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Trump's Discourse Becomes More Dangerous

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The problem with a president who constantly lies is that, when he makes statements about serious issues, it's impossible to know if he is telling the truth. This is more than counting lies; it poses enormous problems for the security of United States and the world.

Case in point: At the G7, what actually transpired stood in marked contrast to President Trump's rhetoric. Here are just a few examples.

First, the Chief Executive asserted without proof that China called to resume trade talks; this statement was never confirmed and we must continue to wonder whether Trump once again lied simply to rally a declining stock market—a decline that may cost his chance of reelection.

Second, the White House told reporters that Trump did not attend the G7 climate summit on Monday, asserting he instead was meeting privately with Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister, and Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor; yet photos from the climate meeting clearly document that both of these leaders attended despite Trump's absence.

Third, in his joint press conference at the close of the G7, Trump asserted: "The first lady has gotten to know Kim Jong Un, and I think she would agree with me he is a man with a country that has tremendous potential." However, Melania Trump was never present for any of Trump's three meetings with Kim Jong Un, and there is no evidence she has ever spoken to Kim.

Fourth, regarding the trade war with China, the President claimed: "We have billions and billions coming in." He also said: "The United States, which has never collected 10 cents from China, will in a fairly short period of time be over \$100 billion in tariffs." In reality, Americans make the actual tariff payments, not people in China, and economic studies have concluded that the overwhelming majority of the costs are being eaten by Americans.

How sad that no one at home or abroad knows when the "leader of the free world" can be counted on to tell the truth. The consequences of untruthful presidential rhetoric are far more than political.

This concern has nothing to do with party affiliation or ideology; in the absence of a President who can be trusted to speak the truth, what chance is there for democratic deliberation and world stability? All Americans and citizens of the world should be frightened.

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