

# Scott Ritter: The Secret MoU: China, Pakistan & Iran's De-Escalation Play

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## #Nima

The confrontation between Iran and the United States — we had, finally, you know, everybody was talking about negotiations, the talks, the messages between the two sides. And we had the Iranian team in Qatar talking with the Qatari government. So in the last two or three days, we had some sort of confrontation. One of them was that American fighter jets hit two of these speedboats in the Persian Gulf. The outcome was the killing of four sailors. And on the other hand, Iran hit an MQ-9 drone. Then they fired on an RQ-9 and an F-35. There are footages of those attacks, those, you know, shootings on the MQ-9 and the F-35. They have published some footage of that.

But when you look at the situation between Iran and the United States, there are no real negotiations going on, I would say, because the two sides are talking to each other via the Pakistani or Qatari government, something like that. But maybe, I don't know if there is any phone call behind the scenes. I cannot confirm that because I have seen no news in the Persian media talking about that. That's why I assume they're only sending messages back and forth through the Pakistani government. What is your understanding of what's going on?

## #Scott

That's my understanding. It's a negotiation. It's just not your classic negotiation. How else do you expect the United States and Iran to speak to each other today? You know, Donald Trump is an insane individual, literally demonstrably suffering from narcissistic personality disorder, the most malignant variety. We don't have a president; we have a cult of personality. This is all about the Donald and how things impact him. Then you have an Iranian government. It's all about Iran and about geopolitical reality, and they live in the real world. So anytime you blend the real world with a fantasy world, you're going to have a gap between the two. And that gap is going to be impossible to bridge directly. So you need dream interpreters, I guess. And that's where Pakistan and Qatar fall into place. Their job is to try to cobble together some sort of understanding between these two entities that can bring about a shared objective.

But the problem is there is no shared objective. Donald Trump's objectives are purely political in nature, how they impact him here at home. Iran's objectives are purely selfish in nature, to be honest. They have every right to be selfish, but it's about how this benefits Iran. Iran, which is the aggrieved party. Iran, which was attacked—a surprise attack, an act of perfidy by the United States and Israel on February 28th. And, you know, never the two shall meet again. I mean, even if a temporary agreement is reached, understand that even some of the text that the Iranian media has been publishing talks about issues being pushed off. Anytime you get Donald Trump to push something off, it just means that you're given a window of opportunity to vacillate, change his mind, um, interfere, disrupt.

And the actions that you speak of are, you know, I think part and parcel of what's going to be the new reality. Um, I think both parties understand there needs to be, um, relative freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. What the United States will get out of it is the flow of energy, which will alleviate a global economic crisis. What Iran will get out of it is the fact that they're going to be allowed to collect an environmental tax or whatever they want to call it. And I think that's pretty much the only agreement we're going to get, which is an agreement that I don't know will ever be manifested in writing, because I don't think Donald Trump is agreement-capable.

He can't afford to be seen as losing this war. And yet he lost this war. And so I think that's where we're at right now. All parties are focused on how to keep shipping flowing through the Strait of Hormuz. You know, what happened with the downing is a clash designed for the United States to imprint itself, to say we're still here, we're relevant, you know, we're somehow large and in charge. But at some point in time, we're going to have to stand down and allow traffic to go through. But that doesn't mean there's going to be an agreement on some of the more difficult things—the nuclear program, ballistic missiles, Lebanon, ceasefires, all that. It's hard to say where we're going. It's impossible.

Because again, I've said this before. You've heard me say it, and I'll say it again. You can't expect people like me, you, and others to get into the mind of a madman, literally an insane individual. Donald Trump is mentally ill. He suffers from mental illness. And therefore, he cannot be predicted. You cannot apply normal cause-effect rationality to what he does. His social media posts are all over the place. The only consistency appears to be his ability to manipulate the markets in a way that is beneficial to insiders who are aware of, you know, what he's going to post, when he's going to post it. But otherwise, nothing he's doing is to the benefit of the United States. That's a statement of fact.

