

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR  
“INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DPRK’S NUCLEAR PROGRAM”  
a video interview with the Honorable Rose Gottemoeller,  
Center for International Security and Cooperation



Organizing  
Questions

- What is national security?
- What is international security?
- What is the biggest risk that threatens the security of all nations?
- What are some solutions to North Korea’s nuclear weapons problem?

Summary

In this video, the Honorable Rose Gottemoeller discusses the difference between national and international security. She takes a close look at the nuclear weapons program of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)—or North Korea—and highlights the possible danger that North Korea’s nuclear weapons could pose to the world, as well as different ways to mitigate this risk. Corie Wieland, a graduate student at Stanford, also shares a possible solution to North Korea’s nuclear weapons problem.

Objectives

During and after viewing this video, students will:

- gain a general understanding of national and international security;
- consider the dangers of nuclear weapons; and
- examine the importance and role of diplomacy, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the military in preventing nuclear threats.

Materials	<p>Handout 1, <i>Video Notes</i>, pp. 4–5, 30 copies</p> <p>Handout 2, <i>Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)</i>, p. 7, 30 copies</p> <p>Handout 3, <i>Reducing Nuclear Threats</i>, p. 8, 30 copies</p> <p>Handout 4, <i>Supplemental Readings</i>, p. 9, 30 copies (optional)</p> <p>Answer Key, <i>Video Notes</i>, p. 6</p> <p>Teacher Information, <i>Video Transcript</i>, pp. 10–15</p> <p>Video, “International Security and DPRK’s Nuclear Program,” online at <a href="https://youtu.be/IJNHx3I1MU8">https://youtu.be/IJNHx3I1MU8</a></p> <p>Note to Teachers:</p> <p>In Answer Key, <i>Video Notes</i>, the definitions of national and international security given by the Honorable Rose Gottemoeller in the video, as well as the more formal definition in the defined terms, vary slightly but are both accurate.</p>
Equipment	<p>Computer with Internet access</p> <p>Computers with Internet access (for student research on Day Two, and also on Day One if doing research in class and not as homework)</p> <p>Computer projector and screen</p> <p>Computer speakers</p>
Teacher Preparation	<p>Instructions and materials are based on a class size of 30 students. Adjust accordingly for different class sizes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Preview Video, “International Security and DPRK’s Nuclear Program.”</li><li>2. Become familiar with the content of handouts and answer key.</li><li>3. Make the appropriate number of copies for the handouts.</li><li>4. Set up and test computer, projector, speakers, and video before beginning the lesson.</li></ol>
Time	Two full class periods
Procedures Day One	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain to students that they will be viewing a short video that introduces national and international security and the threat of nuclear weapons, specifically with regard to North Korea. Explain that the official name of North Korea is the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and that these names are used interchangeably in this lesson. The Honorable Rose Gottemoeller, former Deputy Secretary General of NATO and Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, is the main speaker.</li></ol>

2. Distribute one copy of Handout 1, *Video Notes*, and Handout 2, *Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)*, to each student. Give students several minutes to read through the questions and defined terms on Handout 1 and Handout 2.
3. View the Video, “International Security and DPRK’s Nuclear Program.” If necessary, pause the video at various points to allow students to respond to the prompts on Handout 1.
4. Once the video has ended, give students several minutes to write their answers to the questions.
5. Organize students into six groups. Distribute one copy of Handout 3, *Reducing Nuclear Threats*, to each student. Assign each group one of the three countries to analyze. You may assign countries randomly or allow each group to choose its preference. Distribute the supplemental reading list to each group.
6. For homework (or in class), have students conduct their own independent group research, and let them know that they will be presenting their solutions to the class for Day Two.

## Day Two

1. Make computers available for student use and allow time for students to research and address the prompts on Handout 3 in their groups. Students may refer to all handouts, use the supplemental readings, conduct research on the Internet, and refer to points made in the video to create their presentations.
2. Have each group present their findings to the class and as a class, discuss the outcome of each group’s proposed ideas.
3. Debrief as a class using the following wrap-up discussion questions:
  - What is national security and what is international security?
  - Are you concerned about the threat of nuclear war? Why or why not?
  - Do nuclear weapons make the world more or less safe?
  - North Korea isn’t the only country with nuclear weapons. What do you think can be done to solve the world’s nuclear problem?

