

Larry Johnson & Mohammad Marandi: The White House has released the full text of the 14-point MoU

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today's Wednesday, June 17, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome, Larry.

#Larry

I'm back by coercion, but at least you got the shirt on. Good for you. You know, just as a side note, I've done several other podcasts today. I did one with a fellow named Miroslav in the Czech Republic. He had on a shirt, and he cited you as the inspiration. Okay? He had to be like Nima. And then I did Jim Wilde, and he had on a shirt. So, man, I got a tradition.

#Nima

You're making a move.

#Larry

I'm an influencer. An influencer.

#Nima

Yeah. Let me start, Larry, with the breaking news that the White House, together with both Americans and Iranians, has released the 14-point MOU just recently. Just minutes ago, it came out. First, let's start with the first point in this document, which says the United States and Iran and their allies in the current war declare the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, and undertake from now on not to initiate any war or any military operation against each other, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against each other, ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. The text is comprehensive, in my

opinion. And you see these Israelis are just somehow going crazy. One of them just wrote moments ago, "May his name and memory be erased forever. Trump, the greatest enemy of the Jews in the current generation."

#Larry

In one of the comments, I know the Zionists thought they had him bought and paid for. I guess this eliminates any suspicion that they had blackmail on him, because if they had it, it would be out now. They wouldn't be waiting. But you see, what's so important about this is basically this paragraph gives Iran the right to attack Israel if it continues its attacks in Lebanon. Do you understand that?

#Nima

Yeah, exactly.

#Larry

Because it says cessation of military operations on all fronts and not to commit any war or military operation against each other. So as long as Iran's not hitting U.S. military targets, then it says to guarantee the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. That right there is—so by signing this, they're essentially asserting that Iran now has the right to help ensure the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. Oh, now, I mean, we should hear explosions going off all over Israel, but it's not from bombs, it's from heads exploding. They can't believe that they thought they had Donald Trump as their bitch. Man, he staged a breakout.

#Nima

Yeah, one of these Zionists, the comment is, section one says Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. And this is the first section. I think it somehow forces, without mentioning the withdrawal from Lebanon, it's forcing Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. Because if they stay there, they're going to have some sort of confrontation, and then it's going to be the response from Iran. Do you think that somehow is forcing Israel out of Lebanon?

#Larry

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Because if—let's walk through the scenario. Iran will argue, we signed up, you and us, hey, Don. They're going to call Trump Don now. Hey, Don, baby. You know, we both agreed that we're going to guarantee the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. Israel is violating that. Therefore, we're going to retaliate. And when we attack Israel, you can't come attack us because you just committed that you're not going to initiate any war or military operation against us. As long as we don't attack you, you're not going to attack us. So Israel's now between the proverbial dog and the fireplug.

#Nima

Yeah. We had two Israeli cats in small trees today saying that they're not going to withdraw from Lebanon. I don't know if they stay there. Let's assume they want to stay there. And after all, there will be some sort of confrontation because you cannot stay there and not have any sort of confrontation. And last night, you remember, we had Al-Akhbar in Lebanon reporting that there is a huge withdrawal of Israeli forces from Qiyam, and they're moving their forces down to the south of Lebanon. And I don't know what that means. Is that some sort of new strategy on the part of Israel? Or are they feeling that they have to somehow get more to the southern part of Lebanon? Because they're overextended in Lebanon right now. If something happens... I'm sure that Iran would respond to Israel if they attack Beirut. But how about the southern part of Lebanon? What if something happens there?

#Larry

Under this agreement, it doesn't say Beirut, does it? It says Lebanon.

#Nima

Yeah, right? It says there is no Beirut in the document. Yeah.

#Larry

So Lebanon includes the southern part of Lebanon. Now, actually, under this agreement, the United States is giving Iran—count me, boy, I'm shocked, absolutely shocked. But what this means is the United States has effectively granted Iran permission to attack Israel if Israel continues any kind of military operations in Lebanon.

