

·\$)C e011012 - Spokesman for DPRK Foreign Ministry on U.S. Professor's Visit to Nyongbyon Nuclear Facility

Pyongyang, January 10 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA Saturday as regards the DPRK visit by a professor at U.S. Stanford University and his party.

John Lewis, professor at U.S. Stanford University, Sig Hecker, former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the U.S. and their party paid a visit to the DPRK from Jan. 6 to 10 at the invitation of the DPRK.

During their stay they exchanged with officials concerned of the DPRK views on a series of issues of concern including the nuclear issue and had a chance to visit the Nyongbyon nuclear facility, in particular, with an exception.

The delegation's visit to the facility was not an inspection but a visit at the invitation of the DPRK.

The permission given by the DPRK to it to visit the facility was aimed to give Americans an opportunity to confirm the reality by themselves and ensure transparency as speculative reports and ambiguous information about the DPRK's nuclear activities are throwing hurdles in the way of settling the pending nuclear issue.

Transparency serves as a basis of realistic thinking and, at the same time, a basis for solving the issue.

We never employ a sleight of hand.

Whenever an opportunity presented itself, we opened to the public our fair and aboveboard nuclear activities as they were and informed the U.S. side of them through a diplomatic channel.

As everybody knows, the United States compelled the DPRK to build nuclear deterrent. We showed this to Lewis and his party this time.

It is our view that if the visit of Lewis and the nuclear specialist and their party helped the U.S. even a bit drop its ambiguous view on the DPRK's nuclear activities, it would serve as a substantial foundation for a peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the U.S. in the future.