<u>Press Releases: Deputy Secretary</u> <u>Sullivan's Meeting With Japanese</u> <u>Foreign Minister Taro Kono</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

On March 16, Deputy Secretary Sullivan met with Japanese Foreign Minister Kono in Washington, DC. Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Foreign Minister Kono affirmed the importance of the U.S.-Japan Alliance in the region, particularly in light of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK's) unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Both sides agreed that the announcement of a meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is an historic opportunity and that the global maximum pressure campaign is working and must remain in effect. Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Foreign Minister Kono agreed that international pressure on the DPRK must be maintained until the DPRK takes credible, verifiable, and concrete steps toward denuclearization.

Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Foreign Minister Kono also discussed other issues of bilateraland global concern.

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