

world

Trump not bothered by NK missile tests

● Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet with its new emperor

AP | Tokyo

President Donald Trump said yesterday that he is not “personally bothered” by recent short-range missile tests that North Korea conducted this month, breaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is hosting the president on four-day state visit full of pageantry.

Standing beside Trump at a news conference after hours of talks, Abe disagreed with the US president, saying the missile tests violated UN Security Council resolutions and were “of great regret.” Abe, who has forged a strong friendship with Trump and agrees with him on many issues, is concerned because the short-range missiles pose a threat to Japan’s security.

Trump was invited to Japan to be the first world leader to meet with its new emperor. Despite being far from Washington, he didn’t miss the chance to lob another broadside against former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the Democrats seeking to challenge Trump in next year’s presidential election. North Korea’s Kim Jong Un recently criticized Biden as having a low I.Q. and Trump told the world he agreed with the authoritarian leader’s assessment.



US President Donald Trump (L) speaks during a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Akasaka Palace in Tokyo



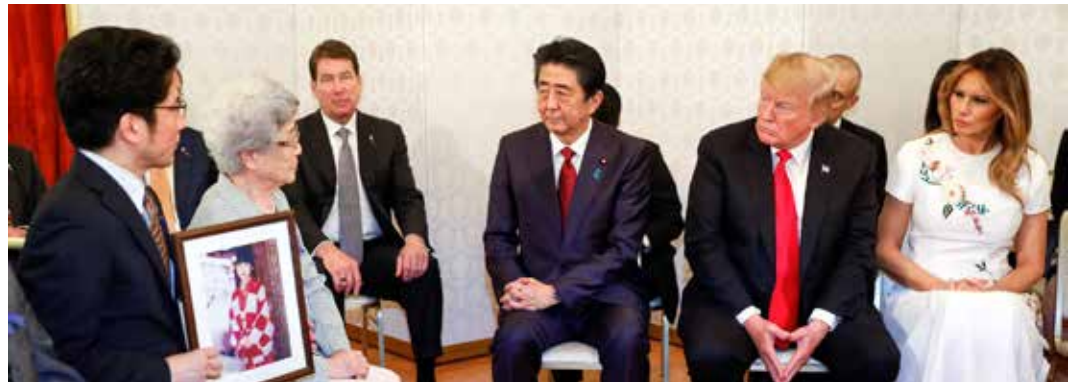
Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are greeted by Japan’s Emperor Naruhito (C) and Empress Masako (R) upon their arrival at the Imperial Palace

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DONALD TRUMP

When asked if he was bothered by Pyongyang’s short-range missile tests, Trump said: “No, I’m not. I am personally not.”

The president has sought to downplay the significance of the missile tests, despite the fact that his own national security adviser, John Bolton, said over



US President Donald Trump (2nd R) meets family members of Japanese abductees by North Korea, with First Lady Melania Trump (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (3rd R) at Akasaka State Guesthouse in Tokyo

the weekend that they violated U.N. resolutions.

Trump continues to hold out hope of eventually getting Kim to agree to give up his nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, despite two summits he’s had with the North Korean leader that produced no concrete pledge to denuclearize the peninsula.

Trump praised Kim, calling him a “smart man” who might

have launched the missiles earlier this month to “get attention.”

“All I know is there have been no nuclear tests, no ballistic missiles going out, no long-range missiles going out and I think that someday we’ll have a deal,” Trump said, adding that he is in “no rush.”

Abe reiterated his previous statement that the tests were carried out in defiance of the UN.

The leaders held hours of talks

after the US president — at Abe’s invitation — became the first world leader to meet Japan’s new emperor, Naruhito, who ascended to the throne May 1.

The meeting with Naruhito and his wife, Empress Masako, was preceded by a grand outdoor welcome ceremony at Japan’s Imperial Palace, where Trump walked solo across red carpets, reviewing Japanese troops as the guest of honor.

NKorea calls Bolton ‘war monger’



AP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korea yesterday called US National Security Adviser John Bolton a “war monger” and “human defect” after he described its recent tests of short-range missiles as a violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

In the statement carried by the North’s Korean Central News Agency, the North Korean spokesman said his country was exercising its right of self-defense with the launches. North Korea has never recognized the UN Security Council resolutions, which it views as denying its “rights to existence and development of a sovereign state,” the statement said.

The spokesman said Bolton was an “ignorant” hard-liner who throughout different US administrations pushed provocative policies against North Korea including endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change.

Melania enjoys nature-themed Japan culture



Children perform a traditional dance for U.S. first lady Melania Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s wife Akie Abe

Tokyo

First lady Melania Trump had a nature-oriented Japanese cultural experience Monday at Akasaka Palace, where she learned that bamboo trunks can create music and also serve as flower vases.

Melania and Japanese first lady Akie Abe were entertained by tunes from a “shakuhachi” bamboo flute, played by flutist Yosuke Irie, with a set of bamboo trunks standing upright like a screen behind him.

The bamboo installation

then turned into a set of vases as flower artist Kumiko Kato built a sculpture out of it, decorating the vases with curved oak branches, maple leaves, blue hydrangea flowers and other plants, while the flutist played background music that included “Amazing Grace.”

Melania also learned how to summon carp at a pond in the garden: She clapped her hands, following the example of Mrs. Abe, and the fish raced to her.

Children performing Japanese dance put a smile on Melania at the end of the highly stylized and educational program.

Malaysia’s last male Sumatran rhino dies



Veterinarians and rhino keepers have been providing round-the-clock medical treatment

● Wildlife experts estimate that only about 30 to 80 Sumatran rhinos remain in the world

Reuters | Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia’s last male Sumatran rhinoceros has died, an official said on Monday, dashing efforts to save the critically endangered species in the country.

The rhino, named Tam, was about 30 years old and lived at a wildlife reserve in Sabah state

on Borneo island since his capture in 2008, Christina Liew, state minister for tourism, culture and environment, said in a statement.

The Sumatran rhino, the smallest species of rhinoceros, was declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia in 2015. Iman, a female captured in 2014, is now the only surviving member of the subspecies left in the country.

Another female rhino, Puntung, died in captivity in 2017.

Wildlife experts estimate that only about 30 to 80 Sumatran rhinos remain in the world, mostly on the Indo-



The rhino known affectionately as Tam, captured by a wildlife team in August 2008 when he was roughly 20 years old

nesian island of Sumatra and on the Indonesian side of Borneo.

Their isolation, caused by habitat loss and poaching, means they rarely breed and may go extinct in a matter of decades, according to conservation group International Rhino Foundation.

Since 2011, Malaysia has tried to breed the species in captivity through in vitro fertilization, but without success.

Liew said Tam’s genetic material has been preserved for future attempts to reproduce Sumatran rhinos.