

Dismantling of N. Korea weapons talks

KOREA cont'd from 3

weapons program and returns to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. "As a sovereign state, it will have the right to count upon foreign aid in the development of its peaceful nuclear program," Alexeyev said.

China said last week the North should have the right to develop a peaceful nuclear power program if it rejoins the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Two days ago, North Korea said it would be "unimaginable" for it to dismantle its atomic power industry "without getting any proposal for compensating for the loss of nuclear energy."

The talks were meant to resume in Beijing last week, but North Korea postponed that due to anger over U.S.-South Korean military exercises and Washington's appointment of a special envoy on North Korea's human rights.

The talks will start on the eve of a U.N. summit to mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, with more than 170 world leaders expected. North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is not attending, but Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun

will lead the country's delegation and there will be plenty of opportunities for contact with top U.S. officials, if both sides are interested. The six-party talks are being closely watched at the United Nations, along with Iran's

"We hope there will be an agreement on North Korea's nuclear dismantling"

-Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda.

nuclear program.

The dispute broke out in 2002 after U.S. officials said the North admitted having a secret nuclear program in violation of an earlier deal to abandon its weapons ambitions.

Rodong Sinmun, the North's main newspaper, on Thursday demanded a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea "without delay."

The newspaper commentary was carried by KCNA and coincided with what North Korea called the 60th anniversary of U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea.

Korea was divided after its liberation from Japan's colonial rule at the end of World War II, with U.S. forces stationed in the South and Soviet forces in the North. About 32,500 American troops remain stationed in the South.

"If it is true that the U.S. has no intention to invade and has the stance to ensure peace on the Korean Peninsula and improve the relations with (North Korea), it should prove it in practice by making a decision for the withdrawal of its troops," the Rodong Sinmun commentary said.

It did not say if failure to do so would jeopardize the negotiations.

North Korea said a recent U.S.-South Korean military exercise proved Washington was planning an invasion. The 12-day drill that ended this month was largely a computer-simulated war game that U.S. and South Korean officials said was purely defensive.

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SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, & FELLOWSHIP

The harsh reality of heroin

By John Fox
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Heroin is a drug, which knows no prejudice. It is powerful enough to seduce members of all races, social classes, and even college students. In fact, last semester, heroin swept our local middle and high schools as students reported doing lines and shooting up in the bathrooms as well as in the classroom.

Heroin is not a drug that one can use casually. Many have tried it, and all have failed. Most begin snorting it. The occasional snorting method quickly becomes more frequent. Eventually, it becomes virtually impossible to get off from snorting heroin and in the end all succumb to the unthinkable: intravenous injection.

The high derived from shooting

up is beyond comparison. Once you have begun to shoot up, your life will rapidly deteriorate in some form or another.

The physical pain associated with heroin withdrawal is a horrific experience. Some of these symptoms include vomiting, retching 100g for hours on end, insomnia, diarrhea, flu symptoms, and a general detachment from reality.

A former heroin addict described having the sensation of hot burning coals in his chest and stomach for 3 weeks straight. This physical and mental torment can last as little as one week or even a month, depending on the length and severity of use.

Sometimes, the worst part of heroin addiction is watching a person who is close to you die from a heroin overdose. It is pretty horrific to wake up to the morning news and hear that a friend

died from shooting too much dope. When the men who she was staying with, that supplied her with the heroin, found her, they loaded her stiff dead body into a car and dumped her into the woods to decompose like a common squirrel carcass.

These stories are far more common than you may think. If you know someone struggling with heroin addiction, it is best to offer your friend or loved one help before it is too late. It may be you that prevents them from becoming another dead heroin addict.

Here are some indicators that may suggest you or a loved one may have a problem with heroin:

(1) Walking around the projects looking to score smack with \$1000 in your pocket in the middle of the night, and feeling perfectly at ease. (2) Wearing long sleeves in warm weather to hide the needle

