



# NORTH KOREA

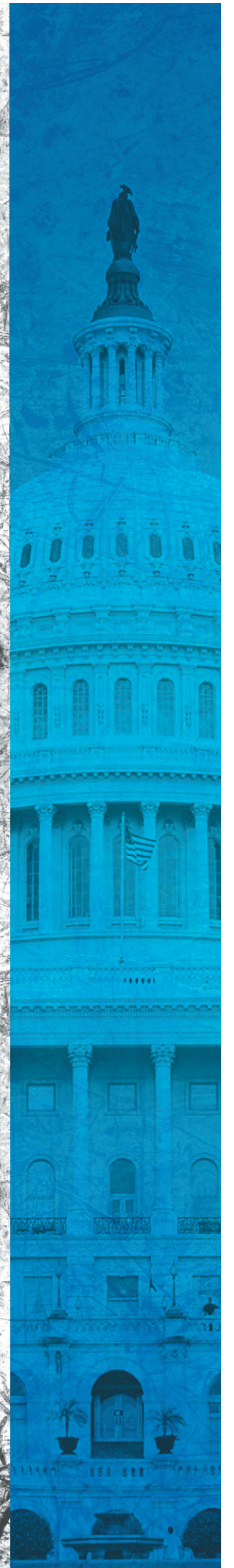
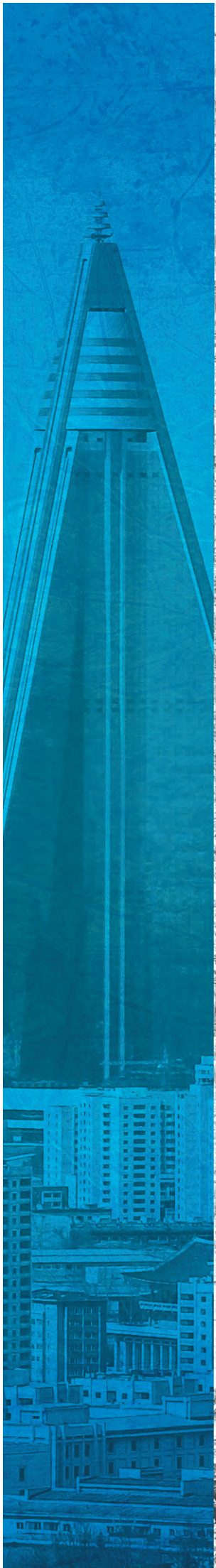
Strategies To Resolve  
The Nuclear Threat

CHINA

NORTH  
KOREA

SOUTH  
KOREA

JAPAN





“North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire, fury and, frankly, power, the likes of which this world has never seen before.”

– President Trump, Aug. 8, 2017

# North Korea: Strategies To Resolve The Nuclear Threat

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# Time to turn up economic pressures on North Korea

## By Sen. Cory Gardner

The following Q&A was prepared with Sen. Cory Gardner, Colorado Republican, and Washington Times Special Sections Manager Cheryl Wetzstein for this section, which is developed by The Washington Times Advocacy Department.

As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, Sen. Cory Gardner has been the leader in the Senate in deterring North Korea's heinous regime. Sen. Gardner authored the North Korea Sanctions Policy and Enhancement Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama in February 2016. The legislation marked the first time Congress imposed stand-alone mandatory sanctions on North Korea.

Earlier this summer, Sen. Gardner introduced bipartisan legislation to ban any entity that does business with North Korea or its enablers from using the United States' financial system, and impose U.S. sanctions on all those participating in North Korean labor trafficking abuses. Sen. Gardner has applauded recent steps taken by the Trump administration to ramp up pressure on North Korea, including the unprecedented step of sanctioning certain Chinese and Russian and other financial institutions and individuals for doing business with North Korea.

Q: Will North Korea's Aug. 28 missile

test over Japan further escalate the situation in North Korea, or is it more of the same from them?

Sen. Gardner: North Korea continues to defy international sanctions and refuses to stop their belligerent missile tests that pose a serious threat to the U.S. and our allies. Their latest provocative launch, where a missile flew over Japan, is completely unacceptable and we must join with our allies in the region to show Pyongyang we will not tolerate this behavior. North Korea has proven they have no intentions of backing down. Every new step that North Korea takes in provoking the United States and our allies proves more needs to be done to stop their dangerous behavior. The missile launch over Japan was reckless and is intended to drive conflict. China and Russia must see this as a step toward aggression, and finally join the international community to pressure Kim Jong-un into peaceful denuclearization.

Q: North Korea has threatened to strike Guam. Does the fact that they are a U.S. territory change how we would respond to any threats by the North Korean regime to strike Guam?

A: As we continue to use economic and diplomatic pressure to achieve peaceful denuclearization, we must also show Kim Jong-un that all options are on the table if he decides to attack the United States or our allies. A peaceful resolution is the best outcome, but we must be ready to defend ourselves militarily if we have to. Kim Jong-un must know that should economic and diplomatic measures fail, the United States and our allies will have the capability and

resolve to counter his aggression with the strongest military the world has ever known. I echo Defense Secretary Mattis' sentiment that we are ready to defend ourselves if North Korea strikes any U.S. territory, including Guam.

Q: What is your assessment of the Trump administration's current policies? Are they different than the previous administration?

A: The Obama administration's failed policy of "strategic patience" toward Pyongyang contributed to the rapid development of North Korea's arsenal of mass destruction. The acceleration of its nuclear and ballistic missile program represents a grave threat to global peace and stability — and a direct threat to the American homeland in the immediate future.

I'm encouraged the Trump administration has recognized the policy of strategic patience was a strategic failure and is taking a harder line toward North Korea. The administration has taken some positive steps in trying to rein in North Korea's nuclear program. They've accomplished what previous administrations were unable to do in getting nations that rarely see eye to eye on anything to come together at the United Nations to put in place needed sanctions against North Korea. The United States can only negotiate with North Korea from a position of strength and only if Pyongyang first abides by the denuclearization commitments it has previously made, but subsequently chose to unilaterally discard. Peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula must be our ultimate objective, and it is our duty to try all

diplomatic options to achieve this goal. The Trump administration can show the world that the United States will no longer lead from behind, but instead find a comprehensive solution the global community supports.

Q: In your communication with the current administration, what changes to current policy or strategy are you advocating for as the situation becomes more serious on the Korean Peninsula?

A: North Korea is propped up by regimes like China and Russia, and we have to apply more pressure to Kim Jong-un and his rogue regime. I have called on the global community to impose a complete economic embargo against the heinous regime in Pyongyang. Every nation of conscience should cut off all finance and trade with North Korea, with a few limited humanitarian exceptions, until such time that Pyongyang is willing to meet its international commitments to peacefully denuclearize. The U.N. Security Council should immediately endorse such an embargo in a new resolution and make it binding on all nations.

We must give every entity doing business with Pyongyang a choice — you either do business with this outlaw regime or the world's economic superpower. I have introduced legislation that would ban any entity that does business with North Korea or its enablers from using the United States financial system, and I will keep pushing for stronger actions that are part of our efforts to stop a war breaking out on the Korean Peninsula.



## By Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

This statement was made on July 5, 2017, in response to a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile test that was conducted on July 4, America's Independence Day holiday.

North Korea's latest successful intercontinental ballistic missile test further demonstrates the extremely dangerous and growing threat that North Korea poses to

Hawaii, Alaska and the mainland United States. For the past 15 years, our leaders have let the people of Hawaii and our country down, allowing the situation in North Korea to worsen to this point of crisis where we are left with nothing but bad options. We must ensure we are able to defend against North Korea's threat with cutting-edge missile defense technologies, but this is not enough. We must pursue serious diplomatic efforts to de-escalate and ultimately denuclearize North Korea. However, U.S. leaders need to understand that Kim Jong-un maintains a tight grip on North Korea's nuclear weapons as a deterrent against regime change. The Trump administration would be far more

# Direct diplomacy needed to de-escalate North Korean threat

credible in finding a diplomatic solution with North Korea if we weren't currently waging a regime change war in Syria and contemplating a regime change war in Iran.

The North Korean regime witnessed the regime change wars the U.S. led in Libya and Iraq and what we're now doing in Syria, and fear they will become like Gadhafi who, after giving up his nuclear weapons program, was deposed by the United States.

As long as the U.S. is waging regime change wars, we are far less likely to reach a diplomatic solution in North Korea because they have no reason to believe our promises. In fact, we are far more likely to see nuclear proliferation by countries like North Korea who see nuclear weapons as

their only deterrent against regime change.

Serious diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula will require an end to our regime change war in Syria and a public statement that the U.S. will not engage in regime change wars and nation-building overseas, including in Iran and North Korea. We should focus our limited resources on rebuilding our own country and seriously commit ourselves to de-escalating this dangerous stand-off with North Korea and negotiate a peaceful diplomatic solution.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Hawaii Democrat, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee.

# Capitalize on U.S. economy — and a ramped-up missile defense



By Rep. Trent Franks

**T**he current situation on the Korean Peninsula is the result of both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama making deals with Pyongyang that gave North Korea significant ransom money but failed to secure the hostage in either case. Their focus was on a “deal” rather than a solution. Their foreign policy playbook was to condemn the tests, talk about sanctions

and negotiations, then do nothing. As a result of taking the path of least resistance, we now find ourselves in an extremely untenable situation: a nuclear-armed North Korea rapidly increasing their nuclear technology and their delivery capabilities, even as their conventional military assets ensure that any military action could very easily cause apocalyptic death and destruction. The Kim Dynasty is able to flatten Seoul, threatening our 28,000 troops and their families, in addition to millions of South Korean civilians. It is vital that we make it crystal clear, as President Donald Trump has done thus far, that any missile attack upon American civilians will be met with a devastating response from the United States of America. It is further vital that we make it clear to the world, including China, that Nations must now choose

between trading with America and North Korea. Our economy is some one thousand times the size of North Korea’s, and this is an asymmetric advantage we must capitalize upon immediately.

Simultaneously, we must ratchet up our missile defense capability and technology at flank speed.

The House-passed NDAA includes an amendment I introduced to begin the development of a space-based missile defense layer; it passed with bipartisan support and it is my hope the Senate accedes to the House-passed language. A space-based missile defense layer would provide us with the ultimate high ground and ensure we could shoot down an enemy missile as it ascends — when it is most vulnerable. This “boost-phase defense” is a capability we currently do not have. Furthermore, we must increase

our Ground-Based Interceptor inventory to 100. These GBIs are currently the first and last line of defense against any nuclear missile attack against the American Homeland. Thus, ramping up our missile defense capability, crushing sanctions, along with absolute clarity as to our response to any attack against our citizens will give the Trump administration maximum ability to exert diplomatic pressure on China and North Korea.

It is imperative that we do what is necessary to dismantle North Korea’s nuclear capability. This dangerous and escalating situation cannot be allowed to continue on its present path under any circumstances.

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Rep. Trent Franks, Arizona Republican, serves on the House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees.

## Time to use U.S.’s ‘entire toolbox’



By Rep. Ted Yoho

These excerpted remarks were made at a March 21, 2017 hearing on “Pressuring North Korea: Evaluating Options,” held by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

For 20 years, we have responded to every North Korean provocation with either isolation or inducements to negotiate. Our efforts to isolate Pyongyang have either been incomplete or hamstrung by

China. Meanwhile, North Korea has used negotiations to extract wealth without ever slowing weapons development. Since 1995, we have provided \$1.3 billion in economic and humanitarian assistance to North Korea, and weapons development has only accelerated. As Secretary Tillerson stated during his trip to the region last week, this is 20 years of failed approaches.

The Obama administration’s strategic patience was a low-effort strategy, taking some measures to isolate North Korea, and then simply waiting for the Kim Jong Un regime to wake up and give away his nuclear weapons. Certainly, there is plenty of blame to go around, if we are looking at George Bush taking North Korea off the State Sponsors of Terrorism record, or the Clinton administration allowing North Korea to even start a nuclear program — although it was deemed for peaceful purposes, we saw they strayed from that.

This ineffective approach has gotten us

no closer to a denuclearized peninsula. A more forward leaning North Korea policy will require more effort and resolve, as we have seen passivity fail time and again. It takes time. It takes time for these threats — and take the threat seriously and use our entire toolbox ...

We have to ensure continued robust support for injecting outside information into North Korea to encourage defection and expose Kim’s propaganda. Thae Yong-Ho, the highest ranking North Korean defector in decades, recently said this was the best way to force change in North Korea. This committee has also done important work in increasing financial pressure on the regime, and I look forward to continuing our work on the sanctions this Congress.

We should also re-list North Korea as a State Sponsor of Terrorism in light of its long history of horrific crimes, most recently, the assassination of Kim Jong Nam with the VX nerve agent in Malaysia.

The administration must also start using its secondary sanctions authority against the Chinese entities that have allowed for North Korea’s continued weapons development. China accounts for 90 percent of North Korea’s economic activity. The failed policies of the past assumed that if the United States did not anger China, China would help promote de-nuclearization. It is time to stop pretending that China’s North Korea policy is motivated by anything else than extreme self-interest of China. China has benefited from undermining sanctions and tolerating North Korea’s nuclear belligerence. North Korea’s missiles are not aimed at China, and the growing security challenge is an excellent distraction from China’s own illicit activities.

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Rep. Ted Yoho, Florida Republican, is Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

## N. Korean missile test response to Trump talk

*Kim holds back from ‘fire and fury’ red line*

By GUY TAYLOR

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Trump has brought a new toughness to U.S. rhetoric toward North Korea, but the Kim Jong-un regime in Pyongyang showed anew this week that it still has the power to decide when and where to escalate the crisis in the region over its nuclear programs and missile tests.

Pyongyang launched a missile over Japan on Tuesday, just a week after Mr. Trump claimed that his threats to rain “fire and fury” on Pyongyang if it continued to threaten the U.S. and its East Asian allies had worked to get Mr. Kim “to respect us.” Analysts say the latest test calls that assertion into serious question.

Mr. Trump, who spent the day inspecting storm damage in Texas from Hurricane

Harvey, insisted once again in a statement Tuesday that all options remain on the table to deal with the North, implicitly including military force. But some say the president is struggling to project a coherent strategy at a moment when U.S. allies are concerned about the mixed messaging and wary that the administration may lack the resources and personnel necessary to deal with Pyongyang.

In a sign that the North was not intimidated by the tougher line Mr. Trump promised, North Korea’s official news agency revealed Tuesday evening U.S. time that Mr. Kim was present as the country for the first time fired a ballistic missile designed to carry a nuclear payload over Japanese territory.

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The report said Mr. Kim praised the launch, called for more missile tests and said the exercise was a “meaningful prelude” to containing Guam, a critical Pentagon hub for the entire region.

Analysts said Mr. Kim precisely calibrated the missile firing not to cross a U.S. red line — not targeting a U.S. base or possession such as Guam — while targeting a critical U.S. ally in Japan.

North Korea employed the same Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missile that it has said could target Guam and conducted the launch while much of official Washington was transfixed by the crisis in Texas.

But even while being dealt few good military options, Washington is suffering from a few self-inflicted wounds as well.

Seven months into Mr. Trump’s tenure, the White House still hasn’t filled key Pentagon and State Department posts for Asia that analysts say are essential to reassuring allies including South Korea and Japan, and adversaries such as China, that Washington can formulate and carry out a strategy to contain the Kim regime.

The lack of a Trump-appointed assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs or an assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs — let alone a U.S. ambassador to South Korea — is limiting the administration’s ability to implement policy, national security sources say.

“There are acting people in these positions, but they don’t have the same influence or perceived power as a presidential nominee,” said Bruce Klingner, a Northeast Asia scholar at the Heritage Foundation who once ran the CIA’s Korea branch.

“Sometimes allies will tell me they call the State Department and are simply referred to the White House because it seems the State Department is out of the loop,” Mr. Klingner said in an interview Tuesday.

“The personnel issue is real,” said Michael Mazza, a specialist on East Asia at the American Enterprise Institute. Mr. Trump’s National Security Council just doesn’t “have the bodies to throw at the problem,” Mr. Mazza said, which means “you don’t have the regional expertise that you want to have at this point in time.”

## Allies in the lead

Japan and South Korea appeared to be taking the lead Tuesday in responding to the missile test.

Washington and Seoul were engaged in annual joint military exercises — drills that North Korea has long criticized as a rehearsal for an invasion. But it was the South Korean air force that responded by scrambling fighter jets to carry out a live-fire drill designed to show its ability to target the Kim regime if necessary.

Four South Korean F-15K fighters pounded a simulated target in the hills south of the Demilitarized Zone with eight MK-84 bombs — roughly 1-ton bombs used for destroying underground bunkers,

according to the Yonhap News Agency in Seoul.

The missile’s flight set off alarms across northern Japan, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe denounced North Korea’s latest missile test as “an unprecedented, grave and serious threat.”

Officials in Tokyo say the missile flew over Japan’s northernmost Hokkaido island for two minutes before breaking into three segments and plunging into the Pacific about 730 miles east of the Japanese coastline.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said it was the first test since 1998 of “a developmental North Korean ballistic missile over Japanese territory” but that North Korean satellite launch attempts in 2009, 2012 and 2016 also sent projectiles across Japanese airspace.

U.S. analysts called it a brazen provocation by Mr. Kim just weeks after the U.N. Security Council unanimously imposed the harshest economic sanctions to date against Pyongyang.

