

Joint Press Statement of the 1st Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks

Seoul, July 31, 2000

The 1st Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks were held in Seoul from July 29 to 31, 2000.

Emphasizing the great significance of the historic summit talks between the heads of South and North Korea and the June 15 Joint Declaration, the two delegations to the Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks have agreed as follows in order to implement the Declaration faithfully:

1. The South and the North shall proceed with the South-North Ministerial Talks in accordance with the spirit of the South-North Joint Declaration.

First, the Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks shall discuss and resolve the ways to implement the Joint Declaration signed by the two leaders in such a way as to respect the agreement and pursue common interests.

Second, the Ministerial Talks shall depart from the past habits of distrust and disputes to resolve easy issues first in the spirit of mutual confidence and cooperation.

Third, the Ministerial Talks shall give importance to actions so that they can produce real outcomes before the nation, and shall aim at achieving peace and unification.

2. On the occasion of the 15th of August, 2000, the South and the North shall resume the operations of the South-North Liaison Office at Panmunjeom which have been suspended from November 1996.
3. In commemorating the 15th of August (National Liberation Day), the South and the North shall hold events in the South, the North and overseas respectively in support of the South-North Joint Declaration to drum up national determination at large to put it into practice.
4. The South and the North shall cooperate and take appropriate measures to ensure that members of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) can form tour groups to visit their hometowns.
5. The South and the North shall rehabilitate the Seoul-Shinuiju Railway and discuss the issues thereof at an early date.
6. The South and the North shall hold the 2nd Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks from August 29 to 31 in Pyongyang.

Source: *Peace and Prosperity: White Paper on Korean Unification 2005* (Ministry of Unification: Seoul, 2005)