

# **CIA Leaks Iran War BOMBSHELL, Israel COLLAPSING Fast | Larry Johnson & Lawrence Wilkerson**

Has the CIA just leaked the biggest secret that will shape the Iran war now and forever? Fmr CIA analyst Larry Johnson and retired US Army Colonel and Chief of Staff Lawrence Wilkerson react to a bombshell report that details how much trouble Israel is in, and why it's pressing with US help a restart to the war despite the CIA's doomsday warning. <https://sonar21.com/> <https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow> PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #iranwar #israel #cia

## **#Danny**

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I am joined by Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson and Larry Johnson to go over the latest developments. So I wanted to start, gentlemen, both with this new report by the CIA, an assessment that says that Israel is risking civil war and even state collapse. It's going so rogue. And I know, Colonel Wilkerson, you've talked a lot about this, that the wars that it is engaged in, its plan to re-engage in war with Iran, and its wars on seven fronts that have caused economic strain, a draft crisis, and increasing attempts by Netanyahu to keep power, have essentially placed it at risk of internal collapse.

## **#Danny**

And this comes, gentlemen, as there have been successive days where it has appeared that the United States has been sending more munitions, equipment, and U.S. personnel to Israel through C-17 transport aircraft in order to prepare for the next phase of this war. So, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, how about I begin with you? Your reaction to this CIA bombshell report and what it really means and portends for the current state of the region and the future.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Well, Larry could probably talk to this better than I, being a CIA former, shall I say. As I understand it, it's the red team, which means they put a team of people together to challenge the standard view, the establishment view, if you will, the agency view, whatever you want to call it, and that this red team came up with an assessment that said civil war in Israel, in aggregate, said that civil war or real contention on the streets and the towns and so forth could be a possibility, mainly because I

think we have so much tension over this election. If you know anything about Netanyahu-run elections—say, when he's running, when is he not running, you want to ask?—they are dynamic moments. They are moments that cause Israelis to come into the streets and so forth.

And then you've got all these other things going on. I would say, from what I'm hearing in the street in Tel Aviv, in the street in Haifa, along the beach, other places, even Nazareth, where the population is a lot of Christians, for example, places as far away as you can get in Israel from the center of population of Jewish Israelis, yeah, there are some really discordant notes being sounded. I had a cable, if you will, from an ambassador this morning whose views I respect, who said this is typical. Don't even bother to think about Israelis coming home with weapons, suddenly turning them on someone. Their big problem is post-traumatic stress, wounds, and tired of serving, and so forth and so on. They're not about to turn their own weapons on their own people.

He also observed that some of the other things the Red Team had assessed as possibilities, and indeed that I'd heard about from the streets, were typical of an Israeli election. Well, my response to him was something like, this is not a typical election. They've never had an election like this. They've never killed 600,000 people. I think Ralph Nader is right. I think that's probably much closer to the total number of people they've killed in Gaza. And you add the West Bank and other places, it goes up slightly. But nonetheless, that's quite a few. And we'll never know because, as Ralph points out in his report, the only way the Health Ministry, or Israel for that matter, gets any count is because hospitals say, "This person crossed my threshold and was dead."

Or we went out and checked them, and they were dead. They're not doing that anymore because they don't have any hospitals with thresholds for them to cross. And so there's not a count going on that's worth a damn. But that has to create some angst, I would think, amongst people, other people in Israel who might have a heart, a soul, a sense of decency, that they've killed all this many people. And then they know, I think now, probably a good portion of the administration now has been lying about October the 7th. Not just lying, but looking as if increasingly he might have had something to do with either allowing it to happen or maybe even in the connivance that brought it about in the first place. There's just too much evidence to that point of view. So, yeah, it's a contentious place.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, Larry, your reactions to the assessment three years ago, of course, that kicked off not just the genocide, but, of course, a massive regional war. And many have surmised that Israel's war plan has all been in response to these crises. What do you make of this assessment?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, I'm fascinated by the timing of the leak. So, I mean, this is a classified assessment. So, ostensibly, it's not going to see the light of day as far as the public is concerned. I'm pleasantly

surprised that, given John Ratcliffe's decided Zionist leanings, that this Red Team report was able to get out. But it's important to note that it's not based on CIA human intelligence collected in Israel. Why? Because we don't collect intelligence in Israel. It's one of the few countries—I mean, I think it's the only country in the world—where the United States, the CIA, is not authorized to conduct clandestine operations. This goes back, I think, to the early '60s, when the CIA did collect intelligence that Israel had obtained a nuclear weapon from stealing nuclear material from the United States.

The CIA was the one who went out and collected that information, provided it to John F. Kennedy, and that whole effort, I think, contributed to the decision to assassinate Kennedy and, in fact, the likely participation of Israel in that assassination. So, collecting this information now, all you got to do is look at open source. You know, it didn't need to be classified to tell you that Israel has lost its moral foundation, that there are great divisions within Israel between these, let's call them the ultra-Zionists, who are not necessarily Orthodox. This is the paradox.

You have, let's call it, three primary flavors of national identity in Israel. You have these ultra-Zionists who insist that God gave us this land, but many of them are atheists or agnostics. They are not observant Jews. They're not what are known as the Haredim. Then you've got the Haredim, which are these ultra-Orthodox Jews who adhere to all of the prescriptions of the Torah. And yet many of them do not recognize the legitimacy of Israel to exist as a nation because, you know, this is contrary to prophecy. Then you've got, let's call it, the Europeanized Jews who, they don't believe in God.

They're not really locked into the Zionist mentality, but they do feel that Israel still has a right to exist. Well, you know, those three factions are tearing Israel apart from the inside. And as the report notes, this three-year war against Hamas and then extended into Lebanon against Hezbollah has really taken a toll on the Israeli military because it's primarily a reservist force. So these are not professional soldiers. These are what, you know, in the United States we'd call weekend warriors. I don't mean that to disparage anybody, but it just means they've got regular jobs during the week, and then they normally would work on reserve duties, reserve activities on weekends, except now, since October 7th of 2023, many of these reservists have been on active duty for months at a time.

And the mental—it's causing, let's call it battle fatigue, post-traumatic stress syndrome, put whatever name you want on it. But Israel now is experiencing, I'll call it, a suicide crisis among its reservists. Many come back appalled at what they've done. Those who still have a conscience are horrified at the genocide they've committed. I wrote a piece two days ago that I really want people to go read, because it draws upon Bibi Netanyahu's comments at the United Nations, where he claimed that if you look at the number of Israelis that died on October 7th, and you rate it proportionally to the population—that 1,200 died and you've got an 8 million population—compare that to the United States, that if you had a comparable ratio die in the United States from 9/11, it would have been over 40,000 dead, according to Bibi.

And I thought, well, hell, if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander. And so I said, let's apply that to the Palestinians. So if you look at the ratio of what the Israeli military admits to—73,000 dead Palestinians—the number is much higher than that. But let's just go with the 73,000 figure. And you do that proportional to the population of Palestine, that works out to 11 million people equivalent. If what Israel did to the Palestinians, they did to the United States on a proportional level, they would have killed 11 to 12 million Americans. So I don't think Bibi wants to trot out that comparison anymore, because it highlights the genocide that has been carried out. And here we are three years since that event.

## **#Danny**

Great stuff, Larry. Colonel Wilkerson, as Larry was talking and as I was reviewing this assessment, or what's been reported on it, it feels like a lot of the content of it are things that we've talked about here on this program. And I guess I'm wondering your reaction to anything Larry said, but also how much of this preparation toward renewed war with Iran is in reaction to these crises that Israel is facing because of all of what Larry just stated?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Well, I agree with Larry's assessment, and I agree with your intimation with regard to your question that a lot of this is probably part and parcel of what we've walked ourselves into, Donald Trump and Bibi Netanyahu as a tandem team, if you will. And they don't seem to be anywhere near divorcing from one another. I think what we're seeing right now, the evidence we're seeing right now, though it's mixed and hard to tell what means what, because there really isn't, if you parse it hard, a whole lot of U.S. combat power in the region. There are quite a few troops spread across a lot of different varieties of those troops, and quite a few that aren't necessarily going to be engaged in any direct combat, even if it were to start.

So that's the first thing I would say, is we don't know what's cooking, as it were. We do know, I think, that if Netanyahu launches something—and I don't think there's any doubt in anybody's mind who understands the least about Bibi and understands about his promises and what his whole life's goal has been and is—the last chapter of which, in terms of the clean break strategy, is Iran. We've all talked about he will go on beyond that. He's probably going to roll into Damascus. He'll take Lebanon. He'll threaten Erdogan in Ankara, and so forth. But this deal that's working right now, that Netanyahu has signed in blood and lies galore, is Iran.

So if they're going to attack Iran again, they've got to marshal a whole hell of a lot more combat power than they have right now. And I haven't even mentioned the Houthis. So I have no idea how much pressure that's putting on Israel, but I think it's probably considerable. And I think Larry enumerated a lot of the reasons, and I think there are reasons that we can't even know because we aren't there in that small little enclave that is really desperately waiting, if it's going to occur, for another resounding attack by Iran, which will probably destroy it.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah, Larry, your reaction to this buildup that has been happening in Israel with the United States, and this contradiction—there's been a pullout of aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean. I believe there's just one left. And as Colonel Wilkerson stated, you know, Israel brags a lot about being at war on seven fronts. One of those fronts, Yemen, is not going so well, with Ansar Allah absolutely pounding Saudi Arabia in the last 24 to 48 hours: Jeddah, Aramco oil fields, the Aden airport. We can go on and on and on. So what's your thoughts and assessment of what's going on here?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, it's confusion, because I'm not sure there is a buildup. The way it was presented last week was, oh, the United States is surging 10,000 troops. But when you counted up what was being, quote, surged, they're counting the crew of the USS Roosevelt and the ships that accompany the USS Roosevelt. They're counting the Marine Expeditionary Unit, the MEU, that was being sent out. But then we learn, well, yeah, there may be about 10,000 personnel total in all of that. But then they're withdrawing, it looks like, the George H.W. Bush. We'll know by Friday if it's really out or if it's just on temporary liberty in Phuket, Thailand.

But so far right now, as you've noted, there's only the one aircraft carrier. And my understanding is it's only got one destroyer. Normally, they had like two or three destroyers accompany those aircraft carriers to provide air defense. So you've now got limited air defense for that carrier. So if it's going to conduct combat operations, it really runs a risk of it could be severely damaged if Iran has perfected its long-distance anti-ship missiles. So you've got that. You've got the withdrawal of the B-1 bombers, the 12 of them, from Fairford at the RAF base, or it's RAF in name only. I think it's effectively been a U.S. Air Force facility for the last 80 years.

So they're withdrawing. So instead of surging particularly air assets, I'm not, you know, if we're, quote, surging ground assets, I don't know what the hell they're doing, because unless they're, like, all members of a swim team, they're not going to get to Iran, okay? It's just, we don't have a viable way to deliver a large number of troops into Iranian territory with any chance that they're going to survive. And so the naval assets are limited. So it goes back to what Colonel Wilkerson said. You know, we're not really seeing the kind of military presence that we saw in the buildup prior to February 28th, where they launched this massive strike.

Now, in the last 24 hours, we've had some significant developments. Iran has announced that anybody coming through the Strait of Hormuz is going to pay in rials. So they've got to go buy rials on the market. They're creating a demand for rials, which means anybody who wants to pay it, it's going to help combat the inflation that Scott Bessent's economic sanctions are causing. But this means everything is going to be routed through Chinese banks. So it's still Iran working closely with

the Chinese. And then the National Security Council rejected completely the latest U.S. proposal. We don't know what was in that proposal, but the Iranians just said, "Hell no."

## **#Danny**

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I would just add, I think a part of that kabuki also is this business about the Majlis, or at least one member of the Majlis and a committee impeaching Araghchi. I think this is theater. He's not the kind of person who would have gone out on a limb in New York without some, you know, blessing either from the president himself or even from the IRGC leadership, or both. So it's kind of kabuki theater to show that, okay, we did it and it didn't go anywhere. It was rebuffed, and we're going to punish the guy who did it because he shouldn't have done it, that sort of thing. I don't think there's anything in it, really.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I mean, I heard those reports too, Larry, that Araghchi was on the chopping block for impeachment, but no real follow-up on that. Do you have any thoughts about this, any reaction to it?

## **#Larry Johnson**

No, no, I agree with Larry, or other Larry, Colonel Wilkerson, that this was kabuki theater. This is not a serious effort to remove Araghchi. But, you know, it also goes to debunk the claim that Iran is this authoritarian state and there's no dissenting positions allowed. Well, actually, there are different opinions allowed.

## **#Danny**

Colonel Wilkerson, you know, there are reports that—and I want both your reactions to this—there are reports that Israel is preparing to strike Iran on its own. One, is this possible? And two, what do you make of it?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I don't know how they have reconstituted. I don't know how they have reconstituted particularly enough force to be decisive or even remotely have a chance of being decisive with regard to Iran. I have to think that what they're talking about is air power and the ordnance dropped from that air power, or what they're thinking about is what we've talked about sort of tangentially. It's anything but tangential, but that is the use of a nuclear weapon or two. I just don't see where they have the

wherewithal, even if we've been a little bit faster than I think we have been with these 2,000-pound bombs and other things that we're supposedly going to give them. As I understand it, not a single one of them has been shipped yet.

And in fact, as I understand it, they're still having somewhat of a debate in the Congress as to whether or not they're going to take any action to, you know, modify the shipment, increase it, decrease it, whatever. So I don't know what they're going to do it with other than, like I said, nuclear weapons, because I don't see a whole hell of an augmentation. Having said that, I would say this, and I think this is an outside possibility, but the road to Damascus is wide open. And that's a strength of this now very, in some respects, tried, tested, and failing military in Israel. And this element that would do that, of course, is their premier force. It's the one Moshe Dayan said, you know, "This is Israel," the armored force. It's the one they take the greatest pride in, and I think, from my experience anyway, limited though it is, the troops take the greatest pride in.

They could take Damascus. And then you ask yourself, how would that change things? They could invest the city, and I guarantee you Al Qaeda ain't going to do much about it, or whatever they're calling themselves now. The question, of course, would be what would Erdogan do about it? I would say probably nothing except protest, maybe send some people down there to play with them somewhat. So I don't see how they can extend this battlefield or make this conflict with Iran go their way with what they've got right now. And then the last part of that assessment is Iran, when they do that, is going to either at the same time or maybe even preempt, when they've got the message that this is coming, whatever it might be, destroy them. And Hezbollah is probably going to jump in and join. So I don't know what we're talking about. I really don't. I don't know what Bibi's talking about.

**#Danny**

Yeah, Larry, same question to you.

**#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, well, if this was the deliberate strategy... this is like something that Wile E. Coyote hatched to get the Road Runner. And we know how all those Wile E. Coyote plans turned out. He either runs off the cliff, or the device blows up in his face, or he gets run over by a locomotive, and the Road Runner gets away. The economic—this entire thing, I think, is boiling down.

**#Danny**

It's about the economics.

**#Larry Johnson**

Now, I know there's some analysts out there. I think Brian Berletic is an example, and I have a lot of respect for Brian, but that have argued that this whole thing was a U.S. plan to isolate and weaken China. Well, if that was their plan, it was a Wile E. Coyote plan. Yeah, because it's done the exact opposite. And I put up a long piece last night talking about the effect of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz on urea and sulfur, because the focus is entirely on oil, oil, oil, oil, oil.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

And the lies that are being told about the oil are just breathtaking.

## **#Larry Johnson**

The Trump administration insisting that they're getting out more now than before the war started. No, that is just a bunch of unhappy horse manure. Okay, it is absolutely a bald-faced lie. But in addition to the shortage of petroleum, you got the shortage of LNG, shortage of sulfur, the shortage of urea, the shortage of helium. I just looked at urea and sulfur, and sulfur in particular is one that is going to have lasting, depressing economic consequences and inflationary consequences on the world for the foreseeable future. It's not going to turn around in a month or two at all. This thing could likely persist through 2027 at a minimum, because the damage that's been done to the pumping stations, to the petrochemical infrastructure, is so significant that it cannot be easily or quickly repaired.

And, you know, attendant with those lies is the notion that, oh, Saudi Arabia, they're still pumping oil out, even though some of the pumping stations were destroyed. That's not how it works, boys and girls. There are 13 total pumping stations along that pipeline that runs from east to west to Yanbu. Four of the 13 are dead, kaput, destroyed. That means nothing's going through. Think of it like your intestines. Yeah, it starts out in the stomach, and the food starts to process through the intestine. But then you got a dead spot, you know, four inches long. It doesn't move. So that is what the Trump administration is confronted with, is a dramatic economic, I'll call it collapse, a slow implosion. I just got a note from one of my readers. He lives here in Manatee County with me. He works at the Mosaic Mining Company.

They mine phosphate. The phosphate is used to produce fertilizer. They got to see—today's the 7th—they got called into the office on October 5th, all the employees, and told, "We're going to be shutting down in six months. We'll try to find you other jobs, but if not, you're going to be laid off." Why? Because of the shortage of sulfur, they can't produce the fertilizer that they were producing. The housing, the sale of new houses, going down. Why? Price of interest—the interest rates of mortgages continue to climb. Trump has got a serious problem. Oh, I forgot to mention, this guy who wrote me said he's possibly going to get laid off. He said, "I voted for Trump three times." And he says, "The joke is now on me." And basically his succeeding comment was that Trump can burn in hell for all he cares.

## **#Danny**

Wow. Incredible stuff. Colonel Wilkerson, your thoughts on this? And maybe you can add the Yemen front into this, because successive days, Saudi oil refineries, facilities, they've been hit by Ansar Allah, and not to mention the actual battlefield losses that were trying to be spun as wins not 48 hours ago for Yemen, the Saudi so-called coalition-backed forces. But your thoughts on how this front adds to what Larry was just saying?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I think they're losing that one too. I think they're losing it in a big way, and I think they're going to continue to lose it because I don't see any relaxation of the pressure, very confidently applied, almost like a genuine campaign plan, if you will, by the Houthis. And it's relentless, and it's going to keep going. It's like a juggernaut, in a sense. And it's kind of impressive to me as a military professional that they're doing all this without the conventional paraphernalia, if you will, that one thinks about when one thinks about this kind of speed and movement.

They're doing it essentially with drones and missiles, and taking great pains to make sure they maneuver in accordance with the impacts of those drones and missiles. That means they probably are going to be unchallenged in a real significant way by forces that, one, are probably not professional. At best, they're paid mercenaries, and at worst, they're Saudi nationals, which is worse than paid mercenaries. So look for more territory to fall. Look for Yemen to blossom. Look for Yemen to be a different country. Look for Yemen to be a country to be reckoned with from here on out, particularly if these people wind up in charge, ultimately, which I think they probably will.

And look for the other places that are looking dim right now. Look at this withdrawal from Iraq. I've been looking into that in a way that I really have been looking into it since the very inception of the war. But I was very interested in three or four periods in our occupation, if you will, of Iraq. One was the false sense of security that David Petraeus portrayed with the surge, which was no product of what he had done. It was a product of essentially the Republican Guard going to ground, as it were, and a lot of their weaponry going to ground with them.

And the coincidence of that and the breakup of some really key Al Qaeda units that led to the surge looking like it was a success. And so we came home. And then we had to go back, of course. Well, what happened there was not so much that ISIL, ISIS was, you know, caliphate-seeking and so competent that everybody fell before them. It was because the Republican Guard infiltrated that group, knowing damn well that they weren't going to get a fair shake from the Shias in Baghdad. So they might as well go to war again, and they did do it. They went to war with that group. That's who was running those fire direction centers, driving those tanks, shooting those accurate rounds, and so forth. And once that happened, and the CIA became aware of it, and others too, and they began to infiltrate once again these groups and try to use them for their own purposes, it all fell apart in terms of Iraq in particular.

And every leader of Iraq from that point on—actually before that, but certainly from that point on—has been trying to get rid of us. And they finally succeeded. And we act like, you know, it was time, and 23 years is long enough, and so we're going to leave. But we'll have the power to come back whenever we want to. We're going to move to Jordan. Oh, you're going to move to Jordan, where they've actually killed more people than they have in Iraq. That's not a very tenable move. We're leaving, and part of this is the Houthis, and part of it is the stupid war with Iran. But those two things together, and Israel's inability to adjust to circumstances and insistence on doubling down, tripling down on strategic failure, is adding to the brew. I'm not sure we're going to get out without a lot more casualties and a lot more pain and a lot more disturbance, as Larry said, which is just deepening every day, of commodity markets and other markets that are going to penalize the entire world.

I think this is one reason that Xi Jinping had a very jaundiced view of his meeting in Washington, because Trump didn't seem to understand what Xi does understand, because it's going to hurt him too. It's going to hurt everybody in the world, maybe less than it's going to hurt the rest of the world because they've got a lot of, shall we say, strategic reserves, including cash on hand. But it's still going to hurt him. And he realized after this meeting that he's dealing with an idiot, dealing with a total, utter idiot.

## **#Danny**

Hmm. Yeah, well, Larry, your thoughts on how the Yemeni front is going to affect things? Because, you know, as Carl Wilkerson just pointed out, it really does quite literally add fuel to the flames of what the U.S. and Israel have done to the region by their own failures.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, you know, that old lesson that the Saudis failed to learn: don't kick the hornet's nest, particularly if you're standing there naked, because you're not going to enjoy what happens after that. But it looks like it was not just the Saudi decision unilaterally to attack Yemen and Sana'a back two months ago. That decision, I believe, was made with the encouragement of the United States, and it was seen as a way, within the simplistic world of the White House,

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

And Pete Hegseth.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah. They believe that Yemen is some sort of puppet of Iran, and that if they just weaken Yemen, it's going to weaken Iran. And they just don't understand. The Yemenis are sort of—they're standing on their own. Have they had support and technical exchanges with Iran? Of course, that's happened.

But the Yemenis are their own people. They've been at this war business with the Saudis for, you know, 12 centuries. Okay? It's not like this just cropped up a few months back. This goes way back, really, into like the 8th century, I think. It goes that far back, with—when the whole issue of the succession to the Prophet Muhammad arose. And that's really where this split between what we know as Sunni and Shia developed. The Sunni tribes in Saudi Arabia have been battling the Shia tribe, what we know as Ansar Allah, a.k.a. the Houthis, for, you know, again, centuries. Well, the difference now is, when the Saudis launched this attack, they got an army of 75,000.

## **#Larry Johnson**

The Houthis got a 350,000-man force, right? And it's like, okay, what the hell were you thinking? Now, the Saudis can pony up a National Guard and maybe get up to around 200,000. They're still almost 50% lower than what the Houthis are fielding right now. On top of it, then, they made such a big deal the other day when the officially recognized, the Western-recognized government of Yemen tried to launch this offensive to retake Dubaab and Mocha and other parts on the eastern—on the western shore, or the western portion of Yemen that sits on the Red Sea. And they were touting, "Oh, we launched 100 airstrikes." Well, it was clear in looking at what happened that they may have been launching airstrikes, but they didn't have any kind of forward combat controllers.

There was apparently no effective communication between PLC forces on the ground and pilots in the air, being able to direct precision bombing at where the Houthi forces were. They dropped a lot of bombs but didn't do a lot of damage, and then the Houthis went rolling forward, rolled them right back up. And, you know, they're going to continue this march across Yemen. They will secure, I think it's called Marib, which is a major energy production center. And they're going to wind up with Aden, the third largest—you know, I guess Aden is the second-largest city after Sana'a, and then Taiz was the third-largest city. But ultimately, the Houthis are going to be in control of the four largest cities, and they're hitting Saudi infrastructure, oil infrastructure, at will. Aramco is having a pretty bad month.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah, it is. It's almost a daily—you said at will, Larry—it's almost a daily occurrence. We're getting reports over and over and over again that Aramco facilities are being hit. You know, Colonel Wilkerson, there was supposedly earlier this week a meeting at Camp David of Trump's team, including top military officials there. What exactly was being talked about? Some of the reports said that both Iran and Yemen were the topics of the conversation.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Well, if it was anything like even remotely that cabinet meeting, which was almost nauseating to watch, I had to force myself to watch it, with Bessent extolling what he's doing and Hegseth extolling what he's doing, and just kissing up to Trump maximally with lie after lie after lie. Then I

have to think that it wasn't much better there because, after all, he was there. As I understand it, he was there presiding. So how do you expect, if you're the commander in chief in this respect, how do you expect to get good advice out of the people who are most critical to what you're trying to do when all they're doing is being pure sycophants?

And they'll tell you whatever it is they think you want to hear, the latest word, whatever you've tweeted or whatever, they will reinforce and ramify. So I can't imagine they had a really good meeting up there. Let me give you an example. George W. Bush was reviled, I think, by a lot of people, including myself from time to time. Cheney was really the target of my vitriol. But when we had meetings at Camp David that Bush presided over, they were pretty damn good meetings. I mean, you got to hear what people thought, and you got to hear it. Generally speaking, I'll give it to Rumsfeld.

Although I thought he was wrong 90% of the time, he was not afraid to tell the president what he thought and what he thought ought to happen, nor was, in that respect, Powell, nor was Condi. So you had a confluence of personalities maybe that were overall steered by Cheney, but the president listened. I can't imagine a meeting at Camp David. And Camp David is the ultimate venue, I think, for this kind of discussion because it is fairly private, if not completely private. And you want the truth there. You want people telling you what they think, really think, instead of what you've told them to tell you in various and sundry ways. That's not happening. So I don't see Camp David as being any different from that cabinet meeting.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, same question to you, Larry. What exactly could, I mean, at this point, I'm looking at it, it's like, what exactly could they be gaming out when it comes to these two fronts, especially Yemen?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, I think one of the decisions made at that meeting, because I believe it took place Friday, Friday afternoon, Friday evening, was to pull the B-1 bombers out of Fairford. Now, I don't buy into the notion that, oh, they're fearful. They had intelligence that those bombers were going to be attacked by Iranian drones. Now, think about that. Doesn't the U.S. supposedly have this sophisticated air defense system called the Patriot missile? It may not work well against ballistic missiles, but by God, it's supposed to work against drones. Instead of saying, no, we can protect our aircraft, we said, oh no, we've got to get them out of there.

So I don't know if that threat was the real reason or just the excuse. If nothing else, they needed to bring them back for just maintenance. Or it was being done as a gesture to Iran to say, okay, we're serious about our proposal, our new proposal for a negotiated settlement, and to that extent, we're

going to withdraw these bombers from forward positions. Apparently it didn't work, as I noted a little earlier, that Iran's Security Council, they rejected the latest U.S. proposal. And the rejection, I think, centers around the issue of nuclear enrichment. So that issue is still to be solved.

As far as decisions with respect to Yemen, what are we going to do? I mean, we've already been there and done that. I think some of these people remember Operation Rough Rider that Trump launched back in the middle of March, March 15th, I believe, of 2025. It lasted seven weeks, and we lost a total of seven MQ-9 Reaper drones at a price tag of about \$65 million apiece during the course of that failed attempt. In addition, lost three F-18 aircraft. I think a couple of Navy SEALs drowned. And at the end of that seven weeks, we simply declared victory and left. Now, we hadn't really achieved a victory, but by God, it was one we could define.

As Trump said at the time, the Houthis have capitulated. We're pulling out. Well, I was hoping we could see a similar move now where he'd say, the Iranians have capitulated, they're not going to build a bomb, and we're pulling out. And we'll lift the sanctions and unfreeze the assets in the process. That would bring an end to this. But it's also important to understand that the damage to the oil, petrochemical, liquid natural gas infrastructure in the Persian Gulf is probably going to cost in excess of \$1.2 trillion to repair, and those repairs are likely to extend over five years. This is not an easy quit back to business as usual.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Danny, just to add something there, I had a real question about—I think Larry's right—but I had a real question about that redeployment of the airplanes from England. Did Hegseth do that? Because the Secretary of Defense has full right to deploy forces anywhere on the planet. He can't tell them to execute operations, drop bombs, shoot rockets, that sort of thing. But he can maneuver the forces wherever he feels the disposition is best, whether it's for, like Larry said, refurbishment, maintenance, rearming, whatever. He has the authority to move forces around. Now, whether or not Hegseth would take that authority or not is a question, but I think he would. And I'm just wondering, as Larry was saying that, if it were Hegseth's decision to do that, and then what the motivation might be, or if it were Trump's decision to do that, directing Hegseth to do it, and what the motivation might be there. I think those are two different answers.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. And to your point, Larry, about the oil infrastructure, there's also—I don't know if you saw this report—but the Strait of Hormuz tanker operators there are offering incredibly high rates of pay now in order to keep oil crews sailing through it, with some captains now being offered \$100,000 per month to take the risk. And it is a big risk, Larry, because some reports are saying that in the last eight days, Iran has hit 12 vessels and turned around a few half dozen more. So it's been actually

quite a perilous time in the Strait of Hormuz. You said that the lies about this have been extraordinary. Maybe you can comment on this, because I'm hearing that the Strait of Hormuz is not just open, but better than normal.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, that's such bullshit. Really? How is it better? Explain to me, Danny.

## **#Danny**

It's normal, okay? Just explain that to me. It doesn't make sense. I can't. It feels—every time I see those reports, it just—it seems like just a complete, total lie. Like there's no factual basis. Then they throw up a graph in front of you and say, "This is what's happening. There's 16 million barrels of oil per day going through."

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Same way they do inflation, job losses. They didn't start a chart up there.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, I mean, this enrages me because physical plants have been destroyed, not built. I mean, it'd be better than before if they were built, but they're not. If the oil terminals had been upgraded and improved, but they haven't. So stop the damn lying. I mean, it doesn't change the reality. And the reality here is that this damage to the global economy—and emphasis is on global economy—is so pervasive, so broad, that I don't really think many economic analysts and traders—and that's traders, not traitors—understand or appreciate how long-lasting this is going to be.

Because it's not just the price inflation, like you pointed out with those tankers. The tankers are now charging a million dollars to haul a load of oil. It used to be \$30,000. So to go from \$30,000 to a million, where do you think that price gets passed to? The shipping company is going to eat it? Not on your life. That's going to get passed along. That's going to make the price per barrel of oil continue to stay at a high level. But it's not just the oil. It's the shortage of liquid natural gas, 25% of the world's supply. It's the shortage of sulfur, between 25% and 35% of the world's supply. It's no longer there. There's not, like, some magic alternative out there.

They say, "Oh, man, we can no longer buy coffee from Colombia, so we're going to get it from Brazil." No, there's no alternative sources for this stuff. Then the same with helium. Helium, which affects the price of computer chips. The sulfur not only affects the price of fertilizer, but it affects the price of copper and other processed metals. So what we're looking at is a global inflationary impact

that's affecting the price of diesel, the price of aviation fuel, the price of all petroleum products, the price of liquid natural gas, the price of sulfur and urea, which goes into fertilizer, which now affects the price of food. Food gets hit double whammy.

Food, in terms of the price that farmers pay for high-priced diesel to get the crops in, then the price added on for hauling those crops to market where consumers can buy it, and then the added price of the fertilizer, or the lack of fertilizer, which means there's going to be a lack of food production, which means the price of food is going to go up on its own because of scarcity. And then you get to helium, which is a critical component for making computer chips. And Trump said, "Yeah, our future's with AI." Well, guess what AI needs? It needs damn computers, which run on computer chips, which means those companies are going to be paying more for those. As I've said, this, we are in a full-blown global economic crisis, and people are pretending like, "Oh, this is okay, this is temporary. We're going to get through this." No, we're not.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

No, I'm just going to add to that. I had lunch today with a guy who's running for Congress. He's sort of a Tom Massie-type Republican and doesn't want Trump coming anywhere near him, doesn't want any money from the Republican National Committee, wants to stay rid of the Washington Republicans, if you will. But he's also an economist and other things. And you've got to understand what Larry just said. Once it is revealed in a stark and stunning way to the majority of the American people that all these lies are, in fact, lies, you're going to fall through the bottom like a rock. And it's going to probably happen sometime around the midterms or shortly thereafter.

And you don't pick yourself up from that unless you do something untoward and unconstitutional. You don't pick yourself up from that. It's going to be devastating. His ratings are already rock bottom, as low as anybody's seen in modern polling. And I think the American people are waking up to the tune of about 300,000 a day. You can't do this and expect to get away with it forever, especially, as Larry said, the impact is coming back on the people that count, and it's coming back on them dramatically, and it's coming back on them starting now, if it hasn't already. You can't get out of that. So what's ahead?

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, gentlemen, it was a great show today. I know both of you have top-of-the-hour appointments, so we can end together here. I want everyone to make sure they hit the like button. That helps boost the show in the algorithm. Thanks so much for the super chats. Thanks to all the moderators in the chat and, of course, all the viewers. You can find Sonar 21, Larry Johnson's blog, in the video description below, as well as, I believe, Transition Protocol, where he contributes as well. So everyone, hit the like button before you go. All the places to support the show are in the video description below, and I'll see you tomorrow. Bye-bye. All right, gentlemen, always a pleasure.