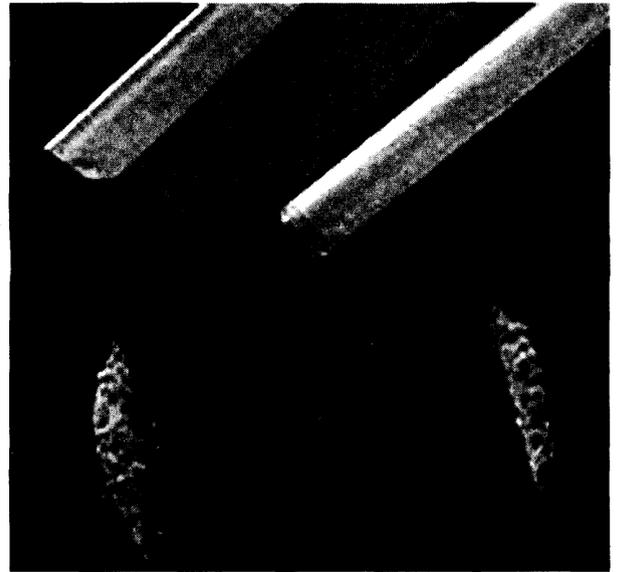
marks on arms and hands. (3) Deception and manipulation become primary means of expressing yourself. (4) Stealing money from friends and loved ones. (5) Shooting up in the bathroom before each class or during your breaks at work. (6)

Fixing your shots while driving your car, the passenger side floor littered with empty heroin packets. (7) Using muddy water from a puddle and the cotton from a used cigarette filter to fix your shot. (8) If you are completely fed up with this lifestyle and see no way out, you might commit suicide by shooting several bundles. By doing this, you will fall asleep (heroin addicts call it nodding out) and never wake up.

America is lulled away to sleep though movies, the talking heads in the media, and the plastic pursuit of the self-serving American dream, which we have collectively been redefining with each generation, one more selfishly ambitious than the last. In spite of our blissful ignorance and general disinterest in anything that does not relate to our own personal lives, the threat of heroin addiction is not imagined.

The information of its destruction is not limited to scientific journals or collegiate textbooks: HEROIN IS VERY REAL. It is in our suburbs and on our college campuses. Forget the "war on drugs." Heroin, like cocaine, was strategically placed throughout the cities of America by our own government officials to systematically eliminate the poor and working classes, especially people of color. Like the holocaust of Nazi Germany, the American government wanted to commit genocide on the poor and destitute in America's cities.

The "drug war" didn't become a national issue until white kids from the suburbs started dying. Our politicians used this as an area



Photos by John Fox

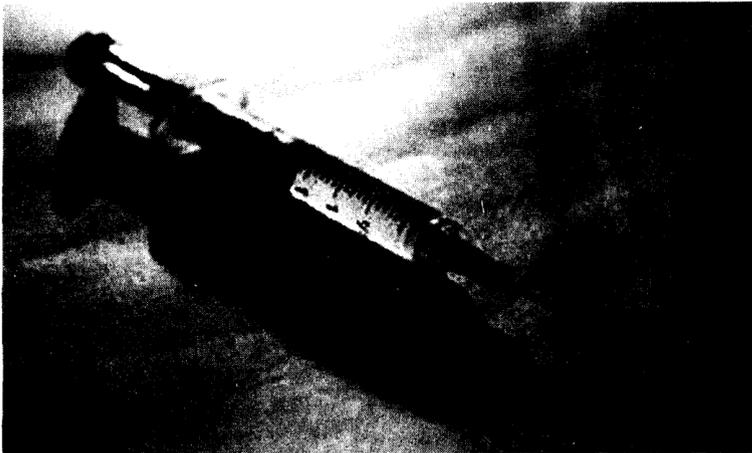
Heroin crushed and ready to be snorted.

of opportunity and created the "war on drugs" campaign, which is nothing more than lip service to appease the ignorant masses into believing that something is actually being done. The "war on drugs" is Washington's brilliant contingency plan for dealing with this very public epidemic.

Drugs are big business in America and Capitalism is God. So what becomes of the millions of martyrs who have to die for the white patriarchal fat-cats on Capital Hill? Are the millions dead simply a means to someone else's end? Do they, as martyrs for the cause of those managing our society, fall into the consequence of "the greater good" that philosophers such

as John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham spoke of?

While our affected heroin addicts line up at methadone clinics like fiendish automatons, selling their bodies for a fix, and even killing in order to maintain a steady supply of heroin, our elected officials and career politicians are sitting comfortably on their laurels smoking big fat black cigars while scheming new ways to exploit the "war on drugs" to create personal political gain and favor among the uneducated American public. After all, Hitler was heralded as Germany's savior in his early years in power. How do you think Hitler spent his time while millions of Jews were being murdered?



Heroin loaded in a needle for shooting.

