

Clinton's North Korea Legacy

"North Korea cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear bomb."

— Bill Clinton, Nov. 7, 1993

A recent ad on the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee website opened with the words, "Security Under Bush and GOP?" It claimed "North Korea has quadrupled its nuclear arsenal," and included footage of a tank and North Korea President Kim Jong Il. The ad ended, "Feel safer? Vote for change." Democrats have been hoping we'll all completely forget history. Yes, North Korea is an incredibly dangerous nuclear member of the axis of evil, and for that we can thank Bill Clinton:

- In the spring of 1992 brutal North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung allowed International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspectors, led by none other than Hans Blix, into his country. Kim claimed they had "a tiny quantity [of plutonium] ... far from the amount you need for a weapon," reported Blix, according to *The Washington Post*. But covert tests showed that the North Koreans had actually reprocessed massive amounts of plutonium — enough for several bombs, reports Jasper Becker in the definitive *Rogue Regime* (Oxford University Press). When the IAEA asked for access to nuclear waste sites to investigate further, the North Koreans balked.
- In 1993, North Korea declared it would withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] unless certain demands were met: "U.S. diplomatic recognition, the end of economic sanctions, one million tons in grain, half a million tons of fuel oil per year ... and the delivery of two light-water reactors worth over \$4.5 billion. The Koreans were quite specific about the sort of reactors they wanted and only these would do." notes Becker. Absurd.
- By 1994, tensions between North Korea, South Korea, the IAEA, the UN, and the U.S. were mounting; actual military conflict loomed. But then, a savior appeared. Yes, the Clinton Administration sent in none other than Jimmy Carter, who Kim Il Sung once referred to as "a man of justice," to take a swing at peace — but only as a private citizen. (Clinton was worried about looking "weak" with the ex-presidential help.)
- From June 16 to 19, 1994, Carter rubbed elbows with Kim for a few days and then "dropped American demands that UN inspections resume and that North Korea surrender its spent fuel rods ... [Carter] even said that the U.S. was dropping its support for sanctions at the UN, which wasn't true," writes Stephen Hayward in *The Real Jimmy Carter* (Regnery). Without the Clinton Administration's knowledge, Carter then popped up on CNN declaring he sweet-talked Kim into going back to the negotiating table in Geneva.
- It was at the Geneva talks that the Clinton Administration bent over and grabbed the ankles, despite the death of Kim Il Sung on July 8, 1994 (at which time his wacko son Kim Jong Il inherited "supreme power"). The "Agreed Framework" was signed by the United States and North Korea on Oct. 21, 1994 in Geneva. The Framework promised, as Becker put it, "to reward Pyongyang's breaches of international nuclear safeguards by giving it more nuclear power stations." Yes, the Clinton Administration gave in to the demands of a deceiving, nefarious, nuclear-hungry, gulag-building, people-starving, Communist regime.
- Not only were the nuclear reactors pledged; Clinton also agreed to supply the North with 500,000 metric tons of fuel oil annually, as well as tons of grain — all in return for a *promise* to "freeze" all nuclear-weaponry ambitions. Clinton even provided the North Koreans, writes Becker, "with a written assurance that the United

States was not contemplating launching an attack [or] seeking the destruction of North Korea." Kim was home free.

- How could North Korea experience one of history's deadliest famines during the 90s while receiving tons of grain/aid from America? The U.S., as *Newsweek* reports, "did not know where most of the food was going after military trucks hauled it away." Turns out, most of the food went to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea [DPRK] army, and Clinton happily looked the other way, eager to shore up his reputation for "diplomacy" and "engagement" with adversaries.
- The Clinton Administration's 1995 National Intelligence Estimate flatly stated that "no country, other than the major declared nuclear powers, will develop or otherwise acquire a ballistic missile in the next 15 years that could threaten the contiguous 48 states and Canada."
- By Feb. 1997, Madeleine Albright had officially shrugged off any concerns about North Korean deception, bragging: "The Framework Agreement is one of the best things the [Clinton] Administration has done because it stopped a nuclear weapons program in North Korea."
- On Aug. 31, 1998, North Korea launched a three-stage Taepo Dong-1 rocket, with a range of 1,500-2,000 kilometers, over Japan, landing off the Alaska coast.
- During a 1999 Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing, Albright made a blink-and-you'll-miss-it admission that things weren't rosy in Agreed-Framework-land: "We are also engaged in direct talks with North Korea on ways to resolve *concerns regarding suspicious underground construction activities and long-range missile programs.*"
- In 2000, mounting evidence at the underground Kumchang-ri site forced the Clinton Administration to actually confront the possibility that their Agreed Framework was, well, a load of poppycock. They asked Kim Jong Il to allow inspections. Kim refused. So Clinton sent him 600,000 tons of grain.
- In June 2000, the Japanese and Chinese were able to confirm reports of another underground uranium processing plant in Choma, about 17 miles away from Kumchang-ri.
- The final Clintonian gesture was to send Albright herself over to Pyongyang in Oct. 2000 on a first-ever official U.S. visit (granting Kim Jong Il his long-sought-after legitimacy). Nothing was actually accomplished, but Kim and Maddy clinked wine glasses and exchanged starry eyes. As Albright told PBS's Jim Lehrer: "Basically, you know, we've had such weird stories about him, but it turns out that we had very good discussions.... And he seems pragmatic ... not hostile."
- Guess what the North Koreans admitted to in 2002? "[P]ursuing a secret nuclear weapons program using enriched uranium in violation of its 1994 pledge to freeze its nuclear program," reported *The Los Angeles Times*. "A senior official later acknowledged that the Communist nation was pursuing the nuclear weapons program 'and more.'"
- But don't expect the Clinton crowd to take responsibility for nuking up one of the world's most evil regimes. Here's a Sept. 12, 2004 exchange between Albright and Tim Russert on NBC's "Meet the Press":
Russert: But didn't North Korea develop a nuclear bomb on Bill Clinton's watch?
Albright: No, what they were doing, as it turns out, they were cheating ... The worst part that has happened under the Agreed Framework, there was [sic] these fuel rods, and the nuclear program was frozen. Those fuel rods have now been reprocessed, as far as we know, and North Korea has a [nuclear] capability."
 Cheating? The North Koreans? Who'da thunk? ■