



What will happen to the "Chuan Jinhui" after the release of North Korean prisoners? U.S. think tank expert: The goal is to have the actual Chinese role still crucial

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In the morning of Wednesday (May 9), President Trump issued a tweet saying: "I am pleased to inform you that Secretary of State Pompeo and the three long-awaited men are on their way back from North Korea. In addition, Pompeo The meeting with Kim Jong Eun was very good. The date and place have been confirmed (Chuan Jinhui)."

Trump then sent Twitter to add: Pompeo and his "guests" will arrive at Andrews Air Force Base at 2 am on the 10th. "I will come to meet them. It's very exciting!"

The media praised Zhanppu's foreign policy for its effectiveness

This news quickly became the headline of almost all media in the United States this morning. Compared with the consistent criticism of Trump's foreign policy, this mainstream media's general assessment is very positive.

The New York Times stated that North Korea released three American prisoners and removed an emotional painful obstacle to the planned meeting between Trump and Kim Jong-un. Trump has won a diplomatic victory.

The Wall Street Journal said that this move eliminated the diplomatic friction between Washington and Pyongyang before the summit between the two countries.

Former U.S. diplomat Joseph Yun said that now the United States can no longer worry about the problems of prisoners and concentrate more on meeting with leaders. The details of the denuclearization of the peninsula and the details of the peace treaty will be complete. The general government needs to concentrate on the key issues of preparation.

Three Prisoners Released to Japan

The White House also issued a statement earlier today that President Trump appreciated Kim Jong-un's actions to release these U.S. citizens and considered it a gesture of goodwill. The

statement described the health conditions of the three prisoners who had been detained. They said that they seemed to be in good condition and could walk without help. All Americans were expecting them to go home and reunite with their loved ones.

The three detained Americans are Korean: Kim Dong-chul, the priest, two teachers of Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, Kim Hak-song, and Kim Sang-duk. . In 2015, Jin Dongzhe was sentenced to 10 years of forced labor reform with the crime of espionage. The latter two were charged with “hostile action” last year and were detained.

North Korea's official media released photos of Jin Dongzhe’s custody on April 29, 2016

Kim Dongzhe’s family also issued a statement today, thanking Trump and all those who have made efforts and contributions for Kim Dong-che and two other detainees to return home. They also continued to pray for North Korea.

According to the Yonhap News Agency on May 3, citing an activist who has been running for the release of these Korean-Americans, Pyongyang authorities have already transferred the three from a labor camp to a hotel near Pyongyang.

According to the Associated Press, a special plane containing Pompeo and three American prisoners who were released arrived in Japan.

Trump announced the "Chuan Jinhui" venue within three days

Trump said when answering a reporter’s question before the White House’s cabinet meeting today that the summit will be held by the end of May or early June. The exact time and place will be announced within the next two to three days, and he will not be in the demilitarized zone on the Korean-Korean border. Panmunjom store). According to sources, the summit will be held in Singapore.

For what will happen next, Trump said: No one knows.

Vice President Burns issued a statement today saying that because President Trump’s tough diplomacy, three prisoners detained in North Korea are already on their way home, but the United States also “will not relax pressure until North Korea achieves complete denuclearization” ”.

Expert analysis

The visit to North Korea by Secretary of State Pompeo had not been made public before. Trump announced yesterday (8th) that he officially withdrew from the Iranian nuclear agreement and restarted his decision to impose sanctions on Iran. At the same time, he also disclosed the news of Peng Poo’s visit to the DPRK.

In recent years, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has become increasingly tense. Trump and Kim Jong-un threatened each other with nuclear war last year. Until recently, North Korea suddenly made a series of goodwill statements, announcing that it would suspend all nuclear and missile tests and close the nuclear testing ground. Last month, the leaders of the DPRK and the

ROK also held a historic summit and promised to work towards "cessation of arms" and "nuclearization."

Today, the world's focused "Chuan Jinhui" is being finalized, what achievements it will meet, and how the situation in North Korea will develop. While the current denuclearization of the peninsula is dawning, the United States has also done quite a lot of moves in other respects and withdrew. Iran's nuclear agreement and China's confrontation on trade issues, what impact will this have? With these questions, we interviewed three American think tank experts: Douglas H. Paal, vice president of research at the Carnegie Institute for International Peace, and defense and foreign policy analysis of the Cato Institute in the United States. Eric Gomez and Timothy Heath, Senior Defense Analyst, International Defense Research, The RAND Corporation .

Q&A

1. What is the reason behind the release of three prisoners?

Timothy Heath, senior analyst for international defense research at The RAND Corporation: The release of US prisoners is a condition that the U.S. government agreed to before the "Chuan Jinhui". North Korea is fulfilling this condition on the one hand and performing on the other. For the sincerity of the meeting, this is a positive signal.

Eric Gomez, an analyst for the defense and foreign policy of the Cato Institute in the United States: Americans detained in North Korea have always been used as a political bargaining chip, and this is no exception. The United States hopes that North Korea will release them before the meeting, and Kim Jong-un will do the same.

According to my experience, I am very skeptical of the sincerity behind the release of prisoners. North Korea arrested these Americans, released them, and used them as "bait" to attract senior U.S. officials. This was used to show the North Korean people that their government is respected by the United States. From the case of Otto Warmbier, it can be seen that this theory has serious problems.

