

## Foreign Ministry Spokesman of DPRK Slams U.S. and Vassal Forces for Faulting Its Strategic Ballistic Missile Test-fire

Pyongyang, February 15 (KCNA)

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK gave the following answer to a question raised by KCNA Wednesday as regards the fact that the U.S. and its vassal forces faulted the DPRK's surface-to-surface medium to long-range strategic ballistic missile test-fire: The UN Security Council issued a press release under the manipulation of the U.S. on Feb. 13 in which it faulted the DPRK's test-fire as a "breach of resolution" and threatened it would take "additional crucial measures".

The recent missile test-fire conducted by the DPRK is part of normal course which it has to go through in implementing the line of simultaneous development of the two fronts, its state line.

Respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address for this year declared that the preparations for the inter-continental ballistic rocket test-fire had reached the final phase, and in the subsequent period, the DPRK officially clarified more than once that the measure for further bolstering its nuclear force can be taken any moment the Supreme Leader makes his decision.

The self-defensive measure is for firmly protecting the sovereignty of the country and the right to existence of the nation from the threat of nuclear war posed by the U.S. and its vassal forces and reliably guaranteeing the peace on the Korean peninsula and the security of the region.

No one is entitled to fault this legitimate right of a sovereign state.

The UNSC has long been disqualified to take issue with the DPRK's legitimate step for self-defence as it has gone to the extremes in its application of double-standards by which it labels the tests carried out by the DPRK for self-defence "illegal" but keeps mum about the tests conducted by the U.S. and other countries.

For UN member nations or the UN secretary general to blindly follow the UNSC resolution, failing to discern its absurd double-dealing attitude, means that they do not properly perform their duties.

There is no paragraph in the UN Charter which specifies nuclear test and missile test-fire as illegal. Therefore, the DPRK will never acknowledge the UNSC "resolution" which termed the DPRK's nuclear test and rocket test-fire "illegal", and will never do in the future, either.

We categorically reject the press release of the UNSC which took issue with the right of a sovereign state to self-defence under the high-handed pressure of the U.S. in utter disregard of the DPRK's just demand.