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**MYER**

## 06 | SINGAPORE SUMMIT

# GORILLA IN THE MIDST

THE historic US-North Korea summit was always going to be about asserting authority — and the Donald did it best. While Donald Trump oozed dominant “gorilla like” behaviour, Kim

Jong-un was “nervous and lost” when the pair met for the first time. Australian body language expert Dr Louise Mahler breaks down what was really going on in Singapore.



“ It was as though Trump was the host. He was using language and body language that showed he was making every effort to connect ... and was clearly very confident in that setting

# STRANGER

SARAH BLAKE  
IN SINGAPORE

HE looked like a little boy lost but portly dictator Kim Jong-un said it best when he turned to US President Donald Trump not long after the 13-second handshake that transfixed the world.

“Many people in the world will think of this as a ... form of fantasy,” the North Korean despot said through his translator. “From a science fiction movie.”

Indeed. Norms have been shattered since the moment in March when Mr Trump agreed to the first meeting between a sitting US president and a leader of North Korea.

Coming after a year in which the pair’s trading of increasingly personal and juvenile insults was interspersed with threats of nuclear bombings, news of the summit came as a shock to even some of the most senior members of the Trump administration. And the up-ending of protocol continued yesterday, when the leaders of the two nations spent the first 38 minutes of their historic get-together alone, but for a pair of translators. They were then each joined for more detailed discussions by their respective delegations, which on each side included provocative inclusions.

Among Mr Trump’s six attendees was his hawkish national security adviser John Bolton, who has previously called for “regime change” in

North Korea and who was partially responsible for starting the fight with Pyongyang last month that briefly aborted the on-off summit.

One of the seven Pyongyang aides was Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe Son Hui, whose labelling of US Vice President Mike Pence as a “dummy” was what prompted Mr Trump to call the whole thing off ... for a week.

After the extended talks it was time for lunch but, first,

## Emotional Rodman hails Nobel art of negotiation

COLOURFUL former NBA star Dennis Rodman wept during a live television interview from Singapore as Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un met for the first time.

And the eccentric ex-basketballer and reality TV star joked he “should be pushing for the Nobel Peace Prize” after helping lay the ground work for the summit.

The 57-year-old, as famous for his flamboyant lifestyle and tattoos as his on-court skills, is one of the few Westerners to have spent time with Mr Kim during multiple

visits to Pyongyang after striking up an unlikely friendship over their shared love of basketball. Rodman also goes back years with Mr Trump and appeared on his Celebrity Apprentice show.

In an emotional interview with CNN, Rodman (pictured), wearing sunglasses and a Make America Great Again hat, described Mr Kim as “like a big kid” who wants to have a good time, but is “trying to protect his people” and his honour. “He loves Americans. He wants to come to America and live life,” he said.



## Revved up leaders get their show on the road

JUST a couple of guys talking cars — watched by the world.

US President Donald Trump offered North Korea leader Kim Jong-un a rare glimpse inside the presidential limousine known as “The Beast” after their summit.

As the pair (right) approached the hulking custom-made black limousine, adorned with an American flag, the president gestured and a Secret Service agent opened the right passenger

door. Mr Kim could be seen smiling as the two chatted and the despot peeked inside.

While there was initially some confusion about what the leaders were doing, it became clear Mr Trump was making a classic alpha male move — showing Mr Kim his ride.

The Beast is a protective vehicle with no keyholes and only the Secret Service knows how to open it. It is so heavy its top speed is under 100km/h.



TELEZOOMA - V1

# Dictator wants his Kimmode

HE looked delighted to break bread with Donald Trump yesterday but Kim Jong-un is reportedly so concerned about spies that he took his own portable toilet to Singapore.

The toilet, which will deny "sewer divers insights into the supreme leader's stools", arrived before Mr Kim in a transport plane that also carried special food and a bullet-proof limousine, South Korean website Chosun reported.

He routinely uses a portable dunny that accompanies him wherever he goes, said Lee Yun Keol, who served in a North Korean guard unit before defecting to South Korea in 2005.

"Rather than using a public toilet, the leader of North Korea has a personal toilet that follows him around when he travels," Mr Lee said. "The leader's excretions contain information about his health status so they can't be left behind."

It's not the only thing Mr Kim is paranoid about.

He was so wary his plane would be shot down on his trip to Singapore that he used an elaborate ruse involving three planes taking off an hour apart from each other to keep potential spies from seeing which aircraft he was on.

## No news is good news

WHILE the world's eyes were trained on the momentous occasion unfolding in Singapore, Kim Jong-un's media channel was busy pushing out information on greenhouse vegetable farming and a greeting to Vladimir Putin.

As well as wishing the Russian President well on Russian Federation Day, KCNA Watch, which publishes latest articles from North Korea's state-controlled media, also trumpeted awe-inspiring news about Sweden's ambassador to North Korea hosting a reception at his embassy. But there was little mention of the groundbreaking denuclearisation deal.



**“ Kim’s a puppet. He looks as if he is put up to do specific things and look a certain way and isn’t a real person. Kim reminded me of a stand-in who is filling in at a rehearsal**

**“ They’re ridiculous hairstyles – both of them. Trump tries to do everything perfect and wear the right suit, but his hair is just ridiculous**

**“ Trump was leaning towards Kim when they sat down and talked to the press ... He had a moment where he pulled together his jacket, which is a gorilla power move, setting himself right**

Pictures: AFP, AP

# THAN FRICTION

the always image-conscious Mr Trump wanted to make sure he was coming off in the right light. "Getting a good picture everybody? So we look nice and handsome and thin?" he asked a group of photographers and cameramen. "Perfect."

The fusion menu on offer for lunch fittingly included American, Singaporean and Korean options, starting with a traditional prawn cocktail, green mango salad or stuffed Korean cucumber.

And despite the muggy, 32C conditions, next up was the distinctly heavy sounding French confit of beef short rib, crispy pork with XO sauce or Korean braised cod, before finishing with ice cream, chocolate tarts or a brioche and cream trepoizienne tart.

The night before, Mr Kim had been out sampling the sites of Singapore, on a self-studded tour that ended with a rock star welcome from more than a hundred tourists and fans at the Marina Bay Sands

casino and hotel. If your mission is to sell capitalism, there are few locations to better make your case than the iconic boat-shaped rooftop resort atop the triple towers.

With its 360-degree view of the booming island city-state, distant glistening lights of Indonesia and the wealth-delivering Strait of Malacca through which much of the world's trade flows, it exemplifies all the upsides of commerce. It was in the foyer of this one-time world's most

expensive hotel that the infamous communist dictator was feted. Minutes later, with a shiny face and beaming smile, the tyrant — who has ordered the murder of at least two close family members and whose people live in fear of him — was jubilant as he waved at the cheering crowd.

Less than 12 hours before the most important meeting of his life, it was clear Mr Kim, who has travelled overseas just a handful of times, was loving the attention.

Brought to this negotiating table by crushing sanctions implemented under Mr Trump's "maximum pressure" strategy, Mr Kim was no doubt fully aware how much was at stake when he presented a far more sober face to meet Mr Trump.

That image alone seemed stranger than fiction: the international pariah beside the former reality star turned US President on equal footing in front of an expectant global audience.

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