

Research Report

Assembly: Junior General Assembly

Topic: The question of establishing nuclear weapons regulations in Asia

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Introduction

According to the official United Nations page, nuclear weapons are considered the most dangerous weapon humanity has ever created. **'One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects.'** Although these "deadly weapons" have been used only twice, both in Japan, there are said to be more than 14,500 of these weapons exist and a record of over 2,000 tests around the world. Although this is predicted to create much tension in the world, most of the countries have stated in treaties, acknowledging the Doctrine of M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction), that they will not resort to the first one using nuclear weapons. However, there are still some countries like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, India and so on that still holds Nuclear weapons. To make a nuclear free Asia, there were many treaties that were placed to make sure there won't be an increase in nuclear weapons being made: the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. However, analysts say that in the future asian countries will become more reliant on nuclear weapons. The increasing number of Nuclear weapons is certainly a long term problem that has to be addressed with caution.

Definition of Key Terms.

Nuclear Warhead

- A Warhead is a system that delivers nukes to its intended target. A nuke is an explosive that combines chemical explosives and nuclear fission. The following splits an atomic nuclei and uses the energy released during the process.

Doctrine

- A Belief that holds religious, political or malicious motives

M.A.D.

- Mutually Assured Destruction. This was naturally adapted during the cold war, it can be wrapped up to "We won't fire a nuke unless you do first". This was the mental phase used during the cold

war, both sides knew that both sides will not survive if there was a nuclear war so no side will risk starting one.

Disarmament

- An Act of removing, limiting and reducing weapons. The weapon refers to a country's weapon or a specific type of weapon

Nuclear-Free

- The Removal of all Nuclear weapons

ICBM (Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile)

- An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile is a remote controlled missile, primarily designed for carrying nuclear weapons, that has a minimum range of 5,500 kilometers-hence its name 'intercontinental'.

Proliferation

- A rapid increase in numbers of a specific object.

THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)

- An American Anti-Missile Defense used to shoot down short, medium, intercontinental ranged missiles during its terminal phase (re-entry or descent phase).

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- An international treaty that was signed to limit the number of nuclear weapons present and promote more peaceful ways of using nuclear technology.

GMD (Ground-Based Missile Defense)

- An American Anti-Ballistic missile system that is currently stationed in Alaska, the missile system is said to intercept incoming missiles from space, their mid course phase, before their re-entry.

Background information

After the expiration of the 1987 INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty, the US has been placing multiple missiles around the Pacific Theatre to 'intimidate' North Korea. Not only inside North Korea, but due to the tensions between the countries inside Asia (China, The Two Koreas, Japan, Pakistan and India) there has been a sense of insecurity between nations and a heavy reliance on nuclear technology has formed. It has been analyzed that China, India, and Pakistan is increasing their nuclear arsenal and conventional weapons. Both South Korea and Japan are nuclear capable states. Japan officials state that they have the resources, capital and technology to develop nuclear weapons within one year. Although South Korea is under the United State's protection, they can break their off and like Japan, develop their own nuclear arsenal anytime. Although Japan does not have the motivation to develop nuclear weapons, due to politics and Japan's national security, North Korea's frequent nuclear

tests around the Korean peninsula might make South Korea develop nuclear weapons. However, a Nuclear South Korea forming has a very low possibility as South Koreans are used to North Korean threats.

Today countries who possess nuclear weapons or nuclear capabilities have different 'nuclear doctrines': when to use and how they see nuclear weapons. For example, China says the state will never resort to be the first to fire a nuclear weapon, nor is the state willing to enter a nuclear war with any country. India sees its nuclear weapons as a credible deterrent. India's doctrine distinctly expresses that India's response to a nuclear strike from an external source would be "massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage." Experts say that India feels threatened by the continuous increase of China's nuclear arsenal and will continue on to increase their nuclear arsenal. Pakistan does not have a nuclear doctrine but it is said from experts that Pakistan tries to compensate for its weakness by increasing their nuclear arsenal and increasing their intimidation through these weapons. As it is well seen throughout the countries above, we can see the insecurity of one's country's weakness is what makes countries wanting to increase its nuclear arsenal. From these countries we can clearly see the motivations behind increasing their nuclear arsenal: The fear of being weak and the looming threat of others being powerful.

