

This is not the first time an image of German Chancellor Angela Merkel literally talking down to an American president has made the rounds online.



Recall back in 2015, almost three years ago to the day, when Merkel, with outstretched arms, stood before President Obama, seated on a bench at that year's Group of 7 summit | AFP

The picture went viral, but appeared to draw more chatter about looking like a scene from "The Sound of Music" than about actual relations between the two friends.

Fast forward to June 9, the second day of this year's G-7 summit in Canada, when a photographer captured a striking image of President Trump surrounded by a host of world leaders.

Let's start with Merkel. With both hands down on the table in front of her, she's leaning in during what appears to be a tense discussion, staring straight at her American counterpart and cast in a light that presents her as the central figure, the power. Jesco Denzel, an official German government photographer at the summit, did his job here: the image was released by the Germans with a caption that referred to the scene as a "spontaneous meeting between two working sessions."



Twitter@ Angela Merkel

Also pictured are Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with arms crossed and an uncertain look on his face; John Bolton, the U.S. National Security Adviser, staring blankly; British Prime Minister Theresa May, who is identifiable here only by her hair; and French President Emmanuel Macron, with one hand on the table. (A day earlier, a different image involving Trump and Macron picked up steam: one that showed Trump's hand, squeezed so hard by Macron that one of his finger's left an imprint.)

And then there is Trump, who has locked eyes with the trio of American allies who, on the second day of this summit, are not pleased with his presence and performance, past and present.

He arrived to the gathering with the suggestion that Russia should, again, have a seat at the table, following its ouster in 2014 over Vladimir Putin’s annexation of Crimea. Trump, who before and after his election in 2016 faced a wave of allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior, scored no points for a late arrival to a gender equality breakfast. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with whom he was already publicly sparring, had already delivered his opening remarks when Trump made it to his seat, next to a visibly concerned Christine Lagarde.



Trump talked tough on trade upon arrival and left the same way. During a news conference later, he likened the U.S. to “the piggy bank that everybody’s robbing.” He pressed other leaders to eliminate tariffs and dramatically threatened to “stop trading with them” if practices he seems unfair were not changed to his liking.

He left the summit for Singapore, where he is scheduled to meet with North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un on June 12. In the afternoon, Trudeau announced that the leaders had signed a joint statement, and later said he would impose retaliatory measures in July following Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs. In two tweets sent from his flight, Trump railed against what he said were “Justin’s false statements,” said he refused to endorse the joint communiqué and called Trudeau “weak.”

It’s easy to cast the president as weak and defensive in this photograph. His arms are crossed and he’s seated when everyone else is standing. He looks like he’s getting grilled, taken to task for not acting like his predecessor.

**Source: Twitter, Time**

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