**Joint Analysis reveals an incompetent North Korean**

Remains the North Koreans failed rocket and satellite launch of May 2023 revealed that the North Korea system is not yet competent to perform space surveillance or any other significant space based activities.

After the South Koreas retrieved the parts from the Yellow Sea, S. Korean and American rocket experts examined the debris and found the N. Korean systems inadequate to perform intended space based military surveillance mission.

It is rumored that the North Koreans will make another attempt soon, but unless the equipment intended for use in space based surveillance is significantly advanced, their intended military surveillance efforts will not provide the results their leaders want, or need.

Support from China would be good for the North Koreans, but there is no evidence to show that China is willing to help Kim Jung-un’s missile needs, or capable nuclear scientists.

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**SOURCE:**

**North Korea’s Failed Spy Satellite Wasn’t Ready for Military Use, Seoul Says**

**BY TIMOTHY W. MARTIN AND DASL YOON, *The Wall Street Journal* | Page A006Thursday, 6 July 2023**

**SEOUL**—North Korea’s spy satellite, which exploded mid-flight and fell into the Yellow Sea, couldn’t be used for military purposes, according to a South Korean analysis of the recovered debris.

The May 31 failed launch represented the Kim Jong Un regime’s first attempt at sending a spy satellite into space.

Such technology—one of Kim’s central weapons pursuits— would give Pyongyang surveillance capabilities it lacks now and aid the targeting of a potential nuclear strike.

To recover the satellite debris, South Korea deployed search naval vessels, deep-sea divers and aircraft. They recovered the rocket and parts of the satellite last month. South Korea and the U.S. then conducted a joint analysis.

On Wednesday, South Korea’s military said that, based on its evaluation of the wreckage, the North Korean spy satellite shouldn’t be considered military grade. Left unaddressed were questions such as whether any of the satellite’s components were sourced outside North Korea and what type of engine and fuel were used in the rocket.

The rudimentary assessment of North Korea’s satellite debris suggests the Kim regime has a long way to go to meet the global standard for military use, said Park Won-gon, a professor of North Korean studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. To meet such a threshold, North Korea would need more-advanced capabilities like being able to capture high-resolution imagery, he added.

“What I can say is that this is a North Korean version of a military satellite,” Park said.

The second stage of the North’s brand-new “Chollima-1” rocket malfunctioned, sending debris into the waters west of the Korean Peninsula.

The irregular flight path triggered emergency alerts in Japan and South Korea. Residents in Seoul received text messages recommending people prepare for a potential evacuation.

North Korea has vowed to attempt a follow-up satellite launch soon. Kim had made several inspection visits to the country’s satellite-launch facility in the buildup to the botched test.

The technology that North Korea possesses currently has resolution that is no better than what commercial satellites provide, such as for Google Earth, said Yang Uk, a military expert at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, a think tank in Seoul.