

UK ambassador to US says White House is inept

10th July, 2019



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Relations between the UK and USA have soured after the leak of diplomatic cables from the UK's ambassador to the USA. The leaked memos were published in a British newspaper on Sunday. They contained highly negative and critical

comments about President Trump's White House from Ambassador Kim Darroch. Mr Darroch wrote of the White House: "We don't really believe this administration is going to become substantially more normal; less dysfunctional; less unpredictable; less faction riven; less diplomatically clumsy and inept." He characterized Mr Trump's policy on Iran as "incoherent" and "chaotic". Sir Winston Churchill's grandson called the leak an act of "unforgivable treachery".

The United States and the UK are traditionally strong partners on the international stage. They each describe their friendship as a "special relationship". The UK needs to nurture this friendship following its leaving the European Union after Brexit. It needs a trade deal with America. The United Kingdom's Prime Minister Theresa May said she had "full faith" in Sir Kim as ambassador but did not agree with his comments. Her spokesman described the leak as being "absolutely unacceptable". Donald Trump retaliated to the comments, saying Sir Kim "has not served the UK well." On Twitter, he wrote: "I do not know the Ambassador, but he is not liked or well thought of within the US. We will no longer deal with him."

Sources: aol.com / yahoo.com / standard.co.uk

Writing

Ambassadors should never say anything bad about the country they work in. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

relations / leak / diplomatic / memos / critical / administration / clumsy / inept / policy international / relationship / trade deal / faith / ambassador / spokesman / retaliation

True / False

- a) The article said UK-US relations have soared. T / F
- b) Leaked memos were published in a US newspaper in Washington. T / F
- c) The UK ambassador said Mr Trump's White House was dysfunctional. T / F
- d) Sir Winston Churchill accused the ambassador of treachery. T / F
- e) The article suggests the UK has to cultivate its relationship with the US. T / F
- f) The ambassador has the backing of the UK Prime Minister. T / F
- g) Donald Trump said the ambassador had not served the UK well. T / F
- h) Donald Trump said he would deal with the ambassador more carefully. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. soured | a. attended to |
| 2. critical | b. disorderly |
| 3. inept | c. cultivate |
| 4. chaotic | d. spoiled |
| 5. treachery | e. trust |
| 6. stage | f. fault-finding |
| 7. nurture | g. totally |
| 8. faith | h. setting |
| 9. absolutely | i. betrayal |
| 10. served | j. incompetent |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What are your country's relations with the USA like?
- b) Would you make a good ambassador?
- c) What do you think of Sir Kim's comments?
- d) What do you think of such sensitive memos being leaked?
- e) What is the job of an ambassador?
- f) Should Sir Kim have been so negative and critical?
- g) Do you think the White House administration is 'inept'?
- h) Do you think President Trump's policy on Iran is 'chaotic'?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Relations between the UK and USA | a. Iran as "incoherent" |
| 2. The leaked memos were published | b. stage |
| 3. clumsy and | c. treachery |
| 4. He characterized Mr Trump's policy on | d. this friendship |
| 5. an act of unforgivable | e. longer deal with him |
| 6. on the international | f. inept |
| 7. The UK needs to nurture | g. to the comments |
| 8. Theresa May said she had full | h. have soured |
| 9. Donald Trump retaliated | i. faith in Sir Kim |
| 10. We will no | j. in a British newspaper |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How will this incident change relations between the UK and USA?
- Should the British ambassador resign?
- Is Theresa May correct to say she has 'full faith' in the ambassador?
- What advice do you have for the ambassador?
- Is President Trump correct in his comments on the ambassador?
- What do you think of Donald Trump's Twitter diplomacy?
- What questions would you like to ask US President Donald Trump?

Spelling

- Relations between the UK and USA have oursed
- the leak of plmodaiitc cables
- highly negative and ticiracl comments
- more normal; less suytncidnofal
- Trump's policy on Iran as "incoherent" and "oahtcic"
- an act of unforgivable rectehary
- dtoitaranilly strong partners
- The UK needs to urtnrue this friendship
- Sir Kim as mbsaasador
- agree with his mceomnts
- soulatbley unacceptable
- Donald Trump tailraetd to the ...

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. h	7. c	8. e	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Food

You think food is the best thing about the U.K. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): London, music or democracy.

Role B – London

You think London is the best thing about the U.K. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): food, music or democracy.

Role C – Music

You think music is the best thing about the U.K. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): London, food or democracy.

Role D – Democracy

You think democracy is the best thing about the U.K. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): London, music or food.

Speaking – The U.K.

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the UK at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| • football | • Queen Elizabeth |
| • London | • democracy |
| • Mr Bean | • food |
| • tea | • music |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.