Don't legitimize North Korea's leader

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Re: "N. Korea calls talks 'regrettable' — But Pompeo says progress made during two days of meetings," Sunday news story.

It is hardly a surprise that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo returned from North Korea with no tangible plans for the promised "complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un didn't even meet with Pompeo. Moreover, North Korea published a statement following the talks saying the "attitude" of the U.S. was "regrettable."

North Korea argued that the "cancerous issues" the U.S. delegation raised were the same ones that had "amplified" distrust and the risk of war with past administrations and caused previous talks to end in failure, adding that its "willingness to denuclearize could falter." They further claimed, "The U.S. is fatally mistaken if it went to the extent of regarding that the (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) would be compelled to accept, out of its patience, the demands reflecting its gangsterlike mind-set."

While I hope substantial progress will be made in the long run, for the time being President Donald Trump's North Korea summit appears to have been little more than a public relations stunt and that Trump's only metric for success was whether Kim liked him.

Since North Korea now has everything it wants, why should they follow through? Inviting Kim to another summit in New York, therefore, would be a mistake — only further legitimizing his regime and its horrific and immoral treatment of human beings.

Richard Cherwitz, Austin