

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2022

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan and President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

November 13, 2022

President Biden. Prime Minister Kishida, President Yoon, it's great to see you both again. And, Mr. President, I first want to express our deepest condolences to you and the people of Korea for the tragedy in Seoul 2 weeks ago. We grieve and stand with you and the many families who lost loved ones.

Japan and the Republic of Korea are both critical allies of the United States. And for years, our countries have been engaged in a trilateral cooperation out of the shared concern for the nuclear and missile threats North Korea poses to our people. And North Korea continues provocation—provocative behavior. This partnership is even more important than it's ever been.

We're also deepening our cooperation and collaboration on a range of other challenges. Today we'll discuss how we can strengthen our supply chains and economic resilience, and how we can preserve peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, and how we can expand our coordinated support for Ukraine, and how we can work toward the common goals of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

And we face real challenges, but our countries are more aligned than ever, more prepared to take on those challenges than ever. So I look forward to deepening the bonds of cooperation between our three countries and thank both of you for your friendship as well as your partnership.

And I yield the floor to Prime Minister Kishida.

Prime Minister Kishida. Again, from myself, President Yoon, I would also like to once again extend my deep condolences to the victims of the painful incident that occurred at Itaewon.

Now, North Korea's provocations—unprecedented both in their frequency and their manner—continue. And we assume that there could be more coming.

So it is extremely, truly timely that the Japan-U.S.-R.O.K. trilateral summit is being held at such a juncture. And I truly hope that our trilateral cooperation will be cemented further as we counter such challenges resolutely.

Thank you.

President Biden. Thank you. President Yoon.

President Yoon. Following our encounters in New York last September, I am delighted to meet with President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida once again.

In a tragic incident that occurred recently, the lives of two Americans and two Japanese were lost, for which I am deeply saddened and heartbroken. For the victims of the Itaewon incident, you have given us warm words of condolences. And I thank you very much.

This Korea-U.S.-Japan summit is being held again in—[inaudible]—at a very timely moment indeed. The current developments on the Korean Peninsula and in the region and beyond require the strongest level of our trilateral coordination.

Notably, North Korea, emboldened by its nuclear and missile capabilities, is attempting even more hostile and aggressive provocations. Since I took office in May, North Korea has launched some 50 missiles to date. And from the end of October to early November, its missile-firing was intensive, one of which flew over the eastern part of the Northern Limit Line and landed in our

territorial waters. First time this has ever happened since the division of the Peninsula, an extremely serious provocation indeed.

At a time when South Koreans are grieving in deep sorrow, North Korea pushed ahead with its—with such provocations, which lays bare the Kim Jong Un regime's true inclinations that completely go against humanitarianism and humanism.

In safeguarding universal values and attaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, our trilateral coordination remains a strong bulwark. Through this meeting today, I hope we will step up cooperation among our three nations.

Thank you.

President Biden. Well, the trilateral cooperation is extreme, it's extensive, and it's real. And it's not going to—it's going to be sustained.

[At this point, President Biden addressed reporters.]

And if you all can leave without hurting one another, it'd be a nice thing to see.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:37 p.m. at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel and Residence. In his remarks, President Yoon referred to Kennesaw State University junior Steven Blesi and University of Kentucky junior Anne Gieske, and Japanese citizens An Kozuchi and Mei Tomikawa, who were killed in the crowd surge incident in Seoul, South Korea, on October 31; and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un of North Korea. Prime Minister Kishida and President Yoon spoke in Japanese and Korean, respectively, and their remarks were translated by interpreters.

Categories: Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Japan, Prime Minister Kishida; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : South Korea, President Yoon.

Locations: Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Names: Kishida, Fumio; Yoon Suk Yeol.

Subjects: Cambodia, President Biden's visit; Global supply chain disruptions, efforts to address; Japan, Prime Minister; Japan, relations with South Korea; Japan, relations with U.S.; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; South Korea, crowd surge incident in Seoul; South Korea, President; South Korea, relations with Japan; South Korea, relations with U.S.; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes.

DCPD Number: DCPD202201038.