#Nima

Let's go to the second point, Larry. The United States and Iran undertake to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs. Basically, I think this point was pushed by the Iranians because of what Israel and the United States tried to do before the war, during the war, and after announcing the ceasefire. As we talked about today, they were just hitting targets in Iraqi Kurdistan, just destroying everything there. And it's still a major concern for the Iranians what the United States, the CIA, and Mossad are trying to do with Iraqi Kurdistan.

#Larry

Yeah, no, I agree. Now we'll see if, you know, they can pass it off to Mossad. The CIA can say, okay, we have to withdraw, but we'll let Mossad handle it. That could be one way.

#Nima

Yeah, but here's the point when they're mentioning it. If Iran says, you know, the United States is not abiding by this second point and they're doing something in—I don't know what—have you heard about Turkey? Because Israelis are talking about how they tried to do the manipulation in Iraqi Kurdistan when this war started. But Turkey came in and said, no, you're not going to manipulate the Turkish people in those areas. That's going to bring the problem to Turkey as well. Was that the case, or do you see it was all about Iranian forces hitting the targets in Iraqi Kurdistan? That's why they could avoid this sort of incursion or some sort of invasion of Iran from that border?

#Larry

Well, I'm not sure the Kurds are all that enthusiastic about invading, number one. And so whatever group has been collected up there that Iran's been attacking, I'm just assuming that it is a CIA-trained group and that they were being prepared to go into Iran and organize other groups to create an insurgency. So...

#Nima

The third: the United States and Iran commit to negotiating and achieving the final deal in a maximum of 60 days. It says extendable with mutual consent. It means that they can extend it. But we know that's not going to happen in 60 days.

#Larry

Well, negotiate what?

#Nima

What? Achieving the final deal, the final deal.

#Larry

What final deal? That's the question.

#Nima

That's vague. That's why we don't know.

#Larry

Yes, that's my point. It's not clearly defined.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

So there's some advantage to being vague.

#Nima

I assume the final deal, you know, in the eyes of the Trump administration, would be the Iranian nuclear program, because nothing else they put out—nothing about Iranian missiles, nothing about Iranian proxies, as they call them in all these countries—nothing of that sort. And today, Donald Trump was asked about Iranian missiles. He said, what is that? You said before attacking Iran—the reporter asked him—before attacking Iran, you said we're going to destroy their capabilities to produce missiles and drones. And Donald Trump said, I have destroyed 80%, 85% of their missiles. So they're not that powerful considering their missiles. But when Saudi Arabia has those missiles, how can I say you cannot have them, you know?

#Larry

Yeah, who gave Saudi Arabia those missiles? Oh, we did. Yeah.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

Look, there's no... To try to insist on logic and reasoning and consistency, forget about it. You have to come back and ask the question: why is Donald Trump now willing to make this agreement, willing to essentially accept the paper that Iran presented to him on April 8th or April 15th? But, you know, two months ago, more than two months ago, why? And there's something that's not being said in public that's driving this. And I believe it is they privately understand that the economy is going to be a wreck if they don't move to get the Strait of Hormuz open again. But again, it's sort of a false hope because, you know, if they sign tomorrow and, okay, good, hey, happy days are here again, the first task is to clear the Persian Gulf of mines.

Otherwise, I don't think most of the ships will be sailing—the tankers—because the insurance companies will not insure them as long as there are mines floating around the Persian Gulf. You know, that's number one. And according to testimony before Congress in April, the Pentagon said it could take up to six months to clear all the mines. So, you know, there's going to be a delay in

getting, let's call it, the Persian Gulf back online. Then you have the issue of how much damage was done to the oil and LNG infrastructure. We know it was significant damage in Qatar. Not sure how bad it is in Saudi Arabia.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is the question that you've raised, I think, today, Pepe Escobar. I talked with Pepe, and he was on my show. Here is what he said about answering your question, Larry. Let me just bring it up for you.

#Speaker 03

Yeah.

#Nima

Curious what Pepe said?

#Speaker 03

It's a very long email with lots of details. But it's basically, if I could... And then I'm breaking this on your show, in fact. This is breaking news to you. But I haven't had time to process it. But basically, what I can tell you and our audience... It concerns an estimate of 60 days starting on June 15. This means this past Monday. It's a risk assessment about consumption of oil and strategic reserves of the United States. And Trump got these numbers. And when he looked at these numbers, he was absolutely petrified because they're basically saying that by mid-August, this means that two months from now, they're going to get to an emergency level. They cannot use their strategic reserves anymore. And the global supply deficit of oil would instantly be multiplied by millions of barrels, meaning a global crisis in mid-August, in the height of summer.

So I would have to go through this in detail, and then I'll probably write something about it. And in our next meeting, we'll discuss this in detail. But this is an immensely important piece of information, and very few people have access to this thing. I haven't seen this being discussed by Bloomberg or FT, for instance, not yet. So this is it. He got the numbers, and he said in two months, everybody is totally fucked. The global economy is fucked. So this means you have to restart the flow of oil like yesterday. And that would be the main reason for the MOU. I like this scenario much, much better than the scenario that the Iranians, in the end, convinced them because they said we're going to bomb Israel.

#Nima

Yeah, he just nailed it, in my opinion.

#Larry

Yeah. Yeah, no, I agree as well. You know, I wrote the piece two days ago suggesting that it was the fact that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve basically only has, like, if there was no other source of oil and the United States had to rely upon that, it would only last for 20 days. And that was on an assumption that it was 360 million barrels. But actually, I saw the real number as of June 5th is down to 349 million barrels. So it very well could be, you know, down to 320 now. So then, you know, 20 million barrels per day, we're talking 16 days, you know, barely two weeks of supply left. So, you know, I saw that analytically, and then on top of it now, Pepe's got it sourced.

#Nima

Yeah, yeah. Larry, the fourth, point number four is: immediately upon the signing, the United States will begin the removal of its naval blockade and any disturbances or impediments against Iran, and will fully end the naval blockade within 30 days. I think the naval blockade is gone by now. There is nothing of that blockade happening, at least from what we've heard from Iranians. During this period, the traffic of vessels will be in proportion to the number of pre-war traffic being restored by Iran. The United States further undertakes to remove its forces from proximity to Iran within 30 days. And this is... somehow he's awake. I don't know, when they're talking about American forces, what do they mean by that? The American forces in the bases, or those that were in the bases in GCC countries, or are they talking about the new forces in the region, you know, with the destroyers, all these forces that were sent to the region, the new forces? What does that mean, in your opinion?

#Larry

Well, I think it means the U.S. forces in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. But understand, many of those troops have already been withdrawn. Do you understand? By virtue of the attacks that took place on those bases. So there are no more U.S. troops there. Like at the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, maybe just a token presence, a few people, but not many. So it's already become a de facto reality, at least in some of the countries.

#Nima

Yeah. Number five is so important because it's related to the Strait of Hormuz. Upon the signing of this MOU, Iran will make arrangements, using its best efforts, for the safe passage of commercial vessels with no charge for 60 days from the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and vice versa. The traffic of commercial vessels will immediately start, considering the need for removal of technical and military obstacles and the mining by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It doesn't say that the United States or Europeans, because today Donald Trump was asked about Europeans, if they're going to be... I don't need them, but if they want to do this, they're welcome.

But at this point, it says just the mining by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Within 30 days, Iran will conduct a dialogue with Oman to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz. So they're basically talking about the toll—not a toll system, but that fee system that Iran has been talking about. It's going to be in place after 60 days.

#Larry

Well, and understand that that means just two months. Now, how many ships are actually going to go into and out of the Gulf in those 60 days? I would suggest very, very few. Why? Because they have not completed the demining operation. That demining operation will take—maybe it's done in as few as two months—but DOD was saying, or the Department of War was saying, six months. So this is interesting. Essentially, Iran wouldn't be collecting any money during that period anyway. I think it's a calculation. They agreed to a 60-day token: okay, we don't take money. I'm not sure there would have been many people to collect from during that period.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is that \$300 billion. The United States undertakes, with its regional partners—basically they're talking about GCC countries—to develop a definitive, mutually agreed plan with at least \$300 billion for the reconstruction and economic development of the Islamic Republic of Iran as part of a final deal. Yeah. There is no definition that Iran is going to get before the signing, upon signing, or after the signing. It says as part of a final deal. That's, again, some sort of vague statement. And there are a lot of details to be considered in these points. I don't know, because you may have different interpretations of these points.