## **#Nima**

Here is what he said moments ago about the Strait of Hormuz and his shocking comment on Oman. Here is what he said.

## **#Speaker 03**

Iran wants control of the Strait of Hormuz. Would you accept a short-term deal that allows Iran and Oman to control the Strait, and would they have to open it immediately, or would you be open to that happening over a period of time?

#### **#Speaker 04**

No, the Strait is going to be open to everybody.

#### **#Speaker 03**

And who would control it?

#### **#Speaker 04**

International waters. Nobody's going to control it. We're going to watch over it. We'll watch over it, but nobody's going to control it. That's part of the negotiation that we have. They would like to control it. Nobody's going to control it. It's international waters, and Oman will behave just like everybody else, or we'll have to blow them up.

#### **#Nima**

It's unbelievable. Oman is a country that has nothing to do with any war, and he's threatening the government of Oman.

#### **#Scott**

Let's just hit rewind. Donald Trump is a mentally ill individual. All right. Think of the narcissism that's encompassed in everything he just said. "We will watch over it." Really? Is that your job, Donnie baby? Who appointed you to be the guardian of the Strait of Hormuz? This is his own little fantasy world. You tried that, Donald, and Iran slap-spit you. You lost. You can't open it up. You don't have any ability. You're sitting there with a Secretary of War who got his ass kicked and a Secretary of State/National Security Advisor who gave you some of the worst advice ever. You're surrounded by losers, and you are the ultimate loser. I mean, literally, staple an L to this guy's forehead.

Don't pay attention to anything this guy says, because here's the reality of it: six hours from now, he'll post something different. In six hours from now, he'll post something different. The man is a lunatic, a raving, mad, insane individual. Do you think—I mean, you know Iran—do you think Iran has woken up? "Oh, shit, we're in trouble now. Don is mad at us. We better do something." You think the Omanis went, "Whoa, damn, he's going to blow us up"? He's not going to do anything against Oman. Nothing. These are empty threats. He's got nothing left. He already threw a Sunday punch. You know, he got into the ring with Mike Tyson, and he gave it the best shot, hit him in the jaw. And Mike Tyson went, "Let's go." That's it.

That was your best punch. You ain't going to knock Mike Tyson out. You're not going to knock Iran out. That's the reality. Many in the United States can't wake up and accept this reality. It's true. We lost the war, and we can't win this war. We're not going to reverse course. The time it would take for us to build and assemble the forces necessary to have a meaningful impact is prohibitively long. Meanwhile, all Iran has to do is squeeze the Strait of Hormuz and choke the life out of the global economy, which will bring about a general collapse, to include a collapse in the United States, which would make it impossible to generate the forces that we need to for you. Iran holds all the cards. That's the reality.

## **#Nima**

How do you see the pressure from the Israeli government? Ben-Gvir today said Donald Trump cannot make a bad deal, and Israel is not going to accept that. We know that the Trump administration—you remember when this administration was elected—we were talking about Tulsi Gabbard, the people who were more rational in the Trump administration. Those people are gone, mostly. And we... I would say the vice president of the United States is somehow disappearing from the scene. We haven't heard that much from J.D. Vance. It's been a while. But what is happening to the Trump administration? And what do we know about the leverage the Israeli government has on the Trump administration?

## **#Scott**

Well, you know, the Israeli government believes that it's bought and paid for the United States, and it has. Bought us, paid for it, and we're supposed to dance to their tune. That's the way the relationship works. They give you a lot of money, and then they tell you what to do when it comes to Israel, and you do it. Contractual relationship, straight up. They bought Congress, spent \$100 million last election cycle to buy Congress. They're working on buying Congress again, \$30 million to unseat Thomas Massie. They're spending more money to try and control races. And Donald Trump continues to be surrounded by people bought and paid for by Israel, especially Marco Rubio — \$200 million from Adelson's widow. Gets you a Secretary of State.

So Ben-Gvir, I think, believes what he says. He believes it. He doesn't know a damn thing about the United States of America. Because first of all, when we talk about politics, the only thing that matters is money. And of course, the Israelis have thrown a lot of money to buy American politicians. But once you put an American politician in office, they want to stay in office. Now, Israel's leveraged their ability to manipulate money to maintain control over that process as well. If you don't do what we want, we'll primary you. We'll spend money and put somebody up against you, and then you have to run against them and all that. All right, that's good and dandy. Most people don't want to be primaried, so they play the Israeli game because there's no downside.

The American people have shown that there literally is no downside to being pro-Israel. The vast majority of the people that are pro-Israel get reelected year after year. No downside until Israel

starts a war that we lose, and there's a threat of general global economic collapse that impacts the United States. We're back to money. Remember what I told you? The only thing that counts in American politics is money. Bill Clinton, James Carville, his campaign manager back in 1992, I think, said it best — yellow sticker on the door of the war room: "It's the economy, stupid." That's the only thing that gets American politicians elected. No American politician gets elected on Israel. Israel is a supporting factor. Every American politician gets elected on the economy.

Ultimately, it comes down to how the American people feel about their wallet and their bank account when they go to the election booth. That's it. Everything else is window dressing. If you have two sides that are playing the same economic cards, you know, then you can pick, you know, gun control, abortion, Israel, and these things to help tip it over. But the bottom line is it's the party that Americans feel is going to generate more money in their bank account at the end of each month. And Donald Trump's in trouble right now because he's in the process of destroying the economy of an entire nation. And Israel's in trouble. Ben-Gvir may not recognize this, but Israel's being blamed, rightfully so, for getting us involved in this war.

So when people say, "Donald Trump, why did this happen?" Donald Trump's going to say, "Benjamin Netanyahu made me do it." Ben-Gvir has no control over Donald Trump. None. When the day comes when Donald Trump is looking at his political legacy, which means if he screws this up — impeachment, perhaps conviction — and he's weighing that on the grand scales of life with Ben-Gvir and Israel, guess who's going to lose? Ben-Gvir and Israel. It's the easiest thing in the world. It's the economy, stupid. The economy stinks anyway. George Herbert Walker Bush won the Gulf War. Great victorious leader. Man, he was looking good. There's no way — I mean, we won that in '91. How could he lose in '92? How could he lose in '92? Impossible to lose. "Read my lips: no new taxes." And then he put on new taxes. And that was the end of him.

Winning a war didn't matter. Being the best national security president there didn't matter. It was the economy, stupid. Bill Clinton was right. It's just the way it is. You know who knows this? Ben-Gvir's boss, Benjamin Netanyahu. He gave an interview where he said, we have to decouple ourselves from the United States financially within 10 years. Because he sees... You don't have to be a weatherman to know which way the wind blows. He sees the weather. He sees what's happening. And he sees the United States fully. Sixty percent of Americans have already become disenchanted with Israel, don't support it fully. That number is going to get worse as the economy grows worse. And we look at, you know, who's to blame for this? Israel. And he recognizes at some point in time, America is going to cut the umbilical cord.

Ben-Gvir is wrong. Israel can't dictate squat to the United States unless the United States wants to be dictated to. Meaning that if it's good to have your money and get elected and it doesn't cost me anything meaningful, I'll do it. But the moment it costs me, the moment I have to pay a price domestically, politically for supporting your failed little nation, we'll cut it in a heartbeat. Cut it in a heartbeat. And so Ben-Gvir is dead wrong. Netanyahu knows the truth, that eventually America is going to cut Israel off. And if Ben-Gvir wants to play stupid games in a period of immediate political

crisis for the president of the United States, who's looking at a disaster in the midterms, he'll find out the hard way that Israel has no cards in this game, none whatsoever.

## **#Nima**

Smotrich yesterday said that Benjamin Netanyahu forced the United States into this war. And what else can the United States do for Israel, Scott? I would say this is the final goal for Israel — the United States attacking Iran. What else can they do? What do they want from the United States? I don't understand it. I don't understand when they say, "We want to continue the war." What does that mean for Israel, and how is that going to help them?

