

# The Angler and the Octopus

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### Peace Offensive – key events

#### Kim Jong Un's Summits

Date	Counterpart	Location	Notes
2018			
26-27 March	Xi Jinping	Beijing;	1 <sup>st</sup> Kim-Xi summit
27 April	Moon Jae-in	Panmunjom	1 <sup>st</sup> Kim-Moon, 3 <sup>rd</sup> inter-Korean summit
7-8 May	Xi Jinping	Dalian	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kim-Xi summit
26 May	Moon Jae-in	Panmunjom	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kim-Moon; attempt to rescue Kim-Trump summit
12 June	Donald-Trump	Singapore	1 <sup>st</sup> DPRK-US summit
19-20 June	Xi Jinping	Beijing	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kim-Xi summit
18-20 Sept	Moon Jae-in	Pyongyang	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kim-Moon summit
2019			
7-10 January	Xi Jinping	Beijing	4 <sup>th</sup> Kim-Xi summit
27-28 Feb	Donald Trump	Hanoi	2 <sup>nd</sup> DPRK-US summit; aborted by Bolton
28 Feb-2 Mar	Nguyễn Phú Trọng	Hanoi	Extended visit to Vietnam after Trump summit
24-26 April	Vladimir Putin	Vladivostok	1 <sup>st</sup> Kim-Putin summit
30 June	Donald Trump	Panmunjom	Moon Jae-in hosted but absented himself from DPRK-US summit

#### Selected chronology

Date	Event	Notes
2018		
1 Jan	Kim Jong Un's New Year Address 2018	Suggests participating in Pyeongchang Winter Olympics
2 Jan	Moon responds to Kim's overture, suggest high-level talks	
9 Jan	Agreement on DPRK participation in Olympics	
15-17 Jan	Tillerson and Canadian FM Freeland open Vancouver Meeting	US assembles foreign ministers of Korea War allies to coordinate DPRK strategy
9 Feb	DPRK officials and athletes arrive in Pyeongchang for Olympics	US permission required because this infringes sanctions
10 Feb	Kim proposes summit with Moon	

5-6 Mar	Moon sends Chung Eui-yong and Suh Hoon to discuss forthcoming inter-Korean summit with Kim Jong Un	
6 March	Kim-Moon summit agreed	
8 March	Chung Eui-yong conveys Kim's summit proposal to Trump, who accepts	Beginning of process for Singapore Summit
13 Mar	Trump fires Tillerson, Pompeo to be appointed	
26-27 Mar	Kim Jong Un visits Beijing for summit with Xi Jinping	First Kim-Xi summit
1 Apr	Pompeo in Pyongyang to discuss Kim-Trump summit	
21 Apr	DPRK announces unilateral moratorium on nuclear and mid-to-long range missiles	US ICBM testing from Vandenberg, California continues
27 Apr	Summit between Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un at SK side of Panmunjom	Panmunjom Declaration
2-3 May	Chinese FM Wangi Yi visits Pyongyang for talks with FM Ri Yong Ho	
8 May	Trump announces withdrawal from Iran treaty (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)	Obvious implications for an US-DPRK deal
8 May	Pompeo visits Pyongyang to discuss plans for summit	DPRK releases three American detainees in goodwill gesture
7-8 May	Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping meet in Dalian	Second Kim-Xi summit
18 May	Trump confusingly demands NK disarm or suffer Libya's fate	Libya was destroyed in violation of an agreement with the US after it had disarmed
23 May	Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui criticizes VP Pence for endorsing 'Libya model'	'Libya model' advocated by John Bolton would entail the destruction of the DPRK
24 May	DPRK dismantles Punggye-ri nuclear test site	
24 May	President Trump abruptly cancels proposed summit	It is widely presumed that this was instigated by John Bolton
25 May	Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan reaffirms DPRK commitment to negotiations	
26 May	Hurriedly arranged summit between Kim Jong UN and Moon Jae-in at NK side of Panmunjom	Attempt to rescue summit which proves successful
30 May	Pompeo discusses summit with Kim Yon Chol	
1 June	Donald Trump meets with Kim Yong Chol	Confirm forthcoming summit
1 June	Russian FM visits Pyongyang for talks with Kim Jong Un	Kim-Putin summit discussed
12 June	Summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore	Commitment to 'new U.S.-DPRK relations', 'lasting and stable peace regime', 'to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula'.

