VOA NEWS

July 13, 2018

From Washington, this is VOA news. I'm David Byrd reporting.

U.S. President Donald Trump took part in a formal dinner with British Prime Minister Theresa May at Blenheim Palace on Thursday night. The president and first lady watched a review of a military band with May and her husband before entering the black-tie dinner.

Hundreds of demonstrators had chanted outside the U.S. ambassador's residence where Trump was staying on the outskirts of London, providing a preview of the forceful protests expected during his two-day British stay.

Mr. Trump is on his first working visit to the country and will meet Prime Minister Theresa May and Queen Elizabet II during his trip.

May's government has been rocked by resignations from ongoing tumult over Brexit, the nation's contentious vote to leave the European Union.

Mr. Trump came to Britain after a contentious NATO summit in Brussels.

As AP's Shelley Adler reports, the president characterized his trip as a victory, but NATO allies might have a different take on things.

During a news conference to wrap up NATO, President Trump said, he was "extremely unhappy with the level of defense spending," but he adds he received a commitment from the member nations for them to spend more.

"The United States was not being treated fairly, but now we are because the commitment has been up so much."

Thomas Pickering is a former Russian ambassador. He says President Trump missed the entire point about NATO. "The notion you would have heard, the strategic cohesion of NATO, to win a personal victory on some monetary figures is a triumph of New York real estate negotiations over absolute reality in U.S. vital interests."

Shelley Adler, Washington.

For more on these stories and the rest of the day's news, visit our website. This is VOA news.

On Capitol Hill, some heated exchanges as FBI agent Peter Strzok faced questioning from a joint House Judiciary Committee hearing about his role in the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

AP's Ed Donahue reports.

Strzok read some of the texts during the hearing. "What happened to our country ...."

Texas Republican Louie Gohmert brought up Strzok's affair with the person who got that text, a former FBI lawyer.

"when I see you looking there with a little smirk, how many times did you look so innocent into your wife's eye and lie to her about Lisa?."

Strzok says his opinions about President Trump and others had nothing to do with his words.

"at no time in any of these texts did those personal beliefs ever enter into the realm of any action I took."

Strzok says Gohmert's comments about his personal life say a lot about the congressman's own character.

Ed Donahue, Washington.

The United Nations secretary-general announced Thursday that the international body is said to agree on a global compact for migration.

António Guterres said the General Assembly is expected to agree on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on Friday.

"This action has immense potential to help the world harness the benefits of regular migration while safeguarding against the dangers of irregular migration that place(s) people at risk."

The U.N. chief added that migrants number more than 250 million around the world and make up three percent of the global population but contributed ten percent of global domestic product.

He added that more than 60,000 people on the move have died since 2000 at sea, in the desert and elsewhere. And often, migrants and refugees are demonized and attacked.

Police in Pakistan have allegedly rounded up hundreds of supporters of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, one day before he is due to return to the country with his daughter, where both face arrest.

The anti-corruption court last Friday sentenced the former prime minister and his daughter to 10 and seven years in prison in absentia for failing to explain how they acquired their expensive properties in London. Sharif is in London, along with his children, caring for his wife who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

At the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, American Serena Williams qualified for her 10th final at the All England Club by beating Julia Goerges of Germany 6-2, 6-4.

In Saturday's final, Williams plays another German 11th seed Angelique Kerber, who beat Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko 6-3 and 6-3.

For more, visit our website. I'm David Byrd in Washington.

That's the latest world news from VOA.