

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **TRUMP'S CARROTS AND STICKS TEND TO CONFUSE**

By Steve Bakke  July 30, 2018



*Here's what provoked me:*

*Trump's a master at the old tactic of "carrots and sticks." While I'm somewhat confused by it all, I'm convinced it's creating progress toward meaningful results. And it's more than just wishful thinking. Are you having fun yet?*

*Here's my response:*

### **Trump's Carrots and Sticks Confuse Us All**

North Korea, nuclear testing, and President Trump's threats of "Rocket Man's" destruction led to a start to return of Korean War dead, friendly comments, meetings, and talk of war being walked back.

NATO members were mercilessly criticized by Trump for meager financial support. That led to far greater member contributions.

European countries were "taken to the woodshed" by the President regarding unfair trade agreements. Then came productive discussions with the European Union about eventual tariff-free trade.

An embarrassingly clumsy encounter, well short of "treason," plagued the President in Helsinki. Democrats are premature in their predictions of, and wish for, disaster. Russia isn't an ally, and its government is ruthless, but Trump's goal is worthy. He wants to create a working relationship with Putin that will lead to isolation of our greatest threat, China.

Turkey, Erdogan, and the minister; replacement for NAFTA; tough talk with Iran. I'm optimistic about where these challenges will lead because every negotiation goes through the "no deal" stage before reaching agreement, and agreement often follows tough talk.

Trump's use of "carrots and sticks" is confusing, but I'm catching on and optimistic. Behind the outrageousness is a genius at manipulation, and he's using it with noble intentions.