At the United Nations on Tuesday, at the behest of Japan among other nations, the Security Council condemned North Korea’s “outrageous” launch and repeated earlier demands for an end to Pyongyang’s missile and nuclear programs.

The Security Council has not acted on North Korea’s request last week for a debate on the U.S.-South Korean military drills.

The U.S. military has roughly 30,000 personnel stationed in South Korea and some 50,000 in Japan, and Mr. Trump spoke by phone with Mr. Abe on Tuesday morning for about 40 minutes.

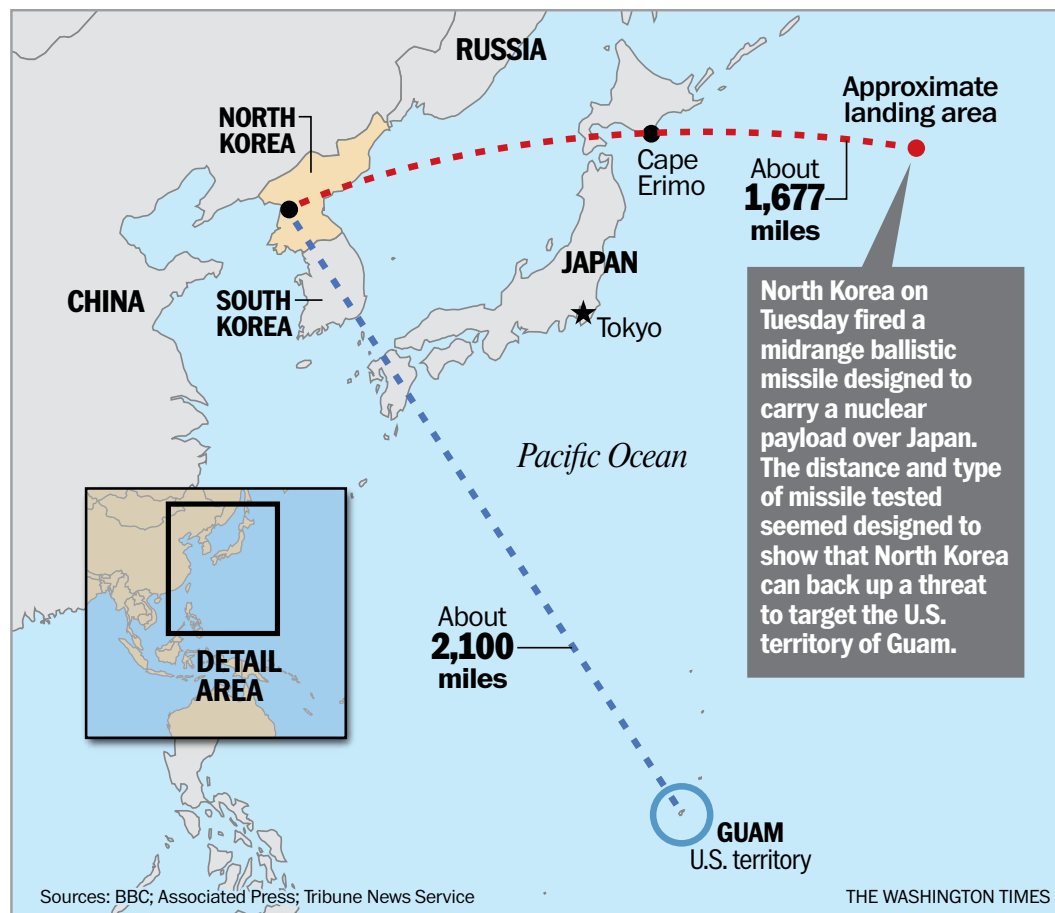
“President Trump and Prime Minister Abe committed to increasing pressure on North Korea, and doing their utmost to convince the international community to do the same,” according to a readout of the call released by the White House.

In a separate statement, Mr. Trump said “all options are on the table.”

“The world has received North Korea’s latest message loud and clear: This regime has signaled its contempt for its neighbors, for all members of the United Nations and for minimum standards of acceptable international behavior,” the president said. “Threatening and destabilizing actions only increase the North Korean regime’s isolation in the region and among all nations of the world.”

## Rhetorical war

The rhetorical war escalated sharply in recent weeks after the Trump administration



proclaimed the “era of strategic patience” with North Korea was over.

Mr. Trump promised “fire and fury like the world has never seen” in the wake of reports that the Kim regime had succeeded in making a nuclear weapon small enough to fit inside one of its ballistic missiles. He warned later that the U.S. military was “locked and loaded” to respond to any North Korean missile firing at Guam.

The president subsequently tempered the threat, suggesting that Washington remained open to dialogue with Pyongyang. Just last week, he told supporters at a rally in Phoenix that there were signs that the North had received the message.

“I respect the fact that he is starting to respect us,” Mr. Trump said of Mr. Kim at the time. “Maybe — probably not, but maybe — something positive can come about.”

Mr. Klingner said Tuesday that Mr. Trump’s comments at the Phoenix rally “were premature and a bit naive.”

The shifting messages have created the perception that “what Trump tweets or says may only be bluster,” he said.

Some Democrats pounced on the opportunity to criticize Mr. Trump’s approach on Tuesday.

“As with most of President Trump’s foreign policy, there is no coherent North Korea strategy — just empty statements and wild, counterproductive tweets,” said Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “We need a clear strategy and plan of action.”

Mr. Cardin suggested that more pressure must be put on China and Russia — Pyongyang’s main allies and trading partners — to exert influence over the regime in Pyongyang.

Both signed on to the early-August U.N.

Security Council sanctions, which seek to ban North Korea from exporting coal, iron, lead and seafood worth about a third of its total income from trade.

China’s customs agency has said it will begin enforcing the sanctions next week. But Beijing has been hesitant to push too hard against the Kim regime in neighboring North Korea, claiming it fears a massive refugee crisis if the regime suddenly falls.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told reporters on Tuesday that tensions have reached a “tipping point approaching a crisis” and urged all sides to avoid provocations and to see “there is an opportunity” for peace talks to occur.

Some argue that Pyongyang is taking advantage of the stalemate between the U.S. and China, believing its string of missile tests this year won’t result in anything more than heated rhetoric from Washington and its allies.

But the regime could also be legitimately concerned that the Trump administration will lose patience.

Dennis P. Halpin, a visiting scholar with the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, said Mr. Kim has “shrewdly calculated the best means for preserving his family dynasty.”

He can be expected to “carefully calibrate his series of provocations as not to trigger a wider conflict which would likely spell the end of his regime,” Mr. Halpin wrote in a commentary in the *The American Thinker*.

This news article, which includes contributions from Carlo Muñoz, David Sherfinski and Dave Boyer, as well as wire service reports, first published online on Aug. 29, 2017.

# U.N. sanctions: Defunding DPRK's nuke, missile programs



## By Ambassador Nikki Haley

**E**xactly one month ago, I came before members of the Security Council and declared it was a dark day for the world because of the dangerous and irresponsible actions of North Korea. Almost one week ago, I said the days of talking were over and it was time to act.

Today, the full Security Council has come together to put the North Korean dictator on notice. And this time, the Council has matched its words and actions.

The resolution we've passed is a strong, united step toward holding North Korea accountable for its behavior. Today, the Security Council increased the penalty of North Korea's ballistic missile activity to a whole new level.

North Korea's irresponsible and careless acts have just proved to be

quite costly to the regime.

This resolution is the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against the North Korean regime. The price the North Korean leadership will pay for its continued nuclear and missile development will be the loss of one-third of its exports and hard currency.

This is the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation.

These sanctions will cut deep, and in doing so, will give the North Korean leadership a taste of the deprivation they have chosen to inflict on the North Korean people.

Nuclear and ballistic missile development is expensive. The revenues the North Korean government receives are not going towards feeding its people.

Instead, the North Korean regime is literally starving its people and enslaving them in mines and factories in order to fund these illegal nuclear programs.

Even as famine looms on the horizon, even as the regime continues to ask for international assistance to cope with devastating floods and a possible drought later this year, their displays of aggression take precedence over their own people.

Even as we respond to the North Korean nuclear threat, the United States will continue to stand up for the human dignity and rights of the North Korean people.

It is the continued suffering of the North Korean people that should

remind the Security Council that while this resolution is a significant step forward, it is not nearly enough.

The threat of an outlaw, nuclearized North Korean dictatorship remains. The unimaginable living conditions of so many of the North Korean people are unchanged.

The North Korean regime continues to show that widespread violations of human rights go hand in hand with threats to international peace and security.

I thank each and every one of my colleagues who worked so hard to bring this resolution to a vote. I have previously pointed out that China has a critical role to play on matters related to North Korea. I want to personally thank the Chinese delegation for the important contributions they made to this resolution.

While the Security Council has done good work, the members of the Security Council — and all U.N. Member States — must do more to increase the pressure on North Korea.

We must work together to fully implement the sanctions we imposed today and those imposed in past resolutions.

The step we take together today is an important one. But we should not fool ourselves into thinking we have solved the problem. Not even close. The North Korean threat has not left us. It is rapidly growing more dangerous. We've seen two ICBMs fired in just the last month. Further action is required.

The United States is taking — and will continue to take — prudent defensive measures to protect ourselves and our allies. Our annual joint military exercises, for instance, are transparent and defense-oriented. They have been carried out regularly and openly for nearly 40 years. They will continue.

Our goal remains a stable Korean peninsula, at peace, without nuclear weapons. We want only security and prosperity for all nations — including North Korea.

Until then, this resolution and prior ones will be implemented to the fullest to maximize pressure on North Korea to change its ways.

Today is a good day at the United Nations. We will need many more such days in order to peacefully resolve the crisis that has been created by North Korea's dangerous and illegal actions. As I've said before, time is short. But today we have taken one step in the right direction.

Thank you, again, to my colleagues and their teams for their action and support towards sending a strong message to the North Korean regime.

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*These remarks, "Explanation of Vote at the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2371 Strengthening Sanctions on North Korea," were delivered at the U.N. by Ambassador Nikki Haley, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on August 5, 2017.*

## 'A clear message' to North Korea

### By United States Mission to the United Nations

*The following is a fact sheet prepared by the United States Mission to the United Nations about the sanctions recently adopted on North Korea.*

Resolution 2371 (2017), adopted unanimously by the United Nations Security Council on August 5, 2017, strengthens UN sanctions on North Korea in response to its two intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests conducted on July 3, 2017 and July 28, 2017. As such, this resolution sends a clear message to North Korea that the Security Council is united in condemning North Korea's violations and demanding North Korea give up its prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Resolution 2371 (2017) includes the strongest sanctions ever imposed in response to a ballistic missile test. These measures target North Korea's principal

exports, imposing a total ban on all exports of coal (North Korea's largest source of external revenue), iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. Banning these exports will prevent North Korea from earning over a \$1 billion per year of hard currency that would be redirected to its illicit programs. North Korea earns approximately \$3 billion per year from export revenues. Additional sanctions target North Korea's arms smuggling, joint ventures with foreign companies, banks, and other sources of revenue.

Resolution 2371 (2017) includes the following key elements:

Condemns North Korea July 3 and July 28 ballistic missile tests in the strongest terms, and reaffirms North Korea's obligations not to conduct any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to suspend all activities related to its

ballistic missile program, and to abandon all other WMD programs.

Imposes several full sectoral bans on exports North Korea uses to fund its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, namely:

A ban on its largest export, coal, representing a loss to North Korea of over \$401 million in revenues per year;

A ban on iron and iron ore exports, worth roughly \$250 million per year;

A ban on seafood exports, worth roughly \$300 million in revenue each year; and

A ban on lead and lead ore exports, worth roughly \$110 million per year;

Imposes additional restrictions on North Korea's ability to generate revenue and access the international financial system, by:

Adding new sanctions designations against North Korean individuals and entities that support the country's nuclear and missile programs, including the state-owned Foreign Trade Bank (FTB), which

acts as North Korea's primary foreign exchange bank, while protecting diplomatic, consular, and humanitarian activities.

Prohibiting all new joint ventures or cooperative commercial entities between North Korea and other nations, as well as ban additional investment in existing ones.

Banning countries from allowing in additional numbers of North Korean laborers who will earn revenue for the illicit programs.

Requests the Security Council's North Korea Sanctions Committee to identify additional conventional arms-related and proliferation-related items to be banned for transfer to/from North Korea.

Enables the Security Council's North Korea Sanctions Committee to designate vessels tied to violations of Security Council resolutions and prohibit their international port access.

Takes steps to improve sanctions

# Trump hails U.N.'s vote to further sanction N. Korea

## *Resolution came with support from China, Russia*

By **GUY TAYLOR**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**T**he Trump administration says it has new momentum to expand international pressure on North Korea following a unanimous U.N. Security Council vote to ramp up economic sanctions as punishment for Pyongyang's recent long-range ballistic missile tests.

President Trump hailed a Security Council resolution that passed Saturday [Aug. 5] with cooperation from both Russia and China, North Korea's neighbor and main trading partner. The president tweeted that the development is "the single largest economic sanctions package ever on North Korea" and will have a "very big financial impact."

News of the sanctions, which seek to ban North Korea from exporting coal, iron, lead and seafood worth about a third of its total income from trade, came as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived over the weekend at an annual diplomatic gathering in East Asia, where Chinese officials expressed cautious support for the development.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who held separate meetings Sunday [Aug. 6] with Mr. Tillerson and with North Korea's top diplomat, publicly urged Pyongyang to "maintain calm" and "not violate the U.N.'s decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests."

Mr. Wang's comments appeared to signal progress in the long-elusive U.S. strategy of trying to deepen Chinese cooperation toward more aggressively implementing sanctions against North Korea. However, there were also indications that Beijing remains wary about taking a lead role in containing Pyongyang.

"Who has been carrying out the U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning North Korea? It is China," said Mr. Wang in Manila on Sunday. "Who bore the cost? It is also China."

Mr. Tillerson also met with his South Korean counterpart Sunday and a White House official said South Korean President Moon Jae-in had asked to speak with Mr. Trump by phone Sunday night. The White House said it would provide details of their conversation later.

The Security Council resolution, drafted by U.S. officials and carefully negotiated with the Chinese, seeks to increase pressure on Pyongyang to return to stalled international negotiations over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

U.S. and Chinese officials don't exactly see eye-to-eye on the prospect of such negotiations. The perception is that China wants negotiations to occur more rapidly than Washington, while the Trump



administration, which has flirted with the alternative idea of backing all-out regime change in Pyongyang, has expressed frustration that the Chinese aren't putting

enough pressure on the North Koreans.

During his initial months in office, Mr. Trump voiced optimism about China's role, but has more recently leveled veiled

## SANCTIONS

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enforcement, including by asking Interpol to publish Special Notices on listed North Koreans for travel ban purposes.

Provides additional analytical resources to the UN's Panel of Experts to enhance its capacity to monitor sanctions enforcement.

Regrets North Korea's massive diversion of its scarce resources toward its development of nuclear weapons

and a number of expensive ballistic missile programs and expresses its deep concern at the grave hardship to which the people in North Korea are subjected;

Includes sanctions exemptions to make sure these measures do not impede foreign diplomatic activities in North Korea or legitimate humanitarian assistance.

Reaffirms the Council's support for the Six Party Talks, calls for their resumption, reiterates its support for commitments made by the Six Parties, and reiterates the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the

criticism at Beijing, saying at one point that Chinese President Xi Jinping had "tried" to help on North Korea and it "has not worked out."

The administration has also teased the idea of expending Washington's own unilateral North Korea sanctions to target Chinese companies as punishment for China's ongoing trade with Pyongyang and overall perceived inaction on North Korea.

Some analysts go so far as to claim Beijing tacitly backs Pyongyang to antagonize Washington and maintain a strategic security edge in the region.

Mr. Tillerson said nothing publicly about North Korea following his meeting with Mr. Wang on Sunday, but did express broad optimism earlier in the day, calling the U.N. Security Council resolution "a good outcome."

The council voted 15-0 on the new sanctions, which, if fully implemented, could deliver a \$3 billion blow to revenues Pyongyang gets from exports to China and a handful of other trading partners. The sanctions also aim to block countries from giving any additional permits to North Korean workers, another source of money for Kim Jong-un's regime in Pyongyang.

The vote followed the regime's first successful tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S. last month. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Saturday that Mr. Trump "appreciates China's and Russia's cooperation in securing passage of this resolution."

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley said the Security Council had succeeded in putting the Kim regime "on notice" and "what happens next is up to North Korea." Even prominent critics of Mr. Trump said the vote was an important step. Former U.S. ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul called the vote "a genuine foreign policy achievement."

*This news article, which is based in part on wire service reports, first published online on Aug. 6, 2017.*

Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Expresses the Council's determination to take further significant measures if North Korea conducts another nuclear test or ballistic missile launch.

This resolution has two annexes. These are:

An annex of 9 North Korean individuals operating abroad as representatives of designated entities designated for targeted sanctions (asset freeze and travel ban);

Another annex of 4 North Korea commercial entities designated for an asset freeze.

# 'We will remain vigilant'

**By Secretary of State  
Rex Tillerson**

Secretary Mattis and I are grateful for the opportunity today to host Foreign Minister Kono and Defense Minister Onodera today. The bonds of America and Japan have — forged over previous decades — will continue to endure. Today's honest and productive discussions reaffirmed

our mutual commitment to confronting threats to regional peace and security.

