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SOUTH KOREA'S MISSILE GUIDELINE AND THE DIPLOMATIC RELATION WITH THE U.S.,
1958-1978

Abstract

On July 28, 2020, it is announced that South Korea and the United States agreed to a new missile guideline that allows South Korea to use solid fuels on space launch vehicles(SLVs) without restrictions, which originally agreed upon in a 1979 bilateral understanding. This paper is for understanding what U.S.' consideration of South Korea in the geopolitical reality during the sixties and seventies, and its influence on Korean rocket program was. It was the late 1960s when Park attempted to develop South Korea's own ballistic missile amid serious concern over U.S. forces' withdrawal from South Korea. Initially relying on the import of technology from foreign countries, especially the U.S., the Agency for Defense Development (ADD) successfully tested the surface-to-surface missile, "Paekkom" or White Bear, modifying the U. S. produced Nike Hercules missile in 1978. Nevertheless, the success came at the cost of tight military restrictions, because South Korea had accepted the U.S. Missile Note in 1979 to limit the missile range to 180km as a precondition of purchasing U.S. missile technology. In the 1970s, South Korea developed its own surface-to-surface guided rockets, under the vision of self-reliant national defense; however, the success came at the cost of tight military restrictions, because South Korea had accepted the U.S. demand to limit the missile range to 180km as a precondition of purchasing U.S. missile technology. Nevertheless, throughout the period South Korea created the infrastructure and human resources skilled in the ways of modern industrial production, subsequently for promoting space technology.