

WATCHING BRIEF: WB 18-2 NORTH KOREA-US SUMMIT

As Quakers we seek a world without war. We seek a sustainable and just community. We have a vision of an Australia that upholds human rights and builds peace internationally, with particular focus on our region. In our approach to government we will promote the importance of dialogue, of listening and of seeking that of God in every person. We aim to work for justice and to take away the occasion for war.

Joint Statement of President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Singapore Summit

President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) held a first, historic summit in Singapore on June 12, 2018.

President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un conducted a comprehensive, in-depth, and sincere exchange of opinions on the issues related to the establishment of new U.S.-DPRK relations and the building of a lasting and robust peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK, and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Convinced that the establishment of new U.S.-DPRK relations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, and recognizing that mutual confidence building can promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un state the following:

1. The United States and the DPRK commit to establish new U.S.-DPRK relations in accordance with the desire of the peoples of the two countries for peace and prosperity.
2. The United States and the DPRK will join their efforts to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.
3. Reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the DPRK commits

Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee
Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Australia Inc.
Incorporated in the ACT

PO Box 6063
O'CONNOR, ACT 2602
Email cqplc@quakersaustralia.info
Web www.quakersaustralia.org.au
ABN 16 036 715 933

to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

4. The United States and the DPRK commit to recovering POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

Having acknowledged that the U.S.-DPRK summit — the first in history — was an epochal event of great significance in overcoming decades of tensions and hostilities between the two countries and for the opening up of a new future, President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un commit to implement the stipulations in this joint statement fully and expeditiously. The United States and the DPRK commit to hold follow-up negotiations, led by the U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, and a relevant high-level DPRK official, at the earliest possible date, to implement the outcomes of the U.S.-DPRK summit.

President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America and Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have committed to cooperate for the development of new U.S.-DPRK relations and for the promotion of peace, prosperity, and security of the Korean Peninsula and of the world.

(Signed)

DONALD J. TRUMP

President of the United States of America

KIM JONG UN

Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

June 12, 2018

Sentosa Island, Singapore

Countries and organisations around the world are responding to Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un's historic agreement in Singapore. (*SBS News 12 June 2018*)

CHINA: Beijing suggested the UN Security Council could consider suspending or lifting sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang is in compliance with UN resolutions and making progress in diplomatic negotiations. Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China "welcomes and supports" talks between North Korea and the US to reach consensus on denuclearisation and establish a peace mechanism. Geng told reporters in Beijing: "Sanctions are not an end. We believe the Security Council should make efforts to support the diplomat efforts at the present time."

JAPAN: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed Kim's written commitment to complete denuclearisation. "We see this as a step in a comprehensive resolution," Abe said in Tokyo. Abe added that he "would like to thank the president (Trump) for raising the abduction issue," referring to Japan's demand that Pyongyang release any remaining Japanese people it abducted to train its spies.

SOUTH KOREA: President Moon Jae-in vowed to write "new history" with North Korea, praising Kim's decision to hold the summit with the US. "Leaving dark days of war and conflict behind, we will write a new chapter of peace and co-operation," Moon said in a statement released by his office. "We will be there together with North Korea along the way." Moon's comments came after earlier caution from the presidential office, saying it was seeking clarity after Trump pledged to stop joint military exercises with Seoul. "At this point, we need to find out the precise meaning or intentions of President Trump's remarks," a Blue House spokesman said.

RUSSIA: Russia gave a positive assessment of the deal between Trump and Kim, but "the devil is in the detail", TASS news agency reported. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS that Russia is ready to assist in implementing the deal - to work towards complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula - and hopes settling the nuclear crisis will unblock normal economic co-operation. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also approved of the meeting, Interfax reported. "The mere fact of the meeting between the leaders of the United States and North Korea is positive ... We are following the comments that both sides are making but we have not seen the document yet, we'll see," Lavrov said.

EUROPEAN UNION: Federica Mogherini, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs, said the summit demonstrated that diplomacy paved the way forward to peace in the region. "The ultimate goal, shared by the entire international community and as expressed by the United Nations Security Council, remains the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula," Mogherini's office said in a statement. "The joint statement signed by the US and DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) leaders today gives a clear signal that this goal can be achieved."

BRITAIN: Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement: "We welcome that President Trump and Kim Jong Un have held a constructive summit, this is an important step towards the stability of a region vital to global economic growth." "There is much work to be done and we hope that Kim continues to negotiate in good faith towards complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation."

UNITED NATIONS: Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said his agency "stands ready to undertake any verification activities that it may be requested to conduct by the countries concerned". He noted the Trump-Kim statement includes a North Korean commitment "towards complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula". Amano said the IAEA "will closely follow the negotiations to be held between the two countries to implement the outcomes" of the summit.

IRAN: The Iranian government warned the US president could nullify any nuclear deal. The semi-official Fars news agency quoted government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht as saying: "We are facing a man who revokes his signature while abroad. "We don't know what type of person the North Korean leader is negotiating with. It is not clear that he would not cancel the agreement before returning back home." The US pulled out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran in May.

MALAYSIA: New prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, on a visit to Tokyo, said: "Both sides must be prepared to give in certain issues if they expect to reach a good conclusion."

