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Topic: Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanctions

‘The cumulative effects of the economic and financial sanctions might well bring the rebellion to an end within a matter of weeks rather than months.’- Harold Wilson

The idea of using sanctions to prevent armed conflict has been around since the Second World War. These sanctions provide a peaceful way to settle disputes. DPRK, however, believes that sanctions place very severe restrictions on countries, because while they may stop any major problems, these sanctions also adversely affect the lives of the citizens. For example, taking a case study of Venezuela, a country dependent mainly on food imports saw a decline in those imports by 91% by 2020, ever since the sanctions placed by the US in 2017. While these sanctions could have been effective at the time of its original placement, they are now ineffective and continue to worsen the lives of Venezuelan citizens. DPRK believes that the severity of the sanctions should be reduced and that their usage should be lessened.

These opinions arise from the fact that DPRK has also been negatively affected by sanctions. Restrictions were placed on DPRK following nuclear tests, the last of which was conducted in 2017. And while at the time, the sanctions may have seemed reasonable they still exist and ruin the lives of DPRK’s citizens to this day. According to a UNICEF report from 2018, 200,000 children already suffer from malnutrition and sanctions place around 60,000 of these children at risk of starvation, mainly due to lack of supplies because of sever restrictions. To support themselves, DPRK has been trading with China, Russia and Iran. For example, in 2015, with ZTE, a Chinese mobile company, who shipped about $15 million worth of goods to DPRK, according to Chinese customs records viewed via the global trade database company Panjiva.

To combat the problem of ineffective and severe sanctions, DPRK suggests that sanctions be one of the last resorts to disputes, besides military action. Moreover, they also support the idea of reducing the severe terms that the sanctions place on countries, causing an acute shortage of supplies, while also lowering economic development. These measures proposed by DPRK will greatly reduce the chances of rebellion, revolt or protests from or within a country and could potentially be another step to maintaining international peace and cooperation.

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