

**Reinvestigation Concerning the Abductees whose Safety Remains Unknown
(Results of Close Examination of Information and Physical Evidence
Presented by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea)**

December 24, 2004

At the third Japan-Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) working-level consultations held in Pyongyang, DPRK on November 9-14, the DPRK side provided information on the results of its reinvestigation concerning the Japanese abductees whose safety remains unknown. The DPRK side also provided evidence including relevant documents, and arranged interviews with relevant persons in charge.

The Government of Japan has earnestly carried out a close examination of the information and physical evidence and the following is a compilation of the results.

1. Background to Date and the Third Working-Level Consultations

- (1) At the Japan-DPRK summit meeting held during Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's second visit to the DPRK on May 22, 2004, Chairman Kim Jong-Il promised that the DPRK side would conduct a thorough reinvestigation from scratch in order to confirm the whereabouts of the abductees whose safety remains unknown, which was strongly requested by Prime Minister Koizumi. In this context, at the Japan-DPRK working-level consultations held in Beijing in August and September 2004, the DPRK side explained the status of the reinvestigation concerning the abductees whose safety remains unknown, but the DPRK side offered absolutely no concrete grounds, such as evidence that would support its explanation, and the results were exceedingly inadequate.
- (2) In this light, the Government of Japan decided that it was necessary to receive a direct explanation from the persons in charge of the "investigation committee" of the DPRK side and have an opportunity to ask questions and obtain answers from the "investigation committee" and other concerned parties. The Government of Japan therefore decided that the Japanese delegation would go to Pyongyang to attend the third Japan-DPRK working-level consultations.
- (3) At the third Japan-DPRK working-level consultations held on November 9-14, over 50 hours were spent in consultation with the "investigation committee" of the DPRK side, chaired by Jin Il Bo, Bureau Chief in Charge of Investigations, Ministry of People's Security, and in direct hearings with "witnesses."
- (4) The "investigation committee" of the DPRK side explained the following: (a) an "investigation committee" was established on June 3, 2004 in response to the promise that Chairman Kim Jong-Il had made at the Japan-DPRK summit meeting to conduct a reinvestigation from scratch. This "investigation committee," which was granted the necessary authority from the DPRK government, earnestly carried out an examination, including an examination of the relevant agencies such as special agencies; and (b) the examination was conducted with the intention of allowing all the survivors, if there were any, to return to Japan. In conclusion, however, the Government of Japan received the same results from the reexamination as it did two years ago, when the DPRK side notified the Japanese side that "eight persons had died and two persons were not confirmed as having entered the DPRK."
- (5) The evidence provided by the "investigation committee" of the DPRK side included (a) the "remains" allegedly belonging to Ms. Megumi Yokota, (b) the "remains" that may belong to Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, (c) a document that was supposedly Ms. Megumi Yokota's "medical record,"