## VIDEO NOTES

You are about to watch a 15-minute video interview with the Honorable Rose Gottemoeller, former Deputy Secretary General of NATO and Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. In this lecture Ms. Gottemoeller will discuss the difference between national and international security and take a close look at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear program. Corie Wieland, a graduate student at Stanford University, will also share a possible solution to North Korea's nuclear weapons problem.

Use the space below to answer each question; you may want to take notes on another sheet of paper as you watch the video.

1. What is national security?
  
2. What is international security?
  
3. According to Ms. Gottemoeller, what is the biggest risk that threatens the security of all nations?
  
4. What are the two types of governments of South Korea and North Korea?
  
5. What is the relationship like between the two governments?
  
6. According to Corie Wieland, what is the root of the problem between South Korea, North Korea, and the United States? What can be done to change this?

**Reference: Defined Terms (in order of mention)**

**national security**—the security and defense of a nation state, including its citizens, economy, and institutions, which is regarded as a duty of government

**international security**—also called global security, is a term which refers to the measures taken by states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union, and others, to ensure mutual survival and safety

**hermit kingdom**—any country, organization or society which willfully walls itself off, either metaphorically or physically, from the rest of the world; North Korea is contemporarily regarded as a prime example of a hermit kingdom

**NGO**—abbreviation of non-governmental organization; organizations which are independent of government involvement and are a subgroup of organizations founded by citizens, which include clubs and associations that provide services to their members and others. NGOs are usually nonprofit organizations, and many of them are active in humanitarianism or the social sciences.

**diplomat**—a person who represents his or her country's government in a foreign country; someone whose work is diplomacy

**nuclear proliferation**—the spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations not recognized as “Nuclear Weapon States” by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT

## VIDEO NOTES

1. What is national security?
  - *anything that involves a country protecting itself and its people from external threats*
  - *the security and defense of a nation state, including its citizens, economy, and institutions, which is regarded as a duty of government*
2. What is international security?
  - *security matters that concern the entire globe; it is the absence of war and conflict between the world's nations*
  - *a term which refers to the measures taken by states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union, and others, to ensure mutual survival and safety*
3. According to Ms. Gottemoeller, what is the biggest risk that threatens the security of all nations?
  - *the existence of nuclear weapons*
4. What are the two types of governments of South Korea and North Korea?
  - *South Korea is a democracy and North Korea is a dictatorship.*
5. What is the relationship like between the two governments?
  - *North Korea and South Korea (and the United States) have been at war since 1950. The two Koreas have made very little progress toward peace since the declared ceasefire of 1953.*
6. According to Corie Wieland, what is the root of the problem between South Korea, North Korea, and the United States? What can be done to change this?
  - *There is an extreme lack of trust between nations.*
  - *Rather than restart negotiations every time they fail, find ways to focus first on building up trust between the countries involved.*
  - *One way to build trust is possible joint investment and cooperation in space to expand current space and satellite programs. South Korea could provide the satellites and North Korea could provide blockchain technology to manage the data it collects. Because blockchain is immutable both countries could verify that neither is using the satellite for a secret purpose and could hopefully build trust over time.*

## NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States (United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia). More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty's significance.

The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goals of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building measure between States parties, the Treaty establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Safeguards are used to verify compliance with the Treaty through inspections conducted by the IAEA. The Treaty promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and equal access to this technology for all States parties, while safeguards prevent the diversion of fissile material for weapons use.

The provisions of the Treaty, particularly article VIII, paragraph 3, envisage a review of the operation of the Treaty every five years, a provision which was reaffirmed by the States parties at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ended without the adoption of a consensus substantive outcome. After a successful 2010 Review Conference at which States parties agreed to a final document which included conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, including the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the 2015 outcome constitutes a setback for the strengthened review process instituted to ensure accountability with respect to activities under the three pillars of the Treaty as part of the package in support of the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995. The Review Conference that was planned for 2020 has been rescheduled to 2022 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the preparatory process for that Review Conference is currently underway.

The North Korean nuclear weapons program was in violation of the NPT and so the DPRK withdrew from the Treaty in 2003. IAEA inspections were one of the tools the international community employed to gain clarity about North Korea's nuclear program and convince the country to resume its compliance, until the DPRK ceased cooperation with the IAEA in 2009.

