

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Shifting US policy to right, Trump taps Sessions, Flynn

NEW YORK — President-elect Donald Trump signaled a sharp rightward shift in U.S. national security policy today, naming Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general, Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo to head the CIA and former military intelligence chief Michael Flynn as his national security adviser.

All three have been fierce critics of President Barack Obama's handling of terrorism and international relations. In tapping Sessions and Flynn, Trump is also rewarding loyalty from two of his most ardent supporters during the presidential campaign.

Trump is a foreign policy novice and his early moves on national security are being closely watched both in the U.S. and overseas. Sessions and Pompeo would both require Senate confirmation before assuming their designated roles; Flynn would not.

Flynn, who has called Islam a "political ideology" that "hides behind being a religion," will work in the West Wing and have frequent access to Trump as he makes national security decisions. Trump said in a statement today that Flynn would be "by my side as we work to defeat radical Islamic terrorism, navigate geopolitical challenges and keep Americans safe at home and abroad."

Sessions was the first senator to endorse Trump, rallying behind the Republican's hardline immigration policies. On Friday, Trump called Sessions "a world-class legal mind."

But the Alabama lawmaker could face obstacles in his confirmation hearing, even with Republicans in control of the Senate. He withdrew from consideration for a federal judgeship in 1986 after being accused of making racist comments while serving as a U.S. attorney in Alabama, including calling a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" in conversation. Sessions denied the accusation.

Pompeo is a conservative Republican and a strong critic of Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. A three-term congressman, he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and from Harvard Law School.

Pompeo has said that Muslim leaders are "potentially complicit" in terrorist attacks if they do not denounce violence conducted in the name of Islam. "They must cite the Quran as evidence that the murder of innocents is not permitted," he said in a 2013 House floor speech.

Obama gathers key Europe leaders amid questions about Trump

BERLIN — President Barack Obama joined the leaders of key European countries in Germany today to discuss an array of security and economic challenges facing the trans-Atlantic partners as the U.S. prepares for President-elect Donald Trump to take office in January.

Obama's meeting with the leaders of Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Spain was likely his last in such a setting before he leaves office. The session expands on lengthy talks he held the day before with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Gathered around a circular table in Merkel's Chancellery, the leaders exchanged pleasantries but made no substantive remarks as reporters were allowed in briefly for the start of the meeting. A number of the leaders planned to deliver statements or take questions from reporters following the meeting.

Since Obama's arrival on Wednesday on his sixth and last trip to Germany as president, he and Merkel have focused several meetings on issues of globalization and trans-Atlantic cooperation. The talks come largely in the context of what the election of Donald Trump will mean to efforts to seek peace in Ukraine and Syria, the strength of the NATO alliance, trade agreements, efforts to fight climate change, and other pressing matters.

At a news conference with Obama on Thursday, Merkel diplomatically said she was approaching the incoming Trump administration "with an open mind."

Dying UK girl convinces judge to let her body be frozen

LONDON — The teenage girl's instructions were direct: She didn't want to be buried, but to be frozen — with the hope



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

Retired Lt. Gen Michael Flynn gestures as he arrives at Trump Tower, Thursday in New York.

she can continue her life in the future when cancer is cured. "I want to live and live longer and I think that in the future they may find a cure for my cancer and wake me up," the 14-year-old wrote to a British judge before her recent death.

She said "being cryopreserved gives me a chance to be cured and woken up — even in hundreds of years' time."

Her plaintive words convinced High Court Judge Peter Jackson to grant her final wishes in what he called the first case of its kind in England — and possibly the world.

The judge said the girl had chosen the most basic preservation option at a cost of about 37,000 pounds (\$46,000).

Volkswagen to shed 30,000 jobs, cutting costs after scandal

FRANKFURT, Germany — Volkswagen announced plans today to cut 30,000 jobs in a wide-ranging restructuring of its namesake brand as it tries to recover from a scandal over cars rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests.

The German company said the job cuts are part of a long-term plan to improve profitability and shift resources and investment to electric-powered vehicles and digital services.

Company officials at a news conference at its headquarters in Wolfsburg 23,000 of the job cuts will come in Germany and that measures will save some 3.7 billion euros (\$4 billion) a year from 2020.

CEO Matthias Mueller said it was "the biggest reform package in the history of our core brand." In addition to Volkswagen, the company also makes cars under other brands including Porsche, Audi, SEAT, Skoda and Lamborghini.

The layoffs cap a difficult year for Volkswagen, which has

been embroiled in an emissions-rigging scandal that damaged the company's reputation and cost it billions.

Trump's election triggers flood of immigration questions

CHICAGO — Immigration hotlines are buzzing. Legal clinics are seeing an influx of clients. Public schools are fielding frantic questions from parents and students.

Since the election, Donald Trump's tough talk on immigration has stirred anxiety nationwide among immigrants regardless of legal status. They are turning to lawyers, schools, advocacy groups and congressional offices for help.

"We're operating with a lot of unknowns, and a certain amount of fear comes with that," said Vanessa Esparza-López, a managing attorney at the Chicago-based National Immigrant Justice Center.

In Chicago, a hotline run by the state's largest immigrant-rights group received more than 330 calls in the week after the election, compared with the usual 100 or so. Denver school officials sent a letter to parents in response to questions about the election's effect on students living in the country illegally.

The New York Legal Assistance Group said it's receiving 40 to 60 daily calls about immigration, up from 20 to 30. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles reported 19 walk-ins on a single day, all with citizenship questions.

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TO CLIENTS OF SEASIDE PET HOSPITAL
As of November 11, 2016, Dr. Jason Gladney has assumed ownership of Seaside Pet Hospital.
A native of Oregon, Dr. Gladney is returning to the Pacific Northwest after practicing veterinary medicine for nine of his twelve years in the U.S. Army, and in the Nebraska private sector for the past six years.
I wish to thank all of you, who have entrusted your pets to me and to my staff for veterinary care over many years. The privilege to practice in this community has truly been a rewarding experience.
Sincerely, Robert J. Remensnyder, DVM

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