- (d) a copy of the criminal case records, and (e) a copy of traffic accident records.
- (6) The Japanese side requested that it meet directly with the “witnesses” and consequently held hearings with the following 16 people.
1. Former attending physician at Pyongyang No. 49 Preventive Hospital, where Ms. Megumi Yokota was supposedly hospitalized
 2. Director of Pyongyang No. 49 Preventive Hospital, where Ms. Megumi Yokota was supposedly hospitalized
 3. Mr. Kim Chol-Jun, supposedly Ms. Megumi Yokota’s “former husband”
 4. Former dentist at Hospital No. 695, who supposedly examined Ms. Megumi Yokota and Mr. Tadaaki Hara
 5. Road administrator who maintained the road which was supposedly Ms. Yaeko Taguchi’s “accident site”
 6. Former employee at the guesthouse where Ms. Yaeko Taguchi and Mr. Tadaaki Hara supposedly lived
 7. Former physician at Hospital No. 695, who supposedly examined Mr. Tadaaki Hara
 8. Former accountant at Wonsan Beach, where Mr. Shuichi Ishikawa supposedly visited
 9. Physician who supposedly “performed an autopsy” on Mr. Shuichi Ishikawa
 10. Nurse who supposedly witnessed the “autopsy” being performed on Mr. Shuichi Ishikawa
 11. Former physician at Hospital No. 695, who supposedly “performed an autopsy” on Ms. Rumiko Masumoto
 12. Former instructor of Mr. Toru Ishioka and Ms. Keiko Arimoto
 13. Former employee at the guesthouse where Mr. Toru Ishioka and Ms. Keiko Arimoto supposedly lived
 14. Former employee at the guesthouse where the “accident” involving Mr. Toru Ishioka and Ms. Keiko Arimoto supposedly occurred
 15. Former employee at the guesthouse where Mr. Kaoru Matsuki supposedly lived
 16. Physician who was supposedly the former assistant director and a former physician at Hospital No. 695
- (7) In addition, the Japanese side visited 1) Pyongyang No. 49 Preventive Hospital (where Ms. Megumi Yokota was supposedly hospitalized) and the 2) site of the guesthouse on the outskirts of Pyongyang (the DPRK side showed this as an example of a “guesthouse,” although it is currently not in use). Particularly regarding the former, the Japanese side met with the hospital director who was supposedly Ms. Megumi Yokota’s attending physician at the time and held a detailed hearing on the situation surrounding her hospitalization. The Japanese side also directly inspected the hospital room where Ms. Megumi Yokota supposedly stayed, the pinewoods where she supposedly “died” and the location where her “remains” were supposedly buried.
- (8) The Japanese side stated that there are unnatural points concerning the explanation given by the “investigation committee” and hearings with the “witnesses.” The Japanese side raised many unanswered questions based on the information, among other things, that it had already possessed and requested the DPRK side to provide a convincing explanation. The DPRK side, however, repeatedly stated that most of the material, among other things, has been burned because a long time had passed since the abduction cases occurred, and there were limits to what the “investigation committee” could investigate since special agencies were involved in the abduction cases. The Japanese side thus did not receive a convincing explanation from the DPRK side.
- (9) During this round of working-level consultations, the Japanese side repeatedly requested that the DPRK side hand over three suspects in the abduction cases, Sin Gwang-Su, Kim Se Ho and Kimihiro Uomoto, but the DPRK side did not agree to this request.

2. Results of Close Examination

(1) Results of the close examination of physical evidence

The following are the results of the close examination of the physical evidence provided by the DPRK side at the third working-level consultations.

1. So-called “remains” of the abductees

(a) Among the “remains” that the DPRK side provided as supposedly belonging to Ms. Megumi Yokota, experts with knowledge in DNA analysis carefully selected 10 bone fragments from which DNA could be detected and police authorities entrusted the top research institutes in Japan (Teikyo University and the National Research Institute of Police Science) to conduct the DNA analysis. In so doing, the same DNA was found in four out of five bone fragments for which Teikyo University was entrusted with the analysis, but different DNA was found in the remaining fragment. In addition, Teikyo University reported that the results of the analysis showed that neither DNA matched that of Ms. Megumi Yokota. These are objective, accurate results from analysis conducted by one of the top research institutes in Japan. On December 8, the Government of Japan publicly announced the results of the analysis and immediately sent a severe protest to the DPRK side by way of the Embassy of Japan in Beijing, China. In response, the DPRK side stated that it could not accept the results of the analysis. The DPRK side requested that the Japanese side present an analysis report and expressed its wish to receive a full account. Nonetheless, given that the results of the analysis were based on completely objective scientific verification, it must be said that the claim made by the DPRK side has no rationale at all.

(b) In regard to the bone fragments that may be part of the “remains” belonging to Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, the DPRK side explained, as it handed them over, that these bone fragments had been stored in the same place as the bone fragments that had been given to the Japanese side during the Japanese delegation’s previous visit to the DPRK (late September 2003). From the beginning, the Government of Japan has thought that the possibility was slim that these “remains” belonged to Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, but it selected some of the bone fragments for analysis to be thorough. As a result, the Government of Japan received a report from Teikyo University, which the police authorities had entrusted with conducting the analysis, saying that the DNA detected in the bone fragments were different from that of Mr. Kaoru Matsuki. The report also stated that the bone fragments provided for the analysis did not match Mr. Kaoru Matsuki’s physical characteristics when analyzed from this perspective.

