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DOUBLE FACED BULLY

Washington's usual dirty tricks

Donald Trump canceled a planned summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, citing “tremendous anger and open hostility” from the rogue nation in a letter explaining his abrupt decision.

“I feel it is inappropriate, at this time, to have this long-planned meeting,” Trump said to Kim in a letter released by the White House on 24th May 2018. He also said “I was very much looking forward to being there with you. The world, and North Korea in particular, has lost a great opportunity for lasting peace and great prosperity and wealth.”

The summit, which had the potential to be a major diplomatic victory for Trump, was planned for June 12 in Singapore.

The decision of US President Donald Trump was announced a few hours after North Korea dismantled its nuclear test site. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un must have felt that he was tricked by Trump, Many people would think so too.

The dramatic announcement immediately reverberated on Capitol Hill. In reaction to the cancellation, Sen. Robert Menendez (N.J.), the ranking Democrat on the panel, admonished the Trump administration for a “lack of deep preparation.” Menendez also questioned why U.S. officials repeatedly raised the prospect of the “Libya model” as a roadmap for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Chun Yung-woo, a former South Korean nuclear negotiator with the North, said that it was better to have no summit than a disastrous summit.

Trump's decision came less than 24 hours after Moon, the South Korean leader, returned from a meeting at the White House. But, President Moon Jae-in was puzzled and sorry that the summit had been canceled.

Trump's decision came amid hostile warnings from North Korea in recent days that it was reconsidering its participation, including a statement that the United States must decide whether to "meet us in a meeting room or encounter us at [a] nuclear-to-nuclear showdown."

Speaking later at the White House, Trump sounded belligerent, relaying that the U.S. military is "ready if necessary" to take action against North Korea if it engages in a "foolish or reckless act" and that South Korea and Japan are willing to shoulder the costs. He also said that the United States would continue to impose tough economic sanctions on North Korea.

At the same time, Trump made 180 degree turn saying that he is keeping open the possibility of a summit at a future date. **Ha!!** What a double faced Bully, with dirty tricks to pressurize.

While many things can happen and a great opportunity lies ahead, this is a tremendous setback for North Korea and indeed a setback for the world. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and ensuring a permanent peace are historic tasks that cannot be delayed or forsaken. Perhaps the "sincerity" of Trump had changed. It is difficult to deal with these sensitive and difficult diplomatic problems with this current way of communicating. A close aide to Kim unleashed a torrent of criticism against the Trump administration, calling Vice President Pence a "political dummy" for remarks he made in a television interview that made reference to the downfall of the late Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

North Korea has bristled at Trump administration suggestions that it follow the "Libyan model" to abandon its nuclear efforts. Gaddafi was killed in 2011 in a Western-backed intervention after giving up his nuclear materials in 2003 and 2004 in what amounted to a relatively quick process.

White House aides had grown concerned because North Korea had not responded to planning requests on the summit and had canceled a logistics

meeting, said a senior White House official, who requested anonymity to speak candidly about the sensitive issue. Many details needed to be settled within days for the summit to happen, this official said, adding that the White House did not want an embarrassing situation of “losing the upper hand.”

U.S. officials had begun signaling to other countries late last week that the summit could be postponed, and they appeared concerned that the meeting would not yield a clear result.

The two sides had not agreed on a draft communique, the usually bland statement issued at the close of diplomatic summits. Perhaps there was a breakdown in communication between the two preparation teams that has resulted this situation. There’s another point of anger for the Americans, the North Koreans missed a meeting in Singapore last week between the teams.

In cancelling the meeting, Trump forfeits what had been a largely popular decision to meet with Kim. An April Washington Post-ABC News poll found a 56 percent majority of Americans supported the planned meeting in an attempt to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, even though two-thirds of adults said it was unlikely the nation would actually do so.

Trump’s letter to Kim can bring a sharp rebuke from the world leaders, it’s a sad example of the petulance and shallowness of the foreign policy being pursued by Trump. From the beginning, the dealings with North Korea had been sophomoric and without strategic or tactical merit.

On the other side Washington states to continue to work with allies toward a peaceful resolution, but that will require a much greater degree of seriousness from the Kim regime. It is important to note that the United States does not relent in this maximum pressure campaign.