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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Could Pyongyang Trust Washington?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The US, especially its Chief Executive, is talking of the possibility of another summit with the Leader of North Korea, while the American press continues its propaganda of portraying Pyongyang as a threat to Washington's security – diabolical policies indeed which raise questions about the sincerity of the White House.

North Korean leaders are well aware of the fact that they cannot trust the United States. Having been deceived once before during Bill Clinton's presidency regarding its nuclear projects, Pyongyang ought to be extra cautious of the feelers and intentions of Washington.

How could North Korea scale down its atomic nuclear weapons capability when the US shows no signs of reducing its own stockpile of doomsday weapons?

Is the US prepared to practically dismantle part of its own weapons of mass destruction in order to prove its sincerity for peace, which requires withdrawal of its occupation troops from South Korea and other provocative acts of unwarranted military presence in East Asia.

In other words, the US is an unreliable partner, and it has long been one, even before Donald Trump withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Paris agreement on climate change, the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action) with Iran, and the 1955 Treaty of Amity with Iran (following the recent decision of the International Court of Justice against its illegal sanctions).

Trump has also ended the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico, and eventually a preliminary deal was reached out. The new name for the agreement will be the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

History is witness to the treaties that the US has signed but not ratified; signed and then unsigned, and even refused to sign after pushing everyone else to sign.

The Dotard in the White House thinks he is clever – all fools do – and might not realize the lasting damage he is causing to the US and to world peace, as villain of the piece in every matter.

Kim Jong-un knows better than to trust the US. The US has violated every treaty, every agreement, every accord, every pact, and every commitment it has made. In fact, it was the US that first nuclearized the Korean Peninsula in 1957 in violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement.

If not for American meddling and greed to grab the lands of others, the Korean Peninsula would neither have witnessed war of 1950 nor its unnatural and illegal division in two parts at the 38th parallel – factors that are cause of the tension of the past seven decades.

Korea needs peace, and people on either side of the border, fed up with American mischief, are yearning for reunion, which the US doesn't want.

North Korean Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol paid a rare visit to Washington and met with Trump and other top US officials on Friday. Later on it was announced by White House that Trump will meet with leader Kim in February for the second time after they held their first summit in Singapore last June.

Over six months have lapsed since then and nothing concrete has come out. Diplomacy is a necessity in international relations but deceit is deplorable. All said and done, Pyongyang needs to be on full alert while negotiating with either Trump or his team.

U.S. Army: Iran, 'Only Victor' in Iraq



Iran's Quds Force commander General Qasem Soleimani uses a walkie-talkie at the frontline during offensive operations against Daesh in the town of Tal Ksaiba in Iraq in this file photo.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The U.S. army has described Iran as "the only victor" in its two-volume, 1300-page study of its brutal invasion of Iraq.

The report, complete with over 1,000 declassified documents, is a comprehensive assessment of the U.S. mistakes and successes during its destructive war effort, it said.

It spans the 2003 military occupation of Iraq through the U.S. withdrawal, the rise of Daesh terror group, and what it refers to as the influence of Syria and Iran.

"At the time of this project's completion in 2018," Iran seems to be "the only victor," the authors wrote in the concluding chapter of the study published by the U.S.-based Army Times on.

The study -- commissioned by

former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno in 2013 and continued under current chief Gen. Mark Milley -- was postponed for release since 2016, when it was originally completed.

The report noted that the postponement was due to concerns over airing "dirty laundry" about decisions made by some leaders during the conflict.

It further identified the authors as Col. Joe Rayburn and Col. Frank Sobchak, both retired.

"The Iraq War has the potential to be one of the most consequential conflicts in American history. It shattered a long-standing political tradition against preemptive wars," the authors wrote. "In the conflict's immediate aftermath, the pendulum of American politics swung to

the opposite pole with deep skepticism about foreign interventions."

In his foreword to the study, Odierno wrote that "those who rejected the idea that there is an operational level of war in counterinsurgency were wrong."

He further noted that following the war, the US entered "another historical cycle" like wars in the past, where civilian and military leaders debate the utility of land power. He then pointed directly to an overtaxed Army at even higher troop levels than they are now.

According to the report, one issue raised repeatedly in the study is the lack of troops -- within the deployed brigade combat teams, available for other operations such as the war in Afghanistan, and lack

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Iran Denies Link to Alleged Afghan-German Spy

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has denied having any link to an Afghan-German man suspected of spying, suggesting his arrest in Germany was part of efforts to mar EU-Iran relations, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Germany's federal prosecutor's office said on Tuesday that a 50-year-old Afghan-German dual national who worked for the German military had been detained on suspicion of passing data to an Iranian intelligence agency.

