

JIAP OBSERVATION

THE NEXT STEP IN GETTING THE DEAR LEADER TO THE TABLE?

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According to press reports, Japan has succeeded in putting some pressure on Japan's Koreans who fund North Korea upward of \$2.5 billion a year. Remittances are scrutinized, Korean banks are being occupied, and the schedule of the Man Gyuong Bong 92 has been altered. This in tandem with cut backs on international aid have made the average North Korean's life more difficult. Yet one loophole still seems to exist and it is one that directly supports the DPRK's elites. This is organized crime in Japan: drugs, guns, extortion, and prostitution.

The activities of the Yakuza are no longer a social inconvenience. They are now a serious national security issue. The steady stream of drugs, weapons, and stolen goods into Japan from North Korea directly supports the DPRK's privileged administrators. These people are yet to feel the pain. Thus, it may be time for Japan's government to go a step further in pressuring Pyongyang and go after Japan's underworld. This is made all the more poignant as the connections among North Korea, the Yakuza, and Japan's right wing politicians have never been fully explored.

One dramatic move would have Chief Cabinet Secretary Fukuda or Deputy Chief Abe call in all the heads of the Yakuza gangs as well as the head of Japan's National Police Agency. Standing grimly behind the Prime Minister's representative should be the members of Japan's equivalent of the joint chiefs as well as head of JDA's intelligence organization.

The "visitors" should be told that Japan is committed to ending all North Korean security threats to Japan. Japan is therefore committed to ending all funding of North Korea and there will be an intensified effort that will include Japan's Self Defense Forces to end all criminal activities emanating from North Korea. It is Toyko's view that the monies derived from these

crimes are supporting the DPRK nuclear and weapons programs. Thus, they are quite simply a security threat to Japan.

Defending the Japanese homeland from external threats is the job of JSDF. As loyal Japanese these visitors should be told that they may want to cooperate in the defense of the homeland and that they should be more "concerned" than they are about North Korea's nuclear program and unwillingness to negotiate. It is "unfortunate" that the Dear Leader is not more compromising. There are always consequences to an unwillingness to achieve harmony. I think the visitors will get the message.

Just in case they left the meeting with some hesitancy: while this meeting takes place, Yakuza main offices should be raided and US Military police should be shutting down the bars and such around the military bases. After this selected Yakuza should be hauled in for guns and drugs and left to sit in jail for a while. If possible, Japanese soldiers should be stationed outside each Yakuza office checking who comes and goes and soldiers should participate in the raids. The MSDF not just the Coast Guard should aggressively stop and board any suspicious boat in the Sea of Japan. A week or so of this kind of scrutiny may produce results.