

Twitter explains why Trump North Korea tweet wasn't removed

September 26 2017



In this Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013, file photo, the Twitter logo appears on an updated phone post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Twitter explained on Sept. 26, 2017, that "newsworthiness" and the public interest as reasons why it didn't remove President Donald Trump's declaration in a tweet that North Korean leaders may not "be around much longer." (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

Twitter cited President Donald Trump's "newsworthiness" and the public

interest as reasons why it declined to remove a tweet that added to the fiery rhetoric between the United States and North Korea.

Trump tweeted Saturday : "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" On Monday, North Korea's top diplomat called the tweet a declaration of war. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders responded by calling the suggestion of such a declaration "absurd."

Twitter's rules state users "may not make threats of violence or promote violence, including threatening or promoting terrorism." This includes direct as well as indirect threats.

The [company](#) responded to questions about why Trump's tweet wasn't removed Monday by posting in a series of messages on its public policy account that "newsworthiness" is one of the factors it considers in determining if a [tweet](#) breaks the platform's rules.

"This has long been internal policy and we'll soon update our public-facing rules to reflect it," one message read. "We need to do better on this, and will."

The company also stated it is "committed to transparency and keeping people informed about what's happening in the world."



President Donald Trump speaks before signing a memorandum to expand access to STEM, science technology engineering and math, education, in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Calls for Twitter to curtail Trump's use of the platform are not new . The company has said in the past that it doesn't comment on individual accounts, but it has cited the importance of hearing from leaders in order to hold people accountable.

Trump's account wasn't affected in July, when Twitter announced that it was taking action, including suspensions, on 10 times the number of abusive accounts than it did a year before.

Keeping the president on the service also makes business sense: Trump's tweets are constantly in headlines, calling attention to Twitter and,

ideally for the company, getting more users to sign up.

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Twitter explains why Trump North Korea tweet wasn't removed (2017, September 26)
retrieved 18 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2017-09-twitter-trump-north-korea-tweet.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.