicide mission for himself and his regime"-was one among them. After the Summit, Trump praised Kim as "talented", "very smart guy", "a great negotiator" who "loves his country and people very much".

Both leaders have agreed in the Joint Statement to establish relations between the two countries; build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula; work towards complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula; recover the remains of the prisoners of War and those missing in action and follow up with the implementation of Summit's outcomes; The US President has committed to provide security guarantees to North Korea. On June 13, 2018, Trump has announced the halting of annual US-South Korea military drills. He also announced that he wants to remove the 28,500 US troops from South Korea.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said: "What is important was that the people of US, Japan and Koreans, have all been able to escape the threat of war, nuclear weapons and missiles."

The Summit as well as its outcome are welcome.

Those in the world under the influence of western media saw the Summit not as the talks between the heads of two states on an equal footing. For them, it was an exercise of a dominant power to bring a defiant and weak country back to its senses. These types of people had been showing North Korea as a monster and as a serious threat because it had built up the nuclear weapons and challenge the US. Here they close their eyes to the fact that it is the activities of intervention, threat of war and massive deployment of arms by the US in the Korean Peninsula which seriously disturbs the peace, security and stability in the region and North Korea's steps to arm itself are only small steps to defend itself.

Again, once the Summit was over, the same people began spreading stories like 'the Summit was possible because of strict economic sanctions, tough handling, threat of war by the US and North Korea's isolation in the world.' Stories of this kind, at best, may please the imperialist bosses, but will serve no other useful purpose.

North Korea, doubtlessly, is a small Country and is no match to US in terms of economic and arms strength. It knew that the problems North Korea faces are mostly a creation imperialist intervention into the affairs of Korean Peninsula. The North Korean leadership wanted the resolution of problems between North and South Korea and restoration of peace, security and stability in the entire Korean Peninsula. But, the North Korea's leadership was aware that this objective can be achieved only by ending the imperialist intervention in the affairs of Korean Peninsula. So, it adopted a two-pronged policy. One: To prepare North Korea and its people to defend themselves suitably even in the event of war that may be forced upon it by the US and other imperialist powers. The leadership of North Korea felt that the preparedness can serve as one of the best way to prevent the War. Second: It used the peace diplomacy to create conditions for dialogue. Kim Jong-un had combined these two methods to realise the objective.

US – a leading imperialist world power – is powerful enough to unleash a disastrous war any time of its choice. It used the diplomacy, threat of war and economic sanctions to realise its aim. It knows that war will not always yield the expected results. What method it must use at a particular time to bring the North Korean leadership to its knees will be decided, not by its subjective wishes, but basing on the objective assessment of its own situation as well as that of the enemy. US found North Korean leadership a hard nut to crack. The state of North Korea had compelled the US leadership to think twice about the option of war. It knew that the South Korean people were strongly opposed to war in general and war with North Korea in particular. The overflowing welcome response shown by them to North Korea's peace gesture in the context of Olympic games in South Korea has clearly demonstrated it. Russia and China had expressed their opposition to any misadventure by the US. Serious crisis rocking the US economy; no happy experiences of wars of invasion in Afghanistan, Iraq and other

place and the general anti-war atmosphere in US as well as the world had compelled the US not to step into the quagmire of another war at least now.

These objective and subjective conditions have provided the necessary background for dialogue. The North Korean leadership viewed the dialogue as need of the hour as it hoped that it may set in motion a peace process and enable it to focus on building the economy and addressing the needs of its people. The US leadership too was not for an immediate war. It chose for the present dialogue as a means to realise the same objective what it would have tried through war.

The agreements reached in the June 12 Summit are only small steps in the long journey of peace. There are problems to be dealt to translate them into practice.

- Korea was divided forcibly in 1953 by the invading imperialist powers and an armistice was imposed. Because of this, North and South Korea continue to be at war technically since then. The restoration of peace demands an immediate end of this illegal, unjust and imposed state of war. June 12 Summit seems to have not addressed this question.
- 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea for several decades reducing South Korea virtually into a colony and posing a serious threat to North Korea. The US President Trump has announced his intention to withdraw these troops. He must implement it soon.
- North Korea has agreed that complete denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula as its ultimate aim. US has promised to provide security guarantees to North Korea. These are important commitments of June 12 Summit. At the same they have also become a source of different interpretations and controversies.

The North Korea's state media has reported on June 13, 2018 that Mr Kim and Mr Trump had recognised "the principle of step-by-step, and simultaneous denuclearisation." It implies that the denuclearisation is not a one sided affair. It applies to US too. But the US and the mainstream media are presenting it as the job of North Korea alone. US has already unleashed the propaganda that the North Korea is not taking any steps towards denuclearisation.

- The question of US providing the security guarantees to North Korea carry its own problems. The US and other western powers are not trustworthy for the North Korean leadership. It fears that disarming itself depending on US may prove suicidal. What course the North Korean leadership takes to tide over this problem is a matter that can be decided by North Korea alone.
- The economic sanctions imposed by the US on North Korea are still continuing. As the US Secretary of State said, "the sanctions and the economic relief that North Korea will receive will only happen after the full denuclearisation."

While these problems are yet to be addressed, the US President Trump came with the statement on June 23th, 2018 that the actions and policies of North Korean govt. "continue to pose unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the US." So, the journey for a lasting peace, security and stability in the Korean Peninsula is long, full of pitfalls and accidents. The US imperialists will do a great harm to the peace process if they play with the peace process and treat the dialogue, agreements and their implementation as nothing but a dominant power dictating the terms and as a part of tactics to compel or manoeuvre the other side into submission. This is a period where the oppressed nations and people are rich in their experiences with imperialism and more conscious of their own interests. Coming days prove more difficult for the imperialists and their hangers on.
