

Newsletter Monday August 20, 2018

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US security adviser: **Our goal is to get Iran out of Syria**

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton meets with PM Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, says Russia is on board with U.S. efforts to remove Iran, Hezbollah from Syria • Netanyahu says Israel, U.S. stand with Iranian people against oppressive regime.

John Bolton & Benjamin Netanyahu say Russia is with U.S. efforts to remove Iran from Syria

Trump administration's determination to reimpose tough sanctions on Iran and those doing business with Iran.

Trump seeks to reimpose tough sanctions on Iran & their business partners.

Ariel Kahana, Reuters and Israel Hayom Staff

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in Jerusalem, Sunday | Photo: Matty Stern / U.S. Embassy Jerusalem

White House National Security Adviser John Bolton arrived in Israel Sunday and met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks focused mainly on Iran.

One of the U.S. administration's leading hawks, Bolton has pushed for greater pressure on Iran to ensure it halts its support for terrorism and its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs.

Welcoming Bolton ahead of their talks on Monday, **Netanyahu praised the U.S.-Israel alliance.**

"Israel believes that it has no greater friend and ally than the United States and I believe that the United States has no greater friend and ally than Israel," he said.

"Under [U.S.] President [Donald] Trump, that alliance has grown stronger than it's ever been and your visit here gives us an opportunity to make it even stronger, and to align our policies even more closely on Iran, on Syria, on Gaza and on the many challenges that face both our countries in this region."

Netanyahu thanked the Trump administration for withdrawing from the 2015 international nuclear deal, which he said "did not block Iran's path to the bomb – it paved Iran's path to an entire nuclear arsenal."

In May, Trump withdrew from the nuclear agreement, which lifted crippling international sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program.

"By removing the sanctions, it [the nuclear deal] enabled Iran to bring in billions and billions of dollars to its coffers, which only fueled Iran's war machine, in Syria, in Lebanon, in Yemen, and elsewhere," Netanyahu said.

"Israel applauds the Trump administration's determination to reimpose tough sanctions on Iran and those doing business with Iran. I know this view is shared by all our Arab neighbors, or practically everyone in this region."

Netanyahu called on "all countries who care about peace and security in the Middle East" to follow the U.S.'s lead and increase pressure on Iran.

"The greater the pressure on Iran, the greater the chance that the regime will roll back its aggression," he said.

Netanyahu said that in standing up to the oppressive Iranian regime, Israel and the U.S. show they are standing with the people of Iran.

"It's important that the people of Iran understand that our fight is not with them. Our fight is with the regime that brutally represses them," he said.

Netanyahu said Israel is "grateful for the Trump administration's unequivocal support for Israel in international forums, and on international issues."

"We appreciate as well the continued American commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge, which enables us to defend ourselves by ourselves against any threat," he said.

Bolton and Netanyahu later had a working dinner at the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem, which was also attended by U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer.

Speaking ahead of the dinner, Bolton said, "We've got great challenges for Israel, for the United States, for the whole world – the Iran nuclear weapons program and ballistic missile programs are right at the top of the list."

Netanyahu said he could testify that "in and out of office," Bolton has been a "tremendous friend of Israel, tremendous champion of the American-Israel alliance."

Netanyahu said the two would discuss how "to continue to roll back Iran's aggression in the region and to make sure that they never have a nuclear weapon."

During his three-day visit, Bolton, accompanied by Dermer and Friedman, will meet with Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman and the heads of Israel's security branches.

He will meet Russian officials in Geneva later in the week as a follow-up to the Helsinki summit meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the White House said. He will also visit Ukraine.

Bolton told ABC News in an interview earlier that the United States, Israel and Russia share the common goal of removing Iranian and Iranian-led forces from Syria, and ending Iran's support for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

"I think the president's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal has put a real crimp into the Iranian economy," Bolton said.

"I think they're feeling it in their capability for the Quds Force or the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to conduct offensive operations in the region here and in Yemen as well.

"But I think this is part of the problem with the Iranian regime generally, and why it's such a threat to peace and security not just because of its nuclear program, but because of its military operations and its support for terrorism."

Bolton said that at the July summit in Helsinki, Russian President Vladimir Putin was "very candid in his comments to President Trump, he was to me as well."

