

---

# A Maritime Demarcation Dispute on the Yellow Sea *Democratic People's Republic of Korea\**

---

Korean Central News Agency\*

## 1. A Decisive Step for Defense of Sovereignty

A general officer-level meeting between the Korean People's Army ("KPA") and the U.S. Forces was held in *Panmunjom* on September 1, 1999. This meeting addressed the matter of fixing the Military Demarcation Line ("MDL") on the Yellow Sea of Korea. The meeting was proposed by the Korea People's Army to finally confirm the position of U.S. Forces before adopting its decision as to the matter of fixing the Maritime Demarcation Line on the Yellow Sea.

At the meeting, Lieutenant General RI Chan-Bok as the Chief Delegate of KPA recalled, in his speech, the sincere efforts made by KPA for a solution to this matter after the June 15 incident. KPA put forward various specified proposals at the July 21, 1999 general officer-level meeting to discuss the matter. This was out of the sincere desire and peace-loving stand of KPA to prevent military conflicts on the Yellow Sea of Korea and to ease the tense situation prevalent in the Korean peninsula at the time.

However, throughout the meeting, the U.S. Forces took a rather negative position regarding the settlement of this matter. First, the U.S. Forces refused to discuss the matter itself. At the meetings, the U.S. Forces argued that the matter should be dealt with at the inter-Korean joint military committee since the North-South agreement ("Basic Agreement") includes an article related to maritime issues. If this logic put forth by the U.S. Forces is followed, it can be also interpreted that the matters related to the MDL and the demilitarized zone should be discussed at the committee since an article dealing with these issues is contained in the Basic Agreement. Such stand and attitude

\* This paper is an amended version of newspaper article originally reported by the Korean(Chosun) Central News Agency, available at <http://www.kcna.co.jp> in September 1999. The article was later listed at the United Kingdom National Academic Mailing Service, named "Korean Border 2" by Brendan Whyte available at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk>.