

**Excerpt from the Press Conference by  
Mr. Yoshito Sengoku, Chief Cabinet Secretary,  
held in the evening of Wednesday, November 24, 2010  
(Provisional Translation)**

*Opening Statement*

First, I would like to brief you (the media) on the shelling incident by the DPRK. It has been confirmed that an additional two civilians died as a result of the shelling incident. I would like to express on behalf of the Government of Japan our sincere sympathies. I extend my heartfelt condolences.

Next, I would like to brief you on today's responses by the Government. The Headquarters for Response Measures to the Shelling Incident by the DPRK, hosted by Prime Minister Kan, was convened from 11:00 this morning, and it was decided that the response measures to be taken will be information gathering, engaging in close coordination with the ROK, the United States, and other relevant countries, and undertaking all possible measures to ensure the safety and peace of mind of the Japanese people.

With regard to coordination with other countries concerned, a little after noon today, Prime Minister Kan held telephone talks with President Lee Myung-bak. I believe it was at approximately 12:08 that the call took place. Prime Minister Kan extended his condolences to the victims and stated that Japan highly commends the level-headed and resolute response by the Government of the Republic of Korea and that Japan strongly supports the position of the ROK government. President Lee Myung-bak thanked the Government of Japan for its support and for its swift and robust response and stated that this appreciation is shared by the people of the ROK. Prime Minister Kan then stated that these acts of provocation by the DPRK cannot be tolerated and that through these acts, along with its declaration of uranium enrichment activities, the DPRK is undermining the peace and stability of the entire Northeast Asia region. He furthermore stated that it is important for the international community to undertake a concerted response, including at the United Nations, and that in the future Japan will continue to engage in close coordination with both the Japan-ROK and Japan-ROK-US contexts. President Lee then indicated that immediately before the call he had held a telephone conference with President Obama and that they had at that time reaffirmed that it is essential for the ROK, Japan, and the US to work in close coordination. This is what President Lee Myung-bak stated. The two leaders agreed to advance close Japan-ROK and

Japan-US-ROK coordination and they concurred in their recognition of China playing an important role in terms of its relations with the DPRK. Prime Minister Kan stated that Japan will also actively urge [China to play such a role] regarding this matter. Next, Foreign Minister [Seiji] Maehara met with Ambassador to Japan Cheng [Yonghua] of China from 15:30, at which time they confirmed that Japan and China would respond to this matter in coordination. The Government has since the outset of this incident been engaged through diplomatic and other routes in vigorous coordination with the US and other major relevant countries regarding information gathering and forthcoming responses.

As for providing explanations of the situation domestically, from 12:30 a meeting was held between the government and the leaders of the DPJ, which was followed from 1:15 PM by a meeting of the heads of the ruling coalition parties—in other words, this was a meeting with People's New Party President [Shizuka] Kamei. At these meetings an explanation was provided of the government's response to this incident and related matters. A meeting of the heads of both the ruling and opposition parties was held from 4:00 PM, where an explanation was provided of the government's response to this incident. At this 4:00 meeting of the heads of the ruling and opposition parties, the Prime Minister first expressed his appreciation to the other party leaders for attending and then explained the series of developments taking place since yesterday, indicating that he had convened such a meeting with a view to providing information as early as possible and to hearing their views regarding this situation. He then overviewed the contents of the Japan-ROK leaders' conference—the leaders' conference via telephone—that, as I mentioned earlier, President Lee Myung-bak expressed his appreciation for Japan's swift response and stated the importance of Japan-US-ROK coordination, and that the two countries, and the international community, would urge China to restrain such acts by the DPRK. After this the Prime Minister asked each party leader to make a statement. At this time I provided a bit of supplemental explanation based on some documents, and then the heads of the opposition parties made statements one by one. Comments were given by the Liberal Democratic Party, the New Komeito, Your Party, the Japanese Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Sunrise Party of Japan President [Takeo] Hiranuma, and [New Renaissance Party] President [Yoichi] Masuzoe. As for the comments made by the various opposition parties, I believe that people from the opposition parties themselves have most likely briefed you on those, so I will refrain from introducing those at this juncture.