

East Asian Strategic Review 2003

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Foreword

This annual review covers trends in the security environment of East Asia over the 12-month period ending December 31, 2002. The year 2002 began amid the war against terrorism triggered by the terrorist attacks on the United States in September of the previous year. From the middle of the year, as the international community sought to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), tensions over Iraq and North Korea mounted and 2002 ended without the prospect of a solution to these issues. The situation may well have changed by the time this report appears, but we would be pleased if its publication offers some assistance in coming to terms with the question of North Korea.

In order to ensure peace and security in East Asia, one must begin with an objective understanding of the region's security environment. The researchers of this institute have analyzed the security environment of East Asia from their own perspectives, so the findings of the *East Asian Strategic Review 2003* do not necessarily represent the official views of the government of Japan or the Defense Agency.

The National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) conducts research on international security and military history, as well as carries out educational programs equivalent to those offered by defense colleges/universities in other countries. Additionally, the NIDS has been promoting, security dialogues and defense exchanges among Japan's neighbors—China, South Korea, Russia, and member countries of ASEAN—in the belief that we can promote mutual understanding and build confidence through the exchange of views and discussions of regional security from various perspectives. The NIDS has been making its research findings available to all interested parties through the *NIDS Security Reports* and its website (<http://www.nids.go.jp>), and the *East Asian Strategic Review* is published as part of its activities.

The present report consists of two parts: Part I takes up events

and topics that took place in 2002, including mid/long-term challenges considered important to view the security of East Asia; Part II deals with internal affairs, diplomacy, and the military situation of different countries and regions (the Korean Peninsula, China, Southeast Asia, and Russia), U.S. security policy toward East Asia, and the defense policy of Japan. As topics for Part I, we look at Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to North Korea, the recurrence of North Korea's nuclear development program, terrorism plaguing Southeast Asia, the situation in Central Eurasia, and strategic issues after the abrogation of the ABM Treaty. We hope that readers will find this report helpful to deepen their understanding of the security environment of East Asia, and that it will intensify debate involving issues of our common interest.

March 2003

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