## **#Scott**

Well, first of all, this is the last — you know, if this was a computer game, we're at the final boss. Iran's the final boss. There is no other boss. The final boss is Iran. And you can't fight the final boss without the United States. You have to have the United States as an ally. So do you think Israel is going to admit defeat and just walk away? No. They're going to keep saying, America, you have to stay and finish the job, stay and finish the job, stay and finish the job. But they didn't do their homework right. They sold this war falsely, wrongly. I mean, they got Donald Trump to believe that if you killed Ali Khamenei, Iran would collapse and all the other problems would solve themselves, and that this would happen within a matter of days.

And sure enough, on day one, we killed Ali Khamenei. Iran didn't collapse — just the opposite. And now everything Israel told the United States turns out to be a lie. And Donald Trump's paying the political price for it. That's the reality. What does Israel want? They have no plan B, because a plan B means that you don't get to beat the big boss, which means you don't get to win the game. And the game is Greater Israel. That's the name of the game — Greater Israel. If you don't beat the big boss, then you're going to have to make concessions everywhere, and you're going to have to fall into a different game called Preserving Little Israel.

But the cost you're going to pay for failing, for gambling to take on the final boss and losing, is you will probably change the demographics of the region dramatically because of the difficulty of continuing to live in Israel. People will flee, and you're going to have a different game called a one-state solution named Palestine. So Israel, you know, they're in dire straits right now — literally dire straits. And, you know, fat genocidal maniacs like Ben Gvir and Smotrich will continue to spout crap and nonsense. And ultimately, they're going to pay the price politically. I mean, I wouldn't want to be an Israeli today. Let me put it that way. This is not going to be a good decade for them.

## **#Nima**

Here's what Donald Trump said about the Abraham Accords.

## **#Speaker 04**

To have the countries we were talking about — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and the others — we'd like to have them immediately join, and Steve Woodcock is working on that with Jared and some others. But we'd like to have them join the Abraham Accords. It'll be historic if they do it. I think they owe that to us, to be honest. I think, because that really would be a tremendous sign. And I think those countries owe it to us.

## **#Scott**

They owe it to us because we got them involved in a war that we lost. We promised them security that we couldn't deliver. We created a situation where they are now living under the threat of national extinction because of America. They owe it to us to buy into a policy that's all about Palestinian genocide and the elimination of any possibility of a Palestinian state, shifting the blame away from Israel onto the Gulf Arab nations. That's what they owe us. Donald Trump is the motive. Again, he's insane. Okay? We have to stop treating him like he's a normal human being. That's an insane man there. No rational human being can make that claim. They owe it to us? They don't owe anything to you, Donald.

## **#Speaker 04**

None.

## **#Scott**

I mean, do you understand the insanity that's inherent in that statement? This man is not well. And the fact that Hegseth and Rubio sit there compliantly, you know, nodding — they're not well either. They're facilitators of insanity. You know, there was a time when people made fun of Joe Biden for, you know, cruelty to the elderly by keeping Joe Biden in play when he's clearly out of it. Well, we have a situation now where we have people who are facilitating the mentally ill. And most people would say that's abuse. But it is abuse of a nation, abuse of the world, by this clinically insane individual who thinks that he's owed something that nobody ever bought into in a major way.

I mean, the Saudis have clearly linked the Abraham Accords to Palestinian statehood. And if you're not going to give Palestine statehood, then why do you think the Saudis are going to do something for you? He's a sick man. Donald Trump is a sick man. He's not well. And unfortunately, people aren't executing the 25th Amendment. He continues to function as the chief executive. And therefore, this sick man, you know, when he tweets or posts and when he speaks, we have to listen to him. But try to breathe common sense and rational, you know, analytical structures into what he's saying. You can't do that. You can't do that. Nothing he says makes sense. He lives in a fantasy world.

