



## North Korean Missile Launch Prompts Outcry

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### General Information

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### Description

Despite reports that the launch of a rocket appears to have fizzled into the Pacific Ocean, President Barack Obama and world leaders condemn the actions of North Korea.

### Keywords

North Korea, Missile, Rocket, Launch, Long Range, Pacific Ocean, Nuclear Warheads, UN, United Nations, Security Council, Communications Satellite, Nuclear Weapons, Japan, Kim Jong II

### Transcript

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LESTER HOLT, anchor:

Good evening. It was unarmed and fell harmlessly into the open ocean, this time. But is North Korea and its long feared hidden agenda really what many countries fear tonight? And has earned it broad condemned nation for this morning's launch of a long-range missile over the Pacific Ocean – a type of missile that the US government may eventually be topped with warheads. Tonight the impact of that launch is being felt from Europe, where President Obama quickly condemned it, to here in NY where the UN Security Council met in emergency session to coordinate a response. With the latest here's NBC Jim Miklaszewski.

JIM MIKLASZEWSKI reporting:

After two previous failures it was the first successful test shot of the long-range Type Odon 2 missile that sent shock waves around the world and drew an immediate condemnation from President Obama today in Prague.

President BARACK OBAMA: North Korea broke the rules once again by testing a rocket that could be used for long-range missiles.

MIKLASZEWSKI: The North Koreans claim the missile was fired to put a communications satellite into space, but US officials say this was actually to test a long-range ballistic missile that could ultimately hit the United States with a nuclear weapon.

Unidentified Man: It could be something to launch a kind of primitive satellite one day and could be used to carry a warhead the next. So I think they wanted to prove that I could work.

MIKLASZEWSKI: The twelve story high 3 stage missile was launched today over Japan. Dropping the first stage in the Sea of Japan as planned but the second stage separated over the Pacific. The US military tracked the launch and says the third stage carrying the satellite also plunged into the sea and never made it into orbit. Still, after today's missile shot US officials fear North Korea may now try to sell the technology to other rogue nations like Iran.

Unidentified Man: That's one of their major sources of hard currency is selling missiles.

MIKLASZEWSKI: But the more ominous long term threat; that North Korea would develop an arsenal of missiles that could eventually target the US.

Unidentified Man 2: Or more dangerous still test another nuclear weapon, so long and short we just don't know, but we have to be prepared for the worst with those guys.

MIKLASZEWSKI: In the short term, however, experts believe that North Korea will use this missiles test as a powerful bargain chip in any future arms talks with the US and at the same time to try and gain worldwide attention.

If that's indeed what the North Koreans were shooting for, today's test appears to be a resounding success. Jim Miklaszewski, NBC News, the Pentagon.