

Tentative deal on energy aid to N. Korea

by UPI

PANMUNJOM, South Korea -- North Korea says it will start disabling its nuclear facilities in November in exchange for the equivalent of 950,000 tons of heavy fuel oil. The tentative pact reached Tuesday calls for South Korea and other six-party countries negotiating the agreement to provide 450,000 tons of fuel oil and the rest in money or equipment equivalent to the value of 950,000 tons of fuel oil, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. The deal, which still must be approved by top officials in South Korea, Japan, China, the United States and Russia, was reached after two days of talks in Panmunjom inside the demilitarized zone dividing the two Koreas. China already has provided 50,000 tons of heavy oil to North Korea and South Korea, the United States, China and Russia will take turns providing 50,000 tons of oil each month for the next eight months, Yonhap said. Japan has been involved in the negotiations but refuses to give any economic help to North Korea until its dispute over Japanese citizens kidnapped decades ago is resolved.

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