Brief: Trump’s UN Speech

By Chris Jeub

***Resolved: Deployment of anti-missile systems is in South Korea’s best interest.***

Donald Trump gave a combative speech to the UN last week September 19, one that made headlines and stirred up plenty of controversy. He outlined strong opposition to several disruptive nations in the UN assembly, but lead with North Korea. Nothing about anti-missile systems was mentioned, but the speech was a direct challenge to North Korean aggression, its assembly member sitting in the front row in front of Trump.

Some loved the speech, John Bolton even calling it the “best” speech of Trump’s presidency. Others hated it, especially those in favor of a soft-power UN approach to help stabilize world security. This brief cuts cards from Trump’s speech and assembles other cards both PRO and CON to his position.

Use these cards in your debates to leverage your PRO and CON cases toward the anti-missile systems in South Korea.

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President Trump’s UN Speech (September 19, 2017)

Trump’s Speech to the UN

American military will soon be strongest ever

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

Fortunately, the United States has done very well since Election Day last November 8th. The stock market is at an all-time high -- a record. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 16 years, and because of our regulatory and other reforms, we have more people working in the United States today than ever before. Companies are moving back, creating job growth the likes of which our country has not seen in a very long time. And it has just been announced that we will be spending almost $700 billion on our military and defense. Our military will soon be the strongest it has ever been. For more than 70 years, in times of war and peace, the leaders of nations, movements, and religions have stood before this assembly. Like them, I intend to address some of the very serious threats before us today but also the enormous potential waiting to be unleashed.

Rogue regimes are leading to “valley of disrepair”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

But each day also brings news of growing dangers that threaten everything we cherish and value. Terrorists and extremists have gathered strength and spread to every region of the planet. Rogue regimes represented in this body not only support terrorists but threaten other nations and their own people with the most destructive weapons known to humanity. Authority and authoritarian powers seek to collapse the values, the systems, and alliances that prevented conflict and tilted the world toward freedom since World War II. International criminal networks traffic drugs, weapons, people; force dislocation and mass migration; threaten our borders; and new forms of aggression exploit technology to menace our citizens. To put it simply, we meet at a time of both of immense promise and great peril. It is entirely up to us whether we lift the world to new heights, or let it fall into a valley of disrepair.

UN has power to ensure freedom from violence, hatred, fear

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

We have it in our power, should we so choose, to lift millions from poverty, to help our citizens realize their dreams, and to ensure that new generations of children are raised free from violence, hatred, and fear. This institution was founded in the aftermath of two world wars to help shape this better future. It was based on the vision that diverse nations could cooperate to protect their sovereignty, preserve their security, and promote their prosperity.

UN success depends of “Principle of Sovereignty”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly> (brackets added)

To overcome the perils of the present and to achieve the promise of the future, we must begin with the wisdom of the past. Our [the UN’s] success depends on a coalition of strong and independent nations that embrace their sovereignty to promote security, prosperity, and peace for themselves and for the world. We do not expect diverse countries to share the same cultures, traditions, or even systems of government. But we do expect all nations to uphold these two core sovereign duties: to respect the interests of their own people and the rights of every other sovereign nation. This is the beautiful vision of this institution, and this is foundation for cooperation and success. Strong, sovereign nations let diverse countries with different values, different cultures, and different dreams not just coexist, but work side by side on the basis of mutual respect. Strong, sovereign nations let their people take ownership of the future and control their own destiny. And strong, sovereign nations allow individuals to flourish in the fullness of the life intended by God.

