

Excerpts of letters

US President Donald Trump and North Korea leader Kim Jong Un exchanged at least 27 letters in 2018 and 2019, viewed by journalist Bob Woodward for his new book, Rage. Here are excerpts of the correspondence.

2018

Letter to Mr Kim Letter to Mr Trump

The Singapore Summit took place on June 12.



June 15

I just have arrived back in America, and the media for North Korea and you (have) been fantastic. They have great respect for you and your country.

”
MR TRUMP

July 6

The significant first meeting with Your Excellency and the joint statement we signed together in Singapore 24 days ago was indeed the start of a meaningful journey.

Wishing that the invariable trust and confidence in Your Excellency Mr President will be further strengthened in the future process of taking practical actions, I extend my conviction with the epochal progress in promoting the DPRK-US relations will bring our next meeting forward.

”
MR KIM

NOTE: DPRK refers to Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official name of North Korea.

Dec 24

I look forward to our next summit and to making real progress on denuclearisation and a really bright future for your people under your leadership in the year ahead.

”
MR TRUMP

Dec 25

As the new year 2019 approaches, critical issues that require endless effort towards even higher ideals and goals still await us. Just as Your Excellency frankly noted, as we enter the new year the whole world will certainly once again come to see, not so far in the future, another historic meeting between myself and Your Excellency reminiscent of a scene from a fantasy film.

”
MR KIM

Dec 28

I just received your letter and very much appreciate your warm feelings and thoughts. Like you, I have no doubt a great result will be accomplished between our two countries, and the only two leaders who can do it are you and me.”

”
MR TRUMP

2019

Their second meeting in Hanoi (below), Vietnam, from Feb 27 to 28, ended early without reaching an agreement.



June 10

Like the brief time we had together a year ago in Singapore, every minute we shared 103 days ago in Hanoi was also a moment of glory that remains a precious memory. Such a precious memory that I have in my unwavering respect for you will provide an impetus for me to take my steps when we walk towards each other again some day in the future. I also believe that the deep and special friendship between us will work as a magical force...

I believe the one day will come sooner or later when we sit down together to make great things happen, with the will to give another chance to our mutual trust. Such a day should come again. It may well be recorded as yet another fantastic moment in history.

”
MR KIM

June 12

It is hard to believe that a full year has passed since our historic first meeting in Singapore. It was on that day... that you and I made a number of extraordinary commitments to one another – you committed to completely denuclearise, and I committed to provide security guarantees. We both committed to establish new relations for our two countries and to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

I completely agree with you. You and I have a unique style and a special friendship. Only you and I, working together, can resolve the issues between our two countries and end nearly 70 years of hostility, bringing an era of prosperity to the Korean peninsula... It will be historic!

”
MR TRUMP



June 30

The two leaders met at the Demilitarised Zone between the two Koreas.

Mr Trump made history by becoming the first sitting US president to step into the North. He sent a copy of The New York Times' front page showing the meeting and later sent 22 photos of the day to Mr Kim.



June 30

Being with you today (June 30) was truly amazing. Even the media, which always like to say that everything is bad, is giving you accolades for inviting me into your country... Most importantly I thought our meeting went very well. The potential of your country is truly limitless, and I am confident that incredible prosperity awaits you and your people in the future as we continue to work together.

”
MR TRUMP

Aug 5

In his longest letter, Mr Kim expressed his disappointment that US-South Korea military exercises had not fully stopped despite Mr Trump saying he would end them.

I'm delighted to receive each and every single picture you specifically chose from that day... Those photographs now hang in my office. I express my appreciation to you, and I will remember that moment forever.

My belief was that the provocative combined military exercises would either be cancelled or postponed ahead of our two countries' working-level negotiations where we would continue to discuss important matters...

I am clearly offended and I do not want to hide this feeling from you. I am really, very offended. Your Excellency, I am immensely proud and honoured that we have a relationship where I can send and receive such candid thoughts with you.

”
MR KIM