

examining the height and distance said the missile could potentially be powerful enough to reach Alaska.

"In typically heated rhetoric, North Korea's Academy of Defense Science said the test of an ICBM - the Hwasong-14 - marked the 'final step' in creating a 'confident and powerful nuclear state that can strike anywhere on Earth.' It will be difficult to confirm many details about what happened. North Korea's weapons program is perhaps the most closely held state secret in one of the world's most suspicious nations. U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials earlier assessed that the North fired an intermediate-range missile into waters near Japan. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga declined to comment on whether Japan thinks it was an ICBM, and South Korea's Defense Ministry said it was analyzing whether the North's statement was accurate."
<http://bit.ly/2tELVio>

--NYT's Choe Sang-Hun: "If the missile took 37 minutes to fly 578 miles, that would mean that it had a highly lofted trajectory, probably reaching an altitude of more than 1,700 miles, said David Wright, co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Such a missile would have a maximum range of roughly 4,160 miles, or 6,700 kilometers, on a standard trajectory, he said. North Korea said the missile, which it identified as the Hwasong-14, flew for 39 minutes. ... Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies [said:] 'It's a very big deal - it looks like North Korea tested an ICBM ... Even if this is a 7,000-km-range missile, a 10,000-km-range missile that can hit New York isn't far off.'" <http://nyti.ms/2sCboJs>

--"Havens Advance as Missile Test Rattles Traders," by Bloomberg's Samuel Potter: "A risk-off mood seeped into markets on Tuesday, with haven assets including gold and the Japanese yen climbing and stocks slipping in the wake of an apparent milestone in North Korea's weapons program. Early market optimism in Asia -- sparked by bullish American economic data yesterday -- ebbed as North Korea said it successfully test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile." <https://bloom.bg/2tMutcp>

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S REACTION -- Monday at 7:19 p.m.: "North Korea has just launched another missile. Does this guy have anything better to do with his life? Hard to believe that South Korea....." ... **and at 7:24 p.m.:** "....and Japan will put up with this much longer. Perhaps China will put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!"

-- THIS COMES as Trump and world leaders prepare to meet at the G-20 Summit.

THIS AP ALERT came across at 9:31 this morning: "MOSCOW (AP) - Russia, China propose that Pyongyang halt nuclear and missile test, US and South Korea refrain from large-scale drills."

THE WHITE HOUSE told the Washington Blade's Chris Johnson -- today's print pooler -- that "The meeting between President Trump and Putin is set for Friday afternoon, it will be a normal bilateral meeting. We will have no further comment on it today." This comes after a CNN report by Jeremy Diamond that the meeting will be an "official bilateral meeting...rather than an informal pull-aside meeting."

<http://cnn.it/2sCeZHE>

WHAT TRUMP WANTS TO BE TALKING ABOUT -- Monday at 1:54 p.m.: "Really great numbers on jobs & the economy! Things are starting to kick in now, and we have just begun! Don't like steel & aluminum dumping!" ... **and at 2:10 p.m.:** "Dow hit a new intraday all-time high! I wonder whether or not the Fake News Media will so report?"

-- "**Trump touts 'great jobs numbers' that aren't actually so great,**" by LA Times' Jim Puzzanghera: "From February through May -- the latest data available -- the U.S. economy has created 594,000 net new jobs, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's fewer than the 659,000 created during the final four months of the Obama administration, which Trump criticized for its job growth. So far, 2017 is on track to produce the fewest net new jobs in seven years."

<http://lat.ms/2uivt4W>

THE SLOW BLEED -- NYT'S HEALTH CARE GURU ROBERT PEAR: "Congress Moves to Stop I.R.S. From Enforcing Health Law Mandate": "[T]he House Committee on Appropriations has drafted a provision to stop the I.R.S. from enforcing the mandate. The restrictions, for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, are included in an appropriations bill that was approved on Thursday by the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. 'None of the funds made available by this act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to implement or enforce section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code,' which imposes the tax penalty on people who go without insurance, the bill says.

"The bill would also prohibit the I.R.S. from enforcing a requirement that employers and insurance companies inform the government of the name and Social Security number of anyone to whom they provide health insurance coverage. The government uses these reports to help administer the individual mandate and other