As you might imagine, we spent a fair amount of time discussing North Korea. North Korea's recent intercontinental ballistic missile and other missile launches are unacceptable provocations, and they must stop immediately. We agreed to bolster our alliance capabilities to deter and respond to North Korea's unacceptable behavior and other challenges to regional security. In

cooperation with other nations, we will continue to employ diplomatic and economic pressure to convince North Korea to end its illegal nuclear and ballistic missile program.

I think, as was clear by all peace-seeking nations and the unanimous U.N. Security Council resolution that was adopted, as well as very strong statements being made by the ASEAN nations and others throughout the world, we all seek the complete, verifiable, and irreversible

denuclearization of North Korea.

We again call upon all nations to fully enforce the U.N. Security Council resolution imposing additional sanctions on the regime in North Korea. We will remain vigilant against the North Korean threats through our military preparedness.

.....  
*Remarks by Secretary of State  
Rex Tillerson on Aug. 17, 2017  
at the State Department.*

## James Mattis, Rex Tillerson pledge closer military bond with Japan in face of North Korean threat

**By CARLO MUNOZ**

.....  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Washington and Tokyo have agreed to accelerate military cooperation between U.S. and Japanese forces, bolstering maritime and ballistic missile defense and expanding into new areas such as cyberwarfare, in an attempt to curb the threat of North Korea to the Pacific region.

Bilateral talks in Washington on Thursday [Aug. 17] between Defense Secretary James Mattis, Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera and Foreign Minister Taro Kono, took place days after North Korea backed off threats to test launch missiles against U.S. military targets in Guam, missiles that would fly over Japanese airspace.

The threat against Guam capped a tense several weeks that saw a sharp escalation in rhetoric between the regime in Pyongyang and the Trump White House. Mr. Trump vowed to rain "fire and fury" against North Korea after a pair of successful test launches of long-range ballistic missiles in July. While the threat of war between the U.S. and the North has subsided, the U.S. and its Pacific allies remain on the "front line" in the simmering conflict, Mr. Mattis said.

"Japan and the Republic of Korea are on the front line against the North Korean threat. We in the United States recognize any confrontation with North Korea would pose an immediate danger to our allies and their populations," he said alongside Mr. Tillerson and his Japanese counterparts during a press conference at the State Department.

As a result of the growing military threat posed by North Korea, "our militaries are also cooperating in new ways," the Pentagon chief said, adding "Together, we will deter and, if necessary, defeat any threat."

However, administration critics claim

Mr. Trump's fiery rhetoric seemed to indicate the administration had given little weight to diplomatic options, and was too eager to pursue military action against the North should Pyongyang not back down. Mr. Trump's off-the-cuff threats to have a military response to the North Korean regime "locked and loaded" in

that is necessary," he said. "That is not our preferred pathway. And that's been made clear as well," he added.

The diplomatic option got an endorsement from an unlikely source Thursday, in an interview White House chief strategist Steve Bannon gave to the journal *American Prospect*. The influential Mr.

weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us."

While putting its latest threats on hold, North Korea insists it will never put its nuclear weapons program on the negotiating table as long as the Trump administration keeps up its "hostile policy and nuclear threat."

The warning came from North Korea's deputy U.N. Ambassador Kim In-ryong in the transcript of his conversation with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday and released Thursday, *The Associated Press* reported.

Washington's efforts to reach a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the growing crisis on the Korean peninsula were boosted this week when China announced plans to cut off North Korean coal, iron ore and other goods in three weeks in compliance with recently approved U.N. sanctions.

China, North Korea's main trade partner and sole patron in the international community, has been hesitant to push too hard against Kim Jong-un's regime despite efforts by the Trump White House to pressure Beijing to take a harder line against the North.

Mr. Kono told reporters in Washington he anticipates China to continue to follow through on such efforts in the near future. But he dismissed claims that any talks between Pyongyang, the U.S. and its allies could take place before the North agrees to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

"There's no sense of dialogue for the sake of dialogue. We agreed on this point," Mr. Kono said. "Between Japan and the United States, or Japan, U.S. and [South Korea] at the center, the international community will continue to apply its maximum pressure to North Korea. I think there's a necessity of doing so."

*This news article was first published online on Aug. 17, 2017.*



particular prompted his top national security advisers, including Mr. Mattis and Mr. Tillerson, to publicly walk back those statements.

On Thursday, Mr. Tillerson attempted to clarify the administration's stance on North Korea.

"We are prepared militarily, we are prepared with our allies to respond, if

Bannon appeared to undercut the tough rhetorical line Mr. Trump has embraced in his public comments against the North.

"There's no military solution [to North Korea's nuclear threats], forget it," Mr. Bannon said. "Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional



# Only a negotiated settlement will bring peace to the Korean Peninsula

By Ambassador  
Joseph R. DeTrani

A few weeks ago, there was concern that there could be conflict on the Korean Peninsula. Reacting to North Korea's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launches on July 4 and July 28, and the vitriolic statements from North Korea, to include YouTube simulated nuclear attacks on New York and Washington, President Donald Trump said the U.S. would respond to the North Korean threat with "fire and fury the world has never seen."

Kim Jong-un responded by threatening to land four missiles near Guam, inciting President Trump to say the U.S. was "locked and loaded if North Korea acted unwisely." North Korea acted wisely, with a public statement that Kim Jong-un delayed a decision on firing missiles toward Guam while he watched U.S. action a little longer.

It is likely North Korea will launch, as they did on Aug. 26 and Aug. 29, additional ballistic missiles during the annual joint U.S.-South Korea military exercise, Ulchi "Freedom Guardian," which started Aug. 21 and concludes at the end of the month.

Indeed, North Korea should refrain from escalating tension by launching ballistic missiles that threaten the U.S., South Korea and Japan after this defensive military exercise. If North Korea launched a ballistic missile, possibly armed with a nuclear warhead, that could be targeted at the U.S. or its allies in South Korea and Japan, the launch likely would trigger preemptive action to intercept and destroy the missile. There should be no ambiguity about such a response to a missile launch from North Korea that could pose an "imminent threat" to the U.S. or its allies. Even in my unofficial meetings with North Korea's vice foreign minister in October 2016, this message was clearly articulated.

We are now at a critical inflection point with North Korea. Although all indications are that Kim Jong-un will continue to launch missiles and conduct nuclear tests as they pursue a viable and deployable nuclear threat to the U.S., it is possible that recent constructive statements from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to include the need for a negotiated settlement of issues with North Korea, may have convinced Kim Jong-un that it's time to return to unconditional negotiations. North Korea knows that the Sept. 19, 2005 Joint Statement — that Kim Jong-un's father, Kim Jong-il, endorsed — would have provided North Korea with security

assurances, a peace treaty, economic development assistance, the provision of Light Water Reactors when North Korea returned to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state, and, ultimately, normal diplomatic relations. On the principle of "action for action," as North Korea commenced with the dismantlement of its nuclear

of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula) in return for a North Korea that has a more normal relationship with the U.S., to include initially, the establishment of interest sections or liaison offices in our respective capitals. This was the goal of the 2005 Joint Statement. The failure to comprehensively implement the Joint Statement should not be an impediment

imposes additional sanctions on North Korea in response to nuclear tests and missile launches. In short, there are tools available to respond to any continuation of North Korea's threatening and provocative behavior.

Ideally, that approach will not be necessary. It is possible Kim Jong-un will seize the current opportunity to enter



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

program, these benefits would have accrued to them, with the ultimate goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Unfortunately, in 2008, when North Korea refused to sign a verification and monitoring agreement that would have permitted nuclear monitors to visit and collect samples from sites outside of the

to moving forward with North Korea. Rather, we should learn from some of the mistakes we made with the Joint Statement.

Given North Korea's past behavior, it's fair to assume that there will be more nuclear tests and missile launches. And even if we have exploratory talks with North Korea, it's also fair to assume that

unconditional talks with the U.S. while refraining from nuclear tests and missile launches. Exploratory talks with North Korea will be difficult, however, mainly because they want to retain their nuclear weapons and because they are convinced U.S. policy toward North Korea is regime change. This is the constant refrain I hear from those senior North Korean officials I've been meeting for the past decade. They cite the fate of Moammar Gadhafi of Libya as proof that abandoning nuclear weapons is a path to self-destruction. Thus, our task will be to convince Kim Jong-un that abandoning nuclear weapons is a path to a peace treaty and survival, a path to becoming a legitimate sovereign state interacting with the international community and international financial institutions. Most important, it's a path to normal diplomatic relations with the U.S.

.....  
*Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani is the former Special Envoy for Negotiations with North Korea. The views are the author's and not any government department or agency.*

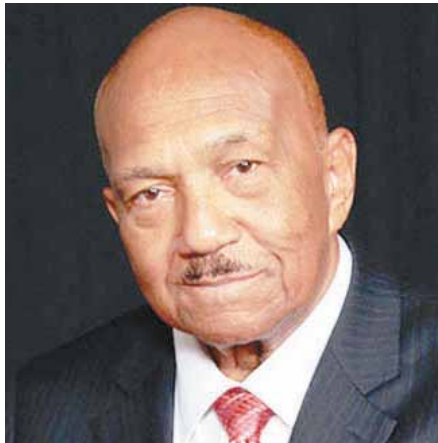
**Our task will be to convince Kim Jong-un that abandoning nuclear weapons is a path to a peace treaty and survival, a path to becoming a legitimate sovereign state interacting with the international community and international financial institutions.**

Yongbyon nuclear complex, the Joint Statement was discarded.

Our task now should be twofold: Getting Kim Jong-un to halt all missile launches and nuclear tests and return to exploratory discussions with the U.S., followed by reconstituting a multilateral negotiation process to resolve all extant issues with North Korea (with the goal

their demands will be such that it will prove impossible to restart viable follow-on formal denuclearization negotiations. If that unfortunately develops, the U.S. and its allies, South Korea and Japan, should enhance regional missile defense capabilities and upgrade joint military exercises, ideally to include Japan and other allies, while the United Nations

# An Open Letter to Kim Jong-un and the people of North Korea



**By Rev. William (Bill) Owens**

I write to you today, not as a stranger from another country ... and most certainly not as an enemy, but as someone who has devoted my life to recognizing the natural rights of men.

I was born in Tennessee at a time when a black man was thought to have little chance to succeed in life. Not only did I defy those odds, I helped remake them.

As a college student, I became an active part of America's great Civil Rights movement. I marched with leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and embraced the credo that would define my calling for the rest of my life: that we are all equal in dignity and worth in the eyes of God ... and that we must fight to ensure that equality is respected by our fellow men.

Over the years, I have seen so much division and hate rise up against this simple truth. With the tools of power

and government, it is possible to create division among people based on religion, race, creed, sex, nationality and more. We have seen great inhumanity and great suffering caused by such intolerance and fear.

But we do not need to continue in this way.

At this moment, the world is watching with concern as North Korea endangers the peace and security of its neighbors. My wife, Deborah, and I will be joining a delegation on a trip to South Korea in a few days because we love the people of this region. We want peace and security for all people. We want peace and security for the people of North Korea.

Right now, this peace is being threatened. The threat to use nuclear weapons against peaceful people is an act of great evil. But there is another evil that I want to address as well.

I am writing to call upon you, Chairman Kim Jong-un, to recognize the dignity and freedom that belong to your people by natural law. And to eliminate the government structures that prevent them from expressing those rights granted them by God.

The people of your country should be free to practice their faith, travel,

work, raise their families and live without fear. They should be able to speak freely — yes, even in criticism of the government, because no country can call itself great that rules in oppression and silences all dissent.

Notice that I do not ask you to grant these freedoms to your citizens, but only to recognize them. That is because it is not in your power to grant them. They belong to the people of North Korea (and to every man, woman, and child on this Earth) by the grace of God and our shared humanity. They are not rights granted by the government, but are given to us by our Creator. And while unjust men may jail, oppress and kill those who choose to exercise these human rights, they have no power to unmake the rights themselves.

To the people of North Korea, I only say that there is hope. Your suffering has not gone unmarked, your enforced silence does not mean that there is no one to speak for you. Throughout the United States (and the whole world), there are millions who are praying for your freedom. We know that you have been deprived of the most basic human rights, and we want nothing more than to see liberty and justice take root in your country.

**To the people of North Korea, I only say that there is hope. Your suffering has not gone unmarked, your enforced silence does not mean that there is no one to speak for you. Throughout the United States (and the whole world), there are millions who are praying for your freedom.**

*As eloquently written by my Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." (Letter From Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963).*

Too many generations have lived and died under the oppressive boot of a government that is notorious for its treatment of dissidents and political prisoners. Kim Jong-un, it is time to allow your people to breathe the sweet air of freedom. Close the political prisons and labor camps. End the reign of fear and collective punishment. Bring God, love and hope into your nation. Only then will you deserve to be called "leader."

In prayer,  
Rev. William (Bill) Owens

*The author is the President and Founder of the Coalition of African-American Pastors, an organization dedicated to promoting and supporting Christ-centered values. Rev. Owens is known for taking unpopular stands, no matter the consequences. He travels extensively speaking about his core values: choices in education, the sanctity of life, preservation of the family and the free expression of faith. Please join RISE, CAAP Clergy or CAAP Women's Ministry, and be sure to show your support of our work by making a donation. Our mailing address is 2654 West Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite B5-139, Henderson, NV 89052. If you would like to contact Rev. Owens, please send your inquiry to [info@caapusa.org](mailto:info@caapusa.org). Please visit us on the web at [caapusa.org](http://caapusa.org).*



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# Without public diplomacy, U.S.-North Korean policy will fail



By Dr. John Lenczowski

Secretaries Rex Tillerson and James Mattis recently wrote that the U.S. is not seeking regime change in North Korea. Depending on whether they meant it or not, this policy has enormous implications for the success of their putative policy, which is to remove the North Korean nuclear threat.

Their statement is clearly designed to calm down the North Korean communist regime. It is certain, however, that the regime will not calm down. This is because it is an illegitimate regime whose principal fear is of its own people. As George Kennan said of the USSR, it fears us not for what we do but for who we are — a democracy with a competitive and threatening legitimizing concept of state authority: the consent of the governed. Nothing the U.S. does, short of renouncing our political system, will diminish North Korean, or for the same reason, Chinese, fears of the U.S.

Of one thing we can also be sure: The Tillerson-Mattis statement sends a comforting signal to the Kim regime. It assures it that its nuclear threats are succeeding in their purpose, which is to show the North Korean people that it is so powerful that it can intimidate the U.S., so how can they even contemplate resisting it? This message is central to the internal security system of totalitarian states: It is designed to keep the people in a psychological state of “futile resignation.” Simply put, the regime will never renounce its nuclear weapons. They are an essential element of its internal security.

While reassuring Kim Jong-un that his nuclear threats are succeeding, and absent other messaging, the Tillerson-Mattis statement also signals to the North Korean people that we

don't really care about them. Everyone knows that the real problem here is not the nukes, but the people who control them and the genetic code of their regime. So, by refraining from a call for political change that would benefit the North Korean people, their human rights, and their physical health, we are telling them to accept their fate. This is a message that demoralizes.

All foreign policy has two dimen-

So what must be done? It is OK to send messages like the Tillerson-Mattis one only if we reassure the North Korean people that we haven't abandoned them. The Tillerson-Mattis message can thus serve a psychological disarmament purpose, at least to a limited degree. But we must have a parallel track of diplomacy — with the North Korean people. We must give them hope.

**What is remarkable about the policies of successive U.S. administrations is that however much the North Korean regime consistently conducts Cold War policies toward us, we do not reciprocate. Is this because we think that by doing so, the chances of peace will increase?**

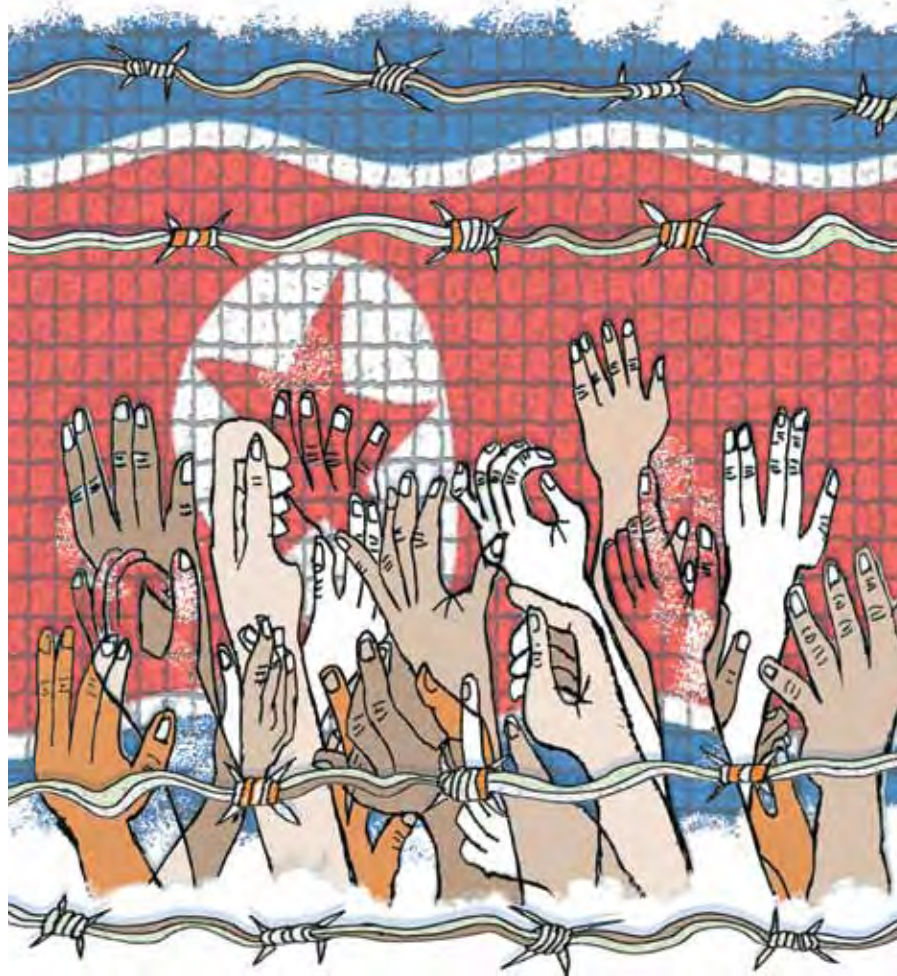


ILLUSTRATION BY THE WASHINGTON TIMES

sions: relations with governments (traditional diplomacy) and relations with people (public diplomacy). The tragic condition of U.S. foreign policy ever since the Reagan administration is that public diplomacy has consistently occupied a tertiary status in the scale of national priorities.

