

Columbia Invitational 2012 Congressional Debate

Press Release 1

Legislators,

We have just received word that General Ri Yong Ho of North Korea is deceased. Although the details are completely uncertain, the North Korean government has framed the event as an assassination perpetrated by the South Korean military. South Korea has not issued a response as of yet, but the State Department considers the assassination unlikely considering our knowledge of the government's feelings about targeted killings in its neighboring state.

We believe that the more probable chain of events began with the sick, aging general's natural death and spiraled into a brazen accusation due to the newly appointed Kim Jong Un's fear of losing control over the military. The General was his lifeline to the military and without him, Kim Jong Un risks destabilizing the crucial relationship between the state and powerful army. The accusation is probably an attempt to rally the potentially estranged army around a traditional foe.

At this time, the threat of additional chest-thumping on the part of the young leader is high. We expect some sort of military operation on the part of North Korea within the next 72 hours, although we cannot speak to the magnitude or nature of such an event. The Secretary of Defense has advised the mobilization of American troops in South Korea and the transfer of several thousand troops to the Korean Peninsula in this dangerous hour.

Thank you,

The Liaison to the Secretary of State