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### **North Korea and Iraq: Do we have a Double Standard?**

Recently, North Korea has declared that any intervention by the United States into their nuclear program may result in an all out nuclear war. Mr. Kim makes a very bold statement that most countries would not dare say. Whether the statements by Mr. Kim are sincere is questionable. President Bush's has responded by saying the United States has no intention of invading North Korea.

This conflict is particularly interesting, because it shows that the United States has different political policies towards different countries. In particular, the United States treats North Korea much differently from Iraq. North Korea has openly admitted the existence of its nuclear program. Furthermore, it has conceded the fact that its nuclear program is geared towards defense purposes. Iraq, on the other hand, has made no such statements. Furthermore, it has not threatened the United States with nuclear war, while North Korea has openly done so. Why, then, is the United States concentrating all of its powers on disarming Iraq, rather than dealing with the North Korean threat?

In my mind, if Saddam Hussein had made statements similar to those of Mr. Kim, the United States would not hesitate in immediately invading Iraq and disarming the current regime. The actual statements from Mr. Kim, however, have excited a mere warning from President Bush. Furthermore, President Bush has communicated his desire to solve the North Korean dispute through diplomacy, an option that he is not presenting to Iraq.

Given that the United States has a biased view against Iraq; one can begin to examine the reasons behind these biases. In my mind, there are two possible explanations for the sentiments of the United States. First, the United States maybe more interested in disarming “terrorist” countries rather than non-terrorist countries. Another possibility is that the United States has more economic incentive to secure the Middle East. In either case, I believe that the United States’ assessment of international threats is very shallow.

While the United States has been attacked by Arabic nations, it should not view these nations as the only probable threats. It should look at the reasons why these nations feel a need to terrorize. If the U.S. were to consider these issues, I believe that it would see parallels with between the frustration of the Arab nations and the frustration of North Korea. Apparently, both countries feel alienated by the United States. If we want to secure our nation and rid it of terror, we must address this alienation. It is naïve to not consider a country a threat because it has had no history of terrorizing the United States. The United States should be concerned with any nuclear capable country that has frustrations aimed in its direction. If the United States fails to do this, it may be setting itself up for more and more tragedy.