INDIA: The foreign ministry said in a statement that it hoped for complete implementation of the agreement, "thus paving the way for lasting peace and stability in the Korean peninsula".

Source: AAP

Topics:

Press Conference by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull 18 June 2018: Q: Prime Minister last week you and the Foreign Minister expressed concerns about the US stopping military exercises with South Korea and said perhaps that the US had handed over too much in those negotiations and called for further clarity from the US. Has the Government received further clarity from the US since those comments last week?

MALCOLM TURNBULL MP: We're in constant discussion with the US on all of these matters. But on security matters like that, again, I keep my counsel and discussions with our ally at a private level, at a confidential level. We're in constant engagement with them. I have to say that I think President Trump is to be commended, he has given this engagement with North Korea and the comprehensive denuclearisation - complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula - a red hot go. I know it came as somewhat of a shock to many people, seeing him and Kim Jong-un together in Singapore. But he's really giving it a red hot go. He's to be commended for that. But of course the hard work now lies ahead. So it's an exercise in diplomacy and negotiation. We work very closely with the US and our other partners in the region, but as you can imagine, once again, I prefer to make those communications privately rather than through the medium of a press conference.

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, JULIE BISHOP MP: It is most certainly an historic event not only because it is the first time a sitting US President has met with a North Korean Leader, but it is also the first positive development involving North Korea in over a decade, building on that earlier meeting between the South Korean President and Kim Jong-un. North Korea has committed to complete denuclearisation and a lasting and stable peace on the Korean Peninsula. I am cautiously optimistic that the goals can be achieved but we now have to see North Korea actually take genuine concrete steps to dismantle its illegal ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. We have got to remember that North Korea is in defiance of numerous UN Security Council resolutions that ban it from carrying out ballistic missile tests or developing a nuclear weapons program and it has done both over recent years.... The serious aspect of this is North Korea has posed a threat, not only to our region, but globally. The instability it causes by having a nuclear weapon program, the ballistic missile testing over the Sea of Japan - these pose real threats. Now President Trump has brought him to the negotiating table and that in major part was as a result of the sanctions that were imposed on North Korea. These economy-wide sanctions over the last nine months have really started to bite, probably the North Korean elites in particular, and that is why Kim Jong-un has come to the negotiating table, but there is a very long way to go. One summit meeting was never going to achieve everything and there are many other issues that need to be discussed over coming months, possibly years. *(Part of radio interview WFSM, 13 June 2018)*

OPPOSITION LEADER BILL SHORTEN MP: Labor leader Bill Shorten said not many people would have predicted the summit would take place, so he was pleased it occurred. "My view is always you achieve more by talking in the same room than yelling at each other through megaphones at a distance," he told reporters. "But I'm cautious. On this issue the national government and I are of one mind. We're pleased to see it, but we've seen discussions before, in previous decades." (*The Australian*, 12 June 2018)

Military Exercises Cancelled: South Korean and US officials confirmed on Tuesday the suspension of scheduled joint military drills, making good on a pledge by President Donald Trump during his summit with North Korea's leader. Seoul, which has tens of thousands of US troops on its soil to help protect it from its hostile northern neighbour, said the suspension would affect the large-scale Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises slated for August. "South Korea and the US plan to continue discussions for further measures," the South's defence ministry said in a statement, adding that "no decisions have been reached for other ensuing drills." Some 17,500 US military personnel were due to take part in the Freedom Guardian drills. "We are still coordinating additional actions. No decisions on subsequent war games have been made," Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said in confirming the suspension.

"There is no impact on Pacific exercises outside of the Korean Peninsula." White said US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton would meet later this week at the Pentagon to discuss the issue. Last week, Trump made the surprise announcement that the US would halt "war games" with its South Korean security ally -- without making clear when the freeze would begin. The US leader raised eyebrows by describing the exercises as "provocative" -- a term used by the North. US and South Korean forces have been training together for years, and routinely rehearse everything from beach landings to an invasion from the North, or even "decapitation" strikes targeting the North Korean regime. Pyongyang typically reacts furiously. Following drills last year, the North fired ballistic missiles over Japan, triggering global alarm.

Trump's decision raised concern in Japan, which hosts tens of thousands of US troops and has eyed the diplomatic outreach to Pyongyang with deep suspicion. But officials were sanguine on the announcement today, with Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera saying Trump's move would not affect US-Japan exercises. "In talks with Secretary Mattis, we confirmed that we will implement drills between Japan and the US," he told reporters. Foreign Minister Taro Kono added that Tokyo understood the drills were being halted as a way to press Pyongyang to negotiate in good faith. "I understand that if North Korea stops negotiating with good will, the joint drills will resume," he said. Choi Hyun-soo, a South Korea defence ministry spokeswoman, added: "We are expecting a corresponding measure from North Korea in response to the suspension of the joint drills." At their landmark Singapore summit, Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un signed a joint statement in which Pyongyang committed to "work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula." But critics have pointed to the vague wording of the non-binding document and raised fears that the summit could weaken the international coalition against the North's nuclear programme. (*Hindustan Times*, 13 June 2018)

Canberra, June 2018