

Larry Johnson & Col. Wilkerson: 14-POINT CEASEFIRE OR NUCLEAR WAR?

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#Nima

Last night we were talking about what's going on in the Middle East, and you said that maybe they'd attack Iran. That could be the case. We were talking about the possibilities. One of them was negotiations or some sort of deal. One of them was the attack, new attacks coming. Right now it seems the tone is a little bit more positive than it was last night. What we've learned from the Iranian media, Mehr News—just remembering what happened last night—they tried to somehow force some tankers, oil tankers, or commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, but they were attacked by Iranians. So nothing has happened like a total closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Then today we learned from the Iranian media that a new sort of 14-point plan or memorandum of understanding is going to be signed by the United States and the Iranian side.

And looking at the points mentioned in this memorandum, it's basically the same 14-point plan or 10-point plan that Iran prepared before. What we learned last night from Iranian sources is that they said in the last two weeks they prepared the text, sent it to the United States. The United States tried to add some more points or modify some of the points in the Iranian plan. Then Iran said no. Then we had the attack on Lebanon, then the attack on Iran, then the Iranian response. Then the United States sent the Qatari delegation to Iran, saying that basically they are agreeing on the same text that Iran sent them. They're going to remove those modifications or additional points that they tried to impose on the text. So here we are, the new—here is what Mehr News reported: the permanent and immediate ceasefire of war on all fronts, including Lebanon. The same point that we've seen in the 10-point plan.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

Let's get started. Larry, go ahead. Your understanding of what's going on?

#Larry

Have you seen—did they list all 14 points? Yeah. Do you have them there in front of you? You can read them off? Yeah. The reason I'm asking is this right-wing newspaper in Israel, *Israel Hayom*, is saying Iran's agreed to hand over its enriched uranium. I don't believe that for a minute.

#Nima

I just sent it over, Larry. I just sent it over.

#Larry

On Telegram?

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

Oh, okay. Let me just take a look. Yeah, look, I know from friends in the military that—but I'm not sure of the timing—but yesterday the United States was going to carry out some, described as pinprick operations, that were targeted at the Strait of Hormuz, but with strict, strict instructions not to hit what they call dual-use targets, like bridges and power plants, power lines, et cetera, so that it could have a military use or it could have a civilian use, but that this was going to go on for three to four days. Now, but then subsequent to that—or I'm not sure if it was subsequent or precedent—Trump comes out and says, oh, we're getting ready to sign this peace deal. Oh, okay. If they ordered a stand down.

It appears they ordered a stand down because we didn't have any, from what I could see, pinprick strikes yesterday, or, you know, in the early morning hours in Iran. And we'll see, you know, we'll see what happens today. You know, it's late in the afternoon in Tehran. Let's see if anything happens tonight. Now, the signature is supposed to—you know, J.D. Vance is supposed to sign. He's supposed to be overseas. But Trump's leaving town tomorrow, I guess, to head for the G7 meeting. Well, as I understand it, under the Constitution, you can't have both the president and vice president out of the country at the same time. Somebody's got to stay home and mind the store. But, you know, apparently this thing is moving along. I'd be shocked if the U.S. actually signs this. I'll be pleasantly surprised.

#Nima

Yeah. Carl, here is the first point: permanent and immediate ceasefire of war on all fronts, including Lebanon. Just moments ago, we've learned that the Israelis are issuing some sort of evacuation statement in the southern part of Lebanon. They want to bomb some cities or villages in the south. I just don't remember the names. But two of these villages or cities were supposed to be hit today by the Israelis. And looking at the plan, Colonel, there is nothing concerning the Iranian nuclear program or Iranian missile program. It says all about in the aftermath of signing this memorandum of understanding. But the first point, I think, is the most important point—this cease, or this cessation, of war on all fronts. Your understanding of that?

#Lawrence

Well, my understanding of a ceasefire or cessation of war on all fronts is that you stop. You know, you stop. You get the word out and you stop. We've seen in the past that they don't understand, and we don't seem to understand either what ceasefire means. And Bibi Netanyahu has proven that he doesn't understand what it means. In fact, he exploits ceasefires in devious ways to do more damage than he was doing before the ceasefire occurred. So how do you do what was just suggested? And I don't have the points in front of me, but you told me what the first one is.

