

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

# Trump's Foreign Policy Faces Rival Plans in Congress

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria has widened the gap between the administration and lawmakers



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah meet in Kabul on Sunday. PHOTO: AFGHAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE/REUTERS

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Oct. 21, 2019 9:40 am ET

**This item first appeared in the Capital Journal newsletter. Read today's full newsletter [here](#) or sign up [here](#) for daily updates in your inbox.**

The trips by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) to Jordan and Afghanistan this weekend is yet another reminder of the two tracks of U.S. foreign policy now emerging from Washington.

Mrs. Pelosi and a bipartisan group of House members met with top Jordanian officials, including King Abdullah II, over the weekend. Among the topics discussed during the trip was the pullout of U.S. troops in Syria and the subsequent Turkish incursion into the country.

“With the deepening crisis in Syria after Turkey’s incursion, our delegation has engaged in vital discussions about the impact to regional stability, increased flow of refugees, and the dangerous

opening that has been provided to ISIS, Iran and Russia,” Mrs. Pelosi said in a statement.

In a separate visit to Kabul, Mrs. Pelosi said that the U.S. had what she called a “strategic vision” for Afghanistan, amid questions about America’s commitment to allies.

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria has widened the gap between the different foreign policies the Trump administration and Congress are pursuing. A broad bipartisan majority in the House approved a resolution last week opposing the withdrawal of troops in the region, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) has called the pullout a “grave strategic mistake.” Other lawmakers in both chambers and parties are preparing legislation to impose additional sanctions on Turkey for the incursion.

The president and Congress often disagree on foreign policy, of course, especially when the two branches are controlled by opposite parties. But recent weeks have shown bipartisan majorities in both chambers in Congress, and especially the House, formulating foreign policy independent of the Trump administration.

The House unanimously passed a series of bills last week supporting the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong despite the strong condemnation of Beijing. Mr. Trump, who is hoping to reach a trade deal with China, has remained circumspect about the demonstrators and their goals, saying recently that the situation in Hong Kong “going to take care of itself.”

Bipartisan pushback to the delay in nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine prompted Mr. Trump to ultimately release the money. Why that money was held up in the first place is a key focus of the impeachment inquiry underway in the House.

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