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The Left doesn't learn from its mistakes

According to the Left's plan, IDF soldiers will enter Gaza to clean out the tunnels, bunkers, homes and secret weapons stashes and then hand the Palestinian Authority a spotless Gaza Strip. The IDF will then withdraw.

by Meir Indor Published on 2019-05-06 12:34 Last modified: 2019-05-06 12:42

The Left doesn't learn from its mistakes

Israeli soldiers walk in front of their Merkava tanks near the border with the Gaza Strip, southern Israel, 25 August 2014 | Photo: EPA

What is behind the “diplomatic arrangement plan” for the Gaza Strip, which the Left has been peddling? As a rule of thumb, its mouthpieces avoid getting into detail; they know the public, mainly the mothers of soldiers, won't like their plan once they learn what it entails.

Behind the term “arrangement” is their plan to reconquer Gaza and transfer it to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. If all goes according to the Left's design, the IDF will enter Gaza in a ground operation; soldiers and tanks, with air cover, will clean out the tunnels, bunkers, homes and secret weapons stashes and hand Abbas a spotless Gaza Strip. The IDF will then withdraw, to be replaced by the PA's security forces from Ramallah.

We've already been in this movie. Following the disengagement from Gaza we transferred the territory to Abbas and the PA's security apparatus. Two years later, the heads of these security services found themselves being hurled off of buildings to their deaths. Hamas seized control. Who will prevent another Hamas coup, once the IDF leaves upon concluding this Left-driven operation? After all, Hamas is stronger, better trained and more organized than the PA. How can the PA be inserted into a territory it can't seize on its own? But – so goes the argument – the PA is still functioning in Judea and Samaria.

We cannot compare Gaza to Judea and Samaria, where the PA is buttressed on the ground by the IDF and Shin Bet security agency. So who will protect the PA in Gaza?

Assuming members of the Israeli opposition want things to end well instead of merely swiping at the government, they should learn from their past mistakes. Sometimes the enemy of the good is a better idea, turned bad. This is what happened to the Left in 1992 after the right-wing government quashed the Intifada with Moshe Arens as defense minister.

The Left didn't suffice there. There was still a need to patrol the alleys of Nablus and Gaza, but with greater vigilance. A group of do-gooders, known as the “Oslo underground,” reached for a magical diplomatic solution that would make the IDF's presence in Judea and Samaria extraneous. They imported Yasser Arafat and his gang from Tunisia, armed them with guns and handed them control of the area. “Peace is made

with enemies,” they said, and signed Arafat to a piece of paper together with Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin and Bill Clinton.

That piece of paper was just that, a piece of paper, yet the doves of peace never followed. Quite the opposite; the Oslo Accords led to countless casualties, from 160 to around 1,700 in comparison to similar periods. Had Israel not immediately transferred all security responsibility to the PA, the fledgling Palestinian uprising would have never become a full-blown terror war, which was fought with the weapons we gave them.

It’s time to admit: Wherever our forces are in control, and not the Palestinians – there is security. The solution to the Gaza Strip, therefore, is for the IDF to assume control, as it did in the past and still does in parts of Judea and Samaria. And barring national consensus over remaining in Gaza, the intermediate alternative is the war of attrition currently being waged by the Israeli government. In any case, we must certainly never allow Hamas to link with Fatah and the PA. Indeed, “separation of the wicked – is good for them and good for the world.”

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This war will receive an encore

Hamas and Islamic Jihad will boast of their achievements against Israel, but Gaza will continue to sink further into the gutter of extremism and backwardness. We can safely assume, therefore, that the latest round of fighting won't be the last.

by Prof. Eyal Zisser Published on 2019-05-06 09:09 Last modified: 2019-05-06 09:09

This war will receive an encore

Palestinians gather around a building hit by an Israeli air strike, in southern Gaza, Sunday

Residents of Gaza, who are marking the beginning of the Muslim holy month of **Ramadan on Monday**, if they were asked, would undoubtedly rather forego the current round of fighting with Israel, initiated by Palestinian Islamic Jihad and which forced Hamas to follow suit. But Islamic Jihad and certainly Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, ultimately had to take Ramadan into account as they weighed their costs and benefits moving forward. While they signaled to Israel their ability to disrupt Independence Day celebrations this week, they were also well aware that every victory comes with a price and that in Gaza, the people wouldn't forgive them for turning Ramadan into a month-long war of destruction and devastation.

This, in theory, was enough to balance out the desire of the armed factions to hurt Israel and win a few points, and perhaps a few more dollars from Qatar, and their need to ensure that the latest round of violence would be limited in scope and quickly come to an end.

Hamas' logic, however, doesn't necessarily coincide with Islamic Jihad's logic. The latter doesn't bear responsibility for governing Gaza; hence it has been trying for quite some time to ignite a conflagration and position itself as the tone-setter versus Israel. In the future, it could fight Hamas for superiority, not just when it comes to Israel but over control of Gaza.

At present, Hamas is hostage to Islamic Jihad's whims. It cannot allow itself to be perceived as conciliatory toward Israel and the enforcer of peace and quiet along the border, while its own operatives and members of Islamic Jihad are being killed.

Herein lays Israel's fundamental problem. It isn't contending with one Palestinian enemy, but three: Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and finally the Palestinian Authority, which gleefully looked on as its adversaries, Israel and the armed Palestinian faction in Gaza, exchanged blows.

From the south, Egypt watched with concern as the flames grew higher. The Egyptian interest is to ensure that peace and quiet persists, but it doesn't have the power to impose its will on the Palestinians. From farther afield, meanwhile, Iran and Turkey have poured gas on the flames, although their ability to influence events on the ground is partial and limited.

What's certain is that the **cease-fire agreement secured early Monday morning** will also be partial and limited, and won't be enough to solve Gaza's root problems. Hamas and Islamic Jihad will boast of their achievements against Israel, but Gaza will continue to sink further into the gutter of extremism and backwardness. We can safely assume, therefore, that the latest round of fighting won't be the last.

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Photo: AFP

IDF air strikes in the Gaza Strip during the recent flare-up

Photo: AFP

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Qatar to transfer half a billion dollars to Palestinians in Gaza, West Bank

The oil-rich Gulf state vows to invest some \$300 million in health and education in the Palestinian Authority, with an additional \$180 million going to various UN humanitarian initiatives

Elior Levy | Published: 05.07.19 , 09:10

Qatar will transfer some \$480 million to Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said an announcement by the country's foreign ministry Tuesday.

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Of the total sum of money, Qatar said that \$300 million are aimed for health and education endeavors in the Palestinian Authority, and \$180 million will fund humanitarian aid, support for UN programs and renovation works to improve electrical systems — probably in the Gaza Strip, however no specific details were available at this time.

The statement comes in a time of dire need in the Palestinian Authority, which is having severe financial difficulties for several reasons; one of which is Israel's February decision to deduct some half a billion shekels from the tax revenue it collects on behalf of the PA, due to its continued payment of terrorists' salaries.

Qatar's decision comes after the Sunday night ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Gaza Strip terror groups. The 48-hour-long round of fighting cost four Israeli lives and approximately 25 casualties in the Gaza Strip, after some 700 rockets were launched at Israel from the coastal enclave and over 300 targets were bombed by the IDF.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh thanked Qatar for its decision to transfer \$480 million to the Palestinians.

"We thank Qatar for the honorable grant, which seeks to help the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Qatar continues, even under the most difficult conditions, to support Palestine and its nation," he said.

Before and during the escalation, Hamas blamed Israel for delaying the \$30 million monthly Qatari funds installment, but Israel denied the accusation during the negotiations for a ceasefire.

According to unnamed sources, Israel was not behind the Qatari funds' delay, and Hamas is now discussing a possible enlargement of the support it receives from the Gulf Country.

Source added that the ceasefire agreement reached between the two sides restores the 2014 Protective Edge conditions agreed on by Israel and Hamas, and added that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has an interest in reaching a long term arrangement.

Such an arrangement, said the sources, will include rehabilitation of the Gaza Strip; however, Israel has conditioned it by the returning of the remains of IDF fallen soldiers and the two Israeli civilians held by Hamas.

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Elan Carr

U.S. may review ties with countries deemed anti-Israel

The State Department's **special envoy** for monitoring, combating **anti-Semitism** **Elan Carr** said this U.S. position could spell reviews of ties with foreign governments or leaders

Reuters |Published: 05.05.19 , 23:19

The United States may review its ties with countries it deems as being anti-Israel after what a U.S. envoy said on Sunday was a shift in policy towards equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a March speech that anti-Zionism - opposition to Israel's existence as a homeland for the Jewish people - was a form of anti-Semitism, or hostility toward Jews, that was on the rise worldwide and that Washington would "fight it relentlessly".

The State Department's special envoy for monitoring and combating anti-Semitism, Elan Carr, said this U.S. position could spell reviews of ties with foreign governments or leaders.

"The United States is willing to review its relationship with any country, and certainly anti-Semitism on the part of a country with whom we have relations is a deep concern," he told Reuters during a visit to Israel.

"I will be raising that issue in bilateral meetings that I am undertaking all over the world," he said. "That is something we are going to have frank and candid conversations about - behind closed doors."

Carr declined to cite specific countries or leaders, or to elaborate on what actions the Trump administration might take.

"I obviously can't comment on diplomatic tools that we might bring to bear," he said. "Each country is a different diplomatic challenge, a different situation, number one. And number two, if I started disclosing what we might do it would be less effective."

Some U.S. political analysts say that President Donald Trump and other Republicans hope support for Israel will attract Jewish voters, including those disaffected by pro-Palestinian voices within progressive Democratic Party circles.

At the same time, critics have credited Trump's confrontational, nationalistic rhetoric with encouraging right-wing extremists and feeding a surge in activity by American hate groups. The administration has flatly rejected that charge.

Carr said the administration's **equating of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism** "certainly **breaks new ground** ... by making clear that something that a lot of us who are involved in the Jewish world and a lot of us who are proponents of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship have known for quite some time, and that is that one of the chief flavors of anti-Semitism in the world today is the flavor that

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Netanyahu: Gaza campaign not over, preparing for more fighting

PM: IDF struck more than 350 targets during latest round of fighting; defense source says Hamas and Islamic Jihad sought ceasefire after they understood 'the rules of the game had changed'

Itamar Eichner and Yoav Zitun|Published: 05.06.19 , 12:48

Israel's campaign against Palestinian terror groups in Gaza is not over, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday, as a ceasefire, while not officially confirmed, appeared to take hold after almost three days of escalating violence between the Jewish state and the Hamas-run enclave.

"Over the last two days we struck Hamas and Islamic Jihad with great force," Netanyahu said in a statement released by his office.

"We hit over 350 targets. We struck at terrorist leaders and operatives and we destroyed terrorist buildings," the statement said.

"The campaign is not over and it demands patience and sagacity. We are prepared to continue," he said. "The goal has been – and remains – ensuring quiet and security for the residents of the south. I send condolences to the families and best wishes for recovery to the wounded."

The escalation began on Friday, when two Israeli soldiers were wounded by Gaza gunfire near the Gaza-Israel border. A retaliatory IAF strike killed two militants from the Hamas group that governs Gaza. Two other Palestinians protesting near the frontier were also killed by IDF forces.

By the time the fighting appeared to be over on Monday morning, four Israelis had been killed and more than 700 rockets and missiles were fired from Gaza.

Meanwhile, an Israeli security source said Monday that the Gaza organizations had sought a ceasefire out of fear over what Israel would do in the Strip.

"Hamas and Islamic Jihad understood very well that the rules of the game had changed," the source said. "Therefore, they stopped firing (rockets) on their own initiative after repeated requests for a ceasefire."

Kulanu Minister Eli Cohen, who is a member of the security cabinet, said Monday that Israel must remove Hamas' grip on Gaza.

"It is clear to us all that the next round (of fighting) will come," Cohen said. "Hamas is a terrorist organization and we should focus on ending its rule."

Cohen also said that ousting Hamas from Gaza would require military action and not diplomacy.

"We need to be ready at the start of the next round," he said, citing the use of targeted assassinations, which Israel employed for the first time since 2014.

"Those who think that we are heading for a diplomatic settlement have failed to understand the reality," Cohen said.

"We have to strike at the heads of Hamas, the heads of the snake. We expect a major battle, which is crucial for the residents of the south who are held hostage by Hamas and Jihad - and we will decide when that will be."

05.06.19 פרסום ראשון,

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[U.S. Sending B-52 Bombers to Middle East to Join Iran Response](#)

central command is sending b-52s to the middle east to monitor iran

B-52 Strato fortress aircraft flying over Shreveport, during the Fourth of July celebration, Shreveport, Louisiana. (Smith Collection/Gado/Getty)

By Theodore Bunker | Tuesday, 07 May 2019 05:03 PM

U.S. Central Command has confirmed that the United States is sending B-52s to the Middle East, where they will join a carrier strike group following an announcement from national security adviser John Bolton.

"We continue to closely monitor the activities of the regime in Iran, their military, the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps], and their proxies, and we are well postured to defend U.S. forces and interests," Central Command, or Centcom, spokesman Capt. Bill Urban said in a Pentagon statement, The Hill reports.

“The deployment of the **Abraham Lincoln Carrier** Strike Group and a bomber task force are considered prudent steps to protect U.S. forces and interests in the region and to deter any aggression.”

Bolton said on Sunday that the **USS Lincoln** strike group and the bomber task force are being deployed “to send a clear and **unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force,**” and alluded to “troubling and escalatory indications and warnings” from Iran.