

S. Korea's Lee preps for talks with North

by UPI

SEOUL -- South Korean President Lee Myung-bak met with his security ministers Monday in advance of a security-related meeting with North Korean officials.

The talks, the first Lee will have with North Korea, are scheduled for Tuesday in the North Korea border city of Kaesong, the South Korean news agency Yonhap reported.

"The president and the ministers reviewed preparations for tomorrow's talks and discussed other security-related issues," an official said.

South Korea had been expected to announce its membership in the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative this week, but the North's proposal of the inter-Korea meeting delayed the announcement regarding the anti-proliferation program.

A South Korean official said the government may consider finding a "more appropriate time" to announce its joining of the PSI, the news agency said.

"We are working with every possibility open for discussion, but our basic principle is firm and clear," the official said.

North Korea has warned it will consider South Korea's participation in the organization a "declaration of war."

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