The Missing Appendix

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WHAT TO DO?

A GLOBAL STRATEGY

The 2020 Commission Report has brought to light the failures that led to this catastrophe. Some were based off the character of people and others were systemic failures that ultimately led to tragedy. Character failure is hard to prevent in situations, however we can bring in systematic change that can help us avoid such a catastrophe ever again. There are four fixes that I will try to address in this report, they will overlap and have similar issues, but they will try to solve the problem of preventing this ever happening again. The first is diplomacy, there were many points at which we could have avoided this situation if we used the proper channels and had good communication between the US, South and North Korea. Second is communication itself, at many stages where the situation was escalating, there was no communication in the US leadership as well with South Korea. Hopefully, we can enact policies to reinforce critical information as well as get information to the right places for informed decision making. Third, is intelligence. Our last-ditch effort was based on useless intelligence and not knowing enough about North Korea. We had many analysts that could try to analyze and predict where something was going to be, however there was no concrete intelligence to pinpoint exactly where anything was. Finally, there is targeting. This will be explained later, but this would ensure tracking of all nuclear countries and aggressive anti-terrorism action.

**Diplomacy**

Of the many systematic failures in preventing the events that occurred March 2020, one of them was diplomacy. South Korea’s Prime Minister Moon did not tell us about his missile strike until he announced it in a press conference. Even then, nobody from the Trump administration bothered to contact him after the missile strike. Also, we did not use diplomacy in the first place to talk with the North Korean regime after talks fell through after the Olympic games. We resorted to intimidation tactics such as having a threatening presence and flying our bombers straight at their air space. In hindsight, we never wanted to have a nuclear war at all. We had much more to lose in a nuclear war than North Korea. That is clear now. Even though we despised the North Korean regime, we would rather leave them alone than risk being annihilated. Somehow the Trump administration did not make that clear and we never had a chance to tell the North Koreans this. As for policy, we should always have an established embassy in nuclear countries no matter how much we do not like them. Having a diplomatic mission in every nuclear power would help us to keep the peace and prevent war. Diplomacy would be the first line of defense.

**Communication**

Improving systematic communications failures is difficult, but not impossible. Since this is for the US, we will not be analyzing the communication failures in South and North Korea even though those also had an impact on events.

One communication failure was between the president and his aides. Clearly there was a disconnect between what information the president was receiving and that the aides were giving him. There were obvious character flaws and conflicts that led to the communication setup the aides had in place and that the president was learning most of his intelligence through Fox and Friends. What can we do to fix this? A tradition/policy that is recommended here would to immediately alert the president whenever there is an incident with a country that has nuclear capabilities. This should be treated as an immediate threat. Even for example we have an incident with the UK, the president should be alerted immediately. This policy would help getting the president informed. Decision making is a different story. However, this would have prevented the misinformed tweet that inspired Kim Jong Un to launch the attack. There of course was misinformation in the North Korean Regime as well, however hopefully we can be the voice of reason and act as the most informed country in such situations.

**Intelligence**

Being misinformed is one thing that led to countless deaths. Also not knowing enough. We did not know about enough about the North Korean embassy in New York. We also did not know about North Korean launch sites and North Korean culture such as where Kim Jong Un would be residing. We incorrectly targeted his father’s palace instead of looking for his current location. We deeply misread many situations because we just did not have enough intelligence.

There are two policies that could be enacted here. One would aggressively monitor embassies with nuclear power. It seems that no one noticed that the North Korean ambassador destroyed all communication equipment and took an impromptu trip with all of his staff until they defected. This intelligence would have been useful, and we could have maybe stopped them from destroying their communications equipment as well. Second would be more aggressive intelligence from satellites and operatives. In North Korea this did not seem like an option, however in hindsight it would have been way more helpful devoting resources to actually see where the missile launch trucks were on the ground and being able to follow them around. Perhaps maybe we could have sabotaged parts of their operation. Policy wise this would entail monitoring nuclear powers with covert operations whether they like it or not. The goal would be to know exactly the state of operations, where nuclear arms exactly located and monitoring this at all times. This would ensure that we could prevent tragedy happening again. Maybe we should also allow our nuclear missiles to be inspected and monitored.

**Defense**

All of the policies mentioned are for preventing nuclear war. However, that is not what failed at the end. Our defense systems that we championed and would help us from ever getting hit in a preemptive strike failed spectacularly. This was a failure of policy and engineering which would have saved cities. We know that our defense system could have been redone or fixed. These issues were prevalent before for many years and no one did anything about the defense systems. Clearly, we need to enact policy that invests into these systems. Either we can invest in it and fully test the system, or we do not invest in it at all. The president based his decision making of off this defense system which he believed was flawless and could catch any missiles. There was a lack of **communication** of the defense system being in the state it was. So in an effort to change this, we have to invest to make sure what we say it does, or do not invest and do not rely on this technology. We could have invested in civil defense systems and our infrastructure. This would be significantly cheaper than investing in costly unreliable defense systems.

**The Bottomline**

The systematic failures that led to the events in March 2020 could have been avoided. And many of the character flaws that also led to these events could have been protected through correct policy. If the US does not move towards nuclear disarmament, we would need to enact these policies and keep history from repeating itself.