

Quarterly Review of International Relations

July-September 2017

CHIARA D'AURIA

July 1st:

In Hong Kong, after clashes between protesters and police during the swearing-in ceremony of Carrie Lam, new governor of the former British colony, the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping declares that every action which can endanger China's sovereignty and stability will be considered: «absolutely unacceptable».

July 2nd:

In Paris is held a summit of the Ministries of Interior of Italy, Germany and France, with the participation of the EU commissioner for Interior Affairs Dimitris Avramopoulos, to face the migrants' crisis.

July 3rd:

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain postpone of 48 hours the timeline for Qatar to accept 13 requests of the Gulf States against terrorism in the country, such as the closing of the television station Al Jazeera.

July 4th:

North Korea launches a intercontinental ballistic missile from its Western coasts which falls in the Japanese sea.

July 5th:

North Korea declares that it will never give up its nuclear tests, which defines «presents to the United States». From American and South Korean bases in the Asiatic peninsula are launched precision missiles as warning.

July 6th:

US President Donald Trump at the G20 summit in Hamburg risks isolation on climate policy and the wrath of anti-capitalist protesters threatening to disrupt the meeting.

July 7th:

US President Donald Trump meets at the G20 in Hamburg Russian President Vladimir Putin for the first time. The two leaders establish a ceasefire in South-West Syria to permit the access to humanitarian aids.

July 8th:

In its final declaration, the G20 summit in Hamburg confirms its commitment on climate changes but without the USA. An agreement on free trade is reached but on the problem of migrants the proposal of the President of the European Council Donald Tusk of UN sanctions for immigrant traffickers is not accepted.

July 9th:

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi arrives in Mosul and congratulates the armed forces for their victory over Islamic State in the city.

July 10th:

In Geneva starts a new round of peace talks on Syria under the aegis of United Nations. The special UN envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura meets the delegations of Syrian government and of opposition.

July 11th:

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights declares that it had confirmed information that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been killed.

July 12th:

In Trieste takes place a trilateral summit between Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, German

Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron in which is confirmed the need of a stronger and more cohesive European Union.

July 13th:

US President Donald Trump meets in Paris his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and declares that there could be a chance to renegotiate his position on climate changes' agreements.

July 14th-15th:

In Hurghada, Egypt, a man armed with knives kills two German tourists in a resort reaching the beach by the sea. Egyptian police arrests him and supposes to have been a jihadist attack.

July 16th:

Venezuelans vote in large numbers in an unofficial *referendum* organized by the opposition to push for President Nicolas Maduro's exit and for denting his legitimacy further amid a crippling economic crisis and months of anti-government protests.

July 17th:

South Korea, in a diplomatic counteroffensive, proposes to North Korea military talks to loosen tension along their border, suggesting July 21st as the date and the village of Panmunjon as the place of the possible detente.

July 18th:

The United States unveil new economic sanctions against Iran over its ballistic missile program because they are deeply concerned about Tehran's «malign activities» in the Middle East.

July 19th:

President Hassan Rouhani declares that new US economic sanctions imposed against Iran contravene the country's nuclear accord with world powers of July 14th 2015.

July 20th:

The European Union and Britain offer few compromises at the end of their first round of Brexit talks, confirming their differences on how to protect the future of expatriate citizens, of the financial settlement and of the intra-Irish border (which will become an external frontier for the EU in 2019).

July 21st:

According to the US State Department, the US government will ban Americans from traveling to North Korea due to «the serious risk of arrest» after the American student Otto Warmbier was jailed while on a tour in 2016 and died on June 19th 2017.

July 22nd:

According to «The Guardian», Interpol would have received by the American intelligence a list of 173 ISIS's militants ready to prepare terroristic attacks in Europe.

July 23rd:

The White House aims to strengthen economic sanctions against Russia, according to a draft law on which a common agreement between democrats and republicans was reached.

July 24th:

In Lahore, Pakistan, a suicide bomber kills at least 25 people, many of them police, in what is supposed to be a Taliban terroristic attack.

July 25th:

At Celle-Saint-Cloud, France, Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj and the divided country's eastern commander Khalifa Haftar commit to a conditional ceasefire and to work towards holding elections in spring 2018 in talks chaired by French President Emmanuel Macron.

July 26th:

Russia warns it is edging closer to retaliation against Washington after the House of Representatives backed new US sanctions on Moscow, while the European Union declares the move might affect its energy security.

July 27th:

President Vladimir Putin signs a law ratifying a deal with the Syrian government allowing Russia to keep its air base in Syria for almost half a century.

July 28th:

North Korea launches an intercontinental missile (Icbm) which falls in the Japanese Sea. The President of South Korea Moon Jae-in convenes the National Security Council.

July 29th:

North Korea declares it has conducted another successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (Icbm) that proved its ability to strike America's mainland.

