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Mattis: North Korean Missiles Not a 'Capable Threat' Against US

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December 19, 2017

The North Korean media has called United States President Donald Trump an "old lunatic" and claimed America was "scared" by its apparent successful test-fire of its Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) last month. "Anti-DPRK hard-liners including the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations let out such nonsense as 'dangerous circumstances,' going so impudently as to urge the DPRK not to 'make a mistake,'" the statement said. In Monday's commentary, KCNA referenced warnings of the cost and devastation of a US miscalculation on North Korea by Defense Priorities foreign policy expert and former CATO Institute defense policy head Charles Peña, which appeared in The National Interest and RealClearDefense earlier this year, as well as a recent letter by dozens of retired military officials advising Trump that "military options must not be the preferred course of action", reported by The Washington Post.

The paper said: "The Trump cult's talk about "military counteraction" is just ridiculous as it is incapable of judging what the declaration means".

This statement comes in light of expert suggestions that North Korea may conduct another missile test on December 17, to mark the anniversary of former leader Kim Jong-il's death.

North Korea tested its first nuclear weapon in 2006 and has tested five more since, the most recent being a powerful hydrogen bomb explosion in September.

He warned that the current situation is "extremely dangerous". Further Mattis also stated that the launch showcased the fact that North Korea was engaged in a research and development program that could fabricate a missile proficient in attacking in every nook and corner of the world and demonstrated a persistent effort to build an ultimatum, a ballistic missile ultimatum that would imperil world peace, regional peace and certainly, the United States.

Moscow had close ties with its far eastern neighbour during the Soviet era when the countries shared Communist ideology and they still have relatively warm relations. "Our campaign of maximum pressure on the North Korean regime has resulted in the toughest ever sanctions". Ryabkov called for "openness and dialogue from both Pyongyang and Washington, mutual restraint and an aim to work out a starting point for a diplomatic step forward".