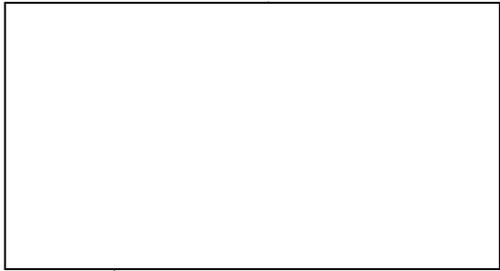


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~~Top Secret~~



~~Top Secret~~
12 June 2000



EAST ASIA

Koreas:

Muted Official Reaction to Summit One-Day Delay



P'yongyang in the past have delayed diplomatic talks when it is dissatisfied with negotiations over meetings agendas or communiques.

A South Korean spokesman yesterday said parts of the agenda have not been finalized.

- The North Korean media have yet to comment on the delay, but one South Korean daily says P'yongyang has voiced "strong complaints" over media reports mentioning Kim Chong-il and details of the summit schedule. *North Korea normally does not provide public notice of Kim Chong-il's schedule and carefully monitors unflattering portrayals of him.*
- South Korea President Kim Dae-jung is playing down the unidentified "technical reasons" that P'yongyang cited for the delay, *but he is vulnerable to opposition and media criticism that it represents an insult to Seoul.*

