

North Korea: Is Desperation Setting In?

Yahoo News is carrying a Reuters story that North Korea is demanding talks with the South. (http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20110105/wl_nm/us_korea_north;_ylt=AjijjWFXjknYCRHXamISPiVvaA8F;_ylu=X3oDMTJmdGUxZG1rBGFzc2V0A25tLzIwMTEwMTA1L3VzX2tvcnVhX25vcnRoBGNwb3MDMQRwb3MDMgRzZWMDDeW5fdG9wX3N0b3J5BHNsawNub3J0aGtvcmVhd2E).

"We demand unconditional talks between responsible authorities (of the South and the North)," the North's KCNA news agency quoted a statement, which, in an unusual step, was issued collectively by the [North's government](#), the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and other organizations.

"We are prepared to meet with anyone regardless of the past if it is someone who is willing to go hand-on-hand with us to the future," it added.

It further proposed "discontinuing heaping slander and calumnies on each other and refraining from any act of provoking each other in order to create an atmosphere of improving inter-Korean ties."

While the North's statement seemed conciliatory, the United States made clear it first wanted Pyongyang to take action.

"We're open to dialogue but it's not just for North Korea to say 'OK, fine we'll come talk'," [State Department](#) spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters after the U.S. and Chinese foreign ministers met in Washington.

"There are things that North Korea has to show both South Korea and the United States that it is prepared to have a sustained and constructive dialogue," Crowley said.

Please read the entire article for more important information.

Analysis. This could be the charm part of the fight and charm methodology that North Korea uses when it wants something. If it is the charm part, they are being very charming by demanding unconditional talks.

While North Korea may be willing to meet with anyone regardless of the past, South Korea and the United States are obviously not ready to meet with the North under those circumstances. They insist that the North actually take actions. Probably won't happen.

But it is the tone of the message and the fact that it was announced by multiple agencies of the state that makes me believe that they are getting a bit desperate especially for food and fuel. It will be interesting to see if the charm offensive continues and for how long and with what words. Or, if it suddenly turns to more provocations when the North does not get the desired (by it) result. This demand will go no where.