



Office of Hon Murray McCully

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Rev Don Borrie
Chairman
NZ-DPRK Society
dborrie@ihug.co.nz

Peter Wilson
Secretary
NZ-DPRK Society
peter-wilson@paradise.net.nz

Dear Rev Borrie and Mr Wilson

Thank you for your email of 15 November regarding the New Zealand Ambassador's accreditation visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

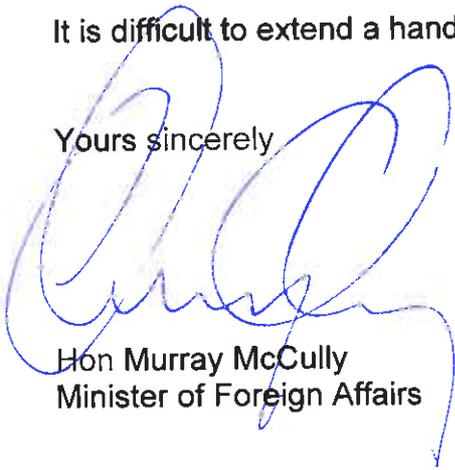
A visit scheduled for earlier this year was postponed to reflect New Zealand's grave concerns at the findings of an investigation by international experts into the fatal sinking of the Republic of Korean (ROK) naval vessel, the *Cheonan*.

Last month's shelling of Yeonpyeong Island by the DPRK is a further unwelcome development that has again stoked tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The targeting of ROK territory and deaths of civilians in the attack represent a new and dangerous level of aggression by the DPRK that does not deserve to be rewarded by the immediate rescheduling of the accreditation visit.

It is difficult to extend a hand to one who is raising a clenched fist.

Yours sincerely



Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs