

Next South Korean president will be in tough

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In this week's election, however, Moon Jae-in is far in the lead, with the Eurasia Group, the world's largest political risk consultancy, giving him an 80 per cent chance of winning the presidency. If he wins, he says he will reopen economic ties with North Korea in a policy his advisers call Sunshine 2.0.

This runs directly contrary to Trump's policy of tightening economic sanctions against the North and even threatening military action to force Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons programme. So the question is: Has the Trump administration pushed a military confrontation with North Korea to the top of its foreign-policy agenda in order to pre-empt Moon Jae-in's new Sunshine policy?

One clue could be the sudden rush to deploy the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system in South Korea before the election. It's a system designed to intercept short- and medium-range ballistic missiles of the sort that North Korea might use to deliver nuclear weapons on South Korea (and maybe Japan) if it ever managed to make its nuclear weapons small enough to fit on them.

A reasonable precaution, perhaps; but THAAD was originally scheduled to be installed in South Korea between August and October of this year. Then suddenly it arrived in the country in March, and was 'operational'; (at least in theory) by last month. Moon will now have great difficulty in revers-

ing that decision, assuming that he becomes president, and the North Koreans are predictably waxing hysterical about it.

On the other hand, Trump shocked the South Koreans by announcing at the end of April that South Korea would have to pay US\$1 billion for the THAAD system, despite an existing agreement that the US would bear the cost.

He also declared that he was going to renegotiate the existing free-trade agreement between the two countries. Which suggests that there is no clever plan, just the usual stumbling around in the dark.

Whether the US is deliberately manipulating events or not, Moon Jae-in will be in a difficult situation if he becomes president. He quite rightly believes that there is no need for a crisis this year to resolve a problem that has been simmering away (but never boiling over) for at least 15 years, but unless he goes along with it, he will find himself in a confrontation with Donald Trump.

Could Moon win that kind of confrontation?

He could if he has strong support at home, and his party already controls the South Korean parliament.

Public opinion is harder to gauge, with the electorate generally divided more or less evenly between a hard and a soft approach to North Korea.

But they all agree that they don't want a war in which they would be the primary victims, and Trump's style can be quite frightening.



A view from above

Drone's World Photography

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have your say

Municipal Development Plan

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) sets the vision for growth over the next 30 years in Parkland County by identifying areas for hamlet, residential, industrial, and commercial growth. The MDP also sets policies to protect sensitive lands and supports responsible recreational growth while guiding future planning and regulations.

Parkland County is completing its new MDP! We heard you and invite you to review the proposed polices and the draft MDP. Staff will be available to answer your questions.

Feel free to drop in any time during one of our four open houses:

Entwistle Community Centre	4921-51 ST, ENTWISTLE
MAY 23	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Graminia Hall	51101 RANGE ROAD 270
MAY 24	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Brightbank Community Hall	21023 HWY 627
MAY 25	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Parkland County Centre	53109A HWY 779
MAY 30	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

www.parklandcounty.com/MDP2017