US renewing “Principle of Sovereignty”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

In America, we do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to watch. This week gives our country a special reason to take pride in that example. We are celebrating the 230th anniversary of our beloved Constitution -- the oldest constitution still in use in the world today. This timeless document has been the foundation of peace, prosperity, and freedom for the Americans and for countless millions around the globe whose own countries have found inspiration in its respect for human nature, human dignity, and the rule of law. The greatest in the United States Constitution is its first three beautiful words. They are: “We the people.” Generations of Americans have sacrificed to maintain the promise of those words, the promise of our country, and of our great history. In America, the people govern, the people rule, and the people are sovereign. I was elected not to take power, but to give power to the American people, where it belongs. In foreign affairs, we are renewing this founding principle of sovereignty. Our government's first duty is to its people, to our citizens -- to serve their needs, to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights, and to defend their values. As President of the United States, I will always put America first, just like you, as the leaders of your countries will always, and should always, put your countries first. (Applause.) All responsible leaders have an obligation to serve their own citizens, and the nation-state remains the best vehicle for elevating the human condition. But making a better life for our people also requires us to work together in close harmony and unity to create a more safe and peaceful future for all people.

US forever “a great friend to the world”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

The United States will forever be a great friend to the world, and especially to its allies. But we can no longer be taken advantage of, or enter into a one-sided deal where the United States gets nothing in return. As long as I hold this office, I will defend America’s interests above all else. But in fulfilling our obligations to our own nations, we also realize that it’s in everyone’s interest to seek a future where all nations can be sovereign, prosperous, and secure. America does more than speak for the values expressed in the United Nations Charter. Our citizens have paid the ultimate price to defend our freedom and the freedom of many nations represented in this great hall. America's devotion is measured on the battlefields where our young men and women have fought and sacrificed alongside of our allies, from the beaches of Europe to the deserts of the Middle East to the jungles of Asia. It is an eternal credit to the American character that even after we and our allies emerged victorious from the bloodiest war in history, we did not seek territorial expansion, or attempt to oppose and impose our way of life on others. Instead, we helped build institutions such as this one to defend the sovereignty, security, and prosperity for all. For the diverse nations of the world, this is our hope. We want harmony and friendship, not conflict and strife. We are guided by outcomes, not ideology. We have a policy of principled realism, rooted in shared goals, interests, and values.

UN nations must confront threats

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly> (brackets added)

That realism forces us to confront a question facing every leader and nation in this room. It is a question we cannot escape or avoid. We will slide down the path of complacency, numb to the challenges, threats, and even wars that we face. Or do we have enough strength and pride to confront those dangers today, so that our citizens can enjoy peace and prosperity tomorrow? If we desire to lift up our citizens, if we aspire to the approval of history, then we must fulfill our sovereign duties to the people we faithfully represent. We [the UN] must protect our nations, their interests, and their futures. We must reject threats to sovereignty, from the Ukraine to the South China Sea. We must uphold respect for law, respect for borders, and respect for culture, and the peaceful engagement these allow. And just as the founders of this body intended, we must work together and confront together those who threaten us with chaos, turmoil, and terror.

“Rogue regimes” are “scourge of our planet”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

The scourge of our planet today is a small group of rogue regimes that violate every principle on which the United Nations is based. They respect neither their own citizens nor the sovereign rights of their countries. If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph. When decent people and nations become bystanders to history, the forces of destruction only gather power and strength.

North Korea shows contempt for UN

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

No one has shown more contempt for other nations and for the wellbeing of their own people than the depraved regime in North Korea.

North Korea responsible for human rights atrocities and threatens human life

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly> (brackets added)

It [North Korea] is responsible for the starvation deaths of millions of North Koreans, and for the imprisonment, torture, killing, and oppression of countless more. We were all witness to the regime's deadly abuse when an innocent American college student, Otto Warmbier, was returned to America only to die a few days later. We saw it in the assassination of the dictator's brother using banned nerve agents in an international airport. We know it kidnapped a sweet 13-year-old Japanese girl from a beach in her own country to enslave her as a language tutor for North Korea's spies. If this is not twisted enough, now North Korea's reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles threatens the entire world with unthinkable loss of human life.

Outrage: Nations that trade with North Korea

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly> (brackets added)

It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with [North Korea] such a regime, but would arm, supply, and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict. No nation on earth has an interest in seeing this band of criminals arm itself with nuclear weapons and missiles.

