

News

World News Briefs

Ahead of Summit, CIA Chief Secretly Meets with North Korea’s Kim

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director Mike Pompeo recently traveled to North Korea to meet with leader Kim Jong Un, a highly unusual, secret visit undertaken as the enemy nations prepared for a meeting between President Donald Trump and Kim within the next few months.

Two officials confirmed the trip to The Associated Press on Tuesday. The officials were not authorized to discuss the visit publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Washington Post, which first reported Pompeo’s meeting with Kim, said it took place over Easter weekend — just over two weeks ago, shortly after the CIA chief was nominated to become secretary of state.

Trump, who was hosting Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his Florida estate, said the U.S. and North Korea were holding direct talks at “extremely high levels” in preparation for a possible summit with Kim. He said five locations were under consideration for the meeting, which was slated to take place by early June.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump and Kim had not spoken directly.

Korean Leaders Can Discuss Peace, But Can’t End Korean War

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump has given his “blessing” for North and South Korea to discuss the end of the Korean War amid a dip-

lomatic push to end the North Korean nuclear standoff. One problem: There can be no real talks without the involvement of the other countries that fought the 1950-53 war, and especially the United States.

The reason is that South Korea wasn’t a direct signatory to the armistice that stopped the fighting but left the Korean Peninsula still technically in a state of war.

There’s widespread interest in what South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un plan will talk about during their summit on April 27, which would only be the third such meeting between the countries’ leaders. A separate meeting between Kim and Trump is anticipated in May or June.

Trump revealed Tuesday that the U.S. and North Korea had been holding direct talks at “extremely high levels” in preparation for their summit. Trump also said that North and South Korea are negotiating an end to hostilities before next week’s summit.

“They do have my blessing to discuss the end of the war,” Trump said.

Presidents, First Ladies Praise Barbara Bush’s Dedication

HOUSTON (AP) — Presidents, first ladies and many others who knew Barbara Bush are praising her devotion to the nation, her family and literacy.

President Donald Trump said among Mrs. Bush’s greatest achievements “was recognizing the importance of literacy as a fundamental family value that requires nurturing and protection. She will be long remembered for her strong devotion to country and family, both of which she served unfailingly well.”

Former President Barack Obama said he and former first lady Michelle Obama will “always be grateful to Mrs. Bush for the generosity she showed to us throughout our time in the White House, but we’re

even more grateful for the way she lived her life — as a testament to the fact that public service is an important and noble calling; as an example of the humility and decency that reflects the very best of the American spirit.”

Mrs. Bush died Tuesday at age 92, family spokesman Jim McGrath said. She had decided to decline further medical treatment for health problems and focus instead on “comfort care” at home in Houston.

A funeral is planned Saturday at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston, which Mrs. Bush and her husband, former President George H.W. Bush, regularly attended. Mrs. Bush will lie in repose Friday at the church for members of the public who want to pay respects. Saturday’s service will be by invitation only, according to the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

NTSB: Blown Southwest Jet Engine Showed ‘Metal Fatigue’

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A preliminary examination of the blown jet engine of the Southwest Airlines plane that set off a terrifying chain of events and left a businesswoman hanging half outside a shattered window showed evidence of “metal fatigue,” according



CIA Director Mike Pompeo, left, listens at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during a confirmation hearing on his nomination to be Secretary of State on Capitol Hill in Washington on April 12, 2018, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 9, 2018. CIA Director Mike Pompeo recently traveled to North Korea to meet with leader Kim Jong Un, two U.S. officials said Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Passengers scrambled to save the woman from getting sucked out the window that had been smashed by debris. She later died, and seven others were injured.

The pilots of the twin-engine Boeing 737 bound from New York to Dallas with 149 people aboard took it into a rapid descent Tuesday and made an emergency landing in Philadelphia. Oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling and passengers said their prayers and braced for impact.

“I just remember holding my husband’s hand, and we just prayed and prayed and prayed,” said passenger Amanda Bourman, of New York.

The dead woman was identified as Jennifer Riordan, a Wells Fargo bank executive and mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The seven other victims suffered minor injuries.

Starbucks cont’d from pg 11

Holder.

The company said the educational materials would eventually be shared with its licensed stores. In addition to the company-owned stores, Starbucks had as of January about 5,700 licensed stores in the United States, such as the ones inside Target and Barnes & Noble stores.

Gauda and other corporate communications experts said they were impressed with John-

son’s hands-on approach to the crisis.

“I definitely applaud that. Most people won’t jump on the bomb,” said M.J. McCallum, vice president and creative director of Muse Communications, an advertising and communications agency with an African-American focus.

“As far as the company’s initiative to rectify this situation by closing all stores for racial bias education training, it’s

a positive start,” McCallum said. “It may also inspire other companies to do the same.”

“But the question is, how can Starbucks have this program and not have it be viewed as “Training people on how to deal with black people?”

He said the training should be aimed broadly to “make sure that you are respectful to everyone’s culture. First, just be good people.”

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