



## Remarks After Six-Party Informal Ministerial

### Secretary Condoleezza Rice

Shangri-la Hotel  
Singapore  
July 23, 2008

**SECRETARY RICE:** Look, it was a good meeting, no surprises. It was just an informal opportunity. I think everybody essentially confirmed the September agreement, confirmed the October 2007 agreement, confirmed that we need to move ahead rapidly to finish phase two obligations; a lot of discussion of the verification protocol and the importance of the verification protocol; a call to have better bilateral relations among the various parties.

And I thought it was – you know, the atmosphere was actually very good. The Chinese did a really excellent job of running the meeting, and I think they are very focused on moving forward. And I think they would like to have a more formal ministerial at some point, but no one – we didn't commit to a date for that, although we said we would.

**QUESTION:** Did you get a North Korean – what kind of assessment do you have of him and what he said?

**SECRETARY RICE:** It was not – nothing surprising. He talked about the importance of everybody meeting their obligations. It was a not a --

**QUESTION:** So he talked about the importance or you did?

**SECRETARY RICE:** About – of everybody meeting their obligations, but I don't want to go, you know, into detail about what everybody said, just to say there weren't any surprises. But it wasn't – you know, it wasn't a standoff with people just stating their positions. I think we had probably three or four rounds of comments. So, you know, the initial – very often, these things, the initial thing is people read a statement. But a couple of people didn't and then there were several – it was interactive. It wasn't just people making statements, which is good.

**QUESTION:** Did you get any kind of sense about what they think about the draft protocol?

**SECRETARY RICE:** No, but we --

**QUESTION:** It was just --

**SECRETARY RICE:** We didn't. You know, it's important that we get a response, that the parties, the Six Parties get a response. It was actually China, as the chair of the denuclearization working group.

**QUESTION:** Did they give any indication about when they might?

**SECRETARY RICE:** You know --

**QUESTION:** This seems to be – much like Iran, you know --

**SECRETARY RICE:** We didn't get into specific timetables, but look – the spirit was good because people believe we've made progress. But there is also a sense of urgency about moving on, and a sense that this – we can't afford to, sort of, have another hiatus of several months.

Okay?

**MR. MCCORMACK:** Okay, guys.

**QUESTION:** Oh, one more thing.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** Did you shake hands with the --

**SECRETARY RICE:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** I didn't see it.

**SECRETARY RICE:** With the North Korean --

**QUESTION:** With the North Korean, you shook hands with him? And --

**SECRETARY RICE:** Twice.

**QUESTION:** Twice?

**SECRETARY RICE:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** And secondly, did you – you said beforehand that you were going to give a firm message that they had to meet their commitments and their obligations on all aspects of the nuclear program.

**SECRETARY RICE:** I – yes, I did, but so did others.

**MR. MCCORMACK:** All right, guys.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**SECRETARY RICE:** All right.

**QUESTION:** Thank you.

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