July 30th:

Russian President Vladimir Putin expels 755 American diplomats because of economic sanctions against Moscow approved by the American Congress and not yet signed by President Donald Trump.

July 31st:

The spokesman of British premier Theresa May declares free movement of EU citizens in the United Kingdom will end in March 2019.

August 1st:

In Venezuela the authoritarian turn continues after the elections for the Constitutional Assembly of July 31st, implemented by President Nicolas Maduro, who orders the arrest of two opposition leaders, Leopoldo Lopez and Antonio Ledezma, made by the national intelligence (Sebin).

August 2nd:

US President Donald Trump signs into law new sanctions against Russia but he slams the legislative power as infringing on his powers to shape foreign policy.

August 3rd:

The United States declare they could shortly broaden talks on a push for stronger United Nations sanctions on North Korea to include all 15 Security Council members, signaling a likely deal with China on new measures.

August 4th:

The United Nations Security Council is set to vote on August 5th on the US-drafted resolution that aims to slash by a third North Korea's \$3 billion annual export revenue over Pyongyang's two intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests made in July 2017.

August 5th:

UN Security Council votes for tightening economic sanctions on North Korean exports. The USA declare to be ready to war.

August 6th:

Chinese Prime Minister Wang Yi urges his North Korean counterpart Ri Yong Ho to respect UN resolution and to cease provocations, including missile and nuclear tests.

August 7th:

North Korea declares to be ready to give the United States a «severe lesson» with its strategic nuclear force if it takes military action against it, and will not put its nuclear program or its missiles on the negotiating table.

August 8th-9th:

According to American intelligence and to a report of Japanese Ministry of Defense, North Korea would be able to build a miniaturized nuclear warhead to be put on its ballistic missiles, entering in a new step of its nuclear program.

August 10th-11th-12th:

US President Donald Trump issues another warning to North Korea declaring that «military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded».

Japan displays its interceptor missiles.

August 13th:

Iranian Parliament votes the increase of spending for ballistic missiles' program and for Revolutionary Guard, recently affected by US sanctions.

August 14th-15th:

The Syrian army and its allies advance in the central Syrian desert and could soon encircle an Islamic State pocket.

August 16th:

Great Britain declares there should be no border posts between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland after Brexit, in a paper that attempts to resolve one of the most complex aspects of its exit from the European Union.

August 17th:

In Barcelona one truck strikes at Las Ramblas the crowd, killing at least 13 people and injuring 100. ISIS claims the attack.

August 18th-19th:

In Cambrils, Spain, in the night a second attack takes place with one of the members of the commando of the Barcelona's terroristic attack. The final toll is 14 death people and 150 injured.

August 20th:

In Damascus at least six people are killed when a mortar bomb hit the entrance to a major trade fair being held in the Syrian capital.

August 21st:

Spanish police shoots dead a man they suspect was the Islamist militant who drove a van into a Barcelona crowd, 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub, who was wearing an explosive belt.

August 22nd:

The United States put more pressure on Pakistan for more support in the war in Afghanistan, suggesting it could downgrade Islamabad's *status* as a major non-NATO ally if it does not crack down on Islamist militants.

August 23rd-24th:

North Korea sends a message to International *media* with photographs obliquely showing a new rocket design, declaring that it is working on an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) more powerful than any it has previously tested.

August 25th:

In Kabul a bomb in a Shiite mosque causes dozens of dead people. Taliban claim the terroristic attack.

August 26th-27th:

Colombia's leftist FARC rebel group debuts its political party at a conference beginning on August 26th, a key step in its transition into a civilian organization after more than 50 years of war and its first chance to announce policy to skeptical voters.

August 28th:

To tackle Europe's migrant crisis is in focus at a summit of Europe's 'big four' continental powers and three African nations in Paris. The meeting hosts the leaders of Germany, Italy, France and Spain as well as the leaders of Chad, Niger and Libya.

August 29th:

South Korean armed forces unhook 8 bombs along the border with North Korea in response to the missile test made by Pyongyang in the night between August 28th and 29th during which a medium range missile was launched by North Korea: it is the first one to be able to carry a nuclear warhead. UN Security Council is urgently convened.

August 30th:

UN Security Council strongly condemns North Korea missile's launch and asks to all the member States to «fully implement, in a rigorous and fast way» the sanctions imposed by the United Nations. However there are not new sanctions imposed.

August 31st:

South Korean and Japanese jets join exercises with two US nuclear-capable bombers above and near the Korean peninsula, after North Korea fired a missile over Japan on August 29th.

September 1st-2nd:

Russia declares it would respond harshly to any US measures designed to hurt it, after the United States told Moscow to close its San Francisco consulate and buildings in Washington and New York. Russian Prime Minister Sergej Lavrov presents a formal protest to US embassy in Moscow.

September 3rd:

North Korea realizes a test of hydrogenous bomb which causes a 6.3 magnitude earth quake. China, South Korea, Japan and United States strongly reply, threatening new sanctions.

