

Peaceful solutions are invariably best

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The Editor, Dominion Post, Wellington

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Mike Doig (Dec 18) hopes that 'perhaps soon' North Korea will be taken over by the South and that Kim Jong Un and the leadership will be jailed. The outgoing president of South Korea, Lee Myung-bak, had the same dream but fortunately did not pull it off. An attempted takeover would have led to war, inevitably involving the Americans (because they control the South Korean military) and probably China. The first Korean War killed 4-6 million people; a second one might well produce greater carnage and global impact. The obvious failure in so many respects of Lee's Northern policy, symbolised by the North beating the South in the race to launch a satellite, has led to ALL the presidential candidates in Wednesday's South Korean election repudiating his confrontational approach and promising some sort of re-engagement. Peaceful solutions are invariably best. Peace would remove a source of friction between the US and China, and take the steam out of Japanese remilitarisation. It would bring about economic rehabilitation in the North and benign political change in both Koreas, hopefully leading ultimately to a consensual, mutually-beneficial reunification.

This letter, which was not published, was in response to the following one from Mike Doig

Facts speak for themselves

Dr Tim Beal (Letters, Dec 14) is one of a fervent little group of North Korea supporters who use the most convoluted arguments to explain the bizarre behaviour of that country's government. I admire their loyalty, if not their wisdom.

To the rest of us, the facts speak for themselves. North Korea's peasant is starving and oppressed because their country is corruptly run by the Kim family and the generals. It need not be like this. One day, perhaps soon, North Korea will join the family of nations, reunite with South Korea, and take the road to prosperity.

The capital of the new Korea will be Seoul and, if there is any justice in this world, Kim Jong Un and his criminal band will be in jail

Mike Doig, letter to the Dominion Post, Wellington, 18 December 2012, p.A10