Sources:

United Nations (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>);

IAEA (<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/dprk/fact-sheet-on-dprk-nuclear-safeguards>)

## REDUCING NUCLEAR THREATS

While other countries have conducted nuclear testing, there are only two instances to date where nuclear weapons have been used in armed conflict. The first instance was toward the end of World War II when the United States released a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. A second nuclear bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan only three days later on August 9, 1945. Over 350,000 people lost their lives as a result of the bombs. Since then, it has been the work of many governments, NGOs, the United Nations, and students studying international security policy and diplomacy, among other related topics, to prevent future catastrophic loss of life due to nuclear conflict.

Your groups will research three different kinds of states having nuclear weapons: North Korea, a “pariah state” that withdrew from the NPT and therefore acquired its nuclear weapons illegally; Russia, a nuclear weapon state under the NPT (with that legal status); and India, a state that possesses nuclear weapons but never joined the NPT (therefore has no status under the NPT, legal or otherwise).

- 1 . North Korea
2. Russia
3. India

In your assigned groups, review the solution that Corie Wieland and her classmate came up with to mitigate the risk of nuclear conflict with North Korea. With the use of supplemental reading and your own independent research, come up with your own solution to prevent nuclear conflict with the country you are researching. Be prepared to present your proposed solution to the class. There are no right or wrong answers in this exercise.

Here are some points to include in your presentation:

1. Overview of your assigned country and its points of tension
2. The size of your assigned country’s nuclear weapons stockpile
3. Current status of nuclear talks
4. What could help mitigate the risk of nuclear conflict with your assigned country?



## SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

## Overview

- Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance:  
<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

## North Korea

- NPR news report on Trump's visit to the DMZ:  
<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/30/737365074/trump-to-meet-kim-jong-un-at-dmz>
- *Newsweek* analysis of the Singapore Summit's document compared to past agreements:  
<https://www.newsweek.com/did-trump-and-kim-make-history-how-summit-document-compares-past-agreements-971551> (this one's on the heavier side)
- *Foreign Policy* article about the challenges facing President Biden and a succinct overview of past diplomacy efforts:  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/06/28/biden-north-korea-kim-jong-un-nuclear-talks-diplomacy-fail-succeed/>
- *Billboard* article on Red Velvet meeting with Kim Jong Un:  
<https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/k-town/8280163/red-velvet-perform-north-korean-leader-kim-jong-un-pyongyang>
- *Foreign Policy* article on North Korea cyber threat:  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/15/north-korea-missiles-cyberattack-hacker-armies-crime/>
- *United Press International* article on North Korea satellites:  
[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2021/04/22/nkorea-North-Korea-Kwangmyongsong4-no-data/7071619096630/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2021/04/22/nkorea-North-Korea-Kwangmyongsong4-no-data/7071619096630/)

## Russia

- U.S.–Russian nuclear conflict:  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/15/biden-putin-nuclear-talks-494479>
- Key issues for the United States and Russia:  
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/04/08/nuclear-arms-control-in-the-2020s/>

## India

- Factsheet on India's nuclear program:  
<https://armscontrolcenter.org/indias-nuclear-capabilities/>
- Article on India's decision to stay out of the NPT:  
<https://thediplomat.com/2018/06/india-and-the-npt-after-50-years/>
- History of India's nuclear program:  
<https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/indian-nuclear-program>

## VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

**On-screen text:**

**International Security and DPRK's Nuclear Program  
a discussion with Rose Gottemoeller**

**On-screen text:**

**Rose Gottemoeller  
Payne Distinguished Lecturer, Stanford University**

**Rose Gottemoeller:** Hi everyone! My name is Rose Gottemoeller; I am the Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University and a former Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, which is our alliance with European countries to help defend ourselves against Russia and other threats, particularly terrorism. I also led the U.S. delegation in negotiating a treaty that currently limits the American and Russian nuclear weapons. That is what I want to tell you about today—nuclear weapons and the terrible danger they pose to the national security of the United States as well as to international security.

But first, let's talk briefly about the difference between national and international security. When we talk about national security, we mean that any country wants to protect itself and its people from external threats. International security, on the other hand, concerns the entire world, the entire globe—it is the absence of war and conflict between the world's nations. Now, while the terms are different, some of the risks facing any nation and the global community are the same. The biggest one that threatens the security of all nations, including superpowers like the United States, is the existence of nuclear weapons.

These weapons were born during WWII in an arms race between the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union. The United States won, and it's good we got there first, but in some ways it was a terrible victory: we acquired the doomsday weapon. At the end of WWII, and facing the terrible loss of American lives that would have come about if the U.S. invaded Japan, the U.S. President, President Truman, decided to launch two nuclear weapons against Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Two Japanese cities. The destruction was horrifying.