19 June	August <i>Ulchi Freedom Guardian</i> joint military exercises suspended	
19-20 June	Kim Jong Un has summit with Xi Jinping in Beijing	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kim-Xi summit
6 July	Pompeo has talks in Pyongyang	DPRK describes Pompeo's demand as 'gangster like'
18-20 Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kim-Moon summit in Pyongyang, issue Pyongyang Joint Declaration	Moon delivers public speech, visit Paektusan, both vow to create 'a land of peace without nuclear weapons or nuclear threats';
28 Sep	Russia and China clash with US at UNSC over sanctions	Lavrov calls for clear signal in support of the positive momentum on the Korean Peninsula.
6 Nov	Pompeo cancels meeting with Kim Yong Chol, no reason given	Takes place 17-19 January 2019, Kim meets Trump
1 Dec	Meng Wanzhou arrested in Canada	Extraterritorial action by US to counter Huawei in particular, China in general
20 Dec	Defense Secretary Mattis resigns	Triggered by Syria withdrawal, really about imperial management of alliances
2019		
1 January	Kim Jong Un's 2019 address	Reiterates commitment to negotiations, attacks sanctions, demands reciprocity
15 January	ROK publishes 2018 White Paper on Defence	Reference to DPRK as 'enemy' deleted
18 January	Kim Yong Chol meets Trump in Washington	Second summit agreed for late February
3-8 Feb	US Special Representative Biegun visits Seoul, Pyongyang	Preparation for Hanoi summit
4-12 March	US/ROK joint military exercises Dong Maeng; second iteration planned for August	Scaled down version of <i>Foal Eagle and Key Resolve</i> s. Violation of Panmunjom Declaration
8 March	ROK agrees to 8.2% increased contribution to USFK costs	ROK buffeted by US trade, military demands
11 March	UN 'Panel of Experts' releases report of DPRK circumvention of sanctions	US manipulation of UNSC lessened by Korea ingenuity, lax implementation
15 March	Vice FM Choe Son Hui expresses disappointment with Hanoi summit	Questions whether there is any point in continuing negotiations but says Trump-Kim relationship "mysteriously wonderful"
22 March	Trump cancels some Treasury sanctions	Treasury frequently seeks to derail US-NK negotiations
26 March	Break in at DPRK embassy in Madrid	CIA asset Adrian Hong and 'Free Joseon' attempt to abduct diplomat; Spain seeks extradition from US
10-11 April	Moon Jae-in goes to Washington to meet Trump	Moon and Trump 'shared the same view' on US policy
13 April	Kim Jong Un addresses Supreme People's Assembly; calls on US to 'seek a solution we cab share'	Sets end of year ultimatum "we will open the path to economic prosperity through our own means"
18 April	Kim Jong Un observes test of new 'tactical guided weapon'	Nudge to US
22 April- 5	US-ROK air drills with Australian	Version of Max Thunder scaled down from

May	participation	100s on each side to dozens
25 April	DPRK criticizes US-ROK air drill	Violation of Panmunjom Declaration
1 May	Choe Son Hui attacks Pompeo, Bolton, spares Trump	Bolton displays "incomprehension of the intentions of the top leaders of the DPRK and the US"
3 May	DPRK tests short range projectiles	No infringement of moratorium but a warning
9 May	US seizes DPRK coal carrier Wise Honest in international waters	Possible Department of Justice ploy to derail negotiations
17 May	DPRK sends letter to UNSG Guterres regarding seizure of Wise Honest	It is "unlawful, outrageous and sovereignty-infringing" act which violates UN Charter
28 May	Trump distances himself from Bolton	Complains Bolton wants to take him down path to war with Iran and North Korea
31 May	<i>Chosun Ilbo</i> , in familiar ploy, reports Hanoi negotiators executed/purged	Allegations soon disproved
4 June	MFA statement n anniversary of Singapore Summit	Complains that US is still turning way from implementation and 'insisting on our unilateral surrender'
11 June	Trump receives 'beautiful letter' from Kim Jong Un	Kim reaches out to Trump on anniversary of Singapore Summit
19 June	Biegun talks peace, Treasury sanctions Russian company	Another example of countervailing action by section of US government to derail negotiations
23 June	Kim receives 'excellent letter' from Trump containing 'interesting content'	Kim compliments Trump for 'political judging faculty and extraordinary courage'
24 June	Survey reports that 1/3 of Americans would support nuclear strike on North Korea	Hypothetical preemptive attack would kill a million people
28 June	DPRK suggests three conditions for resumption of negotiations	"proper" approach, counterpart and counterproposal; further sign of displeasure with Pompeo
29 June	Choe Son Hui calls Trump's proposal for DMZ talks an 'interesting proposal'	Follows week of media speculation and official denial in South Korea
30 June	Trump and Kim meet at Panmunjom	Bolton sent to Mongolia; Moon does not join talks
30 June	New York Times flies kite on new US negotiating position	Brings freeze/capping proposal into mainstream
5 July	Kim Myong Gil reported a new lead negotiator for talks with US	30 years of experience negotiating with US
11 July	USFK claims Hwasong-15 can strike anywhere on US mainland	Pushback by military?
20 August	Politico reports that Biegun may be made Deputy Secretary of State	Would replace Tillerson appointee
10 Sept	Trump fires John Bolton as NSA	Defenestration of rival to Pompeo
17 Sept	Washington Post repeats Biegun rumour	
18 Sept	Robert O'Brien appointed NSA	Pompeo protégé

Primary source: "Chronology from Jan 2017 to May 2019." *Pacific Forum*, January 2019

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Interpretations are mine. Dates are usually that of place of publication (often Washington) and not necessarily that of location.

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