

U.S., N.Korea meet about nuclear program

by UPI

BEIJING - The six-party talks, aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program, aren't at a stalemate, the lead U.S. nuclear envoy to the negotiations said. After Christopher Hill, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, met his North Korean counterpart Kim Kye Gwan in Beijing Tuesday, Hill said Kim "wanted to make it clear that he and his government are prepared to try to make progress to get through this," The Korea Times reported. The U.S. envoy said the two discussed the difficulties of the second phase concerning declaration of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. North Korea was to receive economic aid and political concessions had it made a declaration of its program by the end of 2007. It didn't meet the deadline. Suspicions arose about a secret nuclear program. U.S. officials said Pyongyang bought equipment to use in the uranium enrichment program but North Korean officials said the country doesn't have such a program. "They (North Koreans) continue to take what they call a principled position that they have not engaged in any uranium enrichment activity, nor have they been," Hill said. Because of the uranium enrichment question, North Korea hasn't submitted a list of nuclear programs.

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