

## Refutation (Clarification) of Material Press Release

Title: - Regarding Press Release indicating South Korea is unconditionally providing food support without distribution transparency.

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Attachment File: Press Release.hwp

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Regarding Press Release indicating South Korea is unconditionally providing food support without distribution transparency.

South Korea supported North Korea with 150,000 tons of rice in 1995. Due to continued suffering of North Korean citizens from the famine since then, South Korea has continued its humanitarian efforts.

South Korea considers the fair distribution of food to needy North Korean citizens to be the most important goal.

Until now, the North and South Korean have continuously engaged in discussions to increase the transparency of food distribution.

In order to ensure the fair distribution of food, the distribution site has been inspected and documented in the North-South Food Loan Agreement. South Korea has visited the distribution site and is confirming distribution status.

South Korea has consistently stressed that the equitable distribution of food must be confirmed in order for food support to continue. North Korea has cooperated and agreed in this regard.

This year, the number of distribution sites being inspected and the number of inspections have increased in comparison to last year. As a result, there is better distribution transparency.

	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005 (expected)
Amount of Food	Rice – 300,000 T Corn – 200,000 T	Rice – 400,000 T	Rice – 400,000 T	Rice – 400,000 T	Rice – 500,000 T
Number of Confirmed Distributions	1	1	12	10	20
Location of Confirmed Distributions	Pyongyang	Nampo	Nampo, Chungjin, Heungnam, Wonsan, Haeju, Pyongyang	Gaeseong, Gosong, Chungjin, Hamheong, Hamhong, Songrim	Donghae-Ahn, Seohae-Ahn (**both are beach names which could indicate area names)

Therefore, Marcus Noland's (the International Economic Institute's Director) statement, that ("South Korea is unconditionally providing food support without distribution transparency") is untrue.

In order to provide food to assist North Korean civilians, the South Korea will continue to strengthen transparency efforts.

With respect to Director Marcus Noland's statement that "South Korea must provide food support to North Korea through the WFP," South Korea has been providing rice to North Korea directly, and in addition, South Korea has also been providing food support to North Korea by participating with the WFP since 1996 in order to solve the famine situation in North Korea. Since 2001, South Korea has provided 100,000 tons of corn to North Korea annually through the WFP.

In 2003, South Korean food contribution comprised 20% of the WFP's 512,000 tons of food; in 2004, the South Korean contribution comprised 27% of the WFP's 368,000 tons of food.

It appears that stating South Korea should provide its food support through the WFP ignores the benefits which direct support could have on progress of North-South relations, and the humanitarian efforts for North Korean civilians.

The Representative of the Unification Department