"While denying any link to this supposed individual ...we are not surprised to hear such news amid baseless security charges concocted by those who seek to damage relations between Iran and Europe at this sensitive juncture," IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi as saying.

Qasemi did not elaborate, but IRNA referred to a German newspaper report that said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency may have tipped off German army intelligence officials.

European signatories to a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers have been trying to salvage it despite the withdrawal of the United States from the accord in May.

This month, the European Union froze the assets of an Iranian intelligence unit and two of its staff after the Netherlands accused Iran of two killings on its soil and joined France and Denmark in alleging Tehran plotted other attacks in Europe.

Iran has denied any involvement in those alleged plots, saying the accusations were intended to damage EU-Iran relations.

Tehran has frequently warned that the occupying regime of Israel and the U.S. are trying to sabotage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the country's improved relationship with the EU, especially with Britain, France, and Germany.

As part of that bid, Zionist ambassador to the United Nations has written a letter to the UN Security Council, urging it to take action against Iran's missile program.

Danny Danon reportedly plans to raise the matter at Tuesday's UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East, which is typically devoted to the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Danon spoke out in response to Iran's attempt to launch a Simorgh missile satellite vehicle on January 14. He called the launch a "rogue act" and a clear violation of Security Council Resolution 2231 in 2015 which enshrines a landmark nuclear deal with Iran.

The occupying regime of Israel is a staunch opponent of the agreement and a key drive behind U.S. President Donald Trump's decision in May to withdraw from the deal.

Danon claimed that the launch of Simorgh reflected "another stage in Iran's development of ICBMs" which even Western experts have rejected.

"Iran completely disregards Resolution 2231, not only by launch-

ing missiles itself -- both toward outer space and into neighboring countries -- but also by leading a frenzy of missile proliferation across an already volatile Middle East," he said.

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Spy Who Smuggled U.S. Diplomats Out of Iran Dead

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Tony Mendez who smuggled out six American diplomats through the Canadian embassy in Tehran after the U.S. embassy had been stormed by Iranian students has died.

Mendez, who was 78 and had Parkinson's disease, died Saturday at an assisted living facility in Frederick, Maryland, outside Washington, according to the International Spy Museum, where Mendez was a founding board member.

Portrayed by Ben Affleck in the Oscar-winning 2012 sham, he was the CIA's master of disguise. During his quarter-century at the spy agency, Mendez served in multiple foreign posts, spending much of his time in Asia.

He was a specialist in "exfiltration," the art quietly slipping people out of a country. For this reason, he was selected to travel secretly to Iran in January 1980.

In the previous year, the U.S.-backed shah of Iran fled the country after the Islamic Revolution. Angry Iranian students then stormed the U.S. embassy

The Holy Qur'an

Amongst them are men who made a covenant with Allah, that if He bestowed on them of His bounty, they would give in charity, and be truly amongst those who are righteous. But when He did bestow of His bounty, they became covetous, and turned back (from their covenant), averse (from its fulfillment).

The Holy Qur'an (9:76)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	17:39
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:44
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:12

Intel Ministry Dismantles Silverware Smuggling Ring

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Intelligence Ministry has arrested members of a ring that smuggled cargoes of contraband silver goods into the country, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

Intelligence forces in the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan disbanded the ring that smuggled Chinese silver ornaments into the country, arresting nine people.

The smugglers shipped the contraband silverware from China to Iraq, and then smuggled it to Tehran before distributing them across the country.

The illegal activities of the smugglers had resulted in the closure of many workshops producing silver products in Iran and the unemployment of many of those involved in the industry, the report said.

The detainees have confessed to having smuggled around 23 tonnes of silver ornaments during the past five years, it added.

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on Nov. 4, 1979, taking all the Americans there hostage because of the mission's role in a coup and other skullduggeries in the country.

But six additional American diplomats, who were not at the embassy when it was overrun, made their way to the Canadian embassy.

Mendez slipped into Iran and met up with the six. Armed with Canadian passports and false identities, the six diplomats posed as a Canadian film crew doing location scouts for a sci-fi movie. They were smuggled out aboard a Swissair flight to Zurich on Jan. 28, 1980.

Mendez actually carried out the operation with another CIA officer. When Mendez returned to the U.S., former president Jimmy Carter gave him the Intelligence Star but it was all done secretly, and the CIA role in the operation was not revealed until 1997.

The 52 American hostages at the U.S. embassy were held for 444 days and not released until January 1981.