

Hill: No relations with nuclear N.Korea

by UPI

WASHINGTON, July 24 (UPI) -- The chief U.S. negotiator at the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program said there cannot be normalization of relations without denuclearization. Christopher Hill, who returned to Washington after talks in Beijing with his counterparts from Russia, China, Japan and the two Koreas, was asked about possibility of normalizing U.S.-North Korea relations, the Voice of America reported Tuesday. "Any effort to normalize our relationship really hits a brick wall over denuclearization. That is, we cannot, will not have a normal relationship with a nuclear North Korea. But if they fulfill their promise to give up these programs, a lot of things indeed become very possible," Hill said. Hill also said any discussion of North Korea's request for a light-water nuclear power plant must await the full implementation of the six-party accords. North Korea reportedly has asked for the plant as compensation for shutting down its Yongbyon reactor and agreeing to proceed with the next phase of its denuclearization that will include declaring all its nuclear holdings including weapons and fissile materials and permanently disabling its nuclear reactor complex.

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