September 4th:

The United States declare countries trading with North Korea are aiding its «dangerous nuclear intentions» as the United Nations Security Council mulls tough new sanctions and the isolated regime shows signs of planning more missile tests.

September 5th:

South Korea continues military exercises while French Minister of Defense Florence Parly declares that North Korean missiles could be able to reach Europe «earlier than expected».

September 6th:

UN Commission on crimes in Syria declares that the air attack with sarin gas on April 17th 2017 in Khan Sheikhun, in the province of Idlib, «was made by a Russian made aircraft used by military forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad».

September 7th:

China agrees that the United Nations should take more action against North Korea after its latest nuclear test, while also pushing for dialogue to help resolve the standoff.

September 8th:

The Syrian government denies the UN report accusing it of a sarin attack in April 17th 2017 that killed scores of people.

September 9th:

Thousands of people meet in the center of London in a march to the Parliament for protesting against Brexit in view of the vote on the Great Repeal Bill, which will cancel the whole European legislation in Great Britain.

September 10th:

Syrian government forces and US backed militias converge on Islamic State in separate offensives against the militants in the eastern Syrian province of Deir al-Zor.

September 11th:

The House of Commons approves the Great Repeal Bill, the law which cancel the European Community Act of 1972, revoking with Brexit the full European Community legislative power over Great Britain.

September 12th:

UN Security Council approves new sanctions against textile exports of Pyongyang and bans exports to North Korea of natural gas and oil, with the exception of a part to be used for population's sustenance.

September 13th:

In his annual state of the European Union speech, European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker urges European Union governments to use actual economic recovery and Brexit as springboards toward a closer union, built on an expanded euro zone and a pivotal role in world trade.

September 14th:

North Korea fires a missile that flew over Japan's northern Hokkaido far out into the Pacific Ocean after a 2,000 km flight. It could be a significant threat by Pyongyang which demonstrated that it could reach US military base of Guam with this missile.

September 15th:

In London a home-made bomb on a packed rush-hour commuter train engulfs a carriage in flames injuring 22 people in terrorism incident, according to Scotland Yard, the fifth one in Great Britain in 2017.

September 16th:

Iran, Russia and Turkey, which guarantee the truce in Syria, announce an agreement to create four buffer (or 'de-escalation') zones in the country.

September 17th:

In an interview in the American broadcasting network CBS, US secretary of State Rex Tillerson declares that the United States could remain in the Paris agreements on climate changes «under the right conditions».

September 18th:

North Korea condemns UN Security Council resolution for its missile launch on September 14th, declaring that the further international crunch will push the country to the «completion of its *status* of nuclear power».

September 19th:

During his first speech at UN, US President Donald Trump escalates his standoff with North Korea over its nuclear challenge, threatening to «totally destroy» the country of 26 million people if USA will be attacked. Trump also mocks its leader, Kim Jong Un, as a «rocket man».

September 20th:

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declares that Iran will not violate its nuclear agreement concluded in Teheran, responding to President Trump's pugnacious speech on September 19th to the UN, in which Donald Trump has declared these agreements «scandalous» for the United States.

September 21st:

According to BBC British premier Theresa May will give to EU a «generous offer» in her manifesto's speech on Brexit to be held in Florence on September 22nd, although the EU chief negotiator on Brexit Michael Barnier declares that the negotiations on Britain's divorce from the Union are still uncertain.

September 22nd:

In her speech in Florence Prime Minister Theresa May sets out a plan to retain full access to the EU's single market for two years after Brexit to try to reassure business and reset the tone of stalled negotiations with Brussels.

September 23rd:

Iran declares it has successfully tested a new ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km, despite US pressure to stop and their unilateral sanctions imposed against Teheran.

September 24th:

Chancellor Angela Merkel wins a fourth term in office but will have to build an uneasy coalition to form a German government after the CDU party hemorrhaged support in the face of a surge by the far-right.

September 25th:

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho says that President Donald Trump has declared war on North Korea and that Pyongyang reserves the right to take countermeasures.

September 26th:

After a meeting in Downing Street with British Prime Minister Theresa May, President of European Council Donald Tusk declares that sufficient progress has not yet been made in Brexit talks.

September 27th:

At the international police organization's general assembly in Beijing, Interpol votes to admit the State of Palestine as a member over Israeli and USA objections.

September 28th:

At the end of Brussels' round with EU Commission British Minister for Brexit David Davis declares that Great Britain and EU have made «remarkable steps forward».

September 29th:

In Tallin takes place the EU Digital Summit in which the leaders of the Union declare it is necessary to improve solutions to the problem of migrants and to growth policies.

September 30th:

On the cities of Idlib and Hama in North-West Syria continue Russian and Syrian raids, despite the truce announced in Astana and reconfirmed on September 28th 2017 during a bilateral meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish one Tayyip Erdogan.