2. Document that was supposedly Ms. Megumi Yokota’s “medical record”

(a) The document that was supposedly Ms. Megumi Yokota’s “medical record” (the Japanese side made a copy of the original given by the DPRK side) is a huge document over 400 pages in length. Most of the document is handwritten in the Korean language, with some words in German, Russian and English, and it is clear that the handwriting belongs to more than one physician. Nonetheless, many parts are extremely difficult to read and a close examination of these parts is underway. In some places, the age of the person written on the “medical record” is clearly different from Ms. Megumi Yokota’s age at the time.

(b) This “medical record” covers the period from June 1979 to September 1993 and the DPRK side states that no medical record exists for the subsequent period up to April 1994.

3. Criminal case records

(a) Many parts of the criminal case records provided by the DPRK side (two records, the DPRK side made a copy of the photograph of the original, taken by the DPRK side) have been blacked out. Although there are some descriptions that suggest relevance to the abduction of Ms. Megumi Yokota and the abduction cases that occurred in Europe, there is

nothing in the criminal case records that states specifically how the suspects were involved in the abduction cases. It cannot be said that these criminal case records give the whole picture regarding the abduction cases. In this light, it is without a doubt impossible to recognize that these documents support the claim made by the DPRK side that the persons in charge of the abduction cases have been punished.

- (b) The DPRK side states that the two criminal case records were created in 1998 and 1999, respectively. If this is the case, then the DPRK side would at the time have already been aware of the issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals. Despite the Japanese side having repeatedly raised the abduction issue on occasions including negotiations aimed at the normalization of relations between Japan and the DPRK, the DPRK continued to fully deny the existence of the abduction issue in Japan-DPRK relations until Prime Minister Koizumi visited the DPRK in September 2002. Given this background, it must be reiterated that it is extremely problematic that the DPRK side is taking this sort of approach.

4. Traffic accident records

Some parts of the traffic accident records, which the DPRK side provided as pertaining to Ms. Yaeko Taguchi and Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, have also been blacked out (two records, both copied by the DPRK side). Because no name is given for the “deceased person” in the legible places, there is no evidence that these “deceased persons” are the same persons as the abductees. Therefore, these documents are unacceptable as proof to support the claim made by the DPRK side that Ms. Yaeko Taguchi and Mr. Kaoru Matsuki “died” in traffic accidents.

5. “Photographs” supposedly taken of Ms. Megumi Yokota

The police authorities arranged for an analysis of whether the three photographs, provided by the DPRK side as those taken of Ms. Megumi Yokota, showed any evidence of being composite images. At this point in time, there is no evidence that any of these photos are composite images. There are no discontinuous borders or traces of drawing, which occur as a result of composite imaging, and there are no inconsistencies in the directions of the shadows produced by the objects, any unnatural balances of the objects, or other traces that show evidence of the photos being composite images.

(2) Questions and issues concerning individual abduction cases

By comprehensively cross-checking the explanations provided by the DPRK side at the most recent working-level consultations, together with the subsequent questions by the Japanese side and interaction that took place, as well as the various information held by the Japanese side, the Japanese side has a considerable number of questions and issues concerning the explanations given by the DPRK on individual cases, namely:

- Ms. Megumi Yokota

- Parts of the “remains” of Ms. Megumi Yokota provided to the Japanese side by the person who is supposedly her former husband, Kim Chol-Jun, were found as a result of the analysis to contain the DNA of completely different persons. It is extremely baffling as to why the DPRK side handed over the remains of completely different persons.
- The explanation concerning the details of Kim Chol-Jun’s transfer of the “remains” was vague. In particular, the explanation that he did not give any explanation to the organization to which he belonged, but simply exhumed the remains together with three friends, transferred them and cremated them is unnatural, to say the least.
- The documents purported to be the “medical record” provided by the DPRK side contain no entries after September 24, 1993, and it has not been confirmed whether this “medical

record” is in fact that of Ms. Megumi Yokota.

