



On Gravity of Military Drills by U.S. and Its Stooges

Pyongyang, March 28 (KCNA) -- The following is the full text of a commentator's article "On Gravity of Military Drills by U.S. and Its Stooges" carried in Rodong Sinmun on Tuesday:

The situation on the Korean peninsula is reaching the limit beyond the red line every moment.

The U.S. ever-escalating war hysteria and moves to stifle the DPRK in March are inching close to an intolerable grave phase.

The DPRK has already warned that the U.S. reckless military provocations and war drills against the DPRK will drive the situation on the Korean peninsula to the critical point of outbreak of a nuclear war.

However, the U.S. and the south Korean puppet traitors are becoming ever more bellicose and frantic in their attempt to invade the DPRK.

The U.S. has shown its option with more open attempt to invade the DPRK and real action, at the stern warning of the DPRK government and the just demand of the international community for the stop to the military provocations and war drills disturbing peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Early in this month the U.S. staged joint war drills in the sea and the air by dispatching nuclear submarine, Aegis destroyers, strategic bombers, air combat drones and other major strategic assets to south Korea one after another. From March 13 it together with the south Korean puppets staged a large-scale joint military exercises Freedom Shield simulating an all-out war against the DPRK, going beyond the plan for precision strike and "preemptive strike" at someone's nuclear and missile facilities.

It was brought to light that the large-scale combined exercises Freedom Shield, which was restored last year, was not "an annual one with defensive nature" repeated by the U.S. and the south Korean puppets.

The drill consists of "landing on Wonsan", "occupying Pyongyang" and "beheading operation" aimed at sudden strikes at the strategic bases of the DPRK in accordance with OPLAN 5015. It was the longest-ever exercises that continued day and night for 11 days not with the existing mode but with the stage for just "occupying and stabilizing".

During this period the U.S. conducted the highest-level military actions against the DPRK in the sky above major areas of the Korean peninsula by mobilizing all sorts of

reconnaissance assets including the plane of the U.S. Army with "air reconnaissance electronic warfare system" and RC-135V and RC-135S of the U.S. Air Force.

Before and after "Freedom Shield", the U.S. and the south Korean puppet military warmongers staged such war drills as joint river-crossing operations, joint airdrop and mobile drill, joint war materiel supply drill and joint scientific combat drill in the air, land and sea.

Meanwhile, the south Korean confrontational maniacs independently staged innumerable drills including "a drill for special inspection of decisive posture in 2023" conducted by the operation command of the puppet Air Force from March 13 to 15, crying out for the so-called "punishment".

The U.S. and the south Korean puppets are staging Ssangyong, the largest-ever joint landing drill they had stopped for five years since 2018, from March 20 before the powder smell was removed.

The U.S. mobilized in the Ssangyong joint landing drill aimed at "occupying Pyongyang" tens of warships including the U.S. Navy's amphibious assaulting ship Makin Island which is known as a light carrier with 20 F-35B stealth fighters aboard, 70-odd fighters of various kinds, 50 amphibious assaulting armored cars and 10 000-odd troops in collusion with the south Korean puppets.

The U.S. Air Force secretary and the commander of the U.S. 7th Air Force flew into the puppet area to consult a scenario for a war against the north and the commander of the U.S. Pacific Marines controlling 70 percent of the U.S. Marines came there again and guided the Ssangyong drill.

The drill includes "convoy operation" for the movement of the landing force to the safe target area, "minesweeping operation", "advance force operation" and "decisive action".

In particular, the combined and joint forces of the U.S. and the south Korean puppet army are to occupy the target area from the seas and the sky in the drill of the "decisive action" stage.

The introduction of special warfare units of its satellite countries involved in the past Korean War and the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered Nimitz strike group in the drills proves that the U.S. option for the DPRK does not confine to the military operation but is developing into the phase of actual crime.

This task force consisting of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz, the aegis destroyers Wayne E. Meyer and Decatur, etc. of the 11th Airborne Division of the U.S. Navy staged a joint naval drill in the waters off the southern part of Jeju Island on March 27, which was planned to improve the extended deterrence executive ability through the deployment of U.S. strategic assets. Then it plans another war exercise at Pusan Port on March 28.

The U.S. and the south Korean puppets are now planning to stage the largest-ever "combined and joint firepower annihilation drill" involving the joint forces of the army, navy and air force with all the latest weapons in June.

All these military exercises of the enemy for demonstration clearly show that they are military actions for a preemptive attack which can not be looked on with folded arms any longer as they are waged after making a war of aggression against the DPRK a fait accompli.

The scales and periods of these military exercises are far larger and longer than those in the past, lots of offensive weapons are being involved and such actions are being conducted nonstop day and night in every month and week.

The deployment of the most offensive military equipment and even the nuclear carrier task force amounts to an open declaration of war against the DPRK.

The reckless acts conducted by the south Korean puppets against the backdrop of the confrontation campaign of the U.S. are ridiculous.

Shortly ago, the puppet defense minister of south Korea clamored that "the north is threatening the world peace and stability transcending the Korean peninsula through various missile provocations including ICBM," and stressed the need to "further intensify the drills in such time".

And the puppet chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of south Korea, who boarded the U.S. naval carrier Nimitz on March 27, revealed his confrontation hysteria with shallow and impudent rhetoric expressions and manners of speaking and showed "bravery", while clamoring that "the south Korea-U.S. alliance would resolutely and overwhelmingly counter any provocation and aggression by the enemy and mete out a stern punishment in case of emergency".

All the facts go to clearly prove that the frantic war drills in the puppet region are not just military drills but nuclear war drills for a preemptive strike against the DPRK from A to Z in their essence, nature, scale, content and form, pursuant to the U.S. political and military option to escalate confrontation with the DPRK and finally lead to a war.

The U.S., hell-bent on dangerous saber-rattling in the puppet region, is the very one disturbing peace and stability in Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula and the arch criminal escalating tension.

The present acute situation is entirely attributable to the U.S. and its vassal forces trying to stifle the DPRK by force at any cost. To build up physical strength capable of deterring it is a matter of the DPRK's right to self-defence which no one can slander.

It is quite natural for the nuclear force of the DPRK to fulfill its important mission to cope with the grave situation in which the sovereignty and security of the state are threatened. -0-

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