

《朝韩关系一线牵》

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North Korea has reopened a hotline to South Korea, almost two years after it was disabled on the orders of leader Kim Jong-un.

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South Korea confirmed it had received a call from the North at 15:30 local time (06:30 GMT) on Wednesday.

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The North Korean leader had earlier said he was open to dialogue with Seoul and to sending a team to the Winter Olympics in the South next month.

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The two nations have not held high-level talks since December 2015.

2015?12??????????????

North Korea cut off the communications channel shortly afterwards, refusing to answer calls, according to officials in the South.

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The initial call was brief as checks are still being carried out on the line, according to South Korean officials.

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North Korea said the aim would be for the two nations to discuss the practical issues around sending a North Korean delegation to the Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

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Where is the physical line?

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According to the South Korean Unification Ministry, there are a total of 33 direct lines that North and South Korea once used to communicate with each other.

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This particular phone line, established in 1971, is based in Panmunjom.

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The border village, in the heavily guarded demilitarised zone (DMZ), is where the Koreans have historically held talks.?

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Why have the Olympics become so important?

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In a New Year's Day speech, Mr Kim spoke of lowering tensions and of melting "frozen North-South relations".

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He said attending the Games would be "a good opportunity to show unity of the people" in North Korea.

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South Korea had already indicated that the North's participation in the Games would be welcomed.

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What does China say?

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Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the North and South should seize the Olympics as an opportunity to ease their relationship.

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"All relevant sides should grab hold of this positive trend in the Korean peninsula and move in the same direction," Mr Geng told a daily news briefing in Beijing, according to Reuters news agency.

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