**On-screen Image:****Peace Memorial Park Vicinity**

*Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall Reduced to Rubble (now, A-bomb Dome) (Photo by U.S. Army, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** This is a photo of Hiroshima, but the destruction was just as bad in Nagasaki. As a Nagasaki survivor put it, "The sky was dark as pitch, covered with dense clouds of smoke; under that blackness, over the earth, hung a yellow-brown fog. Gradually, the veiled ground became visible and the view beyond rooted me to the spot with horror. All the buildings I could see were on fire... Trees on the nearby hills were smoking, as were the leaves of sweet potatoes in the fields. To say that everything burned is not enough. The sky was dark, the ground was scarlet, and in between hung clouds of yellow smoke. Three kinds of color—black, yellow, and scarlet—loomed ominously over the people, who ran about like so many ants seeking to escape... That ocean of fire, that sky of smoke! It seemed like the end of the world."

Now I am going to change gears a bit. Before we get talking about nuclear weapons some more and dive deeper into this topic by talking a little bit about the Korean peninsula.

**On-screen Video:****Red Velvet Perform**

*South Korean art troupe performs “Spring is Coming” concert In Pyongyang, North Korea. (Video by MBC, K-Pop, Youtube)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** What you just saw was a performance by a popular K-pop band called Red Velvet from South Korea. Did you notice the contrast with the solemn faces in the audience? That’s because the concert was not held in South Korea, but in Pyongyang, the capital of neighboring North Korea.

**On-screen Image:****North Korea and South Korea Political Map**

*North Korea and South Korea political map with capitals Pyongyang and Seoul. Korean peninsula, national borders, important cities, rivers and lakes. English labeling and scaling. Illustration. (Photo by Peter Hermes Furian/Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** South Korea and North Korea used to be one country on the Korean Peninsula but they split apart more than half a century ago. Since then, South Korea has become a vibrant and thriving democracy that is known across the world for its K-pop music, for its anime, for its food, for its culture. North Korea, on the other hand, is a gloomy dictatorship that tightly controls the lives of its citizens. It is otherwise known as the Hermit Kingdom and is ruled by a man named Kim Jong Un.

**On-screen Image:****Red Velvet Perform for North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un in Rare Pyongyang Concert**

*This April 1, 2018 picture released from North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on April 2, 2018 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un speaking to South Korean musicians after a rare concert by South Korean musicians at the 1,500-seat East Pyongyang Grand Theatre in Pyongyang. (Photo by KNS/AFP/Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** Here he is, talking with the Red Velvet members after their energetic performance.

**On-screen Image:****Kim Jong Un with “Disco Ball”**

*An undated picture provided by the official Korean Central News Agency in March 2016 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un talking with scientists and technicians. North Korea’s nuclear warhead was jokingly dubbed “the disco ball,” but experts say the spherical device, while likely a model, is probably based on a real nuclear weapons design. (Photo by KCNA/EPA via Corbis)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** And there he is, looking at the nuclear weapon that the North Koreans have been developing over the last few decades. This “disco ball” may look like a curiosity but like the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it can cause a massive explosion that would destroy a big city.

**On-screen Image:****Deadly Cloud**

*A mushroom cloud rising into the air after the atom bomb was dropped on Nagasaki at the end of World War II. (Photo by Keystone, MPI/Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** Another thing that the North Koreans have been developing on Kim Jong Un’s orders is a huge missile that can deliver that nuclear weapon you saw right to our backyard—the San Francisco Bay Area.

**On-screen Image:****Nuke Map**

*(Photo by Alex Wellerstein, Bay Area News Group)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** As you can see, if that ball that you saw was launched at San Francisco, the city would be leveled and the losses from the explosion and the resulting radiation would be truly devastating. As you can see from this table here, over 89,000 lives would be lost. Sadly, Kim Jong Un has been threatening to do just that for several years now. If that were to happen, it would inflict serious damage both to the United States and to international security, because nuclear weapons have not been used since they were used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the Second World War. Therefore, it's in the world's interest to ensure that North Korea does not possess nuclear weapons.

So what can we do about this threat? North Korea is a very isolated and mysterious country, and it is a challenge to understand how far they've come in their nuclear weapons development. It is even harder to engage them in a productive dialogue about those weapons. Thankfully, there are many experts in non-governmental organizations—NGOs—and in academic institutions, such as Stanford, that are tackling these problems and coming up with ways to reduce the threat of North Korea's nukes. It's my pleasure to invite my former Stanford student Corie Wieland to share some ideas on how to get the North Koreans to put down their nuclear weapons.