#Larry

No, no, I agree. You know, some of these are deliberately vague. They'll certainly have something to talk about. But, you know, the reconstruction and economic development—on that, Iran will still be able to exercise its leverage of collecting. They're only obligated to not charge for 60 days. That doesn't say that they can never charge after that, correct?

#Nima

Yeah, yeah. Okay. After 60 days, it's gonna be, you know, there is a difference if you want to be more precise on this point, Larry. You go to the Iranian text and you go to the American text. Iran says it will make arrangements for safe passage with no charge for 60 days only. This is the Iranian version. But in the U.S. version, it says with no charge for 60 days. There is no "only" in the United States version. But I think, after all, putting those two together, there is not that much of a difference between the two.

#Larry

No, it's just, well, no charge for 60 days means no charge for 60 days.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

And whether you say "only" or not, actually, from a grammatical standpoint, "only" is just a word you don't need.

#Nima

Yeah, number seven.

#Larry

It's more of a colloquial expression. Okay, number seven. Moving right along.

#Nima

Go ahead.

#Larry

Go ahead. You... Oh, well, the United States of America commits to end all types of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including United Nations Security Council resolutions, International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors resolutions, and all unilateral U.S. sanctions, both primary and secondary, according to a timetable agreed upon as part of the final agreement. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States acknowledge the fundamental importance of the issue of sanction removal mentioned above and express their intention to address these matters promptly in negotiations to reach a mutual agreement on them.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

So, yeah, you know, there are sanctions that the president can lift, there are sanctions that Congress will have to lift, and then there are sanctions that the UN will lift through a Security Council resolution, for example.

#Nima

Yeah. There are plenty of sanctions, by the way — IAEA, Security Council, primary sanctions, secondary sanctions — they were all mentioned in this line, in this paragraph.

#Seyed

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

#Nima

And yeah.

#Larry

Clearly, Iran started too.

#Nima

Yeah. But looking at the way they wrote this document, it seems, you know, there is nothing absolute in this document. But it's a path toward some sort of serious negotiations, in my opinion. That's why they put it this way.

#Larry

What about the first paragraph, number one?

#Nima

The first one is so serious. Yeah, I think you're right.

#Larry

It's very specific, and it's immediate and permanent. Those aren't weasel words. Those are quite declarative. Yeah. And the same with number eight. So you're on to number eight?

#Nima

Yeah, yeah. Number eight, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms that it shall not produce or develop nuclear weapons. The United States and Iran have agreed to resolve the disposition of stockpiled enriched materials pursuant to a mechanism that will be mutually agreed upon in accordance with the schedule mentioned in paragraph seven. In paragraph seven, the schedule depends on the sanctions, the way that they're releasing the sanctions. You know, the eighth is dependent on seven,

which is the sanctions — sanctions from the IAEA, UN Security Council, primary and secondary sanctions. It's all related to that. And in accordance with the schedule mentioned in paragraph seven, with minimum methodology to be down-blending on site under the supervision of the IAEA, the two parties also agreed to discuss the issue of enrichment and other mutually agreed matters related to Iran's nuclear needs. So they're going to down-blend the Iran-enriched uranium in Iran, not outside of Iran. Right. As I was talking about before.

#Larry

Yeah, I mean, that's, again, that's an important concession by the United States. I mean, as you read, you know, there are people in Iran that are complaining. They feel that Washington sold them out. The Zionists and neocons certainly believe that Trump sold them out. So that kind of reaction from both sides tells you that this agreement actually may have some teeth and be valid. So it is, you know, and that particular clause right there, I think, you know, has some teeth to it.

#Nima

Yeah, yeah. And it's dependent on number seven, point number seven, which is related to the Iranian sanctions on Iran. It's important. These two are related to each other. And number nine, pending the final deal, the United States and Iran agree to maintain the status quo. Iran will maintain the current status quo of its nuclear program. What is the status quo of the Iranian nuclear program? Since the war started, Iran didn't produce any enriched uranium in Iran. That's why they're talking about the status quo, Larry. And it means that they will not produce any enriched uranium, to my understanding. That's why they're talking about the status quo. And the United States will not impose any new sanctions. And any new sanctions will...

#Larry

Let me just interrupt and point out that it looks like they're just going to be working from the JCPOA. A lot of things they'd already agreed upon previously in the JCPOA can easily be adapted to this stuff.

#Nima

Yeah, yeah. And the United States will not impose any new sanctions and will not deploy additional forces in the region. That's the rest of the paragraph. And here is number 10. The United States undertakes that immediately upon the signing of this MOU, sanctions waivers will be issued for the export of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products, and derivatives, and all associated services, including banking transactions, insurance, and transportation, et cetera. So this is important as well.

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

It's so important, yeah.

#Larry

Again, immediately issuing waivers, not waiting for some benchmark that Iran has to meet.

#Nima

Yeah, it's so important because the energy sector of the Iranian economy was under sanctions for at least the last seven years. They couldn't send anything out because of the sanctions, transactions, insurance, because it's all related to each other. It's not about sending oil or exporting oil. You have to have the transactions, you have to have the insurance, transportation, all of that together. And during this war, many of those, or a considerable number of those tankers, Iranian tankers, were hit because of the blockade. I don't know how many of them—four of them were hit. You remember?

#Larry

Yeah. Well, Iran fired on one, and then the other three turned around and retreated. I'm not sure they fired on all four, but they fired enough to make all four reverse course.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is number 11. The United States undertakes to make fully available for use the frozen and restricted funds of Iran upon the implementation of this MOU. The United States and Iran will mutually agree on the procedures related to the release of these funds during the negotiations. It's going to be a gradual process during the negotiations. And it's all about Iranian frozen assets and restricted ones, because there are two sorts of assets, Iranian assets in the West. One of them is those frozen assets. The other one is the restricted ones. And it's a huge complexity to explain what is the difference between the two.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

Yeah, and here is number 12.

#Larry

12 is just procedural.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly. It's just an admin. Yeah. And the monitoring mechanism will be established to supervise the implementation of the MOU and the subsequent final agreement. And number 13 is, after signing this MOU and subject to the beginning of the implementation of paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11, the United States and Iran will start negotiations regarding the final deal. And then the last point or paragraph is that the final deal will be endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution.

#Larry

Right. Yeah.

#Nima

Here is... Let me just send the link. Professor Marandi is going to join us, Larry, in a moment. Let me just... Yeah, he's going to join us right now.

#Larry

And Larry, just tell him if he doesn't have the right shirt on, we're not letting him in.

#Nima

Let me check on him. Yeah.

#Larry

I don't know if he was able to hear that, but, you know, let's see. It's only 2 a.m. Yeah. Yeah.

#Nima

He just got home. He was out, and I called him. I mentioned that he's going to... But Larry, looking at what has happened so far with the 14-point plan, what's new in your... Because yesterday when we were talking about this, you said we don't know what's going on. And the day before, you were criticizing how Iran is letting... There is no timeline in those versions of the document.

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

Right now, what's your take on that?

#Larry

Yeah, no, I think they've made a very—this is an agreement that Iran can certainly live with, and the most important one is in that very first paragraph. That, I think, with respect to Lebanon, is the most important one in this entire agreement. That's a game-changer, completely. Now, let me go pull up—I did a compare and contrast based upon what was out on all fronts. So one of the previous differences was it wasn't clear what the conditions were for entering negotiations. Now it is, based upon this document. There are certain actions the United States has to take with respect to, you know, committing to end all types of sanctions according to a timetable agreed upon as part of the final agreement. So there is...

#Larry

But that, you know, number seven can be—you can question the timetable. There he is. Hi, Larry. Oh, man, he didn't get the shirt on. I told Nima, if he's not wearing the shirt, don't let him on.

#Nima

I think he let me in by mistake.

