June 9, 2018

Re “North Koreans Say U.S. Position Is ‘Gangster-Like’” (front page, July 8):

It is hardly a surprise that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo returned from North Korea with no tangible plans for the promised “complete denuclearization.” North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, didn’t even meet with Mr. Pompeo.

Moreover, North Korea published a statement following two days of high-level talks with Mr. Pompeo, saying the “attitude” of the United States was “deeply regrettable” and “gangster-like.”

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

Since North Korea now has everything it wants — getting Mr. Trump’s commitment to suspend war games and being seen as a seeming equal to the United States on the public stage — why should it follow through? Inviting Mr. Kim to another summit in New York, therefore, would be a mistake — only further legitimizing his regime and its horrific treatment of human beings.

RICHARD CHERWITZ, AUSTIN, TEX.