If Israel is not going to stop what it's doing in Lebanon, I think that's a non sequitur for Iran. I don't see how you can proceed down that list, whatever it says, to any other opportunity if you're not going to have a ceasefire, or at least one that appears to be holding and applicable to Lebanon. And it's pretty clear to me that Netanyahu, in political trouble if he does do that, is not going to do that. So how do you move from that point unless you just ignore it? I don't think Iran will.

#Larry

I think you're muted.

#Nima

The second point, Larry, is about the U.S. commitment to nonviolence, noninterference in Iranian internal affairs, and respect for its sovereignty. I think they're basically talking about... because looking at recent days, you see many, many weapons have been captured by Iranian media and by Iranian, you know, forces, security forces. And you see that in the Iranian media a lot, by looking at the pictures — a lot of weapons, as Donald Trump mentioned. And I think basically they're talking about the way that the United States is trying to manipulate Iraqi Kurdistan, because you remember when the United States was attacking Iran, Iran was attacking Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. Go ahead.

#Larry

Well, yeah, no, I was just going to say that right there explains the, you know, we had three or four consecutive—let's see, the last strike was, today's Friday—Wednesday. So Wednesday, Tuesday, Monday, you know, Iran was hitting Erbil in Kurdistan. They were targeting, I'm sure, CIA bases that the CIA was actively involved with, providing weapons, support, and training, because they were going to infiltrate those groups to carry out attacks against Iranian security forces. So I'm sure this is Iran's point. Again, I'm going to be surprised if these 14 points that Iran's official news agency has published—if that holds, I mean, that would be astonishing, because it would be essentially a declaration of surrender by the United States. And I just don't see how Trump, because he's under, you know, I'd say he's almost under threat from the Zionist elements, could agree to this. But it's going to take this agreement to get this war stopped. So we'll, you know, we'll see.

#Lawrence

I agree with Larry on that. Just thinking about what Netanyahu is facing in Lebanon, what he's facing politically, I don't see how you get this squared. I see how you could square it with the United States if we're willing to eat a lot of crow, and Donald Trump will do that by crowing. But I don't see how you square it with Bibi.

#Nima

Carl, the points when it comes to the blockade, Colonel—the blockade of the United States and the Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—in this plan, as I see here, the two sides decide to withdraw, or to the reopening of the Strait, the United States and Iran, within 30 days. But the Strait of Hormuz will remain under Iranian control, under Iranian arrangement. They call it “Iranian arrangement” in the Strait of Hormuz. This is, I think—how is that going to influence the region? Because Donald Trump said many of these countries in the region were trying to—UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. We've learned recently, just today, that one of the countries in the Persian Gulf, GCC countries, didn't let—banned—Israel from using its airspace during the fight when Israel wanted to attack Iran. I... I think it was Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia didn't let Israel use its airspace. Colonel, go ahead.

#Lawrence

Well, you know, you're saying something that I think is absolutely essential if Trump is to weasel his way out of this in its most dire consequences, and those are the economic consequences. So all he's doing there is saying, I recognize that Iran can keep this trade open and ships can flow through it if I'll just stop doing what I'm doing and allow them to do it. That's the basic principle here, I think. And I can solve what might become, over the summer, my biggest problem, and that is the economic effects of the Strait being not necessarily closed, but in the hands of Iran exclusively for whatever ships it wants to pass through, or even more importantly, whatever ships it doesn't want to pass through. So this is the big deal for Trump, I think. This is what's going to haunt him all the

way into September, dramatically so, if he lets it go on that long. So I can understand that that would be part of it, but I don't understand the mechanics of it. I'd have to see it to see if it's going to work.

#Nima

Yeah, with Larry, the other point is the withdrawal of U.S. forces from around Iran. It means that GCC countries all around, all these beautiful, big, beautiful bases that Donald Trump said were going to be there—how is that going to be understandable? And it already happened.