**On-screen Video:****Ganggangsullae Perform**

*Ganggangsullae performs at National Gugak Center at Korean Music Fest (Video by Arirang Culture, Youtube)*

**Corie Wieland:** North Korea, South Korea, and the United States have been at war since 1950. Although North and South Korea share both a physical connection, through their positions on the Korean Peninsula, and a cultural connection, through millennia of shared heritage, language, and history, the two Koreas have made very little progress toward peace since the declared ceasefire of 1953.

My name is Corie Wieland, and I am a graduate student at Stanford University. I started studying Korean history and language as an undergraduate, and my studies now focus on international security policy.

What stands out about the North Korea problem to me is the continuous cycle of failed negotiations.

Something dramatic happens; negotiations start; aid or relief is offered; but then the dramatic thing happens again; and everyone is back to square one, except for North Korea, which gets to keep its dramatic thing and is likely already working on the next one. Unfortunately, the dramatic thing now includes nuclear weapons and the possibility of a nuclear strike.

**On-screen Video:****2018 Singapore Summit**

*2018 North Korea–United States Summit in Singapore (Video by Trump White House, Youtube)*

**Corie Wieland:** When my classmate Rebecca Spencer and I looked at a possible framework for North Korean nuclear negotiations, we realized that square one, where representatives from two or three countries can sit down at a table, share demands, and make concessions toward a joint outcome, is a big ask for countries without trust, and an especially big ask for countries that have been at war with each other for over 70 years.

So the root of the North Korean problem, as we see it, and one reason that negotiations continue to fail, is the extreme lack of trust. No country would reasonably promise a concession without it, and no country would expect another country to comply without it. So rather than start at square one, we looked for ways to start at square zero and focus first on trust-building.

Despite recent history, North and South Korea do have a lot in common. Beyond the shared heritage, their regional proximity alone creates joint concerns about the environment, infrastructure, trade, and travel. One area that we thought could be hopeful for joint investment and cooperation is space.

#### **On-screen Video:**

##### **SDO Launch and Deployment**

*This animation follows the Solar Dynamics Observatory from its launch at pad 41A from Kennedy Space Center through deployment. (Animation by Walt Feimer, NASA)*

**Corie Wieland:** To date, North Korea has placed two satellites into orbit, and maintains that satellite technology is the sovereign right of any nation. South Korea is also hoping to grow its current satellite and space programs. Satellite technology can be considered dual-purpose, meaning that it can be used for military purposes, like intelligence gathering or surveillance, and civilian purposes, like predicting weather patterns or forecasting severe storms, tracking ocean pollution or helping to manage forestation levels or even endangered species migration.

We thought that if North and South Korea could share this type of civilian satellite-based information, or even cooperate on this kind of technology, it could provide a benefit to both countries and create a pattern of non-military cooperation that could hopefully build trust between the two governments. If successful, the project could continue to build trust over time.

But to make a joint-satellite project attractive to both North and South Korean leadership, we looked at ways each country could contribute to the project. For example, if the U.S. or South Korea alone provide all of the technology and infrastructure for the satellite and its maintenance, then it isn't really a "joint" effort, and it would be difficult to convince North Korea that there isn't a hidden agenda.

#### **On-screen Video:**

##### **Programming Code**

*Futuristic screen with programming code (Animation by Da-Kuk, Getty Images)*

**Corie Wieland:** We also considered that one area where North Korea repeatedly excels in is its cyber capabilities. In the West, we unfortunately read about this in terms of targeted hacking, cyber-based espionage, or massive theft of blockchain-based cryptocurrencies. While all of these efforts are illegal and causes for concern, they do demonstrate an ability by North Korean cyber specialists to master international cyber and blockchain technologies.

Therefore, we thought that one way both countries could contribute is for South Korea to provide the satellite and North Korea to provide blockchain technology that manages the data it collects. And because blockchain is immutable, meaning it can't be altered, both countries could verify that neither is using the satellite for secret purposes and it could hopefully build that trust over time.

#### **On-screen Video:**

##### **Singapore Summit—Trump-Kim Signing Ceremony**

*Singapore Summit—Trump-Kim Signing Ceremony (Animation by VOA News, Youtube)*

**Corie Wieland:** While this project would have a lot of details left to be worked out, we think that the cost of failure in nuclear negotiations is too high to not look for anything that could build good faith or trust between North Korea, South Korea, and the United States. Our hope for a project like this is that long-term trust building from non-military cooperation might be able to carry future nuclear negotiations a step further and decrease the chances of failure overall.