US may have no choice but to “destroy North Korea”

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime. The United States is ready, willing and able, but hopefully this will not be necessary. That’s what the United Nations is all about; that’s what the United Nations is for. Let’s see how they do.

Denuclearization is North Korea’s only future

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future. The United Nations Security Council recently held two unanimous 15-0 votes adopting hard-hitting resolutions against North Korea, and I want to thank China and Russia for joining the vote to impose sanctions, along with all of the other members of the Security Council. Thank you to all involved.

UN must isolate North Korea

The White House. “Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/19/remarks-president-trump-72nd-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future. The United Nations Security Council recently held two unanimous 15-0 votes adopting hard-hitting resolutions against North Korea, and I want to thank China and Russia for joining the vote to impose sanctions, along with all of the other members of the Security Council. Thank you to all involved. But we must do much more. It is time for all nations to work together to isolate the Kim regime until it ceases its hostile behavior.

PRO: Trump’s UN Speech Good

Bolton: Trump’s speech best in Trump presidency

Republican lawmakers and conservative leaders cheered the president’s strong stance against international outliers like Iran and North Korea. “It was the best speech of the Trump presidency in my view,” John R. Bolton, a former ambassador to the United Nations, told Fox News. “It’s safe to say in the entire history of the United Nations there has never been a more straightforward criticism of the behavior, the unacceptable behavior of other member states.”

Israel: Trump’s UN speech “boldest in 30 years”

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

The tough words cheered the delegation from Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, applauded from the gallery and called it the boldest speech he had heard at the United Nations in 30 years. In his own address later, he said Mr. Trump had “rightly called the nuclear deal with Iran an embarrassment” and pointed to North Korea as an example. “In the last few months, we’ve all seen how dangerous even a few nuclear weapons can be in the hands of a small rogue regime,” Mr. Netanyahu said. “Now imagine the danger of hundreds of nuclear weapons in the reins of a vast Iranian empire, with the missiles to deliver them anywhere on earth.”

South Korea: UN speech firm and good

David Nakamura and Anne Gearan. “Amid new sanctions, Trump calls North Korea’s leader ‘madman’ whose regime will face new tests.” The Washington Post, September 22, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/09/21/trump-says-the-u-s-will-impose-new-sanctions-on-north-korea/?utm_term=.f4731198b852>

Sitting down with South Korean President Moon Jae-in before the trilateral discussion with Japan, Trump said the nations are “making a lot of progress.” Moon praised Trump's speech to the United Nations, saying through a translator that “North Korea has continued to make provocations and this is extremely deplorable and this has angered both me and our people, but the U.S. has responded firmly and in a very good way.”

Israel: Trump’s UN speech “courageous”

Tom O’Conner. “IRAN BLASTS TRUMP 'HATE SPEECH,' AS WORLD LEADERS REACT TO PRESIDENT'S FIRST UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS.” Newsweek, September 19, 2017. <http://www.newsweek.com/iran-blasts-trumps-hate-speech-world-leaders-react-presidents-first-united-667878>

Trump did find some allies, however. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took the opportunity during his own address to praise Trump for not only backing him up in opposition to the JCPOA, but also for being more pro-Israel than President Obama. Netanyahu, who later called the U.N. "the epicenter of global anti-Semitism," tweeted that in his 30 years of experience with the U.N., he had "never heard a bolder or more courageous speech" than Trump's.

