



DHA-Depo Photos via AP

In this photo taken on Tuesday and made available Wednesday, Turkish experts evacuate a victim of alleged chemical weapons attacks in Syrian city of Idlib, at a hospital in Turkey.

Trump condemns Syria attack but won't telegraph U.S. response

WASHINGTON (AP) — His expression grave and his words emphatic, President Donald Trump declared on Wednesday the deadly chemical attack in Syria had crossed "many, many lines" and abruptly changed his views of Syrian President Bashar Assad. But he refused to say what the U.S. might do in response.

Trump issued no ultimatums in comments that were being scoured by world leaders for signs of how the new president would react to a global crisis. In a rare reversal of roles, Trump was more reserved than many of his top advisers — including his U.N. envoy, who revived the hard-hitting rhetoric of Trump's political campaign and strongly hinted some U.S. action was coming.

Trump himself was noncommittal. "I'm not saying I'm doing anything one way or another, but I'm certainly not going to be telling you," he told reporters.

He blamed the attack squarely on Assad's forces, though the embattled Syrian leader and his Russian backers denied it. He suggested that the assault that killed 72 people had diminished his former reluctance to plunge the U.S. further into the complex and dangerous turmoil in the Middle East.

"When you kill innocent children, innocent babies — babies, little babies — with a chemical gas that is so lethal, people were shocked to hear what gas it was, that crosses many, many lines," Trump said in the White House Rose Garden. U.S. officials said the gas was likely chlorine, with traces of a nerve agent like sarin.

While continuing to fault predecessor Barack Obama for much of the current situation in Syria, he acknowledged that dealing with the crisis is now his own responsibility and vowed to "carry it very proudly."

Only days earlier multiple members of Trump's administration had said Assad's ouster was no longer a U.S. priority, drawing outrage from Assad critics in the U.S. and abroad. But Trump said Tuesday's attack "had a big impact on me — big impact."

"My attitude towards Syria and Assad has changed very much," he said.

Since the attack Tuesday in rebel-held territory in northern Syria, Trump has been under increasing pressure to explain whether the attack would bring a U.S. response. After all, Trump's first reaction was merely to blame Obama's "weakness" in earlier years for enabling Assad.

Obama had put Assad on notice that using chemical weapons would cross a "red line" necessitating a U.S. response, but then failed to follow through, pulling back from planned airstrikes after Congress wouldn't vote to approve them. Trump and other critics have cited that as a key moment the U.S. lost much global credibility.

"I now have responsibility," Trump said. "That responsibility could be made a lot easier if it was handled years ago."

Yet he was adamant that he would not telegraph any potential U.S. military retaliation, saying anew that that was a mistake the Obama administration had repeatedly made.

Standing alongside Jordan's King Abdullah II at a news conference, Trump appeared to adopt the first

Mounting confidence nerve gas was used in Syria attack

BEIRUT (AP) — Diplomats at the U.N. Security council sparred Wednesday over whether to hold President Bashar Assad's government responsible for a chemical weapons attack that killed more than 80 people in northern Syria, while U.S. intelligence officials, Doctors Without Borders and the U.N. health agency said evidence pointed to nerve gas exposure.

The Trump administration and other world leaders said the Syrian government was to blame, but Moscow, a key ally of Assad, said the assault was caused by a Syrian airstrike that hit a rebel stockpile of chemical arms.

Early U.S. assessments showed the use of chlorine gas and traces of the nerve agent sarin in the attack Tuesday that terrorized the Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun, according to two U.S. officials who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity.

Israeli military intelligence officers also believe Syrian government forces were behind the attack, Israeli defense officials told the Associated Press. Israel believes Assad has tons of chemical weapons still in his arsenal, despite a concerted operation three years ago by the Organization of Chemical Weapons to rid the government of its stockpile, said the officials.

Victims of the attack showed signs of nerve gas exposure, the World Health Organization and Doctors Without Borders said, including suffocation, foaming at the mouth, convulsions, constricted pupils and involuntary defecation. Paramedics were using fire hoses to wash the chemicals from the bodies of victims. Medical teams also reported smelling bleach on survivors of the attack, suggesting chlorine gas was also used.

The magnitude of the attack was reflected in the images of the dead — children piled in heaps for burial, a father carrying his lifeless young twins.

part of Obama's stance — that chemical weapons use is intolerable — while stopping short of saying what might come next.

That left some Assad opponents wanting more.

"It's simply impossible to shame the Assad and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin regimes with words alone," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

The strongest indication that the U.S. might act came at the United Nations, where U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley held up photos of the attack's victims in an emotional plea to the Security Council to intervene. "When the United Nations consistently fails in its duty to act collectively, there are times in the life of states that we are compelled to take our own action," Haley declared.

Trump removes Bannon from security council

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has removed chief strategist Steve Bannon from the National Security Council, reversing an earlier, controversial decision to give Bannon access to the group's high-level meetings.

A new memorandum about the council's composition was published Wednesday in the Federal Register. The memo no longer lists the chief strategist as a member of the Principals Committee, a group of high-ranking officials who meet to discuss pressing national security priorities.

A senior White House official said Wednesday that Bannon was initially placed on the National Security Council after Trump's inauguration as a measure to ensure implementation of the president's vision, including efforts to downsize and streamline operations at the NSC.

Bannon's addition to the NSC sparked criticism that it was inappropriate for the political adviser to play a role in national security matters.

Trump tells newspaper Obama aide might have broken the law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing no evidence, President Donald Trump on Wednesday accused his predecessor's national security adviser of breaking the law, one month after he accused former President Barack Obama of illegally wiretapping him.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Trump said Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, committed a crime when she asked government analysts to disclose the names of Trump associates documented in intelligence reports. Trump would not say if he reviewed new intelligence to support his claim. He told the *Times* he would say more "at the right time."

Rice is the latest target for Trump and his embattled defenders. She has firmly denied that she did anything inappropriate in requesting the identities of Trump associates. As the national security adviser, Rice would have been authorized to seek identities of people whose names were redacted from intelligence reports. Officials typically "unmask" Americans if it is

deemed necessary for understanding the information. Some Trump allies have accused Rice of unmasking officials for political reasons.

"Absolutely false," Rice declared.

New GOP health plan could raise premiums; no vote scheduled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders prepared Wednesday to send lawmakers home for a two-week recess without voting on their troubled health care bill, as prospects for a quick deal among party factions moved farther out of reach.

Meanwhile, policy experts said the latest GOP health care idea could mean going back to a time when people with medical problems were charged much higher premiums for individual policies.

Thursday's house floor schedule makes no mention of a vote.

Conservatives and moderates blamed each other for failure to come to an agreement. Already in jeopardy, the GOP drive to repeal "Obamacare" could get more complicated as weeks go by with no resolution of internal differences.

Thursday Morning

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEW, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

April 6, 2017

AFTERNOON

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEW, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

EVENING

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEW, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

Large table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes A&E, AMC, ANPL, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, FOOD, FREE, FX, GOLF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, NICK, ROOT, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, UNI, USA, WE, WGN, STZ ENC, HBO, HBO2, HBO3, MAX, SHOW, STARZ.

NIGHT OWL

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEW, KATU, KTNW, OPB.