Last night the Government of North

Korea proclaimed to the world that it had

conducted a nuclear test. We’re working to

confirm North Korea’s claim. Nonetheless,

such a claim itself constitutes a threat to

international peace and security. The United

States condemns this provocative act. Once

again North Korea has defied the will of the

international community, and the international

community will respond.

This was confirmed this morning in conversations

I had with leaders of China and

South Korea, Russia, and Japan. We reaffirmed

our commitment to a nuclear-free

Korean Peninsula, and all of us agreed that

the proclaimed actions taken by North Korea

are unacceptable and deserve an immediate

response by the United Nations Security

Council.

The North Korean regime remains one of

the world’s leading proliferator of missile

technology, including transfers to Iran and

Syria. The transfer of nuclear weapons or material

by North Korea to states or non-state

entities would be considered a grave threat

to the United States, and we would hold

North Korea fully accountable of the consequences

of such action.

The United States remains committed to

diplomacy, and we will continue to protect

ourselves and our interests. I reaffirmed to

our allies in the region, including South

Korea and Japan, that the United States will

meet the full range of our deterrent and security

commitments.

Threats will not lead to a brighter future

for the North Korean people nor weaken the

resolve of the United States and our allies

to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean

Peninsula. Today’s claim by North Korea

serves only to raise tensions, while depriving

the North Korean people of the increased

prosperity and better relations with the world

offered by the implementation of the joint

statement of the six-party talks. The oppressed

and impoverished people of North

Korea deserve that brighter future.