How is the people's hope suppressed? How does the regime prevent them from resisting its tyranny? It does so by maintaining a monopoly of communications and information, and by using propaganda to promulgate a Party line to which everyone must conform. This is the North Korean

version of “political correctness” — their method of thought control, speech control and, ultimately, behavior control. Meanwhile, its system of internal secret police informants creates such a climate of fear and mistrust that society becomes atomized: Every individual is separated from all others and stands alone against the all-powerful state. The result is that there is too much fear and too little opportunity for people to organize to resist the regime.

What is remarkable about the policies of successive U.S. administrations is that however much the North Korean regime consistently conducts Cold War policies toward us, we do not reciprocate. Is this because we think that by doing so, the chances of peace will increase?

We should remember the counsel of the great Soviet scientist, Andrei Sakharov, who said that there can be no peace between the U.S. and the USSR without respect for human rights. He explained that the Kremlin could never have peace with the West until it had peace with its own people. That, of course, by definition, could not happen so long as the regime remained communist.

Our policy, then, must be to help break the Kim regime's monopoly of information and communications by increasing our broadcasts via every medium. We must harness the digital revolution in broadcasting by initiating DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) shortwave broadcasts over the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia, which transmit not just sound, but text and video. The advantage of these broadcasts is that they can be heard and seen anonymously, in contrast to the internet. This means that we should flood North Korea (and other parts of the world) with DRM receivers, as well as information and communications technology of every type. By giving the North Korean people information, democratic ideas and technology, we can help them communicate with one another and, as we did to help the internal resistance in the Soviet empire, give them the courage and the means to resist one of the most toxic tyrannies on earth.

*John Lenczowski, Ph.D., is President and Professor at The Institute of World Politics. He formerly served as President Reagan's Soviet affairs adviser. He is the author of “Full Spectrum Diplomacy and Grand Strategy: Reforming the Structure and Culture of U.S. Foreign Policy.”*

# Three Prayers for The Sake of North Korea



## By Dr. William Ames Curtright

Oh Father of all Creation, through your Holy Spirit and its wisdom, please grant us the words and actions needed to resolve the most dangerous conflict on Earth. As a nation, we pray for peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula. Let your Holy Spirit change the heart, mind, soul and spirit of the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, so he will realize that all of Korea needs peace and prosperity — not war and destruction.

Please let all the atheistic and evil forces in Northeast Asia be removed and driven out. Change the egos of

leaders and their determination for aggression with spiritual wisdom that will lead to peaceful prosperity. Heavenly Parent, give us victory not on the battlefield, but help us to win over the hearts of the Chinese, and North Korean leaders and citizens. Our Father, we also pray for those who are suffering at the hands of intolerant and brutal regimes — may these people be liberated now.

We pray that our enemies can be transformed into our friends. Let their hearts understand our gestures. Dear God, Father of all, please unify the divided families from North and South Korea that yearn to be together.

We pray for mothers, fathers, daughters and sons to be joined together and prosper. Guide our leaders to set forth a victory of peace and unification of these divided nations — all for Your glory. We ask for peace, prosperity, freedom and equality for all. Our beloved God, please accept our plea, in Jesus' name. Amen

.....  
*Dr. William Ames Curtright, DBA is the CEO of Ames Research Labs and founder of "Gathering of Eagles," an annual meeting of hundreds of conservative and liberty-minded organizations.*



## By Joy Lamb

This is a call to prayer to resolve the conflict between the dictatorship of North Korea and the free nations of South Korea, America and Japan along with the international community. We know that nothing is impossible when we call God in on the situation. As Americans, we are calling upon You, Lord, to help our leaders and people establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. Let all bitterness, wrath and evil speaking be put behind them. Please let them be kind, tender-hearted and

forgiving towards each other. We lift up the names and positions of the 12 most important leaders that surround Kim Jong-un, the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). And we pray that miracles will take place.

The top leader is Kim Jong-un, who is Chairman of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK), Chairman of DPRK State Affairs Commission, and Supreme Commander of Korean People's Army (KPA). These are top 12 DPRK government officials in his inner circle of power players:

1. Kim Yo'ng-nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly
2. Hwang Pyo'ng-so', Director of KPA General Political Department, Vice-Marshal
3. Pak Pong-ju, Premier of DPRK
4. Ch'oe Ryong-hae, Vice-Chairman of WPK Central Committee
5. Kim Ki-nam, Director of WPK CC Propaganda and Agitation Department
6. Ch'oe T'ae-pok, Director of WPK CC Science and Education Department
7. Ri Myo'ng-su, Chief of KPA General

8. Pak Yo'ng-sik, Minister of People's Armed Forces, KPA 4-star General
9. Ri Su-yong, Director of WPK CC International Department
10. Kim Won-hong, Director of State Security Department, 4-star general
11. Ch'oe Pu-il, Minister of People's Security, 4-star general
12. Kim Yo'ng-ch'ol, Director of WPK CC United Front Department, KPA 4-star general

Father God, we lift up every one of these men, and pray you will visit them and draw them to you. Thank You, Lord, that you will pour out your spirit on each one of these North Korean leaders, in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, we ask that you diffuse the anger and the hatred in their spirits towards the United States, South Korea and Japan. We pray you can deliver these men from the dominion of darkness and transfer them to the Kingdom of Light, where there is forgiveness and repentance of sin. Let each one of these men repent and believe in the Gospel.

Cleanse the North Korean leadership of any defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear

of the Lord. Please let the families of South and North Korea be reunited. Let President Trump be very wise in his decisions. Give him patience to disarm the North Korean leadership and eliminate their desire to attack America. Let there be no war and no attacks. And Satan, we come against you and we take authority over you in the name of Jesus. And we command that all your assignments towards the North Korean people and their leadership to bring havoc and war to America and her allies, is now bound and vanquished.

We plead the blood of Jesus Christ over every evil planned toward America. This horrible evil will cease to be. And the world will stand in awe as people see the power of God enter into this conflict and stop it in its tracks, in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.

.....  
*Joy Lamb is author of "The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God: A Handbook for Praying God's Word." Please visit: [theswordofthespiritbook.com](http://theswordofthespiritbook.com).*



## By Nancy Schulze

Father, as we gratefully thank You for the majesty of Your creation, there are few places on Earth that cause us to cry out to You more than Korea and our Korean brothers and sisters trapped under the control of godless Communist leaders in the north. We humbly but boldly ask You to pierce the strongholds of darkness. Release this gentle land from the power and control of ruthless men, trapped themselves under a deceitful, destructive, evil ideology. Re-engineer their

hearts, O God. You alone can do this. Release them, Father, from the power of lies.

Sustain, uphold and protect Your people in the south. Thank You for their freedom, purchased by blood soaked into Korean soil as a testament to Your great gift of free will. May they not have died in vain. Please turn the hearts of leaders the world over. Protect them, Father, from deception and division. Move them to see, receive and proceed in accord with Your strategy to set Korea free. All of Korea. In grateful thanks for

Your sovereign goodness, we pray in profound faith that prayers sincerely offered in accord with Your sovereign will and purposes will be answered. Amen

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*Nancy Schulze is co-founder, with Vonette Bright, of the American Prayer Initiative, a Fellow with the Colson Center for Christian Worldview and founder of the Congressional Wives Speakers. Please visit: [americanprayerinitiative.org](http://americanprayerinitiative.org).*

# The human rights holocaust of North Korea



By Dr. Matthew Daniels

It should come as no surprise that North Korea is threatening parts of the United States with annihilation. For decades, the North Korean regime has been systematically annihilating segments of its own population. More specifically, the North Korean regime has been engaged for decades in the supreme human rights offense of genocide — the deliberate attempt to exterminate entire racial, ethnic or religious groups.

The entire human rights framework embraced by the civilized nations of the world in the aftermath of the Second World War is rooted in a desire to avoid genocide. The civilized world had recoiled in collective horror at the full extent of Nazi atrocities in the concentration camps. So a legal system was created that confers an affirmative obligation on the United Nations and U.N. member states to do something to stop genocide wherever it may occur.

But that system has failed so far with respect to North Korea. Arguably, the system also failed in other cases of



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

modern genocide in Africa, the Balkans, Southeast Asia and elsewhere. But nowhere has it failed more systematically and completely than in North Korea.

The actions of the North Korean government are tantamount to genocide in two specific cases.

First, the North Korean regime has an official policy of exterminating mixed-race children in the name of an ideology of North Korean “racial purity.” This is carried out through both forced abortions and infanticides motivated by a deep-rooted disdain for ethnically mixed children, in particular those of Chinese descent. Sources even suggest that forced abortions may be carried out

on all pregnant women who are repatriated from China on the assumption that the father of the child could be Chinese — and without asking the mother about whether or not that is the case.

Second, the North Korean regime similarly practices a policy of extermination against Christians. If identified by the government, Christians and their families are sent to labor and extermination camps, never to return. This is because Christians — like Jews in Nazi Germany — are officially regarded as enemies of the state and agents of the United States.

Interestingly, while Hollywood has made a series of deeply moving films on

the Nazi Holocaust — from “The Pianist” to “Schindler’s List” — there has been deafening silence with respect to the greatest and longest-running modern holocaust in North Korea. Nor has it helped that most entertainment content on North Korea follows the vapid and sophomoric pattern of movies like “The Interview.” We must challenge Hollywood to make a compelling movie about the North Korean concentration camps, where entire generations are born and die without even learning the existence of a world beyond the barbed wire of the slave labor camp.

Of course, we should all hope and pray that the latest round of North Korean nuclear rhetoric is simply more saber rattling by the regime in Pyongyang — a regime so prone to threats that few in South Korea even pay attention any more. But the genocidal extermination of Christians and mixed-race children in North Korea is ongoing.

This cannot be allowed to stand by the international community if it is to avoid repeating the failures of history in Nazi Germany, Serbia, Rwanda and Cambodia. We need to galvanize world opinion now for action to end the human rights holocaust in North Korea.

Matthew Daniels, J.D., Ph.D., is Chair of Law & Human Rights at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C., and creator of [www.universalrights.com](http://www.universalrights.com). These are links for Human Rights Network videos on North Korea: “The North Korean Holocaust” [https://youtu.be/NV-JYs\\_Dz5E](https://youtu.be/NV-JYs_Dz5E); “Farther Away Than Africa” <https://youtu.be/2I5T77XERxE>; and “Escape from North Korea” <https://youtu.be/zf3YkEnXh7Y>

## ‘Red-teaming’ the diplomatic option in Korea

*Why a Trump meeting with Kim Jong-un might be a good idea*

By Gary Anderson

Should President Trump meet personally with Kim Jong-un? John Glover, a graduate student at George Mason University wrote an article advocating such a meeting and, frankly, I think that he’s on to something.

The frequent crisis situations that North Korea instigates with the West are exacerbated by the fact that the leaders have never talked. Unlike Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Zedong during the Cold War, no North Korean leader has ever met a U.S. president and the lack of face-to-face dialogue probably exacerbates the tensions exponentially. I do not think that the current crisis will result in war, but as North Korea increases its missile

and nuclear capability exponentially, the chance of a miscalculation becomes greater and greater.

Over the years I have played the North Korean tactical commander in a number of war games. In getting into role, I’ve had to study what we know of North Korean doctrine, strategy and psychology. I have often tried to conceive of what would drive Pyongyang to start what would be a suicidal war.

No matter how well our army did in the initial stages, it was obvious to me that we would lose; either the regime would be destroyed or we’d get nuked, or both. The best I could figure is that they believed that they had a truly existential threat from the outside, or they had such internal turmoil that a war was a

desperate attempt to focus dissent away from the leadership cadre.

In all the years since I began as a red teamer, war has been avoided in the real world, presumably since neither of those conditions have reached critical mass. A Trump-Kim meeting could go a long way toward ensuring that a conflict doesn’t come to pass.

Richard Nixon could not have broken the ice with China had he not been such a hard-line Cold Warrior. Any Democratic president who tried it would have been labeled “soft on communism.” Mr. Trump drew a red line in Syria and backed it up with action when the Syrians stepped across. Mr. Trump has drawn another line with the North Koreans and it seems to have gotten Mr. Kim’s attention.

Since the Cold War began, we have never gone to war with a Communist-led nation with which we have had diplomatic relations. We never got to be buddies with the Soviets, but we were able to avoid war while not appearing weak in their eyes. We fought Red China in Korea at a time when we did not formally recognize its existence, and the same happened with North Vietnam.

Mr. Trump never made any ideological claims to the overthrow of the Kim dynasty during the election and probably would not have paid much attention to it until North Korea got serious about putting nuclear warheads on ICBMs and threatening Guam. No American

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# Aiding refugees brings freedom closer for North Korea



By Lindsay Lloyd

**N**orth Korea continues to make news for all the wrong reasons. Scarcely a day goes by without a headline about Pyongyang's ambitions to develop and perhaps use nuclear weapons. North Korea's unwillingness to respect the norms of international relations derives from the fact that there is no rule of law. As the Trump administration and Congress grapple with Pyongyang's security challenge to the United States and our allies, it's important to remember that North Korea's human rights abuses are not unrelated.

Just as North Korea refuses to respect the norms of international relations, it also commits human rights abuses of its people on a massive scale, including executions, torture and detention. The people are denied fundamental rights like free expression, association, assembly and religion. In North Korea, voicing an opinion or engaging in religious worship can be punished by imprisonment or death. Leaving the country is a capital crime, but for some North Koreans, it is a risk worth taking.

Escaping North Korea tests physical endurance and is typically a harrowing experience. Escapees know that their actions may mean their families will be

punished by the security forces. Most leave by crossing into China, where they risk repatriation back to North Korea and are often victims of sex trafficking.

The lucky ones are assisted by a loose network of organizations and individuals that helps shepherd refugees out of China to third countries. Once there, they can apply for refugee status in South Korea or the United States.

While the vast majority of escapees choose to resettle in South Korea, around 500 North Koreans have come legally to the United States as refugees or immigrants since President George W. Bush signed the North Korea Human Rights Act into law in 2004.

Research commissioned by the George W. Bush Institute has revealed that most North Koreans living here have adjusted well, and that they want to contribute to American society. They remind us why helping others escape oppression is not only the right thing to do, it is in our best interest as Americans.

Nevertheless, they face significant challenges. Many struggle financially and have limited prospects for careers or professional advancement. Many of them desire to improve their education and skills as a way to secure a happy and prosperous life. Yet they are often unable to afford the cost of education.

For that reason, the Bush Institute established the North Korea Freedom Scholarship program. It allows individuals who were born in North Korea and now live legally in the United States to apply for scholarships to attend institutions of higher learning. The scholarship may be used at four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools.

Through learning a trade or taking up a profession, these escapees can better provide for themselves and their families and contribute to our common prosperity. They also serve as a vital link to those trapped behind in North Korea by



In November, Grace Jo and Joseph Kim, both North Korean refugees, spoke at the "Light Through Darkness" conference at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. Photo credit: Grant Miller for the George W. Bush Presidential Center.



Former President George W. Bush stands with Joseph Kim, a refugee from North Korea who received a grant from the North Korea Freedom Scholarship Program from the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. Photo credit: Grant Miller for the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

active in promoting freedom in their homeland by speaking out on the plight of those they left behind.

In June, the Bush Institute awarded the first eight scholarships to North Koreans who have resettled in the United States. The recipients will attend four-year and community colleges and are studying in a range of fields, including nursing, information technology and theology. While their stories of escape are heartbreaking, they share a goal of wanting to improve life for their fellow North Koreans. The second round of applications for the scholarship will open in January 2018.

North Korea remains a dangerous and repressive country, but by enhancing the prospects of individual North Koreans, we can hasten the day when all North Koreans are free.

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*Lindsay Lloyd is Deputy Director, Human Freedom at the George W. Bush Institute in Dallas.*

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sending remittances and uncensored information to friends and family. Increasingly, many of the refugees have become

## ANDERSON

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president can ignore such provocations.

A Trump-Kim meeting would play to what Mr. Trump considers his greatest skill, that being person-to-person negotiations. Since he never considered unprovoked regime change in Pyongyang, Mr. Trump would not be giving anything up in assuring Mr. Kim that we will not undertake such an action unless we or our South Korean or Japanese allies is attacked.