Trump’s a jerk, but the speech was great

Michael Genest. Why Trump’s UN speech was great.” San Francisco Chronicle, September 20, 2017. <http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Why-Trump-s-UN-speech-was-great-12215998.php>

Even if you think he’s a jerk, here’s why President Trump’s speech was great:  
 - It was a call for sovereign responsibility. He said all leaders have an obligation to put the security, safety and prosperity of their citizens first.  
 - It was inclusive. He acknowledged that nations can and should still work together and respect each other, even when they have different cultures and different types of governments.  
 - It called out the highest purpose of the United Nations. Remember, he not only said that the United States pays more than its fair share of U.N. costs, but he also said the cost would be more than worth it if the United Nations actually did what its charter calls for: maintain world peace.  
 - It called out the worst of the United Nations, which is unaccountable bureaucracy and waste.  
 - It was friendly but firm. It noted that most of the nations are righteous, but that they will suffer if they do not unite to “confront the wicked few.”  
 - It was necessary. Remember, when Barack Obama left office, he told Trump that his biggest challenge would be North Korea. While Obama’s “strategic patience” was wearing thin — recall that he once also said that the United States could destroy North Korea — Trump’s is almost gone. But, not quite.  
Neither Obama nor Trump, nor any of us, wants war. Let’s hope and pray that making the consequences clear to friend and foe alike can prevent it.

Critics of Trump’s speech are out of range from Kim’s missiles

Daniel Henninger. “Trump goes nuclear.” Wall Street Journal, September 20, 2017. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-goes-nuclear-1505948567>

On July 28 this year, North Korea’s Kim Jong Un tested an intercontinental ballistic missile. Analysts said its potential flight path on an optimum trajectory could travel some 6,400 miles. We can’t help but notice that most of the commentators who are dumping condescension on President Trump for threatening to “totally destroy North Korea” live in New York or Washington rather than Seattle or San Francisco. Or Seoul or Tokyo or anywhere people live who no longer see Kim’s 250-kiloton bomb—about 17 times as big as what hit Hiroshima in 1945—as an intellectual or journalistic abstraction.

Trump has right to invoke pre-emption

Daniel Henninger. “Trump goes nuclear.” Wall Street Journal, September 20, 2017. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-goes-nuclear-1505948567>

Mr. Trump violated foreign-policy sensibilities on the Eastern Seaboard by saying out loud what has been an implicit reality of U.S. strategic policy since the dawn of the nuclear age: We reserve the right to use nuclear weapons to pre-empt a first strike from an adversary, and that includes an enemy’s nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The reason resided in one simple Cold-War word: deterrence.

“No first use” was never Trump’s doctrine, nor NATO’s

Daniel Henninger. “Trump goes nuclear.” Wall Street Journal, September 20, 2017. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-goes-nuclear-1505948567>

Toward the end of the Obama presidency, concerns emerged that Mr. Obama would adopt the “no first use” doctrine on nuclear weapons long favored by progressive arms-control activists. He did not. Also worth keeping in mind amid the outcry that Mr. Trump’s speech violated some sort of international gentlemen’s agreement is that NATO has refused for 70 years to adopt no first use.

Trump’s tone “real-world”

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

The president’s tone carried real-world implications for the future of the United Nations and the escalating confrontations with international outliers. In the space of 42 minutes, he upended decades of rhetorical support by the United States for the collective philosophy of the United Nations as he defended his America First policy. He repeatedly extolled “sovereignty” in a setting where the term traditionally has been brandished by nations like Russia, China, Iran and North Korea to deflect criticism.

Obama’s UN policy was “going to hell”

Daniel Henninger. “Trump goes nuclear.” Wall Street Journal, September 20, 2017. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-goes-nuclear-1505948567>

My own tastes in Trumpian philosophizing run more toward statements like this at the U.N.: “Major portions of the world are in conflict, and some, in fact, are going to hell.” Again, the pundits gagged, presumably nostalgic for the prudent, considered cadences of Barack Obama, whose foreign policies left much of the world, um, going to hell. Aleppo’s bombardment into rubble comes to mind. Hearing Mr. Obama describe more of the same will cost you $400,000 now. President Trump gets to talk for free about Kim Jong Un’s march toward a nuclear Armageddon. Between these two, I’ll take the free version.

