

US and China need Security Council help to tackle North Korea

The initiative by President Xi Jinping (習近平) to meet up with US President Donald Trump was realised when the latter made his Mar-a-Lago retreat in Florida available for the two-day summit between the leaders in early April.

The two leaders with their top personnel held talks there and, in between negotiations, got to know each other better and to socialise with their respective families.

The topics discussed during the summit included maritime disputes and Taiwan. Regarding trade, US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said both sides agreed on a 100-day plan to address their trade imbalance.

One key issue that Trump and Xi were more involved in during and after their dialogue was North Korea.

After the talks, media reported that Wu Dawei (吳大偉), China's special representative for Korean peninsula affairs, said Beijing would work hard to bring the US and North Korea to the negotiating table for direct talks, as the US is rejecting the idea of holding multilateral negotiations.

Trump tweeted on April 12 he had already explained to Xi that a trade deal with the US would be far better for them if they solved the North Korean problem.

He made clear his hope that China would pressure its neighbour and close ally to stop its nuclear programme, otherwise he and his allies would take action on their own.

Xi explained that, during a phone conversation with Trump on April 12, China insisted on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula to firmly safeguard peace and security, and called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

On April 15, North Korea refrained from carrying out a nuclear test to mark a national celebration. It held a military parade marking the 105th birth anniversary of the country's late founding father, Kim Il-sung, and displayed a new type of submarine-launched missile, which could be seen either as a sign of defiance or as restraint on conducting a nuclear test.

Through his repeated talks with Xi, Trump should by now be more acutely aware that putting pressure alone on China for a long-term solution to the North Korea nuclear weapons problem will not work.

It will be necessary for China, the US and Russia to work through the UN Security Council, and together with their numerous allies, towards having constructive dialogue with the leadership in Pyongyang, to encourage North Korea to progressively open up and become a responsible member of the global community.

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中美需安理會之助 以便應對北韓問題

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習近平主席欲與美國總統特朗普會面一事終成事實。特朗普於 4 月初在他的佛羅里達州海湖莊園接待習主席，兩位領袖相處兩天，並進行高峰會談。

兩位領袖及他們的高層幕僚在莊園會談，期間彼此可加深了解，兩位領袖的家人亦得以交往。

會談內容包括了海洋糾紛和臺灣問題。貿易方面，美國商務部長羅斯表示，雙方同意擬定百日計劃以縮減貿易逆差。

習主席與特朗普在會談期間及其後更為關注的一個重要議題是北韓。

據傳媒報道，會談後，中國朝鮮半島事務特別代表武大偉表示，北京會盡力將美國和北韓帶回談判桌進行直接對話，儘管美國拒絕多邊談判。

特朗普於 4 月 12 日推文，說他已向習主席解釋，如中方能解決北韓問題，美中貿易協議將會好得多。

他開門見山地說，中國應向其鄰居及緊密盟友施壓，促使停止核計劃，否則美國與其盟友會自行採取行動。

習主席於同日與特朗普通電話時解釋，中國堅持朝鮮半島無核化，以確保和平及安全，並要求以和平方法消除危機。

4 月 15 日，北韓並沒有進行核試，只舉行閱兵來慶祝其已故國父金日成的 105 歲冥壽。隊伍中展示了一種新式潛艇發射導彈，此舉可以視之挑釁，亦可以是表現不試爆核彈的克制。

特朗普與習主席已討論北韓問題多次，應該深刻意識到，要長遠解決北韓的核武問題，單靠向中國施加壓力不會奏效。

中國、美國與俄羅期必須透過聯合國安理會，和各盟友聯手，與平壤的領導層展開有建設性的對話，鼓勵北韓循序漸進開放，成為全球社會裡一位有責任感的成員。

土瓜灣張有興