- The DPRK side provided the explanation that Ms. Megumi Yokota was admitted to Pyongyang No. 49 Preventive Hospital in March 1994. The Japanese side, however, has information in its possession that indicates that instead she was admitted to Uiju No. 49 Preventive Hospital in March 1994. When this was pointed out by the Japanese side, the DPRK side responded that the original plan had been to send Ms. Megumi Yokota to Uiju Hospital, but on the day of the transfer, although she had already set off with the plan to go to Uiju, immediately before this occurred the plan was changed and she was instead transferred to Pyongyang No. 49 Preventive Hospital. The content of this information is unnatural in the extreme and contradicts the various information held by the Japanese side.
- The DPRK has provided an explanation that while walking through the grounds of the preventive hospital, the doctor assigned to Ms. Megumi Yokota looked away for a short while, during which time she hung herself from a nearby pine tree, using a rope she had made by tearing items of clothing, thus committing suicide. Given (a) the incredibly short space of time to achieve a suicide attempt during which she was not being watched, and (b) that she had prepared a rope and that this had not been discovered, this explanation is unnatural.
- With regard to the date provided by the DPRK side as the date of Ms. Megumi Yokota’s “death,” the only basis for the explanation is the vague recollections of a doctor who was assigned to her at the time, and it is not a persuasive argument. In addition, it is unnatural to say the least, that, notwithstanding the fact that during the most recent interviews the doctor who had been in charge at the time gave the reason for recalling the “date of death” as April 13 as it was just prior to the birthday commemorations of General Secretary Kim Il-Sung on April 15, the very same doctor had given Ms. Megumi Yokota’s death as being on March 13, 1993 when the Japanese delegation visited the DPRK previously (late September 2002).

Concerning the identity of Kim Chol-Jun, it was not possible to verify this by scientific methods. In addition, although a composite drawing created by the Japanese side based on interviews on the occasion of the most recent consultations with the person in question and the information on the appearance of this person that had been acquired separately by the Japanese side contained physical likenesses, they are insufficient to make a definite judgment on verifying the person’s identity.

- Ms. Yaeko Taguchi

- According to investigations by the Japanese side, Ms. Yaeko Taguchi has been judged to be the same person as Lee Un-Hae, who was responsible for teaching Japanese to Kim Hyon-Hi, the individual involved in the bombing of a Korean Airlines airplane. The DPRK side fully denies this, and in particular has stated that around the time Lee Un-Hae was living with Kim Hyon-Hi (from 1981 to 1983), Ms. Yaeko Taguchi was in actual fact living together with Ms. Megumi Yokota. This explanation contradicts the information possessed by the Japanese side.
- The DPRK side states that Ms. Yaeko Taguchi married Mr. Tadaaki Hara on October 19, 1984, but according to information possessed by the Japanese side, from the autumn of 1983 to the autumn of 1985, Ms. Yaeko Taguchi was living with Ms. Megumi Yokota, thus contradicting the explanation provided by the DPRK side.
- The DPRK side has not shown any objective information to prove that the person who “died” in an accident in Mashik Point was in fact Ms. Yaeko Taguchi.
- As for the explanation concerning the traffic accident in which Ms. Yaeko Taguchi “died,”

it was explained at the time of the previous investigations that it was the result of a “collision with a truck,” but the explanation received in the most recent consultations is contradictory, stating that the collision was with a “military gun carriage” that was traveling at the head of a military motorcade on mobile exercises.

- The DPRK side has given Ms. Yaeko Taguchi’s “death” as being on July 30, 1986, but the Japanese side has information from an eye witness who has testified that several months after this date, Ms. Yaeko Taguchi was seen in Rakwon Department Store in Pyongyang.