Working on this project allowed us to think beyond the threat of nuclear proliferation as a way to actually approach future negotiations, or as a way to get us from step zero to step one, and maybe even to successful nuclear diplomacy with North Korea.

**Rose Gottemoeller:** Wow, how interesting! Thank you so much, Corie! That was an excellent example of the creative proposals that non-governmental experts come up with to learn more about North Korea and to convince Kim Jong Un to stop developing nuclear weapons.

Of course, those ideas need to be actually put into practice, and that's where official diplomats—people like me—come in. Diplomacy between officials of different nations is an essential tool that helps us have dialogue with countries like North Korea and try to convince them to stop behaving dangerously. Most of this work happens behind the scenes, but sometimes diplomacy makes big headlines.

**On-screen Image:**

**U.S. President Donald Trump Visits South Korea**

*PANMUNJOM, SOUTH KOREA—JUNE 30 (SOUTH KOREA OUT): A handout photo provided by Dong-A Ilbo of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump attend a meeting on the south side of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the South and North Korea on June 30, 2019 in Panmunjom, South Korea. U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un briefly met at the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) on Sunday, with an intention to revitalize stalled nuclear talks and demonstrate the friendship between both countries. The encounter was the third time Trump and Kim have gotten together in person as both leaders have said they are committed to the “complete denuclearization” of the Korean peninsula. (Handout photo by Dong-A Ilbo via Getty Images/Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** You may have seen on the news a few years ago that the former president, Donald Trump, held a series of personal summits with Kim Jong Un in an attempt to persuade him to denuclearize North Korea. They even held hands. These meetings between the two leaders were a well-intentioned effort to neutralize the threat that North Korea's nuclear weapons pose to the United States and to the world. Sadly though, the summits led nowhere, and the Hermit Kingdom continued going down this very dangerous path.

**On-screen Image:**

**President Biden Celebrates Independence Day With BBQ And Fireworks**

*WASHINGTON, DC—JULY 04: U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during a Fourth of July BBQ event to celebrate Independence Day at the South Lawn of the White House July 4, 2021 in Washington, DC. President Biden and first lady Jill Biden hosted about 1,000 guests, including COVID response essential workers and military families, to celebrate the nation's 245th birthday. (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** This presents a serious challenge for the current administration under President Biden, which has to decide how to use our diplomatic resources to lower the risk of North Korean nukes. While we do not know exactly what strategy President Biden will pursue, I am optimistic that he will take a more realistic approach compared to his predecessor. After all, convincing Kim Jong Un to give up his nuclear weapons all at once is a nearly impossible task.

**On-screen Image:****Truman Carrier Strike Group Operates in North Atlantic**

*NORTH ATLANTIC—SEPTEMBER 18: In this handout provided by the U.S. Navy, an F/A-18 Super Hornet assigned to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1 launches from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) September 18, 2018 in the North Atlantic. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, demonstrating commitment to regional allies and partners, combat power, and flexibility of U.S. naval forces to operate wherever and whenever the nation requires. (Photo by Thomas Gooley/U.S. Navy via Getty Images)*

**Rose Gottemoeller:** Of course, the United States does have a third way of dealing with North Korea's nuclear threat—our own military. This is a last resort option that hopefully never, ever comes to pass, but the United States stands ready to use its forces if all other measures fail and North Korea becomes an active and immediate threat to our national security in the future.

So there you have it—the possible danger that North Korea's nuclear weapons could pose to us and to the world, as well as different ways to deal with this risk. It is a very important challenge to solve, but the good news is that you don't have to be a high-level government official to work on this problem. Corie demonstrated that this is a topic you can dive into and study even in high school, certainly in college! In fact, we seasoned diplomats welcome fresh perspectives from the new generation of young experts. I, for one, would very much welcome your help.

There are many organizations in the United States and across the world that are coming up with solutions to the problem of North Korea's nuclear weapons and other international security challenges. It is a very dynamic and important career field, and the U.S. government always needs people who are passionate and well-versed in these topics. Today, I hope I've sparked your interest in the matters of international security. And who knows? Maybe down the line you will be the one to figure out how to get Kim Jong Un to give up his "disco ball"! Thank you.