#Larry

So are you guys as shocked by this as I am? Or are you personally as shocked by the way this agreement—well, my interpretation of the first clause of this agreement is this is what you'd call a complete game-changer, because one, it essentially gives Iran permission to attack Israel if Israel continues to violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon, without fear of U.S. reprisal. The language doesn't say that. What it says specifically is that the United States and Iran together agree to guarantee the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon. So what happens if that integrity is being violated? Well, then the Islamic Republic of Iran has an obligation to act to protect that territorial integrity. And as long as it's not attacking U.S. forces, therefore it's almost like giving Iran straight-up permission to go after Israel if they remain in Lebanon.

#Seyed

Yes, and it basically reaffirms that the United States believes or accepts that the Israeli occupation of Lebanon is illegitimate. Exactly.

#Larry

I mean, that in and of itself is huge. You know, I never thought you'd get the Trump administration to agree to something like that. That is just, I think, absolutely remarkable.

#Nima

Yeah. Professor Marandi, I think, you know, you've read the document, the 14-point plan. And this is official right now. What is important in this 14-point plan in the eyes of Iranians?

#Seyed

I think the most important thing is the fact that everything has to—every action that Iran takes has to be reciprocated by the Americans. In other words, the Americans have to carry out their obligations for Iran to make any move forward. So the issue of Lebanon, until it is resolved, the Iranians will not.

#Larry

Yeah.

#Nima

Okay.

#Larry

Yeah.

#Nima

Yeah. You're back. You're back. Yeah. So, uh,

#Seyed

Whether it's the release of Iran's assets, the sovereignty of Lebanon, or the waiving of sanctions, all of these have to take place in order for Iran to reciprocate. So right now, the siege has been lifted. Iranian ships have been moving back and forth without any harassment. I think my connection is not very good. You're okay now, you're okay. For example, right now Iranian ships are moving back and forth without harassment. But all of these issues now will be linked to Iran's actions in the Strait of Hormuz. If the United States does not abide by its side of the bargain, the Iranians will not be abiding by their side of the bargain. And this is going to make it difficult for Trump, because I didn't

see Trump's interview, but I read about it. But I think he said that energy reserves are like weeks away from finishing, or oil reserves. Yeah, he said that. Did you see the interview? I didn't see it personally. Yeah, he said it. What did he say exactly?

#Nima

He said that, yeah, the same sentence that you used — we are weeks away from, you know, the energy market being somehow on the verge of some sort of collapse, and we are weeks away from huge sort of problems.

#Seyed

So he knows that if he does not carry out his commitments, those energy markets are very vulnerable. And the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz in the coming weeks is not going to be very fast because it's going to take time due to the problems that insurance companies face, the problems with regard to the security of the Strait of Hormuz. I mean, there are many problems that exist right now. And so it's not as if things are going to be resolved overnight, and the amount of energy flowing or the amount of goods flowing from the Strait of Hormuz is going to go back to normal anytime soon. So if the Americans don't abide by their commitments, all the Iranians have to do is halt or slow down the pace at which these ships, which are already, as I said, not going to be normal in number anytime soon, and that would create chaos in the market. So this is leverage. The Iranians have a lot of leverage to force the Americans to carry out their side of the bargain.

#Larry

Yeah, and let me just add in there, as I was explaining to Nima earlier, they got the 60 days that Iran's going to allow ships to go through for free. But the reality is, I don't think there will be very many ships at all moving simply because the mines that are in the Persian Gulf have not been removed yet. And if the Pentagon is to be believed, or the last testimony the Department of War officials gave to Congress, they said it would take up to six months. So really, because initially you could read this and say, oh, well, Iran's being denied two months of income. Not really. These are two months that actually you can give away, and Iran doesn't lose anything simply because of the other mitigating factors.

#Seyed

Yeah, because the number of, as you rightly point out, the number of ships that are going to be passing through is not going to be the normal number that passes through under ordinary circumstances. It will take time, and probably much more than two months, for the number of ships to pass through in the numbers that we saw before the war.

#Larry

Can I ask you a question? Iranian tankers — who insures those? Are those insured by the government of Iran, or are they without insurance? Because I'd say insurance would be one of the limiting factors in the London, you know, City of London-based maritime insurance industry. They're not going to allow these ships to move until they've got guarantees that they're not going to get blown up.

#Seyed

Yeah, Iranian ships don't have that problem. Since they are sanctioned and can't receive insurance, they are insured by the Iranians.

