

Col. Larry Wilkerson: Iran Wipes Out Trump's Bully Tactic on Live Map

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Tuesday, April 14, 2026. And our dear friend—our dear, dear friend—welcome back.

#Larry

Good to be with you, Nima.

#Nima

Let me start with the blockade—the U.S. blockade on Iran. How effective could that be? What's your understanding of this move, you know, with the negotiations, the talks happening, and right in the middle of those talks in Islamabad, Donald Trump announces a blockade on Iran. What does that mean?

#Larry

First of all, let me say that I think bringing Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff to confront the Iranians in Islamabad—even if they kept their mouths shut—was an act of absolute idiocy. Why would you bring the two people who pretended to be diplomats into that meeting, which had some credibility—limited, to be sure, but some—and destroy it without even trying? I mean, the Iranians think those two guys are precisely what they are: lying, deceitful, grifting jerks. So why bring them? That was my first impression of this whole thing. And then second, the cavalier way we apparently treated the ten points that the Iranians gave to the world—and that I got early because Trita Parsi did a translation and sent it to me.

A little bit different order to the things stated, but nonetheless the same things—and knowing full well that there's probably not a single one on there that Trump gives a hang about, and certainly not very many, if any, that he would concede. And then to go into the negotiations—well, I had to suppose that what was happening was exactly what happened before: that we were going to go into

negotiations and then attack them in the middle of those negotiations. And of course, as far as I can tell, despite word coming out of Jerusalem and word coming out of Washington about Lebanon, the Israelis didn't do squat to stop it.

They even sped up and intensified their operations in Lebanon. So my question about the whole thing, Nima—getting around to your question—is that I don't understand what we were doing. I just don't understand what we were doing. Now, with regard to the blockade, I say the same thing, because we're not blockading anything. And apparently, the limited attacks we made on Kharg Island—if I'm being told correctly—I don't even know that we made the attacks. But that's what I'm hearing, and I'm hearing it from fairly reliable sources. What were they supposed to do? Because they weren't sufficient to do anything significant in the way of damage. And was that because we simply couldn't do it?

Or was it because, as Trump said afterward—maybe trying to backfill—“Well, we didn't do anything really bad, but we will, we will,” holding that over their head? I don't know. But there's no control by anyone other than the Iranians, and they don't have full control—not even with the Omanis on the other side helping them—of the traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. There simply isn't. You just watch it, and there's not. So what are we trying to do? We're telling the world we're controlling it. We're not controlling it. The Iranians are telling the world that we're not controlling it, but they're not really doing anything untoward with regard to stopping warships or anything like that. So I don't know where we are.

I don't know where we are, except I do know that I see a lot of tankers and a lot of ships still off the strait, not plying the strait. And I know that economists are telling me that by the end of June we'll have a recession—a global recession. And by the end of August, beginning of September, we might have a global depression. And I know that all that Trump's saying about us having plenty of LNG and plenty of oil and all the rest of that garbage is irrelevant if the world's commerce is brought to some sort of halt, or even messed with majorly. Then you're going to have tremendous problems. And that disturbs me, because I see the lack of strategic focus and the lack of a real strategy that I saw at the inception of this—on, what, 28 February? So what are they doing, is my question. And why aren't we doing it?

#Nima

Yeah, I think Donald Trump somehow needed these two weeks of ceasefire. I don't know if that was purely a military strategy, you know, because of the shortage and what's happening with the defensive aspects of the war. But these two weeks are about sending more weapons to Israel, sending more missiles.

#Larry

I don't see how that's happening to any great extent, because we don't have them. I mean, we're stealing from allies—THAAD, things like that—but we can't bring Tomahawks out of whole cloth. We can't invent these things out of thin air. And I know what the chart showed in terms of shortages, and whether or not we could replenish those shortages in any reasonable amount of time. Some of the munitions, yes, we can. But critical munitions, we can't—which is why you see Israel not shooting very much at Iranian missiles coming in, and you see more Iranian missiles landing and having a devastating impact. I don't know if it's true or not. You know, I'm on YouTube now.

Twice now I'm on YouTube giving formal lectures. It's AI—it's AI-generated. I've made a complaint to YouTube, but they haven't done anything so far. Still, I'm on there. They're good lectures—somebody wrote them, and they wrote a pretty good lecture. I'm supposedly talking about the main water facility for Tel Aviv being utterly destroyed. I don't know if that's true or not, but I'm saying it on YouTube, and I'm saying it with enormous skill and all these facts at my fingertips. You see it, you'll know it's not me. It's my picture, my voice, my mannerisms—but I'm doing this all the time, apparently. And it's a great lecture on the Eli Water Facility, if it really happened.

