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Governor Bill Richardson Has Productive Talks with North Korean Diplomats

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson met today with a delegation of North Korean diplomats at the Governor’s Mansion in Santa Fe.

The delegation, representing North Korea’s Mission to the United Nations in New York, requested the meeting with Governor Richardson. Led by Minister Myong Gil Kim and Counselor Jong Ho Paek, the delegation met with Governor Richardson for three hours this morning. They will resume talks later today. The delegation will meet on Thursday with community and business leaders to discuss New Mexico renewable energy initiatives.

“We had productive talks,” Governor Richardson said. “I got a sense that temperatures have really cooled down since President Clinton’s visit.

“The delegation indicated that North Korea is ready for a new dialogue with the United States regarding the nuclear issue. The question is whether to proceed with face-to-face bilateral talks, as the North Korea prefer, or to utilize the six-party framework that the United States has advocated. The North Koreans clearly want bilateral talks and not the six-party framework.”

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