United Kingdom: Trump’s UN speech “courageous”

Tom O’Conner. “IRAN BLASTS TRUMP 'HATE SPEECH,' AS WORLD LEADERS REACT TO PRESIDENT'S FIRST UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS.” Newsweek, September 19, 2017. <http://www.newsweek.com/iran-blasts-trumps-hate-speech-world-leaders-react-presidents-first-united-667878>

The U.K. also reportedly backed Trump's fiery rhetoric toward Iran and North Korea, which he referred to as "rogue regimes." A spokesperson for U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May said London did not seek a war, but would follow Trump's lead. "As President Trump said, the international community must continue to work together to confront rogue regimes and that is exactly what the Prime Minister will be doing in discussions with world leaders in New York this week," a spokesperson told the London-based Evening Standard. "No-one wants to see military action, but as we progress with efforts to secure a peaceful diplomatic resolution it would be wrong to rule anything out."

Speech follow-up seeks international coalition

David Nakamura and Anne Gearan. “Amid new sanctions, Trump calls North Korea’s leader ‘madman’ whose regime will face new tests.” The Washington Post, September 22, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/09/21/trump-says-the-u-s-will-impose-new-sanctions-on-north-korea/?utm_term=.f4731198b852>

The latest economic pressures announced Thursday come as the Trump administration seeks to build international support for more aggressively confronting the rogue nation, whose escalating nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities have reached what U.S. officials consider a crisis point. The new penalties seek to leverage the dominance of the U.S. financial system by forcing nations, foreign companies and individuals to choose whether to do business with the United States or the comparatively tiny economy of North Korea. U.S. officials acknowledged that like other sanctions, these may not deter North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s drive to threaten the United States with a nuclear weapon, but is aimed at slowing him down.

Newest sanctions show China’s support

David Nakamura and Anne Gearan. “Amid new sanctions, Trump calls North Korea’s leader ‘madman’ whose regime will face new tests.” The Washington Post, September 22, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/09/21/trump-says-the-u-s-will-impose-new-sanctions-on-north-korea/?utm_term=.f4731198b852>

Trump's executive order grants the Treasury Department additional authority that Trump said would help cut off international trade and financing that Kim's dictatorship uses to support its banned weapons programs. “North Korea’s nuclear program is a grave threat to peace and security in our world, and it is unacceptable that others financially support this criminal, rogue regime,” Trump said in brief public remarks during a meeting with the leaders of South Korea and Japan to discuss strategy to confront Pyongyang. He added that the United States continues to seek a “complete denuclearization of North Korea.” Significantly, Trump also said that Chinese President Xi Jinping had ordered Chinese banks to cease conducting business with North Korean entities. Trump praised Xi, calling the move “very bold” and “somewhat unexpected.” China is North Korea's chief ally and economic lifeline. Some 90 percent of North Korean economic activity involves China, and Chinese entities are the main avenue for North Korea's very limited financial transactions in the global economy. China is also suspected of turning a blind eye to some of the smuggling and sanctions-busting operations that have allowed Pyongyang to rapidly develop sophisticated long-range missiles despite international prohibitions on parts and technology. All U.N. sanctions have to be acceptable to China, which holds veto power. China's recent willingness to punish its fellow communist state signals strong disapproval of North Korea's international provocations, but China and fellow U.N. Security Council member Russia have also opposed some of the toughest economic measures that could be applied, such as banking restrictions that would affect Chinese and other financial institutions. “We continue to call on all responsible nations to enforce and implement sanctions,” Trump said.

CON: Trump’s UN Speech Bad

North Korea: Kim will “tame” trump “with fire”

David Nakamura and Anne Gearan. “Amid new sanctions, Trump calls North Korea’s leader ‘madman’ whose regime will face new tests.” The Washington Post, September 22, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/09/21/trump-says-the-u-s-will-impose-new-sanctions-on-north-korea/?utm_term=.f4731198b852>

Kim on Thursday reacted angrily to Trump's remarks and actions this week, calling the president a “mentally deranged U.S. dotard” and Trump's earlier speech at the U.N. “unprecedented rude nonsense.” Kim said that he was now thinking hard about how to respond. “I will make the man holding the prerogative of the supreme command in the U.S. pay dearly for his speech,” Kim said in a statement released by the official Korean Central News Agency, which also published a photo of the North Korean leader sitting at his desk holding a piece of paper. “I am now thinking hard about what response he could have expected when he allowed such eccentric words to trip off his tongue. Whatever Trump might have expected, he will face results beyond his expectation,” Kim said, saying that he would “tame” Trump “with fire.”