2. What are your expectations of the Sichuan Gold Society? What are your suggestions for Trump's attitude in this meeting and the future strategy for North Korea?

Eric Gomez: It's hard to say how Trump and Kim Jong-un will perform when meeting. I think that Trump is unlikely to show the same level of goodwill as North Korea's prisoners. He had previously made a gesture of goodwill by downgrading the size of the US-ROK military exercise and he would not make any small concessions before the meeting. As for the meeting, Trump's big stack was to ease the sanctions. Kim Jong-un needs this to help him achieve domestic economic development. If he wants to be tougher, Trump can promise to lift the sanctions, but only if it is before that Kim Jong-un must take a major and irreversible step in denuclearization, such as the destruction of the Fengxili Nuclear Test Site and the Yongbyon Nuclear Reactor.

Timothy Heath: At this stage, both the United States and the DPRK should set more realistic goals, such as setting a ceiling on North Korea's nuclear arsenal. In exchange, Trump can propose a moratorium on some military actions. It is still too early to tell whether North Korea is

sincere, but at least the two sides should try to establish a cooperative and trusting relationship through reasonable demands and concessions.

Bao Daoge: Trump has always taken a hard-line attitude, but North Korea's response is also very tough. I don't think Trump will ease at the meeting.

3. Before "Chuan Jinhui", Kim Jong Eun has already traveled to China twice. Do you think China can play a role in the current situation?

Timothy Heath: China will play a very important role. It can encourage North Korea to ease tensions with South Korea and the United States through meetings and restrictions on nuclear programs. On the other hand, if China decides to ease sanctions against North Korea and encourages all parties, including the United States, to adopt more flexible and practical positions in negotiations, it can also increase North Korea's confidence.

Eric Gomez: China's sanctions against North Korea are critical. If China's attitude towards the DPRK is tight, North Korea may be more likely to agree with the U.S. requirements; conversely if China relaxes sanctions against North Korea, Trump's pressure on North Korea will become even more difficult.

4. Does the US-China trade issue have an impact on the North Korean nuclear issue?

Eric Gomez: Before going to the "Chuan Jinhui", trade relations with China could become a major issue for Trump. So far, despite the increased frictions between the United States and China, China still stands on the same stance with the United States on the DPRK nuclear issue. However, if Jin Zhengen does not speak well, especially if the dialogue channels between the leaders of China, North Korea and North Korea continue to open up, Trump may encounter difficulties in winning Beijing's sanctions against North Korea.

Timothy Heath: The difference between the United States and China is different. China is worried that under strong pressure, the North Korean government will collapse, leading to a refugee crisis and increasing conflicts on the Korean Peninsula. What the United States is even more worried about is that North Korea that possesses nuclear weapons will threaten the security of the United States.

5. Trump announced his withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear agreement yesterday. Will the US tactics on the North Korean nuclear issue affect the tactics of Iran?

Bao Daoge: The Trump team seems to really believe that saying that Iran's nuclear agreement is not good enough can help persuade North Korea (on the denuclearization of the peninsula) to take more active actions. This is a big bet.

Eric Gomez: Trump has always opposed the Iranian nuclear agreement and plans to withdraw from it. So I think that the timing of this announcement has little to do with North Korea's nuclear issue. It should also have no effect on the "Chuan Jinhui". The biggest problem with exiting the Iranian nuclear program is to damage the credibility of the United States and the trust of other countries in the United States. North Korea originally did not have much trust in the United States. Withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear system may make Kim Jong-un believe that

he should adopt a strategy of slow negotiation instead of immediately nodding his head to reach a big agreement.

Timothy Heath: Trump's move to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear agreement is part of the show, and what makes him the nuclear agreement he wants to reach. He wants to achieve denuclearization in a short period of time. This is possible, but there is also a risk that North Korea may draw another signal from the matter of the Iranian nuclear agreement. He believes that the United States does not care about credit and believes Trump is Any agreement reached at the meeting may be revoked at any time by him.

It can be seen that several experts on the Iranian nuclear issue have stated to varying degrees that the concern of the United States on this issue will affect the North Korean issue. In an interview with us yesterday, Sourabh Gupta, a senior researcher at the China-US Research Center, expressed the same view.

Gupta: Trump decided to withdraw from the nuclear agreement. I think the impact on the Asia-Pacific region is very bad and huge. The biggest possible consequence of the DPRK nuclear issue is that North Korea continues to develop in an independent direction. Kim Jong-un may think that what is happening in the Middle East is likely to happen on the Korean Peninsula. In other words, when you see Trump's refusal to participate in the Iranian agreement, it will make people doubt the importance and value of taking necessary measures. Trump can arbitrarily withdraw from the relevant arrangements of the Iranian agreement. Why should other Asia-Pacific countries seriously participate in the negotiations on the Korean Peninsula? The future may also be negated by Chupu or Trump's successors. Therefore, I think Trump's practice will be considered a negligent negotiator. However, in the long run, I also believe that the North Korean nuclear issue is moving on an active and independent track, and North Korea will not be too disturbed.