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US, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA CONDEMN N KOREA TESTS; US WIDENS SANCTIONS

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The United States, Japan and South Korea have strongly condemned North Koreas recent ballistic missile launches in a joint statement that followed a US move to impose sanctions on those associated with Pyongyangs weapons programme.

A US-led effort to tighten United Nations sanctions on the North after it carried out nearly two dozen missile launches this year, was vetoed by Russia and China on Thursday.

It was the first public split in the Security Council over North Korea since the initial sanctions were imposed in 2006.

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