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#### NEWS SUMMARY 25 April 2018

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#### Emmanuel Macron calls for 'new deal' on Iran as Donald Trump blasts 'insane' current agreement

U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron signaled there could be a new agreement on Iran's nuclear programme. Macron also said he and Trump discussed "four pillars" of a broader agreement.

#### U.S. senators push banks for information on Russian 'oligarchs'

U.S. senators push banks to disclose any links between their companies and wealthy Russians allied with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

#### Trump calls Kim 'very honourable' and says North Korea wants summit as soon as possible

U.S. President Donald Trump called North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un "very honourable" ahead of a planned face-to-face meeting, a sharply different assessment of a leader he once denounced as "Little Rocket Man."

#### Trump sending treasury secretary to China as trade tensions mount

U.S. President Donald Trump plans to send Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to Beijing for trade discussions to resolve the ongoing trade dispute. He added that a delegation led by Mnuchin has "a very good chance at making a deal."

#### U.S. consumer confidence, housing data highlight economy's strength

U.S. consumer confidence index increased to 128.7 in April to the second-highest level since 2000, up from 127 in March. Consumers' short-term expectations for their incomes also improved.

#### Trump says NAFTA talks going 'nicely,' Canada sees progress on auto rules

U.S. President Donald Trump said talks on a revised NAFTA are "doing very nicely" as ministers from the U.S., Mexico and Canada met in Washington to try to narrow differences.

#### Trump administration plans to nominate Harry Harris as South Korea envoy

U.S. President Donald Trump plans to nominate Admiral Harry Harris, commander of Pacific Command, to be the ambassador to South Korea.

#### U.S. government must resume DACA and accept new applications, federal judge rules

U.S. District Judge John Bates said U.S. must resume the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and accept new applications starting in 90 days if it can't provide a justification to end the program.

#### Supreme Court upholds legality of patent review process

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a process for challenging low-quality patents. The justices on Tuesday rejected a bid to strike down a process established by Congress in 2011 to speed up patent reviews.

#### Iran threatens to withdraw from nuclear weapons treaty

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's supreme National Security Council, said Tehran would consider withdrawing from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if the US scraps the 2015 nuclear deal.

# Boris Johnson challenges Theresa May to introduce illegal immigrant amnesty in wake of Windrush scandal

Boris Johnson clashed with Theresa May to introduce an immigration amnesty in wake of Windrush scandal. The foreign secretary is understood to have been among several Cabinet ministers urging a more liberal approach to immigration.

#### Business department made 'virtually no attempt' to properly prepare for Brexit, MPs warn

MPs have voiced "grave concerns" over the complacency of the Department for Business in preparing for Brexit. The Public Accounts Committee accused the department of having made "virtually no attempt" to prioritise the work needed to enact Brexit.

## UK Jewish groups say disappointed by talks with Labour leader Corbyn on anti-Semitism

The Jewish Leadership Council and the Board of Deputies of British Jews described their talks with opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn as "disappointing and a missed opportunity".

#### Theresa May's post-Brexit customs plan for EU is 'completely cretinous', Jacob Rees-Mogg says

Theresa May's plan for a "customs partnership" with the EU after Brexit is "completely cretinous", arch-Brexiteer Jacob Rees-Mogg said. He also accused the prime minister of lacking "enthusiasm" for Brexit.

## UK liable for 'divorce bill' even with no Brexit trade deal – NAO chief

Britain will have to pay the EU about £39 billion over the coming years after Brexit even if ministers fail to strike a trade deal with the European Union, the head of the National Audit Office said.

#### G7 tells tech firms to boost efforts to combat extremism - Canada

The Group of Seven leading industrialized nations pressed major tech and social media companies to do more to combat the spread of extremism.

#### WhatsApp raises minimum age requirement in Europe to 16

WhatsApp will raise its minimum age to 16 across Europe. The app will ask users to confirm their age when prompted to agree new terms of service in the next few weeks.

#### Shire, Takeda reach breakthrough in \$64 billion deal talks

London-listed drugmaker Shire Plc said it was willing to recommend a deal with Takeda Pharmaceutical Co to its shareholders, after the Japanese company sweetened its acquisition offer to 64 billion.

#### GM, South Korea in talks to raise investment plan from \$2.8 billion: source

General Motors and South Korea are in talks to increase the size of their investment from a previously proposed \$2.8 billion. GM had said it would fund two new sport utility vehicles to be built in South Korea.

#### Hong Kong's MTR Corp nears partnership to develop properties for China's 'largest landlord'

Hong Kong's MTR Corp and China Railway Corp will conduct preliminary studies to develop property above train stations in mainland China.

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