

**Welcoming Remarks**  
**by H.E. Ban Ki-moon**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade**  
**at Dinner in Honour of**  
**Former *Defense* Secretary William Perry**  
**and U.S. guests**

**- April 8, 2005 -**

**Dr. William Perry, Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**It is indeed a great honor for me to host this dinner tonight for Dr. Perry, close friends of Korea and notable figures from U.S. academic circles.**

**I would first like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all of you. Your visit is all the more valuable, since it provides an opportunity for us to share frank opinions on critical issues relevant to our alliance. I hope that this visit will prove an excellent chance to explore ways to contribute further to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.**

**Korea and the United States, as firm allies, have engaged in close coordination as they have worked together to cope with challenging issues in the past two years. Over the last two years, our two countries have succeeded in finding win-win solutions to crucial issues, including the relocation and reduction of the USFK, as well as the burden-sharing agreement.**

**The dispatch of Korean troops to Iraq was a demonstration of Korea's strong determination to nurture a sound alliance relationship, more solid than ever. An important task of our two countries will be to focus on ways to develop our alliance into a 'comprehensive and dynamic partnership' in the next fifty years.**

**As you are fully aware, the North Korean nuclear issue remains one of the most serious security challenges facing us. Korea and the U.S. have maintained close cooperation in efforts to resolve the issue in the Six-Party Talks framework.**

**The Korean government has redoubled its diplomatic efforts to urge North Korea to return to the dialogue table. We have also joined US efforts to ask other countries, notably China to persuade North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks.**

**We are convinced that our joint endeavors to solve this issue peacefully will bear fruit. To this end, it is essential for all the parties concerned and the international community as a whole, to support the process and suggest creative ideas. I look forward to your insights and wisdom, drawing on your extensive experience of dealing with North Korean issues.**

**Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the current Korea-Japan relationship. The Korean government has been exerting efforts for the future-oriented development of Korea-Japan ties.**

**However, the recent series of unfortunate moves provoked by Japan have presented a hugh obstacle to further progress in the friendly relations with Japan. Yesterday in Islamabad I met with the Japanese Foreign Minister to discuss the serious issues which need to be addressed and make clear our firm position.**

**In addressing the pending issues in Korea-Japan relations, the Korean government will pursue a two-track approach. We will take measures to nudge Japan to make genuine change toward a correct understanding of its past history and Korea's sovereignty over Dokdo, with universal values as a firm basis.**

**At the same time, we will continue to carry out existing forms of cooperation and exchanges for peace and prosperity in the region. In this regard, I hope that the U.S. will fully understand Korea's stance to move toward enduring peace and common prosperity in Northeast Asia.**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Let me propose a toast to the everlasting friendship between our two peoples, and to the flourishing of our strong alliance. Thank you.**

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