

## Singapore Summit Spectrum

*A sample of the broad spectrum of views following the Singapore summit.*

By Cheran Gobiratnam, PSR Intern

### Voices of approval

**S. Korea President Moon Jae-in:** “The most important achievement of the summit is that not only Americans, Japanese and Koreans but also people in the whole world are now free from the threats of war, nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.” [June 14 Kyodo News].

Branko Marcetic, **Jacobin Mag:** South Koreans have greeted the news of the agreement’s signing with optimism, albeit cautious optimism, which may come as a surprise given the Western media’s take on the summit. Western media, obsessed with Trump, cannot help but interpret the entire summit in relation to him [June 13].

John Carl Baker, **Jacobin Mag:** Less than a year after Democrats were rightly appalled by “fire and fury,” some are now equally appalled by its absence [June 20].

Adriana Cohen, **Boston Herald:** Criticizes the left, ‘who are willing to cut off their nose to spite their face to deny Trump a public relations or political win at any cost’ [June 11].

**Chinese President Xi Jinping** according to Chinese state TV told Kim ‘he was very happy to see the “positive” outcome of his meeting with Trump, and the important consensus reached on denuclearisation setting up a lasting peace mechanism [Reuters, June 18].

Masamichi Hanabusa **Japan Times:** high praise for the leadership of Trump, Moon and Kim. N and S Korea must make the most of ‘heaven-sent opportunity’ from America to reach mutual compromises. Japan, too, must cooperate with denuclearization of N Korea, as this will benefit their own security too [June 20].

**John Bolton:** North Korea faces a ‘decisive and dramatic choice’ to denuclearise and should it take this choice following talks will move swiftly. If it does not, sanctions will remain [Associated Press, June 20].

**Mike Pompeo:** echoing Bolton, Pompeo reaffirmed the US’ commitment to its alliance with Japan and South Korea and said that sanctions on North Korea will not be lifted until its complete denuclearization is realized [Reuters, June 13].

### Voices of caution

**Chicago Tribune** Editorial Board: ‘Let’s call this meeting a surprise success and hope for more’. The summit represents progress but given the track record of NK-US relations and largely symbolic nature of summit there’s reason to be sceptical [June 12].

**Mitch McConnell (Senate Majority Leader):** Summit was a major first step but it does not mean much if Pyongyang does not follow through with total denuclearization [The Independent, June 12].

The co-chairs of the Democratic Caucus’ National Security Task Force—Reps. **Seth Moulton** of Massachusetts, **Stephanie Murphy** of Florida, and **Jimmy Panetta** of California stated

that the summit was an encouraging and important first step. However, both lamented that the joint US-N.Korea statement falls short on specifics [panetta.house.gov, June 12].  
James Jeffrey **The Cipher Brief**: While the Singapore Summit guarantees nothing, especially not the “Complete, Verifiable, Irreversible Denuclearization,” (CVID) that the U.S. hoped for, it did achieve a goal of particular importance to Japan and South Korea by making a return to ICBM and warhead testing extraordinarily difficult politically [June 18].

Congresswoman **Barbara Lee**: Diplomacy takes time. The Trump administration must be prepared to engage in the hard work of negotiation. Must build on the momentum of this summit to get concrete solutions [lee.house.gov, June 12].

Lawrence Korb & Matthew Feng **nationalinterest.org**: Meeting with Kim and making concessions in and of themselves may not jeopardize our bargaining position, but they must lead to concrete outcomes later in the process. Otherwise, China will gleefully watch from afar as fractures emerge between the United States and its most important partners in Asia [June 19].

David Krieger, **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**: The most obvious result of the summit was the change in tone between Trump and Kim. The ultimate value of the summit will be found in the details that are agreed to and acted upon going forward. The summit provides brief relief but then we must return to the goal of nuclear weapons abolition [June 13].

Michael E. O’Hanlon **Brookings Institute**: Maintaining a hopeful view of the summit and of what it means for U.S.-North Korean relations will be sustainable only if Pyongyang’s behavior improves meaningfully and permanently [June 16].

### **Voices of dissent**

Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer**: Trump has granted a brutal and repressive dictatorship the international legitimacy it has long craved. Supportive of American diplomatic efforts but concerned about lack of substance of the summit [Senate Democrats, June 12].

Josh Rogin **Washington Post**: China is the main beneficiary of the summit. China benefits from Trump ordering removal of troops from S. Korea and now holds huge leverage due to Trump legitimizing Kim’s regime. Trump also agreed to hold new sanctions for N. Korea and shrugged off China’s own sanctions, handing Beijing another win [June 12].

**The Economist**: ‘Zero summit gain’. The most substantial thing to come out of the summit may well have been the dark chocolate tart served at the “working lunch”. Whatever leverage Mr. Trump had over Mr Kim a few weeks ago (troops in S. Korea), he has less now [June 12].

Julian Borger **The Guardian** - If this had been Obama, or any other U.S. leader, Trump would have led the howls of derision at these acts of appeasement of a mass murderer. The agreement reached thus far has none of the rigour and substance of Barack Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran, which Trump and Pompeo reviled [June 16].

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