As the secretary of Defense and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have said, the military option is always on the table. The Cold War between North Korea and the West would not end with such a meeting, but it might well de-escalate the current crisis and open the road for further dialogue. Winston Churchill was fond of saying: "Jaw, jaw is better than war, war."

Mr. Glover suggests that Mr. Trump invite the North Korean leader to Washington, but that is probably not workable. If the pressure to ratchet up tensions is being driven by internal politics in the

North, Mr. Kim cannot afford to be seen as going into the camp of the enemy. However, a meeting at the 38th parallel in Korea or in Beijing would be more feasible and would give Mr. Kim the world recognition he obviously craves. A successful meeting would probably be one that doesn't end in a shouting match, but it would also vastly increase Mr. Trump's street cred in the foreign policy realm.

Hard-liners who do favor military action against the North, or Iraqi-like regime change would not be happy, and the left as well as many mainstream Republicans will hate Mr. Trump no matter what

he does. If I were to give the president face-to-face advice on this matter, I'd paraphrase his own words. "What the Hell have you got to lose?"

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*Gary Anderson is a retired Marine Corps colonel who teaches alternative analysis (red teaming) at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 17, 2017.*

# Parliamentarians' Association formed to focus on peace

By Dr. Thomas G. Walsh

**A**s the world faces a wide range of 21st century challenges and threats — including the current crisis with North Korea — it becomes increasingly clear that in order to address and solve critical global problems, a more collaborative and multisectoral approach to governance and international relations is required. While the Westphalian system of world order, centered on sovereign states, has prospered and endured for centuries, we face a wide range of global or transnational problems that require the full complement of stakeholders being engaged. That is, not only governments, but also non-state actors from civil society to the private sector and, indeed, faith-based organizations.

Stated a bit differently, the hard power instruments of government must be increasingly augmented by the soft power instruments aimed at building trust, confidence, mutual respect and understanding where there may only be suspicion, acrimony, bitter resentments or hostility. Parliamentarians can serve as a bridge between government and civil society and between the hard and soft power approaches to peace and human development.

With this in mind, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and launched by the Universal Peace Federation, an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to form a collaborative, global network of parliamentarians, working alongside representatives of civil society, faith-based organizations and the private sector, for the sake of peace and human development.

Parliamentarians are uniquely



The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace launched in Nigeria this summer with 227 participants. Photo courtesy of Universal Peace Federation International.

qualified to serve as advocates for peace and human development. As representatives of the people, they stand as mediators between government and civil society. Their experience with the practical challenges related to law-making and public policy gives them unique set skills and insights that are required if we are to forge a path to peace and bring solutions to the critical challenges of our time, including poverty, conflict, cyber-crime, the rise of extremist movements, environmental threats, and even the various culture wars that divide the human family.

Given that we live in an increasingly interdependent and interconnected world, the global nature of such problems require global cooperation and coordination.

IAPP will provide a forum for parliamentarians from all nations and political parties, allowing them to come together in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation in order to search for solutions to local, national, regional and global problems.

IAPP will work cooperatively and collaboratively with the many existing organizations and associations of parliamentarians around the world, some formally organized as intergovernmental bodies and others informally associated.

The primary objectives of IAPP include the following:

- To promote good governance in all sectors of society;

- To develop high-quality educational programs for parliamentarians;

- To promote and encourage dialogue and cooperation among parliamentarians from nations around the world with the aim of promoting peace and human development;

- To uphold core, universal principles, recognizing that all human beings are members of one global family;

- To protect, preserve and uphold the dignity and value of each human being;

- To strengthen the family as the central and most fundamental institution of human society;

- To work to build trust, mutual

respect, and cooperation among the world's peoples; and

To encourage respectful, interreligious dialogue as essential to building a peaceful world.

Since its founding in February 2016, IAPP has been launched in more than 30 nations throughout the world, generating substantial enthusiasm and support. The international co-chairs of IAPP are the Hon. Dan Burton, former member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, and Hon. Jose De Venecia, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines. In recent months, IAPP programs were convened in India, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Australia, Bolivia, Benin, Togo, Indonesia and Israel. It is expected that by the end of 2017 there will be more than 70 national-level chapters of the IAPP, engaging well over 2,000 parliamentarians from diverse political parties.

IAPP has the potential to make significant contributions to the effort to promote peace around the world, including in Northeast Asia. For example, a delegation of IAPP members from Nepal were part of a high-level visit to North Korea in August of this year, where substantive discussions took place, including a proposal for follow-up meetings in Pyongyang involving the UPF and IAPP.

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*Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D., is Chairman of Universal Peace Federation International, which has NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He is Secretary-General of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, and also serves on the International Council of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and on the board of directors of the International Coalition for Religious Freedom.*

## Parliamentarians linking arms for peace, human development

**By International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace**

More than 2,000 Parliamentarians in the following nations have formed or are in the process of forming a chapter of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace. IAPP chapters are under discussion in another 30 countries.

**Albania (November 2017)**  
**Argentina (November 2017)**

**Australia (August 2017)**  
**Bangladesh (October 2017)**  
**Belgium (December 2017)**  
**Benin (July 2017)**  
**Bolivia (August 2017)**  
**Burkina Faso (August 2016)**  
**Costa Rica (October 2016)**  
**Cambodia (November 2016)**  
**Dominican Republic (July 2017)**  
**Democratic Republic of the Congo (June 2017)**  
**Fiji (May 2017)**  
**India (April 2017)**

**Israel (June 2017)**  
**Italy (October 2017)**  
**Japan (November 2017)**  
**Jordan (December 2017)**  
**Korea (February 2017)**  
**Kosovo (September 2017)**  
**Lebanon (November 2017)**  
**Marshall Isles (July 2017)**  
**Morocco (October 2017)**  
**Myanmar (July 2017)**  
**Nepal (July 2016)**  
**Nicaragua (July 2017)**

**Nigeria (June 2017)**  
**Pakistan (September 2017)**  
**Paraguay (April 2017)**  
**Peru (October 2017)**  
**Philippines (March 2017)**  
**Sri Lanka (October 2016)**  
**Togo (June 2016)**  
**United Arab Emirates (September 2017)**  
**United Kingdom (September 2016)**  
**United States (November 2016)**  
**Vanuatu (August 2017)**  
**Zambia (November 2017)**



# Who is the real target of North Korea's nuclear weapons?



By Michael Breen

**M**issile tests by North Korea and threats against the United States by her leader, Kim Jong-un, and an unprecedentedly firm response of “fire and fury” from President Donald J. Trump combined this summer to create what may be described as a panic over the prospect of a nuclear attack on American soil.

Thousands turned to Google to find out what to do in the case of a detonation. In Hawaii, the state emergency management office issued instructions — get underground immediately and don't try and watch the blast because the light can blind you — and in California, fallout shelter retailers did brisk trade.

This is all understandable, but for people like me, and around 51 million others who live in South Korea — Seoul is about as close to the border with North Korea as Washington, D.C., is to Baltimore — there is something not right in this American response. It's as if fake news has taken over and driven everyone crazy. Americans are buying fallout shelters? Is this from The Onion?

That is because, in South Korea, we know that North Korea would never use nuclear weapons against America. No, the real target is us.

The journey to that conclusion starts with this question: What exactly does North Korea want? To figure that out, consider the unusual context. Unlike any other neighbors in the world today, the two Koreas — the North and, our ally, the South — with straight faces, claim sovereignty over each other. Each treats the other's government as illegitimate and forbids any people-to-people cross-border contact.

This civil war, for that is what it is, sometimes hot and sometimes cold, started with the rift of Korea into two states after World War II. It exploded

into military conflict that pulled in the U.S., China, the Soviet Union and 15 other nations in 1950, and has been held in check ever since by a fragile ceasefire.

There have been no serious steps towards resolving the underlying conflict that prevents real peace. South Korea has still not changed the part of its Constitution that says, for example, that the people in North Korea are South Korean citizens. North Korea's ruling Labor Party Constitution, for its part, still commits the regime's leaders to take over South Korea by means fair or foul. (They are obliged to go for foul, i.e., stir up a war again, because, if they were to ask fairly — by, say, a referendum — South Koreans would vote against them 99.99 percent).

But in truth, this 70-year battle is over. We know South Korea has won. It is the real Korea in this modern world. The problem is that the North's leaders have not acknowledged their failure. They have not turned the corner and adopted a new national strategy of focusing on the economy instead of defense, or rejoining with the better South. They are stuck, caught like a deer in the headlights of a future that doesn't need them.

Given this outcome, some analysts believe that Kim Jong-un's nuclear weapons serve to help his regime survive. With nukes as insurance, Kim Jong-un can keep the U.S. and South Korea at bay, all while maintaining the fiction in the eyes of the people that their lives are in danger and that they need tough leadership to protect them. If these analysts are right — and I've been waking up four mornings a week for the last 25 years agreeing with them — then American belligerence is playing into their hands. Perhaps we should take a new tack and try to convince Kim Jong-un that we and our South Korean allies mean no harm. We should encourage him to follow a new path. We should engage him with sincerity, agree to a proper Korean War Peace Treaty, commit to non-interference, open diplomatic relations, join hands and sing Kumbaya. Otherwise, this will just go on forever.

But the other three days a week, I wake up at home, which I should point out is just a few hundred yards from the Blue House, South Korea's White House, which would surely be ground zero, with a very different thought. Yes, we think the North Koreans have lost to South Korea. But what if they don't? What if all their talk of war and unification is not just propaganda? What if the dream is still alive? What if they think they can

achieve it?

Then the role the nukes play is completely different. And so is what Kim Jong-un wants from America.

Consider: Kim Jong-un is not stupid. He knows a popular pro-North Korean revolution in South Korea is no longer possible. Not only would 51 million wealthy, freedom-loving South Koreans never rise up and ask him to be their leader, but also, if he took them over forcibly, they would be a nightmare to control. Believe me, the reason the North Korean dictators are so horrendous on human rights is because their Korean subjects are so fractious. Controlling them is like herding cats. So, subduing South Koreans calls for extraordinary measures.

In that vein, some other analysts now believe that Kim Jong-un's solution, as unbelievable as it may seem, is to use nuclear weapons against some part of South Korea and move in to take over the shell-shocked remains, rather as the United States did with Japan at the end of World War II.

If this analysis is the correct one, then the United States is not a useful tool for regime survival, but an obstacle. Right now, Kim Jong-un knows that one nuclear missile headed for Guam, as he threatened, let alone Hawaii or the U.S. mainland — or South Korea — would mean the end of his country. His unification strategy will only work if U.S. military support for South Korea is neutralized. In such a picture, his reason

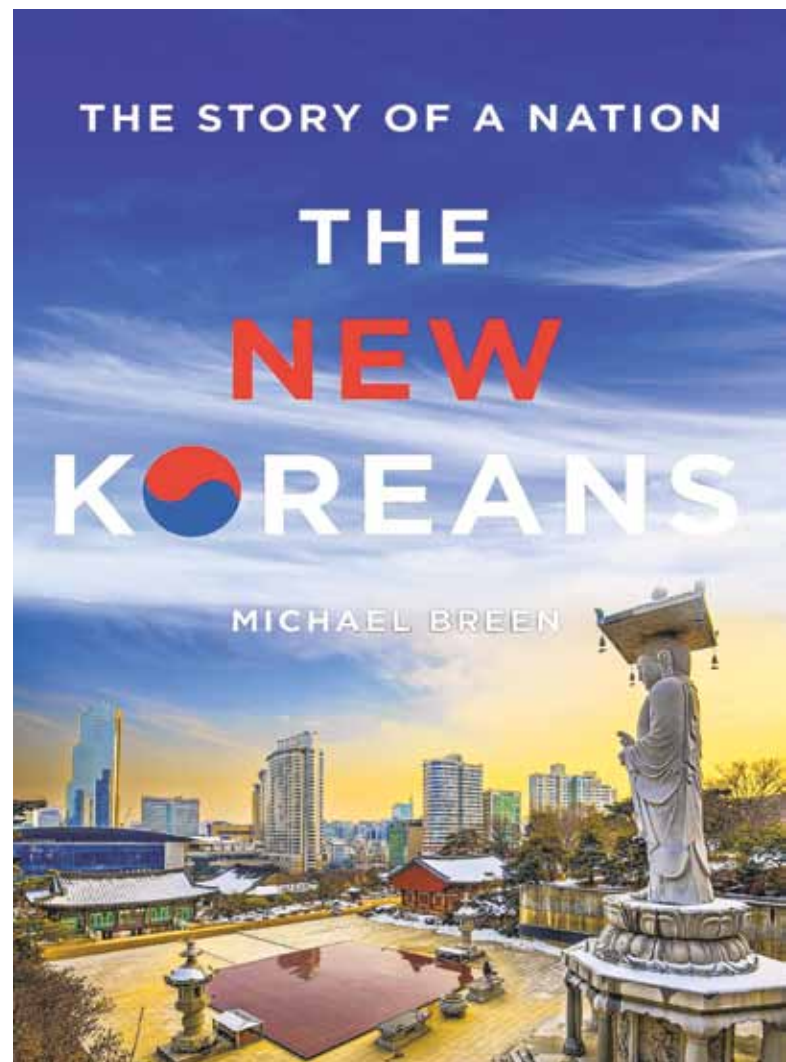
for deliberately stoking the recent tension was to scare Americans into talking about peace and for the two sides to arrive at a Korean War Peace Treaty that would include the important provision of ending American support for South Korea.

It is important to consider this now because, with the recent war of words and the fallout shelter-buying spree behind us, talk of talks is picking up as if it is the grown-up thing to do.

If this scarier analysis is correct, there is no need to refuse to talk. But we should do so smartly. Our objective in engaging North Korea should be for the singular purpose of infecting as many North Koreans as possible with the freedom virus. We should do what we did with the Soviets: talk, engage, swap embassies and ballet performances and all that, and get the two Koreas doing the same — not because this will lead to peace, but because the whiff of freedom will get up their noses and work its destructive magic.

But there is something else that we did with the Soviets that was equally as important and which, if there is no solution soon, the South Koreans might do — and that is to start an arms race that the poorer enemy can never win.

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*Michael Breen is the author of "The New Koreans: The Story of a Nation." He lives with his family in Seoul.*



# ROK's President Moon: A stellar first 100 days



By Dr. Alexandre Y. Mansourov

**W**hen Moon Jae-in was elected president of the Republic of Korea in May, in the wake of the momentous popular protests that had led to the impeachment and ouster of his predecessor, he inherited the roaring Seoul street distrustful of the government; the raging northern neighbor who seemingly “went off rail” with the “right-in-your-face” nuclear and endless missile tests; an unpredictable U.S. ally who threatened to break off the strategic free trade agreement and unleash war on the peninsula; as well as deteriorating relations with prickly China and unyielding Japan. It was a difficult hand to play.

Yet, in his first hundred days, President Moon was able not only to pacify the Seoul street, but also to begin to rebuild the public trust in government institutions and earn high marks for his progressive policies, dynamic performance and open, communicative leadership style — which contrasts with corporate collusion and obsession with backroom deals, lackluster performance and self-centered leadership of his predecessor. His sky-high popular approval ratings — hovering around 80 percent — allow him to push ahead with truly remarkable liberal reforms, such as a major job-creation plan for the public sector, a substantial increase in the minimum wage, a raise in the basic pension for all senior citizens, and a vow to improve public health insurance coverage, as well as a nuclear-free energy policy with a commitment not to raise electricity fees for five years. Although his critics contend that his domestic policy proposals are “too radical,” “extremely populist,” “can’t be paid for,” and are

likely to “undermine the competitive advantages of Korean economy” and “stifle future growth,” the Korean public loves President Moon’s socioeconomic policies and supports his management of state affairs.

Strength at home gives President Moon confidence in dealing with the country’s international threats and challenges. His maiden visit to Washington in June, with its highly anticipated summit with President Trump, was a complete success. It reassured both the Korean and American peoples that the ROK-U.S. military and security alliance was as strong as ever. Not only did he assuage some American fears that the new progressive government in Seoul was “going its own independent way,” but, as

of hope, an expression of indefatigable optimism, and a demonstration of visionary leadership for President Moon to publicly declare that there will be no war on the Korean peninsula under his watch. This bold statement sends a powerful message to the world that Moon Jae-in is strongly committed to maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula by the means of international diplomacy, credible military deterrence and multifaceted engagement with North Korea. On one hand, he extended an offer to revive the inter-Korean social and economic exchanges, including the fielding of a joint South-North team at the P’yongch’ang Winter Olympic Games in 2018 and hosting of a joint South-North football World Cup in 2030,

of realism” and “diplomatic naiveté,” and blasted him for “not thinking through his ideas” and even for “recklessness.”

But his words are neither wishful thinking nor an indication of inexperience. They actually express his genuine belief that pressure alone won’t work in Pyongyang, and there is no politically acceptable military solution to the North Korean nuclear issue; it can only be resolved through a negotiated settlement. His words signal the contours of President Moon’s emerging new approach how to get there: through diplomatic negotiations on two parallel tracks — South-North and U.S.-North Korean, with the ROK diplomacy taking the lead in shaping the final negotiated outcome and the U.S. ally playing a supporting role in making it happen, without outsourcing to China the difficult work of convincing the Kim Jong-un regime to change its mind and accept the nuclear deal. Some skeptics already say “we’ve seen it before,” “it was tried and failed in the 1990s,” etc. Obviously, President Moon does not share their pessimism. He believes that “A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.”