- Mr. Tadaaki Hara

- With regard to Sin Gwang-Su, the person responsible for perpetrating the abductions, in a court judgment in the Republic of Korea, he was recorded as having “arrived at Nampo Port in mid-June 1980” and having “handed over Japanese national Tadaaki Hara.” This court judgment is in contradiction with the DPRK’s explanation, which states that “Mr. Tadaaki Hara entered the DPRK via Haeju” and “he was not kidnapped, but agreed to come of his own volition, sharing the same interests with Sin Gwang-Su.”
- The information provided by the DPRK side that Mr. Tadaaki Hara married Ms. Yaeko Taguchi is contradictory for the same reasons as laid out above. In addition, the DPRK side has explained that Mr. Tadaaki Hara “was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver in November 1984.” It seems strange therefore that Ms. Yaeko Taguchi would marry Mr. Tadaaki Hara with serious illness on October 19 of the very same year and there is no persuasiveness to the explanation provided by the DPRK.
- There are no records of Mr. Tadaaki Hara having been admitted to hospital for medical treatment and there is no objective information to indicate that he “died of illness.”

- Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa

- The explanation provided by the DPRK side is unnatural, in that it claims Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa, who could not swim in Japan, went swimming in the sea on a number of occasions during the course of an “urgent business trip,” besides which, he chose the beginning of September to go swimming in the sea.
- The DPRK side claims that Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa married Ms. Rumiko Masumoto on July 20, 1979, but information in the possession of the Japanese side indicates that from the autumn of 1978 to the end of October 1979, Ms. Rumiko Masumoto was living together with another Japanese woman at a guesthouse and was not married, clearly contradicting the explanation provided by the DPRK side.
- The DPRK side claims that Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa, who “had heart failure” on September 4, 1979, was being held at the Gangwon-do People’s Hospital, and the doctor at the same hospital who performed resuscitation measures “testified” to “giving artificial respiration in the back seat of a car,” but there has been no persuasive explanation as to why the doctor did not perform such measures in the hospital facility.
- The doctor at Gangwon-do People’s Hospital “testified” that “The autopsy department judged the cause of death and created the report. Those records are held at the hospital.” However, despite requests from the Japanese side, the DPRK has not presented any such records and there is no way to confirm objectively the “death” of Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa.

- Ms. Rumiko Masumoto

- Regarding Ms. Rumiko Masumoto’s “marriage” to Mr. Shuichi Ichikawa, please see the points abovementioned.
- There is no objective background to Ms. Rumiko Masumoto’s “sudden death” from heart

failure. In those days, Ms. Rumiko Masumoto was young with no previous record of illness and the doctor at Hospital No. 695 himself had “testified” that during the six months prior to her “fatal” accident, “I had seen her with different hospitality workers on one or two occasions. My impression was that she was healthy.” In addition, a person at the guesthouse had “testified” that on the night prior to the day on which it is claimed she “died,” Ms. Rumiko Masumoto had eaten normally. It is unnatural that Ms. Rumiko Masumoto, with no history or indication of illness would succumb to heart failure.

- According to the doctor of Hospital No. 695 who supposedly examined Ms. Rumiko Masumoto three to four hours after her “death,” at the time of the “autopsy,” “livor mortis was evident and these looked like bruising, and the color of the skin did not return to normal when pressed,” and “I did not confirm the presence of livor mortis on the patient’s back.” However, given that in normal circumstances the livor mortis weakens in color when pressure is applied three to four hours after death and also that it would be unthinkable for the entire body not to have been examined, there are doubts as to the credibility of the information provided.

- Mr. Toru Ishioka

- Despite the results of investigations by the Japanese side that clearly indicate the involvement of the Yodo-go suspects in the abduction of Mr. Toru Ishioka, the DPRK side continues to fully deny this.
- The DPRK side has provided an explanation that Mr. Toru Ishioka, “while shopping at Pyongyang Department Store came across a Polish person by chance to whom he introduced himself and asked him to convey a letter telling that he was safe to his hometown.” However, the Japanese side has information that the Polish person in question received the letter from a North Korean intermediary, which is in contradiction of the explanation provided by the DPRK side.
- The explanation that approximately two-and-a-half months after the abovementioned letter (postmarked August 13, 1988 in Poland) was handed over, Mr. Toru Ishioka on his own volition stated that he wanted to “go somewhere quiet” with his child who was about two years old, and besides that wanted to move to a guesthouse at the incredibly inconvenient location of Hechong, which is far from Pyongyang, at the beginning of November when it was already starting to get cold, is unnatural. The DPRK side has explained that the responsible instructor was punished after the abovementioned letter was discovered, and it is baffling in the extreme that immediately after that Mr. Toru Ishioka was transferred to a guesthouse in Hechong.
- There is no objective proof as to why Mr. Toru Ishioka succumbed to “gas poisoning” in an accident.
- Despite the fact that the passport of Ms. Keiko Arimoto has been returned, it is unnatural that the DPRK insists that Mr. Toru Ishioka’s passport cannot be found.

