Several unexpected new demands by North Korea for Western cash and German or Russian nuclear technology have puzzled U.S. officials and put them on notice that their country's approach may be needlessly complicating the North Korean standoff.

Senior U.S. officials are scheduled to resume their negotiations in Geneva Friday over nuclear matters, after yet another nuclear test. When two nuclear weapons experts from the United States and North Korea met at the White House last month, they found the talks more difficult than expected.

North Korean tests of a nuclear device in September have come to light.

The test, which began at 2:19 AM this morning, has proven successful. It produced a nuclear explosion of about 1 kiloton of TNT. The explosion created a shock wave that could be felt several miles away.

The test was conducted in the Taepo-dong region, about 25 miles north of the border with China.

The U.S. military has been monitoring the situation closely, and will continue to do so.

The test has been condemned by the international community, and represents a significant step forward for North Korean nuclear weapons development.

The United Nations Security Council has called for an immediate ban on all nuclear-related activities by North Korea, and has imposed economic sanctions on the country.

The test will likely lead to increased tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and could have far-reaching implications for regional stability.

The United States and its allies are closely monitoring the situation, and will continue to work closely with the United Nations and other international partners to address this challenge.