Last July, the Moon Jae-in administration set up a special task force to review how the impeached Park Geun-hye administration made its decisions regarding North Korea, and why it decided to shut down the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and halt civic inter-Korean exchanges and humanitarian aid in 2016. This probe is part of President Moon’s initiative to root out “old evils.” The ROK Ministry of Unification is expected to finish its internal investigation in September. Once the North Korea policy review is complete, President Moon’s new approach to North Korea is likely to firm up, and one can expect a new push to jump-start the stalled inter-Korean dialogue from the Blue House. The

Trump administration stands ready to do its part of the heavy lifting to find the peaceful way towards the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

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*Alexandre Y. Mansourov, Ph.D., is professor of security studies at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and professor of Asian studies at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C.*

**It was an act of courage, a harbinger of hope, an expression of indefatigable optimism, and a demonstration of visionary leadership for President Moon to publicly declare that there will be no war on the Korean peninsula under his watch.**

a reliable and responsible ally, the United States under the Trump administration agreed not to take any military action against North Korea without Seoul’s consent. As President Moon stated in his Aug. 17 news conference, “The United States and President Donald Trump too have agreed to discuss any options it may take [against North Korea] with South Korea, regardless of what kind of options it takes.”

It was an act of courage, a harbinger

and proposed to resume the South-North intergovernmental and military-to-military talks. On the other hand, he has also drawn a “red line” for Pyongyang’s provocative behavior, namely, “a completion of the ICBM development and mounting of nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles,” and reiterated his determination to do his utmost to prevent North Korea from becoming a full-fledged nuclear weapons state. At once, his critics accused him of the “lack





# Government warns North Korean cyber attacks continue

*Pyongyang botnet targets critical U.S. infrastructure, aerospace firms, DHS says*



**By Bill Gertz**

Washington Free Beacon

**T**he Department of Homeland Security and FBI issued a new warning on Wednesday [Aug. 23] that North Korean government hackers are continuing to target critical U.S. infrastructure for cyber attacks.

A technical report by DHS' National Cyber Awareness System reveals details of the tools and cyber methods being used by North Korean government hackers.

The alert said the North Korean government is using the cyber tools to "target the media, aerospace, financial, and critical infrastructure sectors in the United States and globally."

The warning comes amid heightened tensions between the United States and North Korea. Pyongyang recently threatened to fire missiles at Guam prompting counter threats from the Trump administration.

The notice lists Internet Protocol addresses linked to a malware called Delta-Charlie that is "used to manage North Korea's distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)

botnet infrastructure."

A botnet is a network of a large number of hijacked computers and networks that are used to conduct cyber attacks designed to shut down networks by flooding them with digital requests.

"The U.S. government refers to the malicious cyber activity by the North Korean government as Hidden Cobra," the notice said.

The technical details were published to assist computer administrators in identifying North Korea botnet cyber strikes.

"FBI has high confidence that Hidden Cobra actors are using the IP addresses for further network exploitation," the notice said.

The government warning followed a report by the California-based security firm Palo Alto Networks earlier this month indicating that North Korean hackers were targeting U.S. defense contractors.

The hackers sent out emails containing weaponized Microsoft Office documents, including one that used a fraudulent job offering for a position as a manager of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, the U.S. anti-missile system recently deployed to South Korea.

"The techniques and tactics the group uses have changed little in recent attacks," Palo Alto Networks stated in a report. "Tool and infrastructure overlaps with previous campaigns are apparent. Given that the threat actors have continued operations despite their discovery and public exposure it is likely they will continue to operate and launch targeted campaigns."

The North Korean botnet has been operating since 2009 and have compromised "a range of victims" that were not specified by the notice. The latest DHS report provided additional details on the cyber threat from a report first published in June.

"Some intrusions have resulted in the

exfiltration of data while others have been disruptive in nature," the notice said, noting that security experts have identified two entities used as cover names by the North Koreans. They are the Lazarus Group and the Guardians of Peace.

The Guardians of Peace was the code name used by North Korean hackers who attacked Sony Pictures Entertainment in what officials have called one of the first publicly known state-sponsored cyber attacks.

The November 2014 cyber attack against Sony was aimed at derailing release of the comedy film *The Interview* that involved a fictional plot to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The attack resulted in the destruction of Sony networks and the theft and disclosure of valuable and sensitive internal data.

"DHS and FBI assess that Hidden Cobra actors will continue to use cyber operations to advance their government's military and strategic objectives," the notice said.

Among the cyber attack tools used by the North Koreans are botnets, keyloggers, remote access tools, and wiper malware.

Keyloggers are malware capable of remotely intercepting keyboard strokes in learning login and passwords; remote access tools are methods of creating covert openings in networks targeted for attacks; and wiper malware is used to destroy all data on targeted networks.

The malware linked to the North Koreans includes variants called Destroyer, Wild Positron/Duuzer, and Hangman.

The North Koreans also appear to be targeting networks that use older, unsupported Microsoft operating systems, such as Windows XP.

"The multiple vulnerabilities in these older systems provide cyber actors many targets for exploitation," the notice said.

"These actors have also used Adobe Flash player vulnerabilities to gain initial entry into users' environments"

The report warned that cyber attacks can produce severe impacts, especially when sensitive information is stolen and made public.

DHS said that by using software security patches, technically blocking known malware, restricting administrator privileges, and using firewalls, up to 85 percent of cyber intrusions can be halted.

"However, many organizations fail to use these basic security measures, leaving their systems open to compromise," the report said.

Details of the North Korean hacker methods were disclosed by the security firm Novetta in a recent report, "Operation Blockbuster: Destructive Malware Report."

"The destructive malware within the Lazarus Group's collection ranges from simplistic to moderately advanced in construction and style," the report said.

"However, regardless of the structure and complexity of the code for any particular tool, their operational effectiveness is undeniable," the report added.

"The author(s) behind these destructive malware families have developed a set of tools capable of inflicting significant damage against a target either directly ... or remotely. This further emphasizes that even a moderately capable adversary with minimal resources is able to perform asymmetric cyberwar against a large target."

*This article by Bill Gertz, senior editor of the Washington Free Beacon, first appeared online on Aug. 24, 2017 and is reprinted with permission. Mr. Gertz also writes the weekly "Inside the Ring" column for The Washington Times.*

# Making the best of a bad nuclear hand

*Trump deals with the leadership failure Obama left behind*



By David A. Keene

**T**hat so many of the nation's leading Democrats believe President Trump poses a greater threat to world peace than the mad dog leader of a nuclearized North Korea says more about them than either the president or Kim Jong-un.

Take Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman and Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison who, in a speech last week urging his leftist followers to “reignite” a grass-roots anti-war movement, contended that the North Korean dictator has acted more “responsibly” in recent days than Mr. Trump. Even though Mr. Ellison later told a reporter that he “wished” he hadn’t said what he did — not because it wasn’t true but because his words could be used against him — one suspects he actually believes the president he despises is worse than a tyrant who says he’s like to incinerate us.

As Mr. Ellison spoke, tens of thousands of North Korean soldiers were marching in the streets of Pyongyang in a show of support for their crazed leader who was once again warning that he can “reduce the U.S. mainland to ashes at any moment.” Perhaps, though, he might only launch against the U.S. airbase in Guam or some other target that will allow him to kill Americans, or decide to finally go after his enemies in Seoul or Tokyo for wherever else he fears they might be hiding.

If it were just Mr. Ellison siding with the North Korean dictator, it might be possible to dismiss the man as a fool. If that were the case, one would expect other leading Democrats to demand that he resign his party post and apologize not just to the president of the United States, but to the American people as a whole — or at least to the people of Guam — who have a far less sanguine view of those threats from Pyongyang. Don’t

hold your breath.

Susan Rice, President Obama’s national security adviser and U.N. ambassador, even after admitting that

“The fact is,” she told CNN, “that despite all of those efforts, the North Korean regime has been able to succeed in progressing with its program,

published on Thursday in The New York Times that said Mr. Trump should soften his rhetoric and accept a nuclear North Korea.

“History shows that we can, if we must, tolerate nuclear weapons in North Korea — the same way we tolerated the far greater threat of thousands of Soviet nuclear weapons during the Cold War,” Ms. Rice wrote. “It will require being pragmatic.”

She went on not only to criticize Mr. Trump’s rhetoric, but the United Nations for exacerbating the situation by increasing the sanctions on North Korea. Her advice, like that coming from most Democrats today, is to blame the current incumbent in the White House for the problem. From now on, she urges, everyone must simply accept the fact that we will have to live with a rogue regime headed by an irrational madman capable of inflicting catastrophic destruction on this country if he gets up on the wrong side of his bed one morning. Mr. Trump, most Americans and even nations like China and Russia view that as unacceptable.

The president’s rhetoric, echoing President Harry Truman’s to the Japanese before Hiroshima and Nagasaki, seems calculated to re-establish the credibility of a U.S. willingness to use military force when our vital national interests are at stake. His words aren’t likely meant for the lunatic governing North Korea, but his Chinese neighbors who, if they actually believe Mr. Trump is serious, have the ability to restrain Pyongyang — something President Obama was never able to get them to do.

It’s a dangerous, high-stakes game, but Mr. Trump and his advisers know they have to play as best they can the bad hand dealt them as a result of failed policies while ignoring advice from the architects of failure urging them to simply throw in their hand.

Earlier this month, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to put in place new sanctions on North Korea. In her CNN interview, Ms. Rice actually blamed the U.N. move, coupled with military exercises, for the confrontation. While some play the blame game, the president is left with responsibility of dealing with the fallout — hopefully, just the political kind.

*David A. Keene is editor at large at The Washington Times. This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 14, 2017.*



**It’s a dangerous, high-stakes game, but Mr. Trump and his advisers know they have to play as best they can the bad hand dealt them as a result of failed policies while ignoring advice from the architects of failure urging them to simply throw in their hand.**

her boss’ attempts to keep North Korea from going nuclear could be fairly characterized as a “failure,” now says we “can live with a nuclear North Korea”

both nuclear and missile. That’s a very unfortunate outcome, but we are where we are.”

Ms. Rice also wrote a commentary

# The other North Korean threat

*The rogue nation's satellites could be equipped to deliver an EMP attack*

By William R. Graham  
and Peter Vincent Pry

After massive intelligence failures grossly underestimating North Korea's long-range missile capabilities, number of nuclear weapons, warhead miniaturization, and proximity to manufacturing a hydrogen bomb, the biggest North Korean threat to the United States remains unacknowledged. North Korea has two satellites in orbit, and more to follow, that could be nuclear-armed for a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack that would black out North America for months to years, killing millions.

An EMP attack doesn't require accurate guidance systems because the area of effect, having a radius of hundreds of miles, is very large. No re-entry vehicle is needed because the warhead detonates at a high altitude, above the atmosphere. This point appears to be beyond the comprehension of most, including secretaries of defense, the military leadership and the usual "experts" who appear in the press.

The design of a super-EMP weapon could be relatively small and lightweight, resembling the U.S. W-79 Enhanced Radiation Warhead nuclear artillery shell of the 1980s, designed in the 1950s. Such a device could fit inside North Korea's Kwangmyongsong-3 (KMS-3) and Kwangmyongsong-4 (KMS-4) satellites and pose a potential EMP threat to every nation on Earth.

Two Russian generals warned the EMP Commission in 2004 that Russia's super-EMP warhead design was transferred accidentally to North Korea.

North Korea's KMS-3 and KMS-4 satellites were launched to the south on polar trajectories and passed over the United States on their first orbit. The south polar trajectory evades U.S. ballistic missile early-warning radars and national missile defenses, making the satellites resemble a Russian secret weapon developed during the Cold War called the Fractional Orbital Bombardment System (FOBS) that would have used a nuclear-armed satellite to make a surprise EMP attack.

Ambassador Henry Cooper, former director of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, and a pre-eminent expert on missile defenses and space weapons, has written numerous articles warning about the potential North Korean EMP threat from their satellites.

On Sept. 20, 2016, Mr. Cooper wrote: "U.S. ballistic missile defense (BMD) interceptors are designed to intercept a few North Korean ICBMs

that approach the United States over the North Polar region. But current U.S. BMD systems are not arranged to defend against even a single ICBM that approaches the United States from over the South Polar region, which is the direction toward which North Korea launches its satellites. ... This is not a new idea. The Soviets pioneered and tested just such a specific capability decades ago — we call it a Fractional Orbital Bombardment System (FOBS).

... So, North Korea doesn't need an ICBM to create this existential threat. It could use its demonstrated satellite launcher to carry a nuclear weapon over the South Polar region and detonate it ... over the United States to create a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse. ... The result could be to shut down the U.S. electric power grid for an indefinite period, leading to the death within a year of up to 90 percent of all Americans — as the EMP Commission testified over eight years ago."

Former NASA rocket scientist James Oberg visited North Korea's Sohae space launch base, witnessed elaborate measures undertaken to conceal space launch payloads, and concludes in a 2017 article that the EMP threat from North Korea's satellites should be taken seriously: "There have been fears expressed that North Korea might use a satellite to carry a small nuclear warhead into orbit and then detonate it over the United States for an EMP strike. These concerns seem extreme and require an astronomical scale of irrationality on the part of the regime. The most frightening aspect, I've come to realize, is that exactly such a scale of insanity is now evident in the rest of their 'space program.'"

That doomsday scenario, it now seems, is plausible enough to compel the United States to take active measures to ensure that no North Korean satellite, unless thoroughly inspected before launch, be allowed to reach orbit and ever overfly the United States.

Kim Jong-un has threatened to reduce the United States to "ashes" with "nuclear thunderbolts" and to retaliate for U.S. diplomatic and military pressure by "ordering officials and scientists

to complete preparations for a satellite launch as soon as possible" amid "the enemies' harsh sanctions and moves to stifle" the North. The North Korean press asserts readiness for "any form of war," including their satellite with "strengthening of the nuclear deterrent and legitimate artificial satellite launch, which are our fair-and-square self-defensive choice."

of national defense, at any moment!"

An earlier generation immediately understood the alarming strategic significance of Sputnik in 1957, heralding the nuclear missile and space race, yet few today understand or even care about the strategic significance of North Korea's satellites, consistent with a widespread ignorance about an EMP.



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

Moreover: "The nuclear weapons we possess are, precisely, the country's sovereignty, right to live and dignity. Our satellite that cleaves through space is the proud sign that unfolds the future of the most powerful state in the world." The same article, like many others, warns North Korea is making "constant preparations so that we can fire the nuclear warheads, which have been deployed for actual warfare for the sake

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# In search of a grand U.S. strategy

*Anti-extremists should hang together while Trump's advisers construct it*

By Clifford D. May

**R**ichard Nixon's rapprochement with China, the end of the Cold War, President Obama's outreach to "the Muslim world," the growth of the (largely American-funded) United Nations — weren't such developments supposed to lead to a safer world, one in which the "international community" would embrace "universal values" and pursue common interests — peace and security key among them?

Those who thought so were, to put it kindly, credulous. "Conflicts within and between societies have occurred since the dawn of civilization," Henry Kissinger has observed. I'm betting that will hold true until the sunset of civilization which, unless we're careful, could be around the proverbial corner. Consider just a few of the threats America now faces.

North Korea is ruled by a dynastic dictator whose psyche we can't begin to fathom and who has acquired nuclear weapons and increasingly sophisticated missiles to deliver them to targets of his choosing.

Iran's rulers combine medieval jihadism with even more ancient Persian imperialism. They continue to chant "Death to America!" notwithstanding their promise to delay development of the most efficient means to that end.

China's communist rulers have both regional and global ambitions. Russia is ruled by a revanchist czar-commissar who intends to restore what he can of the Russian empire.

Meanwhile, various non-state actors, motivated by ideologies rooted in Islamist theology, conspire to destroy America both from without and within.

These threats may appear distinct but, in fact, they are intertwined. China supports North Korea. Russia supports Iran. Iran and North Korea cooperate on missile programs and, you may safely bet, on nuclear weapons as well. Iran is the leading state

sponsor of jihadi terrorism.

I could go on, but it should by now be apparent that it's insufficient for the United States to sit back and wait for the arc of history to bend. Nor is the answer to play global whack-a-mole.

To defend American lives and liberties — the central purpose of the government — we need not only sound strategies vis-a-vis specific threats but also a grand strategy designed to address the entire threat matrix.

Why don't we have that? Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush launched a Global War on Terrorism. Its conceptual flaw: It failed to name or comprehend America's enemies. Terrorism is merely a weapon those enemies find useful.

President Obama attacked al Qaeda (a still-dangerous organization) but, beyond that, seemed to think America has no enemies — just friends waiting for their legitimate grievances to be addressed by someone with his unique multicultural sensitivities.

He had no plan for the day after the fall of Moammar Gadhafi in Libya. His re-set with Russia, complete with toy button, was a joke and his "pivot" to Asia was unserious. He withdrew U.S. troops from Iraq and refused to support non-Islamist rebels in Syria, thereby giving the Islamic State — which he initially dismissed as a "TV



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

team" — room to grow, enslave and slaughter.

In return for peace in his time (i.e., so long as he occupied the Oval Office), he promised Iran's theocrats a key to the nuclear weapons kingdom within a decade or so — even if they fail to moderate which, in case you're wondering, they won't.

