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Not Nobel Material

By Donato (Danny) Pietrodangelo

Albert Schweitzer, Mother Teresa, Linus Pauling, Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel, The 14th Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Malala Yousafzai.

What does Donald Trump have in common with each? Pretty much nothing. Each is a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. He isn't. And, shouldn't be.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee gives the award , "To the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

There have been some missteps – like Yassar Arafat - nothing as egregious as choosing Donald Trump.

Trump the award-worthy peacemaker?

He's playing nuclear chicken with Iran, import/export roulette with China, Jeopardy with our European allies, Truth or Consequences with the climate and loves me/loves me not with the Kremlin. He's denigrated religions, races, entire geographic regions and long-standing friends of the U.S.

Sadly, he is the antithesis of fraternity and world peace.

Apparently, this Nobel notion was spawned by the release of three prisoners from North Korea, the significance of which - he

boasted at their homecoming – was great TV ratings.

Two things about this release.

First, he and Pompeo were just doing their jobs. The U.S. government has a tradition and responsibility to intervene when U.S citizens are unjustly treated or detained. Second, Mr. Trump - no actually we - are being played like an out-of-tune fiddle.

Trump didn't get the prisoners released. Kim Jong-un let them go, presumably as a pre-summit gambit. Kim seems to have trumped Trump.

Donald "the deal maker" is celebrating his Nobel creds because the North and South sang Kumbaya in the DMZ and agreed to stop the K-pop sonic assaults? (Though, we all hope they do agree to formally end this US/China war by proxy that killed millions.)

But surely, Mr. Trump doesn't actually believe that - because he said so - Kim plans to beat his nukes into plowshares? Call me a cynic, but Kim has gotten exactly what he wanted: nukes, missiles for delivery and a place at the world, nuclear power table.

This wasn't the product of Trump statesmanship. Why wouldn't Kim now agree to talk - with nothing to lose and everything to gain: money when sanctions are lifted, more money in U.S. foreign aid;

the chance to make-nice with China; and no more talk of regime change - the world benignly accepting his murderous rule over an imprisoned and starving people.

Theatrically, blowing up a crumbling test site has little or no relevance to denuclearization. It's not like Kim has promised to deactivate his WMDs and dump them into the Sea of Japan. Trump knows this, in spite of his grandiosity.

As to the Noble Peace Prize.

Trump has never been a choirboy singing about peace on earth; inversely, he delights in a world of divisiveness and discord. Back home, he dismisses peace and fraternity as a bland distraction: reveling in divide and conquer politics; mocking a free press; governing with deceit, ignorance and deception; making decisions, abject a remote concept of empathy; all, as he stumbles - with a broken moral compass - through a fetid swamp of his own making.

Noble Peace Prize material?

Just the suggestion is causing Alfred Nobel to turn over in his grave.

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