I'm saying on that YouTube video—which already has about 39,000 views in an hour—it says Tel Aviv is without water, without potable water. Is that true? I don't know. I tried to check before I went on with Tucker. I don't know if it's true or not. But if it is—and I don't put it beyond Iran's capability to have done it—they've shown that kind of accuracy and that kind of devastating missile. It could be happening. And if that's happening, and they don't have any water in Tel Aviv, that's a real problem—a significant problem. Plus, I saw the polls this morning. He's down in the polls. What's he going to do now? Is he just going to say no elections?

To me, right now, Lebanon—and what he's doing in Lebanon—what Erdogan has said he might do to Netanyahu, I know he's a big mouthpiece, and what we've apparently said to Netanyahu to knock it off... What's happening elsewhere in Israel is, to me, indicative that we've lost the bubble on this. And Trump really doesn't know how to deal with Netanyahu, period. He just doesn't know. Even if he didn't have inordinate influences on him, like Miriam Adelson's money and all that, he doesn't know what to do about it. Did you see the interview with John Kerry, where he was asked if he'd ever dealt with Netanyahu? "Of course I have," you know—and he talked about what it was like. But they were never, never as forthcoming as Trump is being with every request Netanyahu makes.

So why is that happening? Well, the suggestion there, of course, is Epstein and Miriam's dollars and such. But I think he's actually trying to create some distance between himself and Netanyahu right now. And if Netanyahu doesn't do what he's told to do with regard to Lebanon, that distance is going to grow. Well, what does that mean? We're certainly not going to leave Israel alone, I don't believe. It's getting—I guess what I'm trying to say is, it's getting more dangerous every minute, not better. You know, wars are supposed to, if you're winning, get better. This one's getting worse and worse and worse. And all Trump does is just keep pulling things out of his rear end.

#Nima

Here's the video you mentioned, Larry.

#Larry

By the way, did you know that Cargillan was actually attacked in a serious way?

#Nima

I think recently, no. Right after the ceasefire there were some rumors, but nothing happened.

#Larry

That's what I suspected, but I saw it again this morning. No, it didn't happen.

#Speaker 03

Part of any conversations like that—I know he's made those pitches to past administrations. Were you ever part of that? And were you surprised he was able to convince Trump to do this?

#Speaker 04

Well, I was part of a number of conversations with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

#Speaker 03

About him pitching the U.S. to strike Iran.

#Speaker 04

Yes, he wanted us to strike. He came to President Obama and made a presentation asking for a strike. President Obama refused. President Biden refused. President Bush refused. The only president who agreed to it, obviously, was President Trump.

#Nima

Larry, this guy was in the cage when it came to the previous presidents—Obama, Biden, George W. Bush. But right now he's out of the cage. He's doing whatever he wants, even with J.D. Vance. He said that J.D. Vance is briefing him daily. Briefing Kerry? No, briefing Benjamin Netanyahu.

#Larry

Oh, Bibi, yeah.

#Nima

Yeah, this is the reality of the Trump administration. I think nobody can ignore that. Benjamin Netanyahu knows every detail about the negotiations—what’s going on, what they’re going to talk about, what the agenda will be, and under what terms. He knows everything.

#Larry

I was literally calling him from Pakistan six or seven times a day to let him know what was going on. Well, that’s a hell of a way to conduct negotiations, isn’t it? Bibi can’t be there, but Bibi is there through the Vice President of the United States.

#Nima

Donald Trump’s problem isn’t in Washington—it’s in Israel.

#Larry

Yes.

#Nima

And he knows how to manipulate the situation. He has every—well, you know, look at Stephen Miller, look at Jared Kushner. Makes me think more.

#Larry

Yeah, it makes me think more and more that Bibi has an Epstein file—a Mossad file—on Trump. Probably on Melania too. One of the reasons she came out preempting what might have been about to come out about her was that fear. I think he has a file on Trump, and that file is damning. I can’t explain Trump’s behavior otherwise. Miriam’s billions, I don’t think, would buy the United States committing suicide—which, to a certain degree, it’s doing with Donald Trump. I just don’t believe it. But I would believe it if it were a really salacious Epstein file on Donald Trump, and perhaps on his wife too. Because that’s the kind of character Donald Trump has. That kind of thing would drive him, because that tarnishes his reputation, which is now being depicted as Jesus. Yeah. Yeah.

#Nima

He attacked the Pope as well. He said he’s not happy with what the Pope is talking about.

#Larry

And he attacked him at a time when Leo, the first Augustinian, is getting ready to go to Augustine's country in Africa to celebrate a little bit. Augustine—or however you want to say it. It's unconscionable that he picked that moment to do it. Unconscionable that he did it at all. I mean, the Pope has every right to say what he wants to say about the kind of killing we're doing in Iran—this indiscriminate bombing—and the kind of killing that Bibi's doing in Lebanon. He's killing pharmacists, dry cleaners, women, and children. There's nothing about this that's Hezbollah-oriented. It's just Bibi venting his ire on Lebanon. Lebanon sends some rockets in; he can't kill the people who sent the rockets, so he kills the people in the country.

