

Press Releases: Jamaican Independence Day

Press Statement
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
August 6, 2018

On behalf of the United States Government, congratulations to Jamaica on 56 years of independence.

Jamaica is one of the United States' strongest partners. Your support for citizen security, energy development, and economic reform is valuable to ensuring a secure and prosperous region. Today, we celebrate our strong connections and the countless links between our people. We look forward to supporting Jamaica's leadership as the Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and remain committed to the region as underscored in the Caribbean 2020 strategy.

The United States looks eagerly to a future of continued friendship and close cooperation between our two great nations. We send our best wishes to the people of Jamaica for a happy Independence Day with peace and prosperity throughout the year to come.

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Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Readout
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
August 3, 2018

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

Today, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo met with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Singapore. Secretary Pompeo underscored the importance of pursuing a constructive U.S.-China relationship that produces meaningful results. He emphasized our shared commitment to the final, fully verified denuclearization of the DPRK, as agreed upon by Chairman Kim, as well as the importance of continued implementation of all related UN Security Council Resolutions. Secretary Pompeo also discussed additional priorities in our bilateral relationship, such as U.S. concerns about China's ongoing militarization of the South China Sea.

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Press Releases: U.S. Department of State To Host Commemoration for the

20th Anniversary of the Embassy Bombings in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Notice to the Press
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
August 3, 2018

Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor Nagy, and other senior State Department officials will gather with survivors and families of the victims in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of State.

The ceremony is open to the press. Pre-set time for cameras is 7:00 a.m. from the C Street Lobby entrance. Final access time for writers and stills is 7:30 a.m. from the C Street Lobby entrance.

Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist.

Additionally, they must present an official government photo identification card (i.e., U.S. driver's license or passport).

For further information, please contact the Bureau of African Affairs at AF-Press@state.gov.

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Press Releases: Zimbabwe's Elections

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
August 3, 2018

Zimbabwe's July 30 elections presented the country with an historic chance to move beyond the political and economic crises of the past and toward profound democratic change. The Zimbabwean people turned out massively to cast their votes, underscoring their aspirations for a better future, despite challenges during the pre-election period.

Unfortunately, Zimbabwe's success in delivering an election day that was peaceful, and open to international observers, was subsequently marred by violence and a disproportionate use of deadly force against protestors by the security forces. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of those killed and injured and appeal to the leaders of all parties to urge their supporters to act peacefully.

The United States welcomes the commitment by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to release comprehensive election results in a form that provides full transparency. The United States will continue to review the data collected by its own observation teams, by international observation missions, and by local observers to make a complete assessment of the overall election.

We encourage all stakeholders and citizens to pursue any grievances peacefully and through established legal channels, and we encourage all political leaders to show magnanimity in victory and graciousness in defeat.

The United States remains focused on working with Zimbabwe as its people and government strive toward still-needed comprehensive electoral, political, economic, and human rights reforms.

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[Press Releases: Interview With Lin Xueling of Channel NewsAsia](#)

Interview
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Ritz-Carlton Millenia Hotel
Singapore, Singapore
August 3, 2018

QUESTION: Is America prepared to push the world into a recession because of these trade wars?

SECRETARY POMPEO: America is always going to be a great partner for Asia, Southeast Asia in particular. It's great to be back here in Singapore; I've had fantastic meetings all day with my counterparts, talking about America's commitment to making sure that we had a free, fair, open Indo-Pacific.

With respect to trade, that's what we're looking for too. We want every country to rise. We want each nation to have the opportunity to trade, to buy American goods, to sell goods into America. These are the things that President (inaudible). We are a radically free-trade country, and President Trump is enormously supportive of that.

QUESTION: But the tariffs seem to be things that are going to put frictions now on that free trade.

SECRETARY POMPEO: What we're looking for is to remove barriers. This is what has – put in place over decades. There was tremendous unfairness in the system, and our administration is simply trying to put that balance there. The President has said clearly: zero tariffs, zero subsidies, zero non-tariff barriers. Sign us up, we'll take it. America is trying to reduce friction in the trading system. And when we do, we're confident that countries like here in Singapore and other places will thrive, as will America.

QUESTION: Is there a timeline, then, for these trade tariffs to be (inaudible) rolled back on? Is there any kind of limit where you'll say, no, okay, it's now gone too far?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Well, we're looking for each country with whom we're engaging in to fix their own systems in a way that they're fair, reciprocal, they respect the rule of law – these are the things America's looking for. We hope it'll happen sooner rather than later.

QUESTION: And sooner means a time?

SECRETARY POMPEO: We wish it had happened a decade ago. But frankly, the previous administration and the United States wasn't prepared to make sure that America was treated fairly. And that's what the President's looking for. He's simply looking for open, free trade. We want that with the Indo-Pacific, we want it with Singapore, with Southeast Asia. It's an imperative. We are confident that when that happens, the global economy will grow, Southeast Asia's economy will grow, and America will grow as well.

QUESTION: It's been close on two months since the Trump-Kim summit here in Singapore. Are we closer to a denuclearization of North Korea?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Oh, of course we are. Of course we're closer. The two presidents came here and made a historic commitment to each other. Chairman Kim Jong-un made the commitment to denuclearize. That's consistent with what the UN Security Council has been demanding. There are two resolutions that require North Korea to do just that. America, in return, made commitments. We said we are prepared to improve the relationship between our two countries and offer a brighter future for North Korea. We're still intent upon that. We're thrilled that North Korea fulfilled its commitment by beginning the process of returning the remains of American servicemen this past week. We hope that process will continue. And we're confident that Chairman Kim remains committed to denuclearization. The world is counting on it.

QUESTION: But you've also said that it's been imperative that the various countries still maintain the sanctions on North Korea. If so much progress has been made, why not then scale back on the sanctions?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Oh, because the sanctions must remain in place until we're done. So no matter how much progress we make along the way – by the way, these aren't American sanctions – it's important for the world to know this – these are the world's sanctions. Every country supported the UN Security Council resolutions, and those sanctions will remain in place until we have full denuclearization in North Korea. So no matter how much progress we make, those sanctions will remain in place.

But that day, that day when we achieve this thing that the whole world is demanding – we welcome that day – a brighter future for the people of North Korea will be at hand.

QUESTION: So you have got nothing to do with sort of a carrot system in which it's going to be sort of accretionally; you'll have some sanctions which will

scale back as North Korea begins to denuclearize?

SECRETARY POMPEO: The UN Security Council resolutions are very clear. There will surely be things along the way that take place. We've already had meetings. We are engaged in things which will improve the trust between our two countries. Those all make sense. But with respect to sanctions, the UN has spoken; the world has spoken.

QUESTION: Time scales. Everybody has – yes, you're right, everybody's watching this, but we all want to know: When will this take place? When do you see denuclearization of North Korea taking place? Because having it open-ended just makes everybody incredibly nervous.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Well, the world should be less nervous than they were before the summit between the two leaders, where we were in a very difficult place with frequent missile launches, nuclear testing taking place. None of that has taken place since June 12th. We're happy about that. The ultimate timeline for denuclearization will be set by Chairman Kim, at least in part. The decision is his. He made a commitment and we're very hopeful that over the coming weeks and months we can make substantial progress towards that and put the North Korean people on a trajectory towards a brighter future very quickly.

PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. Pompeo.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you very much, Lin. It was great to be with you.

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