- Ms. Keiko Arimoto

- Despite the results of investigations by the Japanese side that clearly indicate the involvement of the Yodo-go suspects in the abduction of Ms. Keiko Arimoto, the DPRK side continues to fully deny this.
- As is the case with Mr. Toru Ishioka, the explanation that Ms. Arimoto wanted to “go somewhere quiet” with her child who was about two years old, and besides that wanted to move to a guesthouse at the incredibly inconvenient location of Hechong at the beginning of November when it was already starting to get cold is unnatural.

- There is no objective proof as to why Ms. Keiko Arimoto succumbed to “gas poisoning” in an accident.

- Mr. Kaoru Matsuki

- Despite the results of investigations by the Japanese side that clearly indicate the involvement of the Yodo-go suspects in the abduction of Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, the DPRK side continues to fully deny this.
- With regard to the partial remains of a person that could possibly be the “remains” of Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, from the beginning, the Government of Japan has thought that the possibility was slim that these “remains” belonged to Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, and the results of DNA analysis have demonstrated them to be of different persons. In addition, the bone fragments provided for the analysis did not match Mr. Kaoru Matsuki’s physical characteristics when analyzed from this perspective.
- The instructor in charge of Mr. Toru Ishioka (in November 1988) has “testified” that “I have heard of the name of Mr. Kaoru Matsuki, but have never met him,” but in the letter from Poland postmarked August 13, 1988 from Mr. Toru Ishioka, it was written that, “I am living in Pyongyang with Ms. Keiko Arimoto and Mr. Kaoru Matsuki.” Given this fact, it is baffling that there has been no explanation from the DPRK side that Mr. Kaoru Matsuki was living together with Mr. Toru Ishioka and Ms. Keiko Arimoto.
- It is highly unnatural that Mr. Kaoru Matsuki headed out on a dangerous mountain road towards Hamgyong-namdo at eight in the evening, when this would mean arriving in the historic site of the revolution in the middle of the night.
- There has been no objective information provided to indicate that the person who “died” in an accident in Tojiru Point was Mr. Kaoru Matsuki.
- It is unnatural that the DPRK insists that Mr. Kaoru Matsuki’s passport cannot be found.

- Mr. Yutaka Kume

- The DPRK side denies that Mr. Yutaka Kume ever entered the DPRK, but investigations by the Japanese side have proven that Mr. Yutaka Kume was taken to the coast by a North Korean living in Japan and working as an assistant agent where Mr. Yutaka Kume was handed to a North Korean agent. In addition, the involvement of North Korean agent Kim Se Ho as the main culprit has been clarified in this incident, and therefore the explanations of the DPRK side cannot be accepted.

- Ms. Miyoshi Soga

- The DPRK side denies that Ms. Miyoshi Soga ever entered the DPRK, “as a result of examining the records of special agencies and conducting hearings with personnel from those agencies.” However, it is clear from the circumstances at the time of the abduction that Ms. Miyoshi Soga was abducted together with Ms. Hitomi Soga and taken to the DPRK.
- At the time of the previous investigations, the DPRK side claimed that with regard to the abduction of Ms. Hitomi Soga there was a “local contractor” and on the occasion of the recent consultations, the DPRK side provided the explanation that the criminals of abduction “only exchange money with the local contractor and do not know the details of the contractor.” This explanation is lacking in all persuasiveness when one considers the close cooperation between these two parties in carrying out the abduction.
- According to information in the possession of the Japanese side, from the time when Ms. Hitomi Soga was initially abducted from Japan, she was accompanied by a female

instructor and it has become clear that this instructor has spoken also of Ms. Miyoshi Soga. The DPRK side denies that there is such a female instructor.

