

Angela Merkel Says Germany Won't Necessarily Take U.S. Side in Potential Korea War



Berlin, August 24 (RHC)-- Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has warned the United States that Berlin would not necessarily agree with Washington in a potential war against North Korea, saying the two sides of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula had better seek a diplomatic solution and avoid direct military confrontation.

If a military conflict erupts between the United States and North Korea, Merkel said, Germany would not automatically take the side of the U.S.. Berlin and other members of the European Union are in favor of a peaceful solution, she added.

Merkel said resorting to military action to overcome the standoff between the United States and North Korea was absolutely wrong. And she urged the international community to do more to resolve the crisis.

"We should do more ... We cannot simply insist on a diplomatic solution while we sit and do nothing," she said at an event organized by the Handelsblatt business daily.

Much to the dismay of Washington and its allies in Asia, North Korea tested two intercontinental ballistic

missiles (ICBM) last month to show its military capability to target the mainland United States.

Washington responded by engineering some tough international sanctions on Pyongyang. The tit-for-tat reactions then continued earlier this month, when U.S. President Donald Trump threatened the North with "fire and fury" the world had never seen and Pyongyang said it had plans for firing four missiles, less-sophisticated than the ICBM, to waters near the U.S. Pacific island of Guam.

The United States and South Korea are now in the middle of a massive military exercise, which the North has designated as "reckless behavior," which could further complicate the situation and drive it into an "uncontrollable phase of nuclear war."

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