

NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS VISIT CISTP

DECEMBER 2006

—STUDENTS HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THE DIPLOMATS—



Tarun Chaudhary, Counselor Jo, Spencer Hubbard, Dr. Endicott, Minister Kim, Kevin Davis, Adam Owens, and Justin Baskerville after the Pacific Security Issues Class

The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy (CISTP) hosted two high-ranking North Korean diplomats last December for a series of Track II, informal and unofficial, diplomatic events. The deputy ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Minister Kim Myong Gil, with the official title of Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was accompanied by Counselor Jo Kil Hong.

The night of their arrival, December 4th, Minister Kim and Counselor Jo were hosted at a dinner which included Senator Sam Nunn; Ambassador John Kelly; Dr. John Hardman, Executive Director of The Carter Center; and INTA professors John Endicott, Sy Goodman, William Long, Adam Stulberg, Fei-ling Wang, and Brian Woodall.

The following day the North Korean dignitaries attended two classes where students presented their proposals concerning the current nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula and a review and critique of US policy toward the DPRK. At Dr. Endicott's Pacific Security Issues class, the diplomats received a briefing from the North Korea Task Force consisting of graduate students Justin Baskerville, Tarun Chaudhary, Kevin Davis, Spencer Hubbard, Adam Owens, and undergraduate Swathy Prithivi.

At the second class, taught by Drs. Endicott, Goodman, and Stulberg, Sam Nunn Security Program Fellows Laura Draucker, Elizabeth Hill, Jeff King, and Michael Shannon presented a Team NSC Exercise proposal to the North Koreans. Following both classes a lively Q & A session ensued.

The dinner, briefings, and proposals helped bridge the communications gap with the DPRK government and brought hope for improved and continued diplomacy between the United States and the DPRK. Demonstrating that he is a good diplomat, Minister Kim complimented the students by saying that the detail and understanding he witnessed was possibly even better than that seen in the "Think Tanks" in the Beltway. Whether or not this was the case, he chose to engage the students in a positive way that was much appreciated by all, and provided a fascinating, never-to-be-forgotten experience for the students.

This visit from DPRK diplomats is the most recent Track II "unofficial" effort to bring about a Limited Nuclear Weapons Free Zone for Northeast Asia (LNWFZ-NEA) and a reinvigorated nuclear non-proliferation system. The LNWFZ-NEA program was founded in 1992 by Dr. John Endicott and security experts from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia, United States, and observers from Argentina, Finland, and France.