

July 10, 1979
**Statement of the Spokesperson of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs**

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Summary:

The South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces a proposal to renew dialogue and discussion between the two Koreas and the United States.

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The governments of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States jointly proposed high-level talks among South and North Korea and the United States to the North Korean side on July 1, to encourage inter-Korean talks and come up with measures to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Such a groundbreaking proposal reflects the unshakable resolve of the ROK and the United States to relieve tensions and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. Nevertheless, it is deeply regretful that the North Korean side responded negatively, through the statement delivered by the Spokesperson of the so-called Foreign Ministry, to the constructive joint ROK-U.S. proposal for holding tripartite talks.

The joint proposal of ROK and the U.S. on July 1 is still open to a positive reaction of the North Korean authorities, just as our proposal made on 19. Accordingly, we urge the North Korean authorities to discard their preoccupation with their conventional propaganda that denounces us as splittist, but directly confront the reality of the Korean Peninsula and accept this joint proposal in light of the aspiration of the entire nation for the relaxation of tension and settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula. End.