

More to intervention than meets the eye

Given Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully's quick negative response (Dec 3 to North Korea's declaration that it intends to launch a test rocket in the near future, I'm mystified as to his silence over the launching by South Korea in recent weeks of test rockets.

Perhaps a clue can be found in his three month delay in replying to a plea for emergency food aid to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) made by NZs leading International aid agencies.

The Minister's reply to the negative is in line with his National-led (and the American) Government's consistent refusal to respond to requests for food aid made by aid agencies working in the DPRK.

There's more to the Minister's intervention over a DPRK rocket than meets the eye. Mr McCully may not have a spare rocket at his disposal but he certainly knows how to stir the pot.

The Rev Don Borrie
Chairman, NZ DPRK Society

[Letters to the Editor, Dominion Post, Wellington, 10 December, 2012]

The following letter was also sent to the Editor (on 3 December) but not published:

Letter to the Editor, Dominion Post

It is noteworthy that Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully's condemnation of North Korea's announcement of another attempt to launch a satellite, and your coverage of the story, makes no mention of South Korea's failed satellite launch of just a few days ago, on 29 November. Minister McCully displays a remarkable ignorance of technology when he talks of 'plans to launch a satellite this month using a long-range ballistic missile'. Missiles go up, and then come down; satellites are supposed to stay up, in orbit. Whilst there are commonalities in rocket technology, satellites are not missiles, for which we should be grateful considering there are over a thousand in the skies above our heads. Since the Soviet Union put Sputnik into orbit 1957 nine other countries have succeeded in launching satellites. Both South and North Korea have been trying to launch satellites; why does McCully express concern over one and not the other?

Tim Beal