He said Putin does not think Russia has the same interests in Syria as Iran "and that he'd like to talk about ways to get Iran out of the country."

Responding to Bolton's remarks, Israeli diplomats said that Israel has warned of Iran's close ties with Hezbollah for years, in regard to the organization's activities in Lebanon as well as in Syria. However, there was no official confirmation of the existence of a concrete plan to cut ties between Iran and Hezbollah.

Newsletter Friday February 23, 2018

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US envoy: Trump's Middle East peace plan almost complete

"The plan won't be loved by either side. And it won't be hated by either side. But it's a template to start talking," says U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley • Feasibility of two-state solution is up to Israelis and Palestinians to decide, she says.

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Two State division of Israel & Palestine is completing, declared by US Nikki Haley in UN

News Agencies and Israel Hayom Staff

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley | Photo: Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump's long-awaited Middle East peace proposal is nearing completion, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley said Thursday.

"I think they're finishing it up," Haley said, speaking at a question-and-answer session at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.

Haley offered no details on when the plan may be unveiled.

Haley spoke one day after Trump's two top envoys on the Middle East, son-in-law Jared Kushner and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, met with the U.N. Security Council and asked for its support for the upcoming peace plan.

"They're still going back and forth," Haley said of Kushner and Greenblatt.

"The plan won't be loved by either side. And it won't be hated by either side. But it's a template to start talking," she said.

The revelation came after questioning by the institute's chief, David Axelrod – a former senior adviser to Trump's predecessor President Barack Obama – about the U.S.'s controversial decision in December to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Congress had overwhelmingly voted to name Jerusalem the capital of Israel and to put our embassy in the capital," Haley said, adding that multiple presidents had struggled with a "fear doctrine that the sky was going to fall" if such a declaration was made.

"The sky is still up there, and now what we have is a time where the negotiations can start between Israelis and Palestinians," she said.

Axelrod asked if the U.S. would propose an independent Palestinian state as part of its plan. Haley responded that the notion of a two-state solution, while still being publicly advocated by the Palestinians, was a matter for Israel and the Palestinians to decide.

"It's for them to decide. It is hard for me to see how they would want a single state," she said, adding that she thinks both sides are "pushing toward a two-state" outcome.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday called for an international conference to be held by mid-2018 to launch a wider peace process in which the United States would not have the central mediating role.

Newsletter Sunday January 21, 2018

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Youngest living Schindler's list Holocaust survivor to address UN

Eva Lavi was a young child when she and her parents were added to Schindler's famous list • My mother told me to hide when someone came, and I survived, she says • Israeli Ambassador to U.N. Danny Danon: Her story is one of courage and resurrection.

Shlomo Cesana and Israel Hayom Staff

Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who saved 1,100 Jews by employing them in his factories | Photo: AP

Eva Lavi, the youngest living Holocaust survivor saved by German industrialist Oskar Schindler, will participate in a ceremony marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Jan. 31.

At the ceremony, Lavi will share the story of her family's rescue by being placed on Schindler's famous list, along with some 1,100 other Jews.

Nazi party member Schindler and his wife, Emilie, were recognized as Righteous Among the Nations for their heroic actions during World War II. The story of how he compiled a list of Jews employed first in his enamelware factory in Krakow and then in his armaments factory in occupied Czechoslovakia, saving them from being sent to the Auschwitz death camp, was the subject of a Booker Prize-winning book by Thomas Keneally, "Schindler's Ark," and then of director Steven Spielberg's Academy Award-winning 1993 film "Schindler's List."

Lavi, then a young child, and her parents, Fela and Wolf Ratz (Rac), were on Schindler's list as metalworkers.

Now 80, Lavi said in an interview with Israel Hayom, "My mother always told me never believe anyone and to always hide when someone comes around, and I hid well. I didn't cry, I didn't make a sound, and in the end, I survived."

Lavi shares her story with visitors at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum twice a month.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres and ambassadors from nations around the globe are expected to attend the U.N. ceremony.

"Her story is one of courage and the resurrection of the Jewish people. Hearing the voices of the survivors and the stories of those tragically killed is the great obligation of our generation," said Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon.