

North Korean threat 2018: a nuke and an olive branch

North Korea is capable of firing nuclear-tipped missiles at the United States, so perhaps now might it want to talk?

By [Yonah Jeremy Bob](#) / January 2, 2018 04:12

For North Korea, 2017 was about showing the US and the world that it could fire ICBMs which can hit the mainland US and that the destructive force of its nuclear weapons has significantly increased.

Many thought that the US and North Korea tension came the closest to nuclear war the world has seen since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

What will 2018 be about? And what might this mean for the Iranian nuclear issue? From a New Year's speech by North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, Pyongyang may suddenly want to talk.

Of course, Kim sent a variety of contradictory messages.

He offered both the threat of a nuclear attack on the US and an olive branch of sorts.

On one hand, he said that the North had successfully shown it can hit the mainland US with nuclear weapons, said building his nuclear arsenal would continue and threatened the US that he could "push the button" to fire a nuclear weapon from his desk at anytime.

Sounds pretty threatening.

Then in the same speech, he said he was open to talks with South Korea and would even like to participate in next month's Winter Olympics which the South is hosting.

If this sounds bizarre, [Emily Landau](#), who is the Arms Control head at the [Institute for National Security Studies](#), said it is actually a blast from the past.

....

For full article, see:

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Nuke-and-an-olive-branch-522605>