#Larry

Okay. Because I saw Sunday night, those were the ships you saw immediately moving — Iranian tankers coming and going.

#Seyed

Well, there's also another reason, and that is that Iran has not yet opened this trade. The opening of this trade is in a couple of days.

#Nima

But Professor Marandi, here is what in point number 10 it says: the United States undertakes that immediately upon the signing of this MOU, sanctions waivers will be issued for the export of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products and derivatives, and all associated services, including banking transactions, insurance, and transportation services, so on and so forth, etc., it says. So this is, somehow, in this point, they're addressing the issue that you've just raised with the case of the insurance and the transportation.

#Seyed

That's right. It's going to make Iranian oil easier to sell. It's going to make it easier for ships to move back and forth. And Trump actually needs this too because he wants to keep the price of oil low. So, as Larry alluded to, because of the issue of insurance alongside other problems, many of these ships are not going to be too eager to swiftly move through the Strait of Hormuz. But in the case of Iranian ships, they are already traveling through, as I said, because the time for those other ships to pass through has not yet arrived. But Iranian ships don't have the problems of insurance that those other ships have.

Iranians during these years have been moving back and forth without being able to, or without having to get insurance from major international insurance companies. Remember, the Iranian market is overwhelmingly Chinese. And the other ships, the oil that is sold elsewhere, is limited, and they have their own mechanism for doing that. But again, for the ships that travel to Europe, to the United States, and other parts of the world, they have serious problems that they have to resolve before they begin moving in large numbers.

#Larry

Let me, Professor, ask you another question. You were saying you're being accosted on the streets — I mean, a little bit in jest — but there were a lot of upset Iranians thinking that this was another sellout. Have you encountered people calming down a little bit now and saying, oh, okay, this isn't as bad as we thought?

#Seyed

Well, you know, I usually go to the different squares at night, every night, but very briefly. And so during the last three or four nights, I've experienced some of these discussions and criticisms. And it's anecdotal, so I really can't gauge what percentage they are and what the percentages are. And I haven't seen any polls during the last couple of days to see where people stand. But there are those who are critical of the negotiators, saying that the assurances given by the Americans are not enough.

#Seyed

But I think there are also many on the streets and others whom I meet during the day.

#Larry

Yeah, he's freezing up for a little bit. I was just going to add to what he's saying, that the first, again, the first clause of this agreement, the first point, is the most important because it is very specific that the United States is not going to attack or use any kind of violence against Iran.

#Nima

Yeah, I think the other important point, Larry, is the one that talks about the Strait of Hormuz and how Iran is going to manage the Strait of Hormuz. Even with the mining operation, it's going to be all dependent on Iran. No one else is going to get there to do that for Iran or for the Strait. And this is totally aligned with the Iranian concept that we are here — no military equipment, no, you know, destroyers, nothing is going to, no military ship is going to get through the Strait of Hormuz. I think the final point for Iran is that.

#Larry

Yeah. Yeah. So this is, you know, this is significant. And I've just been reading some of the comments by Democrats and Republicans who just, oh my God, are they upset. Oh Lord. You know, this is the end of the world as we know it. They should be singing.

#Nima

Yeah. Professor Marandi just confirmed that the United States and Iran digitally signed the MOU agreement. Is that correct? Because it was reported by Axios.

#Seyed

Yes, the foreign ministry spokesman has been on television for a live program. Before him, Dr. Polibov was on television, and they both had long interviews. The foreign ministry spokesman is still speaking right now, and he confirmed that it has. He said that it was supposed to be signed before he came on air on television. So I assume it's been signed.

#Larry

Hey guys, listen, I'm going to have to bail because I've got another date, but I hate leaving such an esteemed group. Well, I have to leave too.

#Nima

I have to leave too because I have one.

#Larry

We all have to leave. All right, good discussion.

#Nima

I'm going to be with Colonel Anthony Aguilar in just three minutes.

#Seyed

I was just with him on Al Mayadeen a couple of hours ago.

#Nima

Yeah, that's amazing. Say hi to him for me. See you. Bye, Larry. Bye-bye. Bye-bye.

#Seyed

Bye.