And, as recent news has made vivid, he did nothing while North Korea's nuclear

capabilities went critical. He might at least have invested in a comprehensive missile defense system. That interested him not at all.

So what's the plan now? There isn't one, but President Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, and his deputies, are working on it, in close consultation with Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Chief of Staff John Kelly.

That Mr. Trump has assigned this task to military men gives me some comfort. First, because military men are accustomed to taking on missions and accomplishing them. Second, because they tend not to say, "There is no military solution," thereby removing from the deck the highest card the U.S. possesses. They understand there is no solution that is only military — a very different concept. All instruments of American power, military, cyber, economic and diplomatic, are necessary to achieve solutions — not to be confused with quick fixes.

Are Mr. Trump's advisers up to this task? I don't know and, truth be told, they don't, either.

Given the enormity of these challenges, it would be nice if Americans were hanging together. Instead, we are living in what social historian Pankaj Mishra has called the Age of Anger, much of it directed less at foreign enemies than fellow Americans.

Radical identitarians on both the left and the right are setting us against one another. Islamic supremacists, white supremacists, the black-shirted "Antifa" and others who incite and/or employ violence should be vigorously opposed by everyone who embraces American values — whatever their other policy or ideological disagreements. Mr. Trump was not wrong to attempt to draw attention to this immoral equivalence.

But his timing could hardly have been worse. In Charlottesville on Saturday, the anger turned lethal. A young woman was murdered by a white supremacist employing jihadist-terrorist tactics. Little reported: He was the member of a cohort that had been chanting, "White Shariah, now!"

Ivanka Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Vice President Mike Pence and Gen. McMaster denounced those responsible by name and without equivocation. Had Mr. Trump not waited so long to join them, he would have deprived his enemies of ammunition and the opportunity to further distract from his urgent national security agenda.

Only the credulous believe the many "conflicts within and between societies" can be resolved anytime soon. But strategizing to solve them and bringing together anti-extremists to work cooperatively — surely that should not lie beyond the realm of the possible.

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*Clifford D. May is president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and a columnist for The Washington Times. This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 15, 2017.*

## 'Juche' or consequences

*Its ideological commitment to nuclear weapons means North Korea will never disarm peacefully*

By Jed Babbin

"Juche" — the ideology of North Korea — compels unquestioned obedience to the "supreme leader," who is exalted as the greatest source of political thought. It is enforced by fear and murder even among the elite and accounts for the Kim regime's

paranoia and belligerence.

Because Kim Jong-un and his generals are the most fervent believers in it, juche drives their regime to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to threaten the United States and its allies. North Korea's ideology is undisturbed by international sanctions.

But the Kim regime's total immersion in juche has consequences. One direct consequence is the crisis President Trump is facing, which results from juche-propelled threats made serious by Mr. Kim's ability to deliver on them.

» see **BABBIN** | C23



# Toward a more muscular missile defense

## *There is no excuse for an inadequate anti-missile shield*



By Ed Feulner

**A**n air of fatalism surrounds much of the coverage of the escalating tensions between North Korea and the United States. If Pyongyang launched a missile at us or at one of our allies, the feeling goes, we could do nothing but brace ourselves for catastrophic damage and loss of life.

Which makes this a good time to ask: What's the state of our missile defense?

The good news, we have a system in place. We could shoot down an incoming

missile. The bad news? The system isn't as capable as it could or should be. Fortunately, we can do something about that.

First, though, let's look at what North Korea has, and what kind of missile defense we have right now.

North Korea boasts a very active nuclear-weapons program. The country has faced decades of sanctions, and the communist leaders in Pyongyang have inflicted an enormous economic toll on its population. Yet North Korea has continued to develop long-range ballistic missiles for a long time.

Its goal, as missile-defense expert Michaela Dodge reminds us in a new paper, is apparently to threaten the U.S. homeland. It is already capable of threatening U.S. allies in South Korea and Japan, as well as American forces stationed in those countries. Such a situation is clearly untenable.

"It is increasingly obvious," Ms. Dodge writes, "that the Kim Jong-Un regime will not voluntarily give up its nuclear weapons program, which leaves the United States with an option to either be vulnerable to the whims of an unpredictable totalitarian dictatorship or find ways to defend its way of life as well as its allies."

That defense rests in large measure on a Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system, which remains the only

missile-defense system we have capable of shooting down long-range ballistic missiles headed for the U.S. homeland.

The U.S. GMD system is the only one we have capable of intercepting an intercontinental ballistic missile in the mid-course phase of its flight. The United States currently deploys four interceptors in California and 32 in Alaska. If all goes according to plan, those 36 will increase to 44 by the end of this year.

We also have systems capable of shooting down shorter-range missiles, as well as our sea-based Aegis system. Aegis can target short- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles. But with the threat of longer-range destruction from Pyongyang and elsewhere growing, it's time to focus on how we can increase the amount of protection we have.

Increasing the number of interceptors in our GMD system certainly leads the list. As Ms. Dodge notes, 44 should be a minimum number. But the current budgetary plan doesn't allow for us to maintain those 44 into the 2020s. We obviously need to allocate the necessary funds for that — and sooner rather than later.

But that's not enough. We also should invest in space-based interceptors (which are far better equipped to shoot down missiles in their initial "boost" phase, when they are moving more slowly) and in future

missile-defense technologies. Some of these technologies were scaled back under President Obama, but the current situation with North Korea strongly suggests it's time to change that.

Of course, North Korea isn't the only threat out there. Its saber-rattling rhetoric often draws the most attention, but Iran also has a large arsenal of ballistic missiles, and its nuclear program is quite active. And Russia and China have plenty of ballistic missiles on hand. The need for a more robust U.S. missile defense becomes more pressing all the time.

We've come a long way from the days of Mutually Assured Destruction. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty tied our hands for three decades. We've beefed up our missile defenses quite a bit since then, but much more needs to be done.

There are plenty of places in the federal budget where we can cut. But security isn't one of them. It's time to make our missile-defense system more muscular.

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*Ed Feulner is founder of the Heritage Foundation (heritage.org). This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 15, 2017.*

## BABBIN

From page C22

North Korea chose to launch a ballistic missile on July 4, an American holiday, to demonstrate its contempt for America. That missile had the capability of reaching parts of the United States. It launched another on July 30, which had an even longer estimated range.

Intelligence estimates say that the Kim regime has developed nuclear weapons small enough to fit atop one of its ballistic missiles. Though it's unclear whether they have developed re-entry vehicles capable of delivering a nuclear attack on America, they will soon if they haven't already.

Now the Kim regime has directly threatened Guam with the launch of missiles that would intentionally miss it by a few miles creating a "ring of fire" around the island.

Guam is the home to about 160,000 people. Those born on the island are U.S. citizens. Andersen Air Force Base, and a nearby naval base, take up a considerable portion of the island. American strategic weapons, including recently arrived B-1 nuclear-capable bombers, are based there.

A North Korean launch at Guam would be an act of war. Because Guam is part of America, we would defend against it and respond to the attack as if it were an attack

on Atlanta or Chicago.

The president rightly has taken a very tough tone. He has tweeted that a military solution to North Korea was locked and loaded. Defense Secretary James Mattis has warned the Kim regime that it could well be destroyed if it attacked us. The deterrent effect of these statements will be measured over the next few weeks. Mr. Kim values his life more than anything else, so the president's and Mr. Mattis' words might have the desired deterrent effect.

We are in a crisis akin to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 with one important difference. Neither President John F. Kennedy nor Soviet Chairman Nikita Khrushchev wanted a nuclear war. Mr. Kim and his regime are different because of their ideology, recklessness and infatuation with nuclear weapons. It is both illogical and contrary to the facts to equate the threats of China's or Russia's nuclear weapons and missiles with the threat posed by North Korea's.

If Mr. Kim chooses to launch missiles at Guam, several things would happen in rapid sequence. We, in Guam, and the Japanese in their nation, have Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) — anti-missile missile — batteries. Mr. Kim's missiles would have to pass over Japan to reach Guam. The Japanese will try to shoot them down. Our THAAD batteries in Guam would certainly fire

against the incoming missiles. This would begin an extraordinarily bloody war that North Korea would lose.

The North Koreans have perhaps 10,000 artillery pieces and missiles, dug in on their southern border aimed at Seoul, South Korea's capital city. A large percentage of the 26 million people living in and around Seoul would probably die in the war's first days.

We have no desire for such a war but will have to fight if attacked. But what if Mr. Kim decides not to shoot, at least at this point?

China, meaning to deter an American pre-emptive attack, has warned the United States that they would stay neutral if Mr. Kim fired the first shots but not, it implies, otherwise.

Any pre-emptive attack would be an enormous risk. Unless we knocked out both the Kim regime and its artillery and missiles on the border at the same time, pre-emption would fail.

President Trump has greatly confused matters by combining his tough-sounding tweets with a statement that he would consider negotiations with the Kim regime. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has added to the confusion by saying that we don't aim for regime change in North Korea.

Those who say there's no easy solution to this crisis are correct, but such counsel is

devoid of value. We have to recognize that North Korea isn't going to be disarmed of its nuclear weapons and ICBMs peacefully.

By now it must be clear to all who aren't willfully blind that China isn't going to (and may not be able to) restrain Mr. Kim's regime from continuing its aggressive behavior.

Mr. Trump should consult secretly with Chinese President Xi Jinping. He should make clear that we must impose regime change in North Korea and disarm it verifiably. He should offer to cooperate with China and make it clear that we don't intend to use the situation to reunify the Koreans, which would be intolerable to the Chinese.

If Kim Jong-un and juche both die, there is a chance to disarm North Korea without millions of casualties. The only alternative is an horrific war.

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*Jed Babbin served as a deputy undersecretary of defense in the George H.W. Bush administration. He is a senior fellow of the London Center for Policy Research and the author of five books including "In the Words of Our Enemies." This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 15, 2017.*

# Reliving the nuclear worry

*The North Korean threat awakens past fears*

By Thomas V. DiBacco

Intelligence reports to the effect that North Korea has produced a miniature nuclear warhead that can be placed inside its missiles jolts the historian to relive a past that most Americans don't recall. It was on Aug. 22, 1953, that the Soviet Union detonated its first hydrogen bomb. Like most Augusts in the nation's capital, the summer heat had driven officialdom from the city. As one newspaper put it: "There was a minimum of official comment, with President [Dwight] Eisenhower and most lawmakers out of town on vacation, and no sign that there would be any immediate change in United States policy."

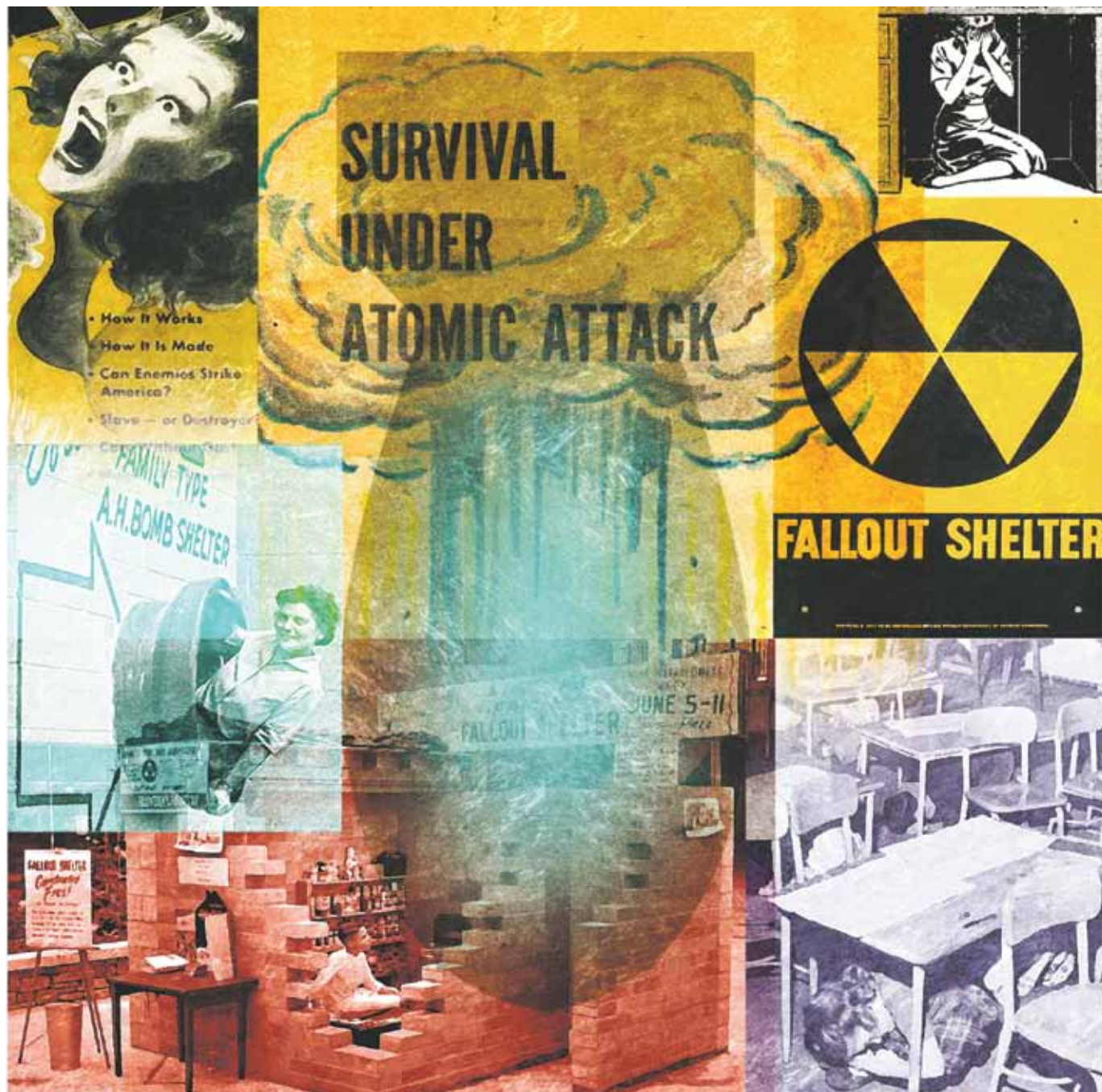
Still, debate soon raged in the press and on Capitol Hill about what America should do as a result of the Soviets getting the H-bomb. Some analysts suggested a no-worry stance on the grounds that the Soviets didn't have the wherewithal actually to deliver a bomb to a faraway target. Others suggested boosting research and weaponry, and still others, such as Sen. Charles Potter, Michigan Republican, pointed the blame finger: Soviet technology was attributable to espionage committed in this country.

A bigger bombshell came in 1957 when a committee appointed by Eisenhower released a report calling for not only increased military spending, but \$30 billion for the building of fallout shelters in the event of a nuclear attack. Called the Gaither Report, after its chairman, H. Rowan Gaither, head of the Ford Foundation, Ike's administration paid little heed, in part, because the U-2 spy planes indicated that Soviet nuclear progress appeared minimal.

If all this has a familiar ring in view of the current North Korean threat, there is a notable difference: Fallout shelters by private Americans were being built, encouraged in part by the little-known Federal Civil Defense Administration created during Ike's years. I was a teenager growing up in Florida at the time and recall drills my school had in the event of a nuclear attack. And a couple of my friends' parents had shelters of sorts that wouldn't pass muster because the Sunshine State's sandy, watery soil prevented building an underground retreat.

President John F. Kennedy, more so than Ike, encouraged the building of more shelters. "We owe that kind of insurance to our families and our country," JFK said on Oct. 6, 1961. "The time to start is now. In the coming months, I hope to let every citizen know what steps he can take without delay to protect his family in case of attack. I know you would not want to do less."

Of course, even a fallout shelter, it was soon reckoned, was an implausible resort.



THE WASHINGTON TIMES

One needed thick concrete, depth, ventilation, power, water, sanitation and food. And even in the best of nuclear circumstances, exit from the shelter could be for only short periods — a few hours at most. And not until, it was estimated, at least two weeks had passed after an attack.

But the \$30 billion for public and private shelters that the Gaither Report had recommended didn't materialize. Congress only appropriated \$169 billion of the \$209 billion that JFK had urged, and much of that money was spent not on cities where bombs, it was believed, would destroy virtually everyone, but in rural areas. Some stand today as monuments to futility, such as the one in Los Altos, Calif., near San Francisco. Some 15 feet deep, the shelter was 25 by 48 feet, designed to accommodate 96 people.

The shelter effort got some publicity

as, for example, on the cover of Life magazine on Jan. 12, 1962, but after the Cuban missile crisis was eased later that year, the nuclear worry faded. Also getting publicity was the really big federal shelter in Greenbrier, West Virginia, designed to hold all members of Congress — and about which secrecy still abounds.

Authors and movie makers trying to bring home the relevance of nuclear catastrophe found an unreceptive audience, as illustrated by the film, "On the Beach," based on the book by Nevil Shute and released in 1959. Directed by Stanley Kramer with a star-studded cast — Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Fred Astaire and Anthony Perkins — the movie dealt with the few remaining survivors of nuclear war in 1964. They're in Australia, where in a few months radiation clouds will eventually reach them. There the last

remaining nuclear submarine, the USS Sawfish, picks up a Morse code signal emanating from the West Coast of the United States.

So the submarine ventures to San Francisco, then San Diego, and no life could be detected. The rest of the film is predictable. All die, by suicide or radiation.