China: Threat to North Korea likely worsen situation

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

The early reaction from China was relatively mild, perhaps a reflection of Mr. Trump’s phone call to President Xi Jinping the night before. In an editorial on Wednesday, the state-run China Daily scolded the United States for not doing more to start talks with North Korea. “His threat to ‘totally destroy’ the D.P.R.K. if need be will, therefore, likely worsen the already volatile situation,” the paper said, using an acronym for North Korea.

France: Rejects talk of aggression

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

Mr. Trump’s choice of words raised hackles among allies too, as Federica Mogherini, the European Union foreign minister, made clear at a reception on Tuesday evening. “We never talk about destroying countries,” she said. President Emmanuel Macron of France, who has a friendly relationship with Mr. Trump and whose country was one of the negotiating parties for the Iran deal, likewise took exception. In his General Assembly address, Mr. Macron called the agreement “solid, robust and verifiable,” and said renouncing it would be a “grave error.” While he shared Mr. Trump’s view that North Korea’s nuclear belligerence was dangerous and unacceptable, Mr. Macron said multilateral diplomatic pressure was the best solution. “France rejects escalation and will not close any door to dialogue,” he said.

Hillary Clinton: Trump speech “dark and dangerous”

Alana Abramson. “Hillary Clinton Denounces Donald Trump's 'Dark and Dangerous' United Nations Speech.” TIME, September 19, 2017. <http://time.com/4948517/hillary-clinton-donald-trump-united-nations-speech/>

Hillary Clinton strongly denounced President Donald Trump's speech to the United Nations Tuesday, telling Stephen Colbert the rhetoric was bombastic and inappropriate for the President of the United States. "I thought it was very dark, dangerous, not the kind of message that the leader of the greatest nation in the world should be delivering ," she told Colbert during an appearance on *The Late Show*Tuesday night, adding that she had only seen parts of the speech, not the entire thing.

Iran: Trump speech “shameless and ignorant”

Tom O’Conner. “IRAN BLASTS TRUMP 'HATE SPEECH,' AS WORLD LEADERS REACT TO PRESIDENT'S FIRST UNITED NATIONS ADDRESS.” Newsweek, September 19, 2017. <http://www.newsweek.com/iran-blasts-trumps-hate-speech-world-leaders-react-presidents-first-united-667878>

Iran's top diplomat criticized President Donald Trump's “ignorant” first-ever speech at the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Tuesday. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif took to local and social media to counter Trump's attack on Tehran and the 2015 nuclear treaty negotiated by President Barack Obama, Iran and other leading powers. Zarif, who was deeply involved in negotiations to establish the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal, defended Iran against Trump's accusations that it funds terrorism and destabilizes the Gulf region—where it supports various groups opposed to the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) as well as the U.S. presence. “Trump’s shameless and ignorant remarks, in which he ignored Iran’s fight against terrorism, displays his lack of knowledge and unawareness,” Zarif told Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency, according to Reuters. “Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times-not the 21st Century UN-unworthy of a reply. Fake empathy for Iranians fools no one,” he added on his official Twitter account.

Iran: UN speech excessively belligerent

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

Others called Mr. Trump’s speech excessively belligerent. “If Trump was determined to demonstrate to the world that he is unhinged and an imminent danger to world peace, he has succeeded with this speech, and will only make it harder for him to win over the world to his self-destructive goals,” said Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council, a Washington-based group that criticizes the Tehran government but advocates more engagement.