#Larry

Yeah, no, look, this has been Iran's position from the outset. And if true, that Trump's finally going to sign off on it, because understand, all they're doing is signing a memorandum of understanding. So this is a verbal commitment that they're going to try to do this, but it's not enforceable. And it's quite reversible if Trump comes under enough pressure. And don't discount that Israel will be trying to carry out some false flag operations to make it appear that Iran has violated this agreement in order to justify a re-ignition of the attacks on Iran. Yeah, look, I don't think we're out of the woods on that. I wish we were.

But, you know, one of the other sort of data points to look at is, and it's not publicly available, but I understand that the oil executives, the major oil companies, they told Trump, hey, you're going to have major fuel disruption if you don't get this situation with the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf sorted out. And, you know, if it goes on for another 30, 45 days, we're going to have really dramatic price hikes, not just here in the States, but around the world. And it's going to further disrupt the economy, and this is going to be devastating for Republican hopes for the midterms. They're already bad enough as it is, but this will make it even worse.

#Nima

The other point, Carl, in this 14-point plan is the suspension of U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil, which is related to what Larry just said. And is that going to help the oil market? I think the situation with the oil market is going to be long-term damage that has been done so far. I don't see Qatar coming back anytime soon, Saudi Arabia, or GCC countries in general.

#Lawrence

I think that's probably at the root of Trump's anxiety, if you will. As I said earlier, it's the economic repercussions of this. And he's beginning to understand, being briefed, I hope, by people on it. And he wants—my problem is, is this a delaying tactic? A delaying tactic during which he will sort of circle the wagons, maybe get a little economic relief going, maybe get some ships going, maybe get a little oil moving again, and then he'll return to form. I don't know. I find it very difficult to believe that

politically he's going to be able to worm his way out of this in the way this memorandum suggests. Because it's mostly, as Larry said, it's mostly, if it's complied with even partially, it's mostly a concession to Iran. And I don't know how you, you know, put lipstick on that pig for Donald Trump.

#Larry

Yeah. Yeah.

#Lawrence

Yeah. So I, you know, but I do understand. I had a somewhat lengthy talk with a couple of people in the oil markets business yesterday, and they were presenting a really dire picture if we don't get something going, as Larry was indicating. So I think that must be the thing that's pressuring him right now. But one wonders what the other things are that can pressure him too, foremost among which is Netanyahu in Lebanon and perhaps elsewhere too. We keep forgetting about the Palestinians, whom he has resumed his war against on a daily basis, and Iran's penchant to look at that, as well as the other Arab states, to look at that as a sine qua non of an eventual settlement, if you will, in the area. I don't see any progress in that at all.

#Nima

Israel is putting, based on what CNN reported, pressure, Larry, on Donald Trump and the United States not to release \$24 billion of Iranian frozen assets, which is part of this 14-point plan.

#Lawrence

Right. It says that figure explicitly? Yeah. Okay, explicitly, yeah.

#Nima

Okay. I don't know if Israel is going to have something to do with the frozen assets if Donald Trump decides to do it. So do you think, Larry, with what we've seen so far, he's going to do it, or has he already done some part of it?

#Larry

No, actually, look, I don't see how Donald Trump agrees to these 14 points, because it would be seen as completely humiliating. Or if he agrees to it, the neocons and Zionists will probably kill him—and I mean that literally. This is admitting a complete failure of U.S. policy toward Iran. And look, Iran's demands are not unreasonable, because basically they're saying, stop attacking us economically, stop attacking us militarily, stop attacking us diplomatically. Just leave us alone, and we'll leave you alone.

And, you know, the one thing that Israel would be demanding out of this is immediate cessation of Iranian support for Hezbollah. I don't think actually that Iran's material support for Hezbollah is the issue. I think it's more, it's just political support for Hezbollah that's the issue. Hezbollah seems, you know, I think Hezbollah's got its own connections through links other than Iran, where it's been, you know, it was able to get these FPV drones that they've been using so effectively against the Israelis. So this is, look, if you want to solve the Middle East issue, for starters, tell Israel to get back in its cage.

And the United States, Donald Trump has the power to do that. You cut them off from all aid. They will not be happy. They'll scream and holler, but they'll have to come to grips that, you know, without U.S. aid, they're screwed. And in conjunction with that, I mean, if Trump really wanted to play hardball, he would then send the diplomats out to talk to the Turks to say, okay, guys, you need to cut off the oil to Israel, and go to India and China and say, okay, we're going to stop trade. I mean, really, it's not just the United States that's been an enabler of Israel. It's other countries—India, and even China, even Turkey, and Russia. And Russia.

#Nima

Turkey, Larry, Turkey is so important. Carl, go ahead. I think the combination of Iran and Turkey would put tremendous pressure on Israel, militarily and economically, if they did that.

#Lawrence

Yeah. You know, I'm reaching in and grabbing a diplomatic riposte, if you will. I'm playing diplomat, and I'm saying, if I were facing this situation right now, I'd have a really serious talk with Bibi and probably his likely successors. And I would say, let's test this. Let's see what happens if you withdraw from Lebanon—completely withdraw from Lebanon—under an agreement I will effect with both the Lebanese government and Hezbollah that they not attack you if you do that, and see what happens. In other words, implement a genuine ceasefire with no immediate potential for resumption of hostilities by Israel because they're gone. Now, I don't think for a second Netanyahu would fall for that. I don't think the people replacing him—and I think he is going to be replaced—would fall for that. But if you brought the requisite pressure to bear, you could probably accomplish it.

Now, I don't know what that would mean in terms of insidiously undermining it over time, because that's Israel's tactic. But I'd present something like that and see if it would, you know, fly. There are other things I'd do diplomatically too, but that's the cynical way known, I think. You have to get some kind of settlement in Lebanon to leave Lebanon alone. And you have to have reciprocation—no more attacks on the north of Israel—so they can move back into that area and feel safe. Netanyahu thinks the only way you do that is to take the whole of Lebanon. I'm convinced he thinks that. And eventually, that's what he would do if he stayed in power and had the prerogative to do that as freely as he could. That's what he'd do. He'd take the whole country of Lebanon, even our embassy, and he'd incorporate that embassy in his repertoire.

#Larry

And we'd let him do it. We'd sign a memorandum of agreement.

#Lawrence

But, you know, there's no creative diplomacy going on at all with this group. None whatsoever.

#Nima

I think, Larry, as the Colonel just mentioned, there are two ways of dealing with Benjamin Netanyahu. Following Benjamin Netanyahu with his disastrous, you know, sort of moves in the Middle East—attacking everybody, killing people, death and destruction—or trying to force him. If you're not able to force him, just leave him, let him be alone in the Middle East. You're the big guy, go ahead and fight it alone, without support from the United States. You don't have the air defense system capable of intercepting ballistic missiles. You don't have the air power. That's why the United States has to do something for you against Iran, because you're not that capable of going deep into Iranian airspace. This is the way that Donald Trump can communicate seriously with him—not putting pressure, just leaving him alone.

#Larry

Right, right. No, Donald Trump doesn't have to do anything active other than just stop what we're doing. Same thing in Ukraine. Just quit. It would go a long way toward ending these. So that's why I say, actually, the United States remains the great enabler of all this. So, you know, I know there's a lot of... I'm seeing in the media that, oh, now peace is at hand, now this is going to happen. No. Well, I don't see it happening. Like I said, I wish it would. But... because I think what Ron has laid out are quite reasonable positions. But the political tides... Now... let me caveat that.

We did see last night in the Congress, the House of Representatives, that they refused to renew Section 702. So that's the one section that deals with spying on Americans. So I took that as one sign that perhaps some sanity is returning. You know, a number of Republicans crossed over to vote with the Democrats to kill that thing. It should have been killed. But, you know, I think—I'm not sure necessarily that extends to the foreign policy side of support for Israel. But, you know, I think Israelis have sort of worn out their welcome in the United States. The worm is definitely starting to turn against them.

#Lawrence

I think we'll see some more of that, I hope, anyway. I don't know if it'll be completely effective, but with, what is it, S.222 or whatever that Cotton's putting forward?

#Larry

S.222, I think.

#Lawrence

S.222. S.222. Which essentially formalizes the intelligence relationship in a way that Jonathan Pollard would cheer.