

# WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2018

**1** Apr 1, South Korea: The U.S. and South Korea begin joint military drills delayed by the Winter Olympics. Washington's refusal to cancel the exercises risks an end to tentative plans for summits between the leaders of all three countries

**2** Apr 19, Cuba: **Raúl Castro** steps down as president, almost six decades after his late brother **Fidel Castro** came to power.

Raúl's likely successor, Vice-President **Miguel Díaz-Canel** (above) must build on the unfinished task of reforming the economy, Cuba's most urgent challenge

**4** April, China: China's 8-tonne **Tiangong-1** space lab is expected to crash back to Earth. Exact predictions of when, and where, it will come down remain elusive but any risk to human life is considered very low

**3** Apr 24, U.S.: French President **Emmanuel Macron** arrives in Washington DC for the first state visit of the **Donald Trump** presidency. With a focus on trade, both leaders appear to have set aside earlier animosity to strengthen the Élysée-White House bond

**5** Apr 13-14, Peru, Colombia: President Trump will need all the deal-making skills to take the chill off his reception in Latin America, where his approval rating is just 16 percent. He visits the region to attend the three-yearly **Summit of the Americas**

**7** Apr 1, UK: Britain's **Royal Air Force**, the world's oldest independent air force, celebrates its centenary. Formed as a response to repeated German air raids during World War I, the RAF contributed to the Allied victory in November 1918

**6** Apr 7, Switzerland: **World Health Day 2018** offers a chance to focus on the achievements and shortcomings of the **World Health Organization** as the UN agency marks its 70th anniversary

**8** Apr 4, U.S.: With tensions again running high over racial injustice, national commemorations mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of iconic civil rights leader **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

 **ROYAL AIR FORCE**