Major countries and Organizations involved.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) This group is an association of countries in the Southeast region of Asia. The countries are the following - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. They met in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore to sign the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, (presumably) Israel The countries listed are states in Asia that possess nuclear weapons. There are presumably 650 warheads present in total in the four countries - presumably because Israel claims they do not possess nuclear weapons, the number above includes the amount of warhead Israel is presumed to have.

United States of America The United States have been protecting the South Korean country from the threat of nuclear weapons of North Korea. In 2016 the United States with agreement with the now impeached South Korean President, Park Geun Hye, placed a THAAD to protect the South Koreans and intimidate the North Koreans.

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies The Center deals with regional and global security issues. The Center invites military and civilian representatives of the US and Asia-Pacific states.

Timeline of events

Date	Events
16 October, 1964	China tests their first Nuke, USA names the project as Project 596.
December, 1966	Israel 'presumably' develop their own nuclear bomb, some suspect they have gone full production mode after the '6-day war' next year.
18 May, 1974	India's first successful nuclear bomb test.
29 November, 1987	Two North Korean Agents destroy a Korean Airlines 707 plane mid-air, this makes North Korea be on USA's list of state sponsors of terrorism.
28 March, 1997	The Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) or the Bangkok Treaty signed by five South-East Asian States comes into effect.
28 May, 1998	Pakistan shows to the world that it has nuclear capabilities with its first public test.
9 October, 2006	North Korea shows its nuclear capabilities with its first Nuclear bomb test underground.
14 October, 2006	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 was unanimously passed on this day, this placed many sanctions on North Korea
7 July, 2017	The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty was passed with 34 states ratifying the treaty.
22, December 2019	Resolution 2397 was passed after the launch of a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile from North Korea, it landed inside the Japan sea and it posed all sorts of sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on exporting foods, limited oil imports and more.
26 September, 2019	Four Asian states Bangladesh, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Maldives ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in a ceremony on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Relevant UN treaties and events

1. ➤Resolution: A/C.1/74/L.47/Rev.1➤
➤Resolution: A/RES/71/258➤
2. ➤Resolution: A/C.1/74/L.47/Rev.1➤
3. ➤Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) or the Bangkok Treaty➤

Previous Attempts to solve this issue

Out of all the countries inside Asia, it seems as if North Korea or The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the biggest threat regarding Nuclear Weapons. Its past with the Soviet Union and its conflicting ideologies with its neighbor South Korea clearly makes it a threat to other neighboring countries. To prevent North Korea from posing an even bigger threat to the world, many sanctions were placed by the United Nations and individual countries regarding North Korea in order to limit its development with its nuclear arsenal and technology. These sanctions include but are not limited to: trading limitations, being on countries' terrorist country lists, and more. Although small sanctions were placed here and there, after the test launch of Hwasong-14 and Hwasong-15, an ICBM, the United Nations placed the biggest sanction on North Korea; The limitation it proposed on the North Korea state was the strictest one yet. This was not only because North Korea did not stop its Nuclear bomb tests despite warnings from the United Nation but this particular missile landed inside the Sea of Japan, too close to the Japanese mainland. This sanction placed limited North Korean crude oil and refined petroleum product imports to 500,000 barrels per year, banned the export of food, machinery and electrical equipment, it called for the repatriation of all North Korean nationals earning income abroad within 24 months. The resolution also authorized member states to seize and inspect any vessel in their territorial waters found to be illicitly providing oil or other prohibited products to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. For now the Hwasong-15 was the last ICBM test conducted by North Korea and the last few sanctions seems to have an effect on the North Korean nuclear assembly line.

There have been many different types of treaties, in place to stop the increasing number of nuclear bombs inside Asia. For example, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has brought together different nations around the world and they have agreed to limit the number of nuclear weapons inside their state. Although most countries that have enforced these nuclear ban are those who do not have nuclear capabilities, there are many countries that have sworn off nuclear power.

Possible solutions

In the case like North Korea's sanctions, it seems to have an effect on North Korea's ability to improve their nuclear arsenal. Therefore, a forcing method might be needed in order to limit the countries that have nuclear capabilities to stop improving their arsenal of nuclear weapons. Therefore, limiting a country's exports and imports might be one way to decrease the ever increasing nuclear bombs in the world. However, these restrictions have to be carefully placed as it might limit a state's development and hinder its gpa and economy. These restrictions need to be placed after warnings as placing restrictions on nuclear capable states would seem to be unfair for some states. Therefore, placing warnings before hand might be a good way to make progress into the nuclear free-future.

*Hwasong: A Korean way of saying Mars, however it is also the name of a Korean province inside South Korea.

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