The film lost \$700,000 — a big sum in those days — with audiences unmoved by the likelihood of such a catastrophe. Yet it had a moral, as one critic wrote: "On the Beach" should be required viewing for every politician who takes an oath of office, the globe around, just to be certain."

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*Thomas V. DiBacco is professor emeritus at American University. This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 9, 2017.*



# Countering bombast from North Korea

*'The regime's actions will continue to be overmatched by ours and would lose any arms race or conflict it initiates'*

By Donald Lambro

**T**he escalating exchange of nuclear threats between North Korea and the United States has pushed us closer to the brink of war.

Recent classified reports by U.S. intelligence, based on spy satellite surveillance, now reveals that the Communist nation has successfully developed a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can be fitted on top of an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching our country.

North Korea, punished by a severe new round of U.S.-led economic sanctions, approved this week by the U.N. Security Council, described the action as an attempt to bring down its country.

Especially the ban on exports that provide up to a third of North Korea's yearly \$3 billion in earnings.

Such sanctions, the government said, were an attempt "to strangle a nation," warning the U.S. that "physical action will be taken mercilessly with the mobilization of all its national strength."

President Trump, on a 17-day working vacation at his golf course in Bedminster, N.J., shot back a fiery reply Tuesday [Aug. 8], warning North Korea that it would face a devastating response if it continued to threaten the U.S.

"They will be met with fire and fury and frankly power, the likes of which this world has never seen before," he said.

Before this exchange took place, Mr. Trump's secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, attempted to defuse the deepening conflict by sending a remarkable peace offering to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

"We do not seek a regime change, we do not seek a collapse of the regime, we do not seek an accelerated reunification of the peninsula, we do not seek an excuse to send our military north of the

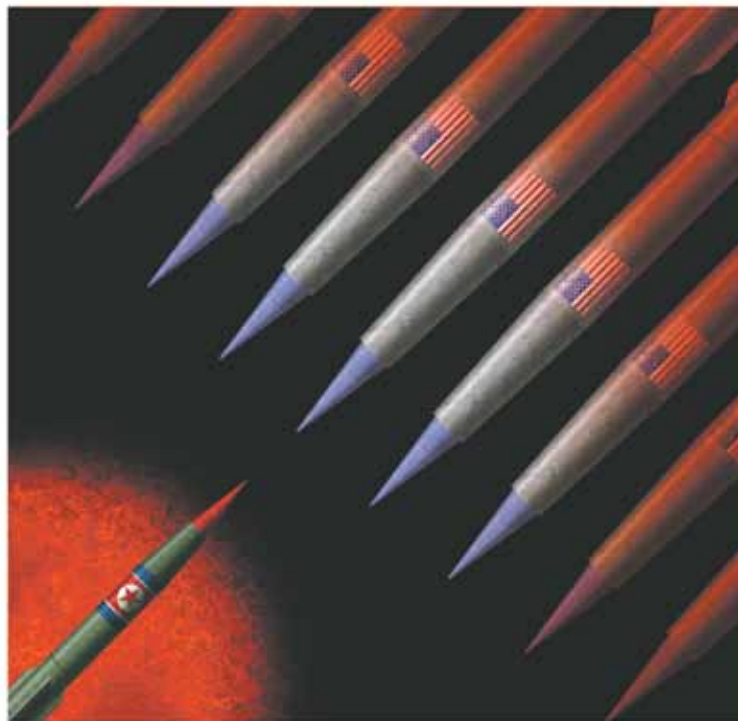


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38th Parallel," he said last week.

"We are trying to convey to the North Koreans: We are not your enemy, we are not your threat," he added.

Mr. Tillerson's calm-the-waters statement was widely credited for clearing the way for both China and Russia to embrace the sanctions, though it had no effect on Kim.

But maybe Mr. Tillerson's remarks were really aimed at an end-run around Mr. Trump in a vain attempt to send a more diplomatic message to the North Korean leader.

The Reuters news agency's lead story Wednesday on Mr. Trump's blistering warning to Mr. Kim suggested that was the case:

"Secretary of State Rex Tillerson played

down President Trump's incendiary warning to North Korea Wednesday, saying he was just trying to send a strong message in language its leader would understand," the news service said.

While Mr. Trump was telling Mr. Kim that if he wanted a fight, the U.S. was ready to give him one, Mr. Tillerson was singing a different tune.

Speaking to reporters shortly before landing in Guam, the U.S. Pacific island territory Pyongyang threatens to strike, Mr. Tillerson said he did not believe "there was an imminent threat from North Korea," Reuters reported.

"I think Americans should sleep well at night, have no concerns about this particular rhetoric of the last few days," he said.

But in case anyone assumed he was

leaving the Trump reservation on foreign policy, Mr. Tillerson maintained that "what the president was just reaffirming is that the United States has the capability to fully defend itself from any attack and our allies, and we will do so."

"So ... what the president is doing is sending a strong message to North Korea in language that Kim Jong-un would understand, because he doesn't seem to understand diplomatic language," he said.

Soon after Mr. Tillerson's remarks, Mr. Trump reinforced his warning to Pyongyang in a Twitter post with another not-so-veiled warning about the new and much improved U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal.

"My first order as president was to renovate and modernize our nuclear arsenal. It is now far stronger and more powerful than ever before," he said.

In another statement, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis also sent a blunt message to North Korea Wednesday, urging its government to "stop any action that would lead to the end of its regime."

He added, "The regime's actions will continue to be overmatched by ours and would lose any arms race or conflict it initiates."

Meantime, it is interesting that throughout this war of words with North Korea, there has been no mention of our anti-ballistic missile arsenal that can destroy any incoming ICBMs before they can strike their target.

Kim Jong-un better think long and hard about that before he makes another boastful claim about his military superiority.

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*Donald Lambro is a syndicated columnist and contributor to The Washington Times. This article first published in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 10, 2017.*

## The South Pacific's strategic role

By Erik M. Jacobs

Kwajalein Atoll. Guam. Saipan.

These names are familiar as critical battlefields in World War II which helped turn the tide of the war and ensure American victory in the Pacific. Although much of American strategic focus in the Pacific focuses on China, North Korea, Continental Asia, and the "first island chain" comprising of Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines, the geo-strategic importance of strengthening and maintaining American power in the

far-off atolls and islands of the South Pacific must not be forgotten.

On the campaign trail, President Trump often stated that he was committed to expanding the size of the U.S. Navy and restoring American military power should he be elected president.

With the growing threat of long-range ballistic missile launches from North Korea, intelligence reports that Pyongyang has miniaturized a nuclear weapon, and concerns about China's continued push to expand its naval capacity while waging a war of influence across the

Pacific, a new front has opened up in the Pacific's strategic framework: the South Pacific.

In order to ensure that the U.S. maintains its position as the pre-eminent Pacific superpower and maintains its ability to defend its island territories and the West Coast, Mr. Trump should consider targeted strategic investment in the region. By considering these three actions, the administration can ensure America's positioning in the region remains strong:

- Continue to modernize and consider expanding the Ronald Reagan Ballistic

Missile Defense Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll.

- Invest in more defense capabilities in U.S. Pacific territories and partner states.
- Consider re-establishing a U.S. Navy presence on American Samoa for the first time since the closure of U.S. Navy Station Tutuila in 1951.

As recent missile defense tests have shown, the Reagan Missile Defense Site is able to counter various ICBM threats to the United States, but as North Korea continues

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# A superstar in Donald Trump's Cabinet

*With grit and charm, Nikki Haley won the votes for North Korean sanctions*

By Suzanne Fields

Donald Trump has a skill for recruiting Cabinet officers he has treated badly. Serving in his administration can require selfless devotion to duty. Jeff Sessions, the attorney general, could tell you about that. So could Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who is swiftly becoming the Cabinet superstar.

She took the lead in persuading China and Russia to join the sanctioning of North Korea, all to persuade Kim Jong-un to think again about his boastful threat to ignite World War III.

Such a catastrophe might at last be “the war to end war,” as Woodrow Wilson said of World War I. Mr. Kim’s reckless exuberance with his nuclear toys has terrified the world into a new reality, and Nikki Haley used it to win approval of United Nations Resolution 2371, which she calls “the single largest economic package ever leveled against the North Korean regime” and “the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation.”

If enforced to the limit — a big “if” — the effects could reduce Pyongyang’s exports by \$3 billion, a third of its revenue from exports of coal and minerals, which in turn is key to keeping its nuclear and missile scientists at work.

“The international community is standing with one voice,” Mrs. Haley says. “China didn’t pull off. Russia didn’t pull off. All of the Security Council and the international community said, ‘That’s enough.’” Mr. Kim’s provocations have exhausted the patience even of China, his enabler and

patron. “It’s reckless. It’s irresponsible, and the international community really laid down the groundwork of saying, ‘We’re not going to watch you do this any more.’”

The prospect of pocketbook pain is always persuasive, and North Korea’s bluster response arrived as if on cue. “North Korea will make the U.S. pay dearly for all the heinous crime it commits against the state and the people of this country,” the state media warned. Military intelligence services reported that North Korea was moving anti-missile ships into position off its eastern coast in anticipation of action.

“They’re going to threaten,” Mrs. Haley says of the bluster, “but we’re not going to run scared from them. Our job is to defend not just the United States, but our allies. We have to protect our friends, and we’re going to continue to do that. China stepped up and said, ‘We will follow through on these sanctions.’ And now we have to just stay on them to make sure they do that.”

This is not the kind of talk the rest of the world is accustomed to hearing from the American ambassador to the United Nations. Mrs. Haley reported for duty at a United Nations puzzled and despondent over the defeat of Hillary Clinton, and many regarded her as a patronage payoff by the new president, and would finish her term at the U.N. with just another entry on her resume and leave for the speaking circuit to cash in on political celebrity. “No one at the United Nations,” said one professor pundit, “will think Nikki Haley is someone to talk to who will be either knowledgeable or close to the president.”

The professor missed by only a mile. Perhaps buoyed on such modest expectations, she has prospered at the U.N., working hard to build close relationships



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

with other delegations, particularly those of America’s European allies. Over the first months of her tenure she earned the respect of other delegates that enabled her to rally support for American positions on Syria as well as North Korea.

Her frequent and aggressive scolding of Russian support for President Bashar Assad in Syria earned her a reputation for leading, as well as following, American policy. She squelched the long-standing Russian goal of making Russia the moral actor in the Syrian civil war. She still won Russian support for the sanctions vote.

Little more than a year ago she seemed unlikely to be a part of a Trump administration. She clashed with Mr. Trump the candidate on the eve of the South Carolina primary, having endorsed Mario Rubio, and said sharp things about Mr. Trump. “During anxious times,” she said, “it can be tempting

to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation.”

Mr. Trump unleashed a Twitter attack. “The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!” he tweeted angrily. But that was forgotten by both of them when Mr. Trump assembled his Cabinet. He needed someone who knew how to speak up, even to him. She learned in South Carolina, as only a governor can, how to twist arms to rally support.

Someone asked her the other day whether she had to twist arms to bring Russia and China along on the sanctions vote. She replied with one word: “Lots.”

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*Suzanne Fields is a columnist for The Washington Times and is nationally syndicated. This article first published online in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 9, 2017.*

## JACOBS

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to expand its capabilities and develop new technology, the U.S. must show that its ability to intercept missiles in the Pacific is unquestionable.

Evaluating, modernizing, and expanding U.S. missile infrastructure across the Pacific at sites like those like the Reagan Missile Defense Site is a way for the administration to show its commitment to Pacific preeminence and expanding U.S. military scope in the Pacific.

Such investment should not be limited to missile defense.

Washington’s strategic investment should include ways in which the military can strengthen its positions in U.S. territories such as Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands while also deepening partnerships that it has with island nations

such as Palau and the Marshall Islands.

As some of U.S. Forces Japan begin a transition from Okinawa to Guam in the coming years, the U.S. military should consider evaluating infrastructure on Guam as another way to expand its Pacific infrastructure. A good way to do this would be to invite Japanese forces to the island in a way to expand growing goodwill between the U.S. military and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

At the same time, cooperation on Guam would provide a new venue for deeper training exercises and bilateral cooperation at a time when Japan looks to expand its defense role in conjunction with the United States.

While not incorporated as a part of the United States, island nations such as Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Micronesia are in Compacts of Free Association with the U.S. Under this agreement, the U.S. provides financial assistance and defense to these

nations as a part of the Office of Insular Affairs.

Strategic investment in existing defense infrastructure is in line with current Department of Defense policy and is another way in which Mr. Trump can expand the purview of the U.S. military in the Pacific to counter emerging challenges while also building goodwill across the region as China expands its foreign direct investment.

Yet another way to address American interests in the South Pacific is by re-establishing a U.S. Navy installation at American Samoa. Vice President Pence’s visit to the island territory in April following his successful Asia tour underscores the important strategic role that American Samoa can play in U.S. Asia policy.

As China continues its military expansion and modernization and as President Trump seeks to expand the capabilities of the U.S. Navy to restore traditional American strategic power, the South Pacific will

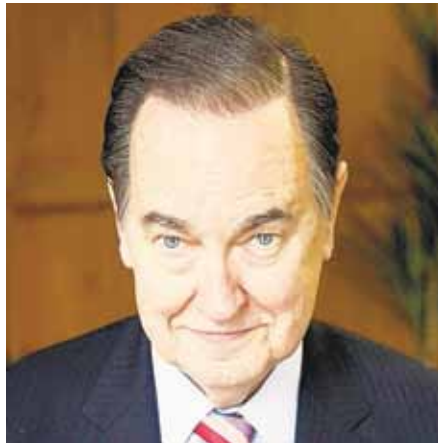
only continue to grow in strategic importance. Overlooked as part of the Obama administration’s “pivot” to Asia, strengthening U.S. presence in American Samoa would be a strong message that Washington is committed to an effective transfer of its naval resources to the Pacific.

Small and targeted strategic investment in the South Pacific will not only show the U.S. commitment to its strategic value, it will ensure that the U.S. is prepared to deal with current and emerging threats across the broader Asia-Pacific region.

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*Erik M. Jacobs is a student at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. This article first published in The Washington Times Commentary section on Aug. 10, 2017.*

# Armageddon postponed

## North Korea's threats don't seem to work with Donald Trump



By Cal Thomas

**N**orth Korean dictator Kim Jong-un appears to have blinked and President Trump can claim a foreign policy victory and justification for his strategy.

Reminiscent of President Ronald Reagan's "peace through strength" approach to deterring adversaries, Mr. Trump stood up to the blustering despot and forced him to back down from his threat to launch missiles at Guam.

China, North Korea's biggest ally, no doubt played a role in getting Mr. Kim to change his mind, but primary credit should go to the president.

What a far cry from the policies of the last several administrations. They favored diplomacy over confrontation, allowing North Korea (officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK) to proceed with its clandestine nuclear program in exchange for empty promises. Former President Jimmy Carter, former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright were among those who visited North Korea on various diplomatic missions. Mrs. Albright engaged in a champagne toast with Mr. Kim's father, Kim Jong-il, after claiming success in getting the country to curtail its missile program. We have seen the failure of that approach and are witnessing the success of its opposite.

Though Mr. Kim seems to have backed down from launching missiles at Guam and touting his capability to strike targets on the U.S. mainland, he has retained his overheated rhetoric. In a case of the pot calling the kettle black, Mr. Kim warned the U.S., as reported by *The Wall Street Journal*, "to take into full account" whether the current standoff was to its benefit. He added it was incumbent on the U.S. to "stop at once arrogant provocations against the DPRK (North Korea) and unilateral demands and not provoke it any longer."

Who provoked whom?

Mr. Kim added, "If the Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous reckless actions on the Korean Peninsula and in its vicinity, testing the self-restraint of the DPRK, the [North] will make an important decision as it already declared," meaning he might still order a strike against Guam, or put some missiles offshore to test American resolve.

American resolve has been tested and has prevailed, at least for now. Mr. Kim has lost face. His military leaders and others will take notice, as will the rest of the world. The significance of the unanimous U.N. resolution imposing new sanctions on North Korea, which included the support of China, could not have been lost on Mr. Kim.

New presidents almost always face a foreign policy test. Some pass, some fail. John F. Kennedy was judged weak by Soviet dictator Nikita Khrushchev, which many believe precipitated the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. Iran believed press reports that Ronald Reagan was a "cowboy" and dangerous, so they released American hostages on the day of his inauguration in 1981.

There is a time for diplomacy and a time for displaying strength. President Obama sent a signal to the world by setting a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan before victory over the Taliban could be achieved. He apologized to the world for what he saw as America's "arrogance." Our enemies took notice and

viewed his statements as an invitation to adventurism.

Mr. Trump and his defense secretary, Gen. James "Mad Dog" Mattis, took another approach, returning Mr. Kim's rhetorical fire with rhetorical

for standing up for the country and confronting one of the world's most unpredictable dictators. He probably won't get any credit from the media, most Democrats, or the foreign policy establishment, but our adversaries are



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fire of their own. It worked, at least temporarily. Where to go from here remains an open question, but the goal remains the same. North Korea (and Iran) must never be allowed to develop nuclear weapons capable of reaching the United States or threatening America's allies, including South Korea and Japan.

President Trump deserves credit

bound to take notice and perhaps adjust their view of the president in ways that benefit America.

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*Cal Thomas is a nationally syndicated columnist. His latest book is "What Works: Common Sense Solutions for a Stronger America" (Zondervan, 2014). This article first published online in *The Washington Times* Commentary section on Aug. 16, 2017.*



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