

# TRUMP, KIM AT CROSSROADS

United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un failed to reach a deal during their second summit held in Hanoi on Feb 27-28, due to differences over denuclearisation and lifting of sanctions on North Korea.

## 2018

### June 12

- Mr Trump and Mr Kim, after months of trading fiery rhetoric and insults, sit down for their first summit in Singapore.
- They ink an agreement to establish new relations, build peace, work towards the "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean peninsula, and recover war remains. Mr Trump also suspends military drills with South Korea.



### June 21

- Mr Trump says at a Cabinet meeting that North Korea has already blown up four of its big test sites. "Total denuclearisation" has already started taking place, he adds.

### June 27

- A website monitoring North Korea says the regime has continued to improve its main nuclear facility in Yongbyon "at a rapid pace", citing satellite imagery.

### July 7

- US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, after a visit to Pyongyang, says both sides "made progress" in their talks.
- But North Korean officials accuse the US of making "gangster-like" demands and call the talks "extremely regrettable".

### June 19

- Mr Kim makes his third visit to China.
- He briefs Chinese President Xi Jinping about his summit with Mr Trump.

- Mr Trump says at a Cabinet meeting that North Korea has already blown up four of its big test sites. "Total denuclearisation" has already started taking place, he adds.

### July 24

- Reports emerge that North Korea may have started dismantling parts of a key rocket launch site.

### Aug 1

- Some remains of US soldiers who died in the Korean War are returned to the US.
- Fifty-five cases containing the remains are flown to Hawaii for identification.

### Aug 4

- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho says at a forum in Singapore that his country is committed to the June summit agreement, but criticises the US for undermining confidence in the process.

### Aug 6

- North Korean state media urges the US to lift sanctions.

### Aug 20

- The United Nations says North Korea's nuclear activities have not stopped.

### Aug 24

- Mr Trump cancels a trip by Mr Pompeo to Pyongyang, citing a lack of progress in denuclearisation.
- He blames China for stalling the process. Beijing retaliates, calling US accusations "irresponsible" and "contrary to basic facts".

### Sept 5

- Mr Kim reiterates his denuclearisation commitment to visiting South Korean officials, adding that his faith in Mr Trump remains unchanged.
- He also offers a possible timeline for dismantling his nuclear programme.

### Sept 10

- Mr Kim sends a "very warm" letter to Mr Trump, asking for a second meeting.

### Sept 20

- Mr Kim welcomes South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang.
- He reiterates a commitment to denuclearisation and expresses willingness to shut down the North's main nuclear facility if the US takes "corresponding measures". The two countries also sign an agreement to ease military tension.

### Sept 29

- Mr Trump tells his supporters at a rally that he and Mr Kim "fell in love" over "great letters".

### Oct 1

- The two Koreas begin to remove landmines along the Demilitarised Zone.



### Oct 7

- Mr Pompeo, after a visit to Pyongyang, says Mr Kim has agreed to meet Mr Trump.
- He adds that the North will allow international inspectors to visit its nuclear sites.

### Nov 2

- North Korean state media warns that the country will seriously consider a return to building nuclear weapons if the US does not lift sanctions.

## 2019

### Jan 1

- Mr Kim renews his denuclearisation commitment but warns that he may have to "seek a new path" if the US keeps up pressure and sanctions.

### Jan 8

- Mr Kim visits China to meet Mr Xi, in what is seen as a prelude to the second Trump-Kim summit.

### Jan 28

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expresses willingness to meet Mr Kim and restore bilateral ties.

### Feb 5

- Mr Trump says he will meet Mr Kim in Vietnam on Feb 27-28.

### Feb 19

- Mr Trump says he is in "no rush" to push for North Korea's denuclearisation.

### Feb 22

- Mr Trump rules out reducing US troops in South Korea, saying it is "not one of the things on the table" for the Hanoi summit.

### Feb 23

- Mr Kim embarks on an epic 60-hour, 3,000km journey by rail and car from Pyongyang to Hanoi, accompanied by top North Korean officials and sister Kim Yo Jong.

### Feb 24

- North Korea warns Mr Trump not to listen to US critics who are disrupting efforts to improve ties.
- State media says such opposition is aimed at derailing the talks.

### Feb 25

- South Korea's presidential office says the US and North Korea could agree to declare the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War at the summit.

### Feb 26

- Both leaders arrive in Hanoi, with Mr Trump flying in on Air Force One in the evening.

### Feb 27

- The two leaders sit down for dinner together, which lasts for more than two hours.
- Mr Trump expresses hopes for a "very successful" summit.
- Mr Kim, in return, praises Mr Trump's "courageous decision" to initiate the second summit, and says he will do his best to produce a "great outcome".

### Feb 28

- Mr Trump and Mr Kim begin their day with a one-on-one chat and a stroll, with Mr Kim reiterating his willingness to abandon nuclear weapons.
- Things take a turn when a scheduled working lunch and joint agreement signing ceremony are abruptly cancelled and the summit is cut short.
- Mr Trump later says no agreement was reached because North Korea wanted sanctions "lifted in entirety".
- China says it hopes both sides can maintain a dialogue.

### March 1

- North Korean Foreign Minister Ri says Pyongyang made realistic proposals at the summit, and was seeking partial sanctions relief, not a complete lifting of sanctions.
- Mr Moon says South Korea will cooperate with the US and North Korea to help their talks reach a complete settlement.

### Mr Trump

"Sometimes you have to walk and this was just one of those times. I'd much rather do it right than do it fast."

"There's a warmth that we have and I hope that stays; I think it will."

### Mr Kim

"If I'm not willing to do that (denuclearisation), I won't be here right now."