Chapter 5

North Korea’s Contradictory Foreign Policy Based on the New Strategic Line

——Risks Associated with its Domestic Affairs, Foreign Policy, and North-South Relations

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[Key Points]

➢ The Kim Jong-un regime has announced a new strategic line of parallel economic reconstruction and nuclear forces building, with the intention of completing its development of nuclear weapons, while simultaneously focusing on economic reconstruction.

➢ North Korea has made substantial changes to its strategy toward the south, adopting a “de facto two Koreas” approach through the north and south’s recognition of each other as a sovereign state.

➢ To minimize the North Korean risk and peacefully resolve the nuclear issue, those dealing with North Korea need to adopt a new approach of turning the North’s strategic line to their own advantage. It would be desirable to adopt a strategic approach that combines the top-down approach of the North-South Coordination Committee with the bottom-up approach of the Three Shifts Strategy. The Three Shifts Strategy is promoting a shift to a free market economy in the North Korean system, a shift to a pro-South Korean attitude among the North Korean people, and a shift to a pro-reform stance among the North Korean elite. The introduction of a market economic system is at the heart of the Three Shifts Strategy.
Replacement of Authorities and Tendency of the Regime’s Stability to fall in North Korea

Stability of the Regime

Period of succession