Read the text and decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

**MEETING OF 2 KOREAS SIGNALS HISTORIC THAW**

Few Americans, whether they are Korean War veterans or Korean immigrants, expected they’d ever see the sort of images that have been ﬂashing on TV recently. A handshake, a smile, and earnest talks have cracked the Cold War most icy standoff, as North Korean President Kim Jong and South Korean President Kim Dae Jung confer in their ﬁrst-ever summit.

This is no remote and meaningless foreign event. For Americans, who have stationed tens of thousands of troops in Korea for 50 years, it’s difficult to overstate the implications. If and when the Korean standoff ends, those troops, now numbering 37,000, could come home. The overall American defence policy would shift. The armed forces are maintained at current levels because American defence policy calls for a capability to ﬁght two regional wars at once, one of them presumed to be in Korea.

Further, the growing nuclear missile threat posed by North Korea is at the heart of discussions about whether to build a U.S. missile defence system. Whether the Korean threat actually will disappear is still far from certain. But this week’s summit is unquestionably the most encouraging step since the end of the Korean War, which cost more than 37,000 American lives.

The agreement, which both presidents signed, signals the opening of people-to-people contact between the two Koreas. The leaders have decided that some of the families separated by the war will have a chance to meet again. This opening can end North Korea’s isolation. The starving communist regime, fearing its population will envy the success of the capitalist South, keeps its people ignorant and in false fear of invasion. At the same time, it keeps its own army in strike position along the border.

South Koreans, having seen West Germany’s expensive absorption of the East, fear the costs of their own reuniﬁcation: Even in 1997, a prosperous year, a poll showed that only 47 % of South Koreans considered reuniﬁcation essential. Meanwhile, polls taken ahead of the summit show 65 % of South Koreans expect the summit to advance reuniﬁcation, and a majority wants to increase aid to the North.

There are signs of changing behaviour in Washington, too. The State Department said that the U.S. and North Korean talks on missiles could take place soon.

Actual results may be slow in coming, but the two Kims have made real the chance for a Korean peace. With every subsequent step, they’ll make a return to the frozen relations of the past unlikely if not impossible.

l. The summit was no surprise for a majority of Americans. **T F**

2. Americans sent their troops to Korea 50 years ago. **T F**

3. U.S troops should be ready to ﬁght in two different places in the world

at the same time. **T F**

4. It is taken for granted that the Korean threat will disappear. **T F**

5. Approximately 37,000 Korean and American soldiers died in the Korean War. **T F**

6. North Korean leaders are afraid of the inﬂuence of the South. **T F**

7. To show good will, North Korea started to withdraw its soldiers

from frontier areas. **T F**

8. South Koreans are afraid of paying too much for reuniﬁcation. **T F**

9. The reuniﬁcation has always had a passive support of South Koreans. **T F**

10. The two Kims are making a return to the frozen relations. **T F**