#Nima

There's no way these negotiations in Washington—the first round of direct talks between the Lebanese government and the Israelis—are going anywhere. The Lebanese side said the first meeting was positive, but I don't know how these negotiations can really move forward. Is it even possible to get somewhere with Israel? Because Israel doesn't want to get out of Lebanon. They want to stay there. They want to make a buffer zone even beyond the region they're already in. That's the problem. I don't see Hezbollah backing down.

#Larry

I don't either. So far, I think there's a stalemate, or Hezbollah is slightly winning. If you count the number of tanks destroyed, the number of soldiers killed, the number of casualties in general, I think Hezbollah is winning—just as they did in 2006. And that makes Netanyahu mad. It makes him angry. Then he becomes even more vengeful and more poisonous in his decision-making. He's also got an enormous problem in his own country with the reservist call-up, where they have about a 30% AWOL rate. He's running out of reservists, and to a certain extent, he's running out of the ability to manage his own economy because he's had these people in arms for so long. He's calling even more up—some are reporting—and that means they're not at their jobs.

And the economy is already reeling from the attacks and so forth. I don't know how they do this without major changes, and I don't see Netanyahu making them. So I have to say that either somebody's going to shoot Netanyahu—there's a high possibility it could backfire on him, like what happened with Rabin, for example—and a settler might shoot him. Now, he's well guarded, as I understand it. In fact, someone asked me this morning, "How come you see these other leaders—Iranians, Lebanese, and so forth—exposing themselves from time to time, and you never see Netanyahu doing that? Is he a big coward?" My answer to them was yes, he is. He values his own life more than he values the life of the state of Israel, period. So how can you be a bigger coward than that?

#Nima

Two major issues with the negotiations, Larry: one of them is the Strait of Hormuz, and the other is Iran's nuclear program. It seems that the main disagreement between the two parties was based on these two issues.

#Larry

But did they even talk about the other issues? My reports were that they just kind of desultorily dealt with them, that those two issues dominated. Did they even talk about things like relieving sanctions—primary and secondary—reparations, and so on?

#Nima

It didn't get there.

#Larry

I didn't think so. Yeah, that was the report I got. Those are, you know, really important to the Iranians, and yet we didn't even get to them. I mean, we're so focused on those issues that we can't get to the others. So how could you ever expect negotiations to succeed? I'm sorry, go ahead—I said I wanted you to talk.

#Nima

No, no. They started, Larry—it seems the negotiation began with the issue of the Strait of Hormuz. And Donald Trump said, "I want to be part of that. I want to make money out of the Strait of Hormuz."

#Larry

So go to the Omanis and ask them to cut you a share. Okay.

#Nima

They said, "This isn't the Gulf of Mexico you're trying to take."

#Larry

Did he want to rename it the American Gulf?

#Nima

He said that—"I want to call it the Strait of Trump."

#Larry

The Strait of Trump—S.O.T.

#Nima

I think the question with the negotiations, with the talks, is that there's some sort of stalemate. I don't see any willingness on the part of the Trump administration to address that, because you have to be prepared. If you're serious about negotiations, you have to go all in. I've seen the Iranian delegation going to Islamabad—I've never seen such a complete team. They had everything there: every dimension of the negotiations—economic, political, legal—everything ready to negotiate. But you didn't see that, I haven't seen that, from J.D. Vance and the negotiators from Washington.

#Larry

We haven't sent that sort of team at all—to Ukraine, to any other disputed area or problem we have. We don't send a team. We didn't send one to Putin. We didn't send one to Lavrov. Marco Rubio didn't bring one to Riyadh. We don't send working groups and teams that know how to handle the details of diplomacy. That old expression, "the devil's in the details," is doubly true for diplomacy. It's the details—when you're making treaties, when you're doing anything like that, but certainly in diplomacy in general, it's very, very detailed. And you need working groups. You should have had a working group for every one of the items on the agenda—at least one group full of experts on that issue, like sanctions, like sanctions relief, primary and secondary. We don't do that. We just send a couple of jerks who are ultimately empowered by the president of the United States. And that power is: you either do it our way, or we'll blow you away. That's our idea of diplomacy.

#Nima

Because the case of the nuclear program is so complicated when it comes to the technical aspects of the deal, you have to have people who are capable of explaining things, because the decision maker will hear from the technical teams—what does that mean, what does this mean, and how can we manage that? Then he comes to some sort of solution.

#Larry

We didn't see that. The teams we took to the Soviet Union, Nima, would often fill two or three airplanes. You know, when we were doing a treaty like the ABM Treaty, or the SALT Treaty, or the INF Treaty—Reykjavik, when we went to Reykjavik—that was probably a slimmed-down team, if you will. Not slimmed down in terms of the president, but in terms of the issues that were going to be covered. Nonetheless, a pretty large team went. Sometimes it was several airplanes full of people. We don't send anybody now but Wyckoff and Kushner, maybe one or two others. This time we sent the vice president, who was reporting all the time to Bibi, as you said. The way I was debriefed on it,

it almost looked like he was more in touch with Bibi on serious issues and discussions than he was with the people across the table from him.

#Nima

Larry, how does China see the blockade? Because we've heard from the Chinese Defense Ministry—they said, "We're going to send our tankers in and out, and nobody can do anything about it."

#Larry

Right. I think you're going to see more inclination by Xi Jinping not to take chances—not that they're really taking chances—but to stand up to the empire, because the empire is very, very, let's put it this way, out of its mind. Out of its mind with regard to what it's doing that China can interpret as indirectly, if not directly, aimed at it—not at Iran, but at China. And one of the most ostentatious examples of this is the Israeli and U.S. bombing of that railroad. That railroad was going to take about, what, I think 25 hours for that route. The ones that come through the center take 16 hours.

Think about that for a minute. Pacific ports in China— instead of two, two and a half, or three days to get their commerce to the heart of Europe, it takes 16 hours. That is a hell of a change. That is a global, game-changing shift. And that one, I think I saw, was 25 hours from the Pacific ports to Bandar Abbas or Chabahar, wherever the terminus is. Then they were going to go on up the Persian Gulf and into the heart of Europe from the soft underbelly. They're bombing that. Of course, it doesn't make much difference when you bomb railroads, because as the Germans, the Japanese, and everybody else in World War II showed, you build the railroads back pretty fast.

But that's directly aimed at China. Directly aimed at China. There's no possible confusion in Xi Jinping's mind, or Wang Yi's mind, or anybody in China's mind, that that's what it's aimed at. And to a certain extent, this entire conflict—if it has any strategic rationale at all—it's China. Whether it's just the fact that China's friendly with Iran, or the bigger fact that China's using that railroad and it threatens maritime commerce. Imagine that—no need for the Bab el-Mandeb or the Strait of Hormuz, because everything's coming over land or through pipelines.

#Nima

Larry, you see, we're seeing some sort of desperation in Donald Trump himself, because the way he's attacking everybody—it's not just about the Pope. It's about the United Kingdom, Spain—he's just lashing out at everyone. Europe doesn't matter anymore; we don't care about them because they're not helping us. And today we've learned that they're putting a lot of pressure on Saudi Arabia as well. The foreign minister of Saudi Arabia said, "We are making decisions based on our own calculations, not on the other party's calculations." These kinds of changes that are happening are really important, because just imagine Saudi Arabia before the war. Just imagine other countries— Qatar, before the war.

They know right now what the capabilities of the United States would be in defending them. That's why they're coming to some sort of understanding, in my opinion, that could bring huge changes to the region—huge changes to Europe. When you see, for example, you know, is it the prime minister of Spain or the president? I think it's the president—the president of Spain—going to China, that's a huge change, by the way, because he was attacked by Donald Trump, who said he was going to cut everything. But he said, "Oh, we're going to start a new relationship, a new sort of partnership with China." These are the responses to Donald Trump. What is the way out for him—this trap he's made for himself in the Middle East? Do you see any way out for him?

#Larry

I think—I know you're saying that sort of metaphorically—but it's really a trap for the United States as much as it is, and more importantly for the United States, than for the president. The president will go; presidents come and go. What concerns me is why the establishment in this country is more or less adhering to this line of foreign and security policy. I can't figure it out. The president isn't so powerful that there aren't people in this country who could either sway him—persuade him, sway him, whatever term you want to use—toward a different and more positive foreign and security policy. There are even people within the Republican Party who could do that. So why are they so meticulously adhering to his role in what he's doing, from dealing with the Pope to dealing with Iran?

The only thing I can figure is that they're still so caught up in Trump's ability to muster votes that they think that's the best place to be—whether they're Lindsey Graham, John Thune, or whomever. And I think they're deadly wrong. So why are they doing this? Why are they wrong? Are they really that stupid? I mean, Congress should stand up at any minute and check him. They could stand up and check him. And I think politically, now, that act would be more to their favor—if they were Republicans, and certainly if they were Democrats—than to their disfavor, politically and otherwise. So why aren't they doing it? What is it that's keeping this man in his crazy house and not in a straitjacket and frog-marched out by a federal marshal? What is it that's doing that?

Is it just abject fear? Is it mesmerization? Are they hypnotized by him? What is it? It can't be. It just must not be his policies. And yet I'm forced to fall back on thinking that the majority of them—or a small majority—must support his policies. And then you have to ask the question, why? I keep coming back to China. I keep coming back to—even imperfectly executed—these moves are anti-China, and therefore they're going to support them. I don't know that that's the full answer to the mystery, but I suspect it's at least part of it. They don't have anybody else. And he is taking actions—I should have added Russia in there—he's taking actions that ultimately seem to be anti-Russia, and he's taking actions that overtly are anti-China. I don't see any other way to parse it.

#Nima

So do you think that if, somehow, Donald Trump reaches the point where he needs to leave Israel—politically, at least, with the war—I'm not talking about just leaving Israel, I'm talking about the

escalations in the Middle East—would that be enough? Would he say, “I’m not going to be there”? What would be the condition? When you look at the connections Donald Trump has with the Zionist agenda, do you think it basically comes from Netanyahu and his administration, the people in Israel, or do you see AIPAC having a bigger role in that?

#Larry

I think we're beyond that sort of thing now. I know John Mearsheimer keeps harping on that aspect of it, but I think we're well beyond the power of a lobby or the power of billionaires to influence Donald Trump. I don't think we're beyond the power of Epstein—and those files, being at least partially, if not fully, released. I don't think we'll ever get them fully released, but they could be a power to stop him or to persuade him to do what he's doing. The only thing I missed from that New York Times revelation, if you will, about what happened during the discussions—where Bibi Netanyahu was the principal influencer on Donald Trump for the war with Iran—was Epstein. Even conjecture about Epstein.

I think because that attacks Donald Trump where he lives. Donald Trump lives in his narcissism. He lives in his megalomania. He lives in Donald Trump. And if Epstein truly threatens that fabric, Donald Trump will go to his own suicide to prevent that—and certainly he will go to America's suicide to prevent that. So how do you get out of that? How do you get out of the point where you have a president who is absolutely bound and determined to stop that from happening? Israel is the instrument of making it happen, and therefore you're never going to abandon Israel. That's a hell of a situation for America to be in, but I think that's a good encapsulation of where we are. Otherwise, I can't explain it.

I can't explain it. As Kerry said, we've had occasions in the past—Bill Clinton was that close with Israel. Bill Clinton was the one who screwed up. Screwed up the talks, the Oslo Accord talks, and the follow-on talks. Bill Clinton did that, and he did it in conjunction with Ehud Barak. Ooh, who's the man mentioned quite a few times in the Epstein files? Ehud Barak. So are we at a juncture in American diplomacy and foreign and security policy where one man—but we're really not talking about one man, he's only the agent—we're talking about all these elitist pedophiles, purveyors, whatever you want to call them, being influenced by a set of files that are available for blackmail at any moment.

And we're talking about that coalescing to shape American foreign and security policy. I can't explain it any other way. I really can't. All these other presidents have been influenced in some way, from the very beginning. They've been influenced more or less. LBJ was influenced greatly by Israel. John Kennedy was not. Jimmy Carter was not very influenced by Israel. Look at others and you'll see a little bit here and a little bit there, but you won't see someone who is a slave to Israel until you get to Donald Trump. As Kerry said, even Biden and Obama told him no on occasion. When has Trump told him no on anything?

#Nima

Just breaking news right now, Larry: Israel and Lebanon have agreed to enter direct negotiations following today's talks. And here's what Hillary Clinton said about it.

#Larry

Wow, they're actually going to talk to each other directly.

#Nima

Woo! Here's what Hillary Clinton said.

#Speaker 05

The law is not by any means defeated, because we're engaged in a war now in southern Lebanon. I would wish the following. Number one—and finally, there seems to be some opening here—I've been advocating behind the scenes for this for several months: Israel should support this Lebanese government. There hasn't been a better Lebanese government since the Syrians and Iranians assassinated Hariri. They are trying. Do they have all the capacity they need? No. But they are trying to set up a government in Lebanon that can deal with the threat that Hezbollah poses internally to Lebanon. So rather than making their task even harder, work with this new government in Lebanon. See how far you can help them go to disarm Hezbollah.

#Larry

Hillary's wrong from the very start. That son of a... Hillary Clinton just makes me so angry. I despise her. I utterly despise her. And I don't say that about many human beings. She's got it wrong. It's not the Lebanese government that should back the United States and go after Hezbollah. Number one, they don't have the capacity to do that. Number two, they don't need to do that. And number three, they shouldn't do that. What they should seek is an accommodation with Israel that says to Israel, "Hezbollah is a part of Lebanon. Face it, dude. Now leave us alone." And then to Hezbollah, "Hey, we've got them to leave you alone. Stop what you're doing and let's move on from there." That's the only possibility that could lead to some realistic solution.

To say to the government, "You've got to take care." And what are we going to say next, Nima? We're going to say exactly what we've said all along to these Lebanese governments—no matter who they were, no matter what their sects or divisions were, Christians on top, of course. "You will get armed to the teeth by us to take care of them." And then "armed to the teeth" becomes, you know, okay—there's New Jersey off the coast with 16-inch guns shooting into the Druze, there's the hills...

I don't know. It's insane. We're never going to have a government in Lebanon that is so lashed up with the United States—what the United States wants to do, how it wants to do it, and the force it wants to employ to do it—that it's capable of dealing with Hezbollah.

No way. So what do you have to do? You have to come to some kind of political accommodation. Oh, wow. Who did this best? Who did Netanyahu kill who did this best? And why did he kill him? Because he did it best, and Netanyahu didn't want him to do it. I'm talking about Nasrallah, of course. They killed him—the man who could have done this. You need to incorporate Hezbollah as a political entity, and if you want to give your armed forces some strength, as a military wing of your armed forces too, fine. And you need to stop this Israeli pounding of Lebanon every decade, just to keep it from becoming an economic competitor. That's what people don't understand about Israel's bombing of Lebanon.

All you've got to do is look at it since '82, and even before '82. The bombing isn't necessarily to kill Hezbollah; it's to destroy the capability of the Lebanese people—who were once the best, most powerful, and most successful entrepreneurs of the Eastern Mediterranean—from being that again. Because that's Israel's role now. That's Israel's role: to have the gas, the oil, the water, the beaches, and to have the number one economy in the region. Israel's role, not Lebanon's. So, Beirut, go away. And if you don't, we'll bomb you every ten years to make sure your economy can't be stood up on an equal keel again. That's it. So, Hillary, go to hell.

#Nima

So the outcome of these negotiations... Satan wouldn't have her.

#Larry

The devil wouldn't have Hillary. I'm sorry—go ahead.

#Nima

So the outcome of these negotiations would be to somehow convince the government in Lebanon—or by sending more weapons, intelligence, and whatever they need—to start a new civil war in Lebanon. Lebanon would fight them from one end, the Israelis would fight them from the other, and we'd have a god-awful mess, as if we don't already have a god-awful mess right now, you know?

#Larry

I've always said I have no proof of it. It wouldn't be too hard to convince me that Israel had a lot to do with the explosion of the fertilizer in the harbor. It wouldn't take much to convince me of that. And look at what we've done—we've built the largest embassy, I think, that we've ever built in the world. Extraordinary size, extraordinary depth, extraordinary location, and all that. Where? In

Lebanon. Why? Because it's everybody but diplomats. It's Mossad, it's MI6, it's the CIA, it's all kinds of intel and assets, including those up in space and so on. And it's there because we want to establish a bastion in that area to prevent China from coming through the central base road, through the Caucasus, and through Central Asia. That's why it's there. It's not there for the Lebanese.

You imagine that sprawling complex is there for the Lebanese, for diplomacy with the Lebanese? Hell no. It's there because we're taking advantage of their strategic location, and we don't give a damn about them. I mean, that's the truth of the matter. And that's the truth about that woman who just spoke—Hillary Clinton. She doesn't give a squat about the Lebanese people. All she cares about is her reputation and getting her say in what ought to be our policy. That's all she cares about. Our policy should be: Lebanon, Tel Aviv, Beirut, Tel Aviv—you're equal. We're going to back you, and we're going to back you. But we're not going to back you to the exclusion of you, or vice versa. I mean, that ought to be our diplomacy. And I'd say our diplomacy ought to aim more at Lebanon than it does at Israel, because Israel has become a liability.

Long ago, they became a liability for the United States. And right now, they're a deadly liability. With Donald Trump in the White House, they're a deadly, deathly liability for us. And she's there talking like, you know, this is all fine. But of course, for her, it's all about saving Israel—it's all about making Israel viable and successful, the number one state in the Eastern Med. I'm sorry, Hillary, that's gone. Done away with. You had a lot to do with it. Go away. Go away. And, oh, by the way, your comment about Muammar Gaddafi, where you said, "We came, we saw, and he died," was one of the most impolitic, worst comments an American diplomat ever made in their life. So go away, Hillary. Don't talk to anybody anymore. I'm sorry, but I detest her.

#Nima

We have the reaction from the Lebanese Amal movement. They said they reject today's Israeli-Lebanese talks in Washington. And they already did. They're part of Hezbollah, and they don't even—Hezbollah. I don't know, Larry, it seems like Lebanon is heading toward civil war again.

#Larry

And that's precisely what Israel wants. If they're in a civil war, they can't possibly, economically or otherwise, threaten Israel.

#Nima

Israel would be more than happy to see that happen.

#Larry

Yes, absolutely. That's what they're trying to make happen—just like they're really trying to do in Syria, if you think about it. And they've tried in Iran, but they haven't been successful. They've just destroyed lots and lots of infrastructure, killed lots and lots of people, and committed many, many war crimes, which doesn't seem to bother anybody anymore. It certainly doesn't bother Donald Trump. We're just committing war crime after war crime. So are the Israelis—in Lebanon in particular, but in the West Bank too. War crime after war crime. And no one is saying anything. No one's raising a flag, not even the UN. We've moved into a dimension of global affairs that I never thought I'd see in my lifetime.

#Nima

Russia and Iran, Larry, are in—well, we can say—in an active war with the United States. Both of them are fighting, somehow directly and indirectly, with the U.S.: one in Ukraine, the other in Iran. And as time goes by, I see these two countries moving more toward the East. I think the outcome of what's happening right now, looking at the big picture, is how they're getting closer to China. It seems that China is—look at the way Europe sees China, or at least we had Spain going there and talking with them. We've had the UAE going to China. The UAE isn't talking to the Iranians, but they're willing to go to China. And China wants a better, calmer region when it comes to West Asia. They want that. So do you see this whole—well, we were talking about BRICS, you know, the SCO, the East, the Eurasia concept—replacing the United States in the region?

#Larry

I don't see either China or Russia immediately replacing the United States in the region. What I see are possibly two futures for the region. I see a fairly chaotic period followed by, perhaps, a new allegiance with a great power—and then some stability. Or I see chaos, reasonable chaos. I see disruption, and then I see a complete sweep and change in the region. That is to say, the people gain more power and the autocrats go, however long that takes and however bloody it might be. The first scenario is probably more likely, but it's going to take longer, because I think—particularly the Saudis, but others too—are going to really want to see how things develop before they place their bets, if you will, on China or Russia, or a China-Russia duo, or, writ larger and more palatable for them—though not necessarily for their people—the BRICS, and joining that movement or being ostensibly connected with it.

But a lot of this is going to depend on whether MBS follows through with what he's already said he's going to do—and that is shifting the pipelines over to Syria, flowing the oil up without going through Israel. That's a death knell for Israel, if there aren't enough death knells already out there. I don't think we're going to see a security organization in the Gulf region that replaces the United States in any real way, one that accommodates—and is successful in accommodating—that variety of

countries' interests. So the GCC is dead. It always was pretty moribund. But anyway, without the United States, it's completely dead. And that's the last point I'd make: we're gone, we're out of there after this is over.

We may be painfully extracting ourselves, or we'll be extracting ourselves not so painfully—but we'll be gone. Here's the question for me: will we revert to previous practice and pursue offshore balancing as a strategy for the region? Will we even have the naval assets, in particular, to do that? Or will we go altogether and have no contacts other than the inevitable lingering economic and other ties we've built up over a long period of time? I don't know. I don't know. But I don't think we're—just as I said earlier—that NATO is toast. NATO's gone. The transatlantic link, if it even exists, is very, very weak right now. And I think before Trump is gone, we'll probably sever it. The question then is: where will our nuclear umbrella extend to after that?

Trump would probably say it doesn't go any further than the Atlantic Ocean. But I think, as I've said before, we're looking at some real changes blooming on the horizon. And those changes are being expedited—and many of them in a dangerous way—by Donald Trump. But most of this is, again, the ultimate challenge. Most of this is being caused by the tension between the empire and China, Russia, and BRICS, and all that represents in terms of power. Power is leaving the Western Hemisphere; it's going east. China's beckoning—"Come east, my friend, for prosperity, for economic success." Sixty percent of the world is already here.

#Nima

Larry, they saw it last. They published high-resolution images of an abandoned airstrip in the south of Isfahan—the operation it was, the rescue operation, pilot risk. And here's the footage. You remember what they said—here's the footage they published. Look at this. They said it was some sort of sand, that they got stuck in sand. This is not sand. Look at the region—you can see it's asphalt, by the way. It's not sand.

#Larry

If that's what I think it is, that's pretty good cratering there, too. That airfield wouldn't have been usable otherwise. With the craters at the—what is that? Is that the west end or whatever? I don't know. That's Isfahan?

#Nima

Yeah. Southern part of Isfahan. I got you—southern part of Isfahan.

#Larry

I got you. South is up. Okay, so the craters at that end and the ones down here at the pad—the taxi and parking pad—that’s probably caused by munitions. In other words, someone hit that with rocket fire, drones, or something. So... what was the problem with the C-130s? They couldn’t get off because they didn’t have a runway that would let them take off? And were they struck in the parking area? That’s what it looked like to me.

#Nima

It seems that they—because they didn’t tell us anything about the casualties or what actually happened—they made up some sort of story for all of us, saying the operation was successful. But I think sooner or later this kind of information is going to come out. Do you see a day when they’ll somehow let it out, or do we have to wait for the next administration to hear something?

#Larry

Yeah, I mean, like you just showed right there, there are just too many ways for this information to get out. Now it’s being obfuscated and propagandized—no question about that. And one wonders what the truth is anymore. I told you about me being on two different YouTube episodes now, giving very clear and, I think, very good lectures on geopolitics and strategy. It isn’t me. It’s someone else, but you can’t tell it’s not me. They’ve got my facial characteristics, they’ve got my manner down. The only thing they do all the time—the person imitating me, or the bot—is this little gesture all the time. I don’t ever do that, so they got that wrong. But that’s what we’re looking at today. Whom do you believe in this world of manufactured truth? I’ll tell you one thing, Nima: the last person I’m going to believe is Donald Trump. The next-to-last person I’m going to believe is Pete Hegseth. And the group of people I’m not going to believe is the American leadership.

#Nima

The case of Pete Hegseth is so complicated. I don’t know how long Donald Trump can—he’s just making...

#Larry

He's having his thirteenth month of OSD prayer services—it used to be called protocol prayer services. This is his thirteenth month of doing it. And if you look at the invitation, it lists flag officers and general officers—admirals and generals—with reserved seats in the front. It’s not mandatory, but they have those reserved seats. All others sit behind the first two rows, and no one comes who isn’t on the list of invitees, which includes DOD civilian and military members. So that’s who attends these prayer meetings, and yet they’re supposed to be optional. Now, what do you think happens to a flag officer or an admiral who doesn’t sit up in those front rows or doesn’t come at all? Name taken down? I mean, do you need something more to see what’s going on there?

No. All you need is a pad and paper. What are they doing with these prayer meetings besides exercising Pete Hegseth's ability to stand on stage and say good prayers—and his preachers and all that? This is unconscionable, what's happening. Mixing religion and the military like that—I wouldn't have thought, in my wildest imagination, it would ever happen. And yet he's doing it now, thirteen months in a row. What do Jews do? What do Muslims do? What do agnostics do? What do atheists do? What do real Christians do when invited to these things? Sacrifice their careers by being consistent no-shows? And you can't tell me they aren't keeping track of who comes and who doesn't, because that's how they're determining who gets fired and who stays.

#Nima

Larry, before we wrap up, here's the head of Mossad talking about how Israel's main mission is regime change in Iran. They don't care about what's going on—negotiations, talks, whatever's happening between Iran and the United States. Israel has its own policy. Here's what he said.

#Speaker 06

Mossad is working once again in Tehran. We will give exact information to the air. We've been hit by missiles that threaten the citizens of Israel, but our mission is complete. We didn't think this mission would be completed immediately with the end of the war, but we also planned for it to continue and come to fruition during the period after the attacks in Tehran. Our commitment will be complete only when this extreme regime is replaced.

#Larry

Nima, you know, you could take the last few lines of that address—the last two or three sentences—and put them in Abbas Araghchi's mouth, or the president's, or the speaker of the Majlis, or whoever, and they'd be just as applicable. So you see what an intractable conflict we have here. The only difference is that Iran was unjustifiably attacked and Israel was the attacker. That's the only difference, in terms of the intractable situation we're facing. And I've got to say, from the perspective of a military professional, Iran's going to win this. So that guy is—you know, I don't know—the IDF, Mossad, the leadership there, Ben-Gvir, Smotrich—these people are animals. I would not say that about the Iranian leadership. So my wish is that the animals lose and the humans win.

#Nima

They said that without the United States, they won't be able to continue the war. They're not going to go back to war without U.S. support. They know their capabilities—they're well aware of that.

#Larry

I think that's true, but I don't see Donald Trump cutting that umbilical cord. I just don't—not at this point. The things he's said and done, as I mentioned to you, tell me there's something much more personal about this than Miriam Adelson or Bibi Netanyahu. I don't think Donald Trump even likes Bibi Netanyahu. I think he despises him, honestly. But there's something going on here. Why did Bibi Netanyahu get Jared Kushner's bed when he visited the United States? Jared Kushner left his own bedroom, his own bed, to let Bibi sleep in it. Why? Don't tell me it's because Jared loves Bibi or Bibi loves Jared. There's something going on here, and we don't know what it is. And that's the reason this umbilical cord between Tel Aviv and Washington won't be broken as long as Donald Trump is president.

#Nima

Thank you. Thank you, Larry.

#Larry

Surely. I wish it weren't such a bleak picture.

#Nima

Yeah, the picture is dismal. We can't change it, but we have to talk about it. I think it's not in our hands—it's just not, you know.

#Larry

What bothers me is all the people who are dying—I mean, you know, for no purpose whatsoever. Even if you look at it from the perspective we're supposed to look at it from—that Iran's the greatest state sponsor of terrorism on the face of the earth, all of which is a lie—it's the children and the women who are suffering and dying under these bombs. Anyway, thank you for all you're doing.

#Nima

Thank you, Larry.

#Larry

You got great kudos at the conference I was at. You know that Nima guy? Yeah, I know that Nima Alkhorshid guy. Boy, he's doing a good job. Yeah, he's doing a good job. Thank you. You deserve it.

#Nima

Thank you.

#Larry

Take care.

#Nima

See you on Friday. See you on Friday, yeah. Is it Larry? Yeah, we're going to get together—you, me, and Larry. Good.

#Larry

He's been making some statements. I want to check with him. See you.

#Nima

See you. Bye-bye.