

Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS

- Trump parachutes into a historic moment for diplomacy on the Korean peninsula.
- Activists are gearing up for the Supreme Court's upcoming decision on the Muslim ban 3.0.

DIPLOMACY WITH NORTH KOREA KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR WITH HISTORIC SINGAPORE SUMMIT

The United States and North Korea will make history next week when Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un meet in Singapore to discuss efforts to denuclearize and bring peace to the Korean peninsula.

KEY POINTS

- Next week's summit is the best opportunity in decades to bring peace to the Korean peninsula, reduce the world's stockpile of nuclear weapons, and alleviate the suffering of those under the thumb of North Korea's repressive regime.
 - We will not achieve these goals overnight or via one summit. Successful diplomacy will be long, difficult process.
 - There will be setbacks. We must not allow those who are thirsty for war with North Korea -- like Trump National Security Advisor John Bolton -- to use them as a pretext for war.
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been the main driver of diplomacy with North Korea, while Trump has been stumbling along and following Moon's lead. (See <u>last week's Debrief</u> for more on this.)
- We stand by Americans, Koreans, and people the world over who recognize that the Singapore Summit is the beginning of a long diplomatic process. We'll **work to prevent**



any push to turn this historic diplomatic opening into a prelude to a devastating war.

See our full statement <u>here</u>, and share it on <u>Twitter</u> or <u>Facebook</u>.

HOW NOT TO TALK ABOUT NORTH KOREA DIPLOMACY

Earlier this week, a handful of Senate Democratic Senators, led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, Bob Menendez, said in a <u>letter</u> to Trump that they'll seek to block sanctions relief on North Korea if Trump reaches an agreement that falls short of a series of maximalist demands, like "the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons and key missile programs," "the dismantlement and removal of all nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in North Korea," and "anytime, anywhere inspections."

This letter smacks of the maximalist, bad faith political posturing Republicans in Congress and hawks on the right harassed President Obama with during his talks with Iran. We can't win by acting like the right wing.

"Democrats in Congress are responding [to the summit] in a quite Trumpian way: They seem more concerned with undermining him than supporting a peace process with North Korea," New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof <u>noted</u> this week. "They are on the same side as National Security Adviser John Bolton, quietly subverting attempts to pursue peace." (See more on Bolton's role as spoiler <u>here</u>, and a piece on Team Trump wising up to his antics <u>here</u>.)

Progressives in Congress fired back at the letter as well.

"Let me be clear. [Sen. Chuck Schumer] does not speak for the Democratic Party concerning North Korea and Iran," Rep. Ro Khanna <u>tweeted</u>, "It's sad that his hawkish message is undermining Moon's diplomatic efforts. He does not represent the new generation or new progressive FP vision."

Expert and activist Christine Ahn <u>urged</u> Sen. Bernie Sanders to talk some sense into Schumer, et al, "whose letter to Trump is more Bolton and less what Democrats should stand for: peace on the Korean Peninsula."

And unfortunately, Donald Trump quickly used Schumer's words against him, reinforcing his own misleading message that Democrats failed in the past on North Korea and are out of touch now.

FURTHER RESOURCES

WIN WITHOUT WAR

- Ploughshares Fund lays out what success could look like at the Singapore Summit.
 [LINK]
- Win Without War's messaging on diplomacy with North Korea writ large. [LINK]
- North Korea Summit: Audience Insights & Messaging Guide [LINK]

ACTIVISTS NATIONWIDE MOBILIZE FOR SCOTUS MUSLIM BAN DECISION

At some point this month (as soon as this coming Monday, June 11), **the Supreme Court will make its** <u>decision</u> **on Trump's Muslim Ban 3.0** -- which permanently bans nationals from six Muslim-majority countries, has torn thousands of families and livelihoods apart, and fueled rising hate crimes and violence against Muslims in the United States. This policy has marked itself as a poster child to the disgraceful legacy of the Trump administration's racist, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant agenda.

The Muslim Ban is immoral, discriminatory, and has no place in our society. That's why ever since the very first days of the Trump administration, when the original executive order was released, hundreds of thousands of Muslim communities and allied activists have rallied in streets and airports across the United States against the ban. Now, they're taking that energy and momentum all the way to the Supreme Court.

As soon as <u>SCOTUS makes its decisions</u>, Muslim Advocates, the National Immigration Law Center, Justice for Muslims Collective, CAIR and dozens of allied organizations **will be hosting** a <u>We Will Not Be Banned rally</u> in front of the Supreme Court. Visit <u>wewillnotbebanned.org</u> to RSVP and sign up for updates.

For more resources and ways to get involved, check out <u>Muslim Advocates</u>, <u>NILC</u>, <u>MoveOn</u> and the <u>#NoMuslimBanEVER</u> campaign.

BURIED LEDES

The House <u>defeated</u> Rep. Barbara Lee's amendment **to defund Donald Trump's new** "**Iow-yield**" **nuclear weapon** this week and by "low-yield," DOD means 8 times more powerful than the ones dropped on Japan during World War II.

Win Without War Director <u>Stephen Miles</u> on Twitter **called out Rep. Joe Kennedy for voting against Lee's amendment**. "You're right," Kennedy <u>responded</u>. "Meant to vote yes — it was an honest mistake on my part. There is no need for these weapons. Keep up your advocacy."

Sheldon Adelson <u>gave the GOPers \$82 million</u> during the 2016 election cycle and **his views on the Middle East are not the official U.S. line**.

WIN WITHOUT WAR

Sens. Bernie Sanders and Rand Paul <u>sounded the alarm</u> this week about **the expansion of the executive branch's war powers**.

The Iran deal is <u>hanging by a thread</u>. <u>Meanwhile</u>, **Trump continues to spew more lies about** it.

Trump <u>signed</u> a bill to expand health care to veterans but **he's now working against a bipartisan plan to fund it**.

The Pentagon <u>said</u> U.S. strikes in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen **killed nearly 500 civilians last year**. The U.S.-led coalition <u>killed</u> 6,000 in Iraq and Syria alone in 2017. The New York Times has <u>more</u>.

Amnesty International <u>interviewed</u> civilians in Raqqa about **the U.S.-led war to oust ISIS and the devastation that ensued**.

The <u>magical thinking</u> behind the U.S. considering expanding its unauthorized military support to the Saudi-UAE war in Yemen.

<u>Argentina</u> cancelled a World Cup warm-up in Israel over Gaza violence. On the same day, Israeli soldiers <u>killed</u> a 21 year-old Palestinian in the West Bank village of <u>Nabi Saleh</u>.

ADVOCACY WORKS: **Google won't renew a Pentagon contract to work on Al drones** after huge <u>backlash</u>.

And finally, it looks like the Pakistani Taliban has gone punk rock.