3. Conclusion

In light of the above, the following is a conclusion of this close examination.

- (1) Among the information and evidence obtained from the DPRK side during the third Japan-DPRK working-level consultations, there is no evidence that supports the explanation given by the DPRK side that “eight persons had died and two persons were not confirmed as having entered the DPRK.” The “conclusion” reached by the DPRK side is not objectively verified and the Government of Japan cannot, by any means, accept this.
- (2) In particular, it is a grave situation that DNA from different persons was detected in the DNA analysis of the partial “remains” supposedly belonging to Ms. Megumi Yokota, which constituted the core of this reinvestigation. The DPRK side has raised questions about the results of the analysis, but it goes without saying that the Japanese side conducted the analysis scientifically and objectively and full reliability has been secured, and the criticism made by the DPRK is groundless.
Likewise, DNA from different persons was detected in the DNA analysis of the partial “remains” that the DPRK side said may belong to Mr. Kaoru Matsuki. The results showed that the bone fragments provided for the analysis did not match Mr. Kaoru Matsuki’s physical characteristics when analyzed from this perspective.
- (3) During the third working-level consultations, the DPRK side explained that the “special agencies” burned all the documents concerning the abductions. It became clear that the existence of the “special agencies” was a great obstacle to obtaining a full account of the abductions. For example, the DPRK side did not provide satisfactory responses to the various questions and requests posed by the Japanese side, saying that the “special agencies” were involved in the abductions, and refused to allow the Japanese side to meet certain individuals, saying they were active “secret agency” officials.
The Japanese side has also obtained information that the instructors of the abductees periodically created reports on the abductees, but that the DPRK side denied the existence of the reports strongly calls into question the credibility of the results of the reinvestigation.
As for the testimonies made by the “witnesses” who agreed to meet, their content was vague, because the witnesses said their memory was unclear since the abductions happened a long time ago, and they said they remembered when they were reminded by the “investigation committee.” It must be said that the testimonies were inadequate from the standpoint of an objective confirmation of the facts with a view to obtaining a full account.
- (4) Although criminal case records concerning the identification and punishment of those responsible for the abductions were presented, much of the text had been blacked out and it is not clear at all how the two defendants were involved in the abduction cases. For this reason, these documents do not illustrate under what kind of orders or line of responsibility the abductions were carried out. Therefore, it is impossible to say that these two defendants were responsible for the whole issue of the abduction of Japanese nationals.
- (5) The results of the investigation carried out by the Japanese side thus far already prove that three suspects (Sin Gwang-Su, Kim Se Ho and Kimihiro Uomoto) were involved in the abductions. During the third working-level consultations, the Japanese side repeatedly requested that the DPRK side hand over the three suspects, but it did not agree to do so at all. Given that the handover of the three suspects is essential in obtaining a full account of the abduction issue, the

Government of Japan cannot, by any means, accept this response taken by the DPRK side.

- (6) The reinvestigation this time was conducted as a result of the promise that Chairman Kim Jong-Il made to Prime Minister Koizumi in May 2004 to conduct a thorough reinvestigation from scratch. As illustrated above, however, the information and physical evidence provided by the DPRK side to date is not at all adequate to provide a full account of the abductees whose safety remains unknown. This reinvestigation conducted by the “investigation committee” lacks credibility and it is impossible to call this “a thorough reinvestigation from scratch” that Chairman Kim Jong-Il promised to undertake.

Based on the above, the Government of Japan intends to lodge a strong protest against the DPRK side, given that the content of the results of the reinvestigation were extremely insincere, and promptly transmit the results of the close examination conducted by the Japanese side. The Government of Japan intends to request stringently that the DPRK side provide a full account of the abductees whose safety remains unknown at the earliest possible date, by having Chairman Kim Jong-Il assume responsibility and involvement in order to fulfill his promise, and in the spirit of the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration, in which the DPRK side pledged to “sincerely tackle outstanding problems between Japan and the DPRK.”