Iran: Trump speech belongs in medieval times

Peter Baker and Rick Gladstone. “With Combative Style and Epithets, Trump Takes America First to the U.N.” The New York Times, September 19, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/world/trump-un-north-korea-iran.html>

Neither Hassan Rouhani, Iran’s president, nor Mohammad Javad Zarif, its foreign minister, was in the hall for Mr. Trump’s speech. North Korea’s ambassador left his seat before the president started speaking. In an interview taped before the speech, Mr. Rouhani castigated Mr. Trump for considering a withdrawal from the nuclear accord. “The exiting of the United States from such an agreement would carry a high cost, meaning that subsequent to such an action by the United States of America, no one will trust America again,” he told NBC News. Mr. Zarif said on Twitter that “Trump’s ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times — not the 21st Century UN.”

Trump’s UN speech left Administration’s policy in question

Rich Lowry. “‘Holy Sh\*\*’: Trump at the U.N.” National Review, September 19, 2017. <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/451498/donald-trump-united-nations-speech-jacksonian-warning-north-korea>

As someone said on Twitter, never before has been there so much murmuring of “holy sh\*\*” in so many different languages. Donald Trump’s speech at the United Nations was a sometimes awkward marriage of conventional Republican foreign policy and a very basic version of Trump’s nationalism. The headline obviously was the threat to destroy North Korea if we are forced to defend ourselves. If the point of the speech was to get the world to take notice, this surely succeeded. But it’s still an open question of what exactly the administration’s North Korea policy is — a rhetorically forceful version of the usual hope that we can get China to pressure North Korea and eventually sit down to negotiate again with Pyongyang, or something different?

Trump’s UN speech very much like Putin

Spencer Ackerman. “Trump Uses Putin’s Arguments to Undermine the World.” The Daily Beast, September 19, 2017. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-uses-putins-arguments-to-undermine-the-world>

Whatever nexus between Putin and Trump exists for Robert Mueller to discover, the evidence of their compatible visions of foreign affairs was on display at the United Nations clearer than ever, with Trump’s aggressive incantation of “sovereignty, security and prosperity” as the path to world peace. “There can be no substitute for strong, sovereign, and independent nations, nations that are rooted in the histories and invested in their destiny,” Trump said, hitting his familiar blood-and-soil themes that echo from the darker moments in European history.

Trump should not threaten to “completely destroy” North Korea

Fred Kaplan. “Trump’s Dark Vision for the World.” Slate Magazine, September 19, 2017. <http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/war_stories/2017/09/trump_s_u_n_general_assembly_speech_was_hostile_and_dangerous.html>

These are good questions, consistent with the Peace of Westphalia of 1648, which consecrated the sovereignty of nation-states as the basis for diplomacy. But if Trump believes what he’s saying here, he should know he has no business threatening to “completely destroy” North Korea, a country of 25 million people, because its leaders are testing missiles and nuclear weapons. Certainly the emergence of a Pyongyang nuclear arsenal is a worrisome development, but from the North Koreans’ point of view, it may be a way—perhaps, as they see it, the only way—to guarantee their own security and sovereignty in a world that they see as threatening.

Trump speech made military confrontation more likely

Paul Waldman. “Trump just made it harder to get North Korea to give up nukes.” September 19, 2017. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2017/09/19/trump-just-made-it-harder-to-get-north-korea-to-give-up-nukes/?utm_term=.1c5a06134ce9>

Imagine you’re Kim Jong Un. You just watched on television as President Trump went to the United Nations and gave a speech in which he demanded that you give up the weapons program that you have worked to make a source of intense national pride. He also threatened to kill you and all 25 million of your citizens, and even called you “Rocket Man,” and although you actually kind of like that nickname — you love your rockets, after all — you know that he’s trying to belittle you. Are you going to say, “I think I can work with this man; perhaps we can arrive at a deal that will be good for my country”? Of course not. That isn’t to say that Trump should be showering Kim with praise, but everything he says seems designed to ratchet up hostility with North Korea and make a military confrontation more likely, even when he’s speaking at an institution whose purpose is to promote world peace.

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