

Larry Johnson: "ENOUGH!" - JD Vance SLAMS Netanyahu's Government in Rant

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#Nima

Hi everybody, today is Thursday, June 18, 2026, and our dear friend Larry Johnson is here with us. Welcome back, Larry.

#Larry

Man, every day, boy, you're just going to have to rent me a room at your place.

#Nima

You may come to Brazil and do it together.

#Larry

That'll be easier.

#Nima

Yeah, you're going to enjoy it, by the way. In Florida, it's too hot right now.

#Larry

Well, yeah. I mean, the seasons are reversed since you're down there south of the equator.

#Nima

Yeah. Larry, let's talk about the repercussions of the MOU. Last night, we were talking about the content, and here are the repercussions coming out in the United States and in Iran as well. And today we had J.D. Vance talking with the press, basically reporting on the MOU and answering questions. One of the questions was related to one of the reports on Axios, which says that Netanyahu is fuming somehow because of the MOU. So, here is what J.D. Vance said, but I think the

fight is so serious right now, the way the Israelis are putting pressure on the Trump administration. Here is what J.D. Vance said.

#Speaker 03

I don't want to get into hypotheticals that could torpedo the deal, because I think the president's expectation is that all of our friends — the Israelis, the Arabs in the region — we're going to work together and actually see this deal to completion. Now, I saw the Axios report that Netanyahu is fuming. That's not reflective of the conversations that I've had with him, but maybe he's saying something to somebody else that he's not saying to me. What I will say, and this does bother me, is that you've seen people within Bibi's cabinet who have come out and attacked the deal, and in some ways very personally attacked the President of the United States. And I guess my message to them would be twofold. Number one, Donald J. Trump is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time.

And he happens to be the head of state of the world's superpower. If I was in the cabinet of the Israeli government, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have anywhere left in the entire world. And the second message I would give to some of those cabinet members — Bibi, to his credit, has not gone down this path — but to some of these cabinet members in Israel who are attacking the President of the United States, the other thing that I would say is that over the last three months, two-thirds of the defensive weapons that have protected your homeland have been built by American hands and paid for by American tax dollars. The problem for Israel is not Donald J. Trump. And anybody in Israel who thinks their biggest problem is the President of the United States needs to wake up and smell the reality of the situation that country is in. Thank you all.

#Nima

Man, that was a huge, huge sort of statement by J.D. Vance. I think the most powerful statement so far when it comes to the situation in Israel. And we were talking about it — how do you find it, Larry, the way that these people are getting serious about what's going on?

#Larry

Yeah, no, look, it's the truth. Israel is acting like an entitled, spoiled child, thinking they can say anything they want, do anything they want to Donald Trump with no repercussions. And, you know, Trump, I think, is finally getting fed up with it and said, I don't have to put up with this. So, you know, that was the veiled threat. But then, in a private conversation, they can make the threat quite direct: if you do not cooperate with us, if you do not pull your troops out of southern Lebanon, if you don't stop attacking, we're going to pull all support.

Already I know that what's called the Air Combat Command for Central Command is working frantically right now to start bringing back all of the U.S. aircraft that deployed to Jordan, to Israel,

and to any other bases in the Gulf. They're pulling them all back. So as those start to leave, that's also going to drive home the message to Israel that, you know, you're on your own. We're not—if you want to continue starting a fight, go ahead and start a fight—but we're not with you.

#Nima

Larry, your understanding of—because it's not J.D. Vance, it's about Donald Trump himself as well. He came out and said, you're going to go after Hezbollah, you're not going to bomb the whole building, the whole apartment building, killing everybody just to get one or two commanders or forces of Hezbollah.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

Where were they before? Are they getting more reports, or was Donald Trump somehow isolated before, didn't know what was going on, or is he changing his sort of rhetoric?

#Larry

No, no. I mean, they knew what was going on before. They just decided to distance themselves from Israel. So it's real simple. And the Israelis, frankly, I think, are shocked by this. They didn't expect this. They go, hey, we thought we were buddies. Nope. Not anymore. You know, that party's over.

#Nima

Yeah. It's not about Israel, Larry. They're using their podcasters in the United States—the Zionist podcasters, Mark Levin, Ben Shapiro. You see Ted Cruz coming out and talking, going against the MOU. By the way, MOU doesn't mean anything, to be honest. The reaction is too harsh, in my opinion.

#Larry

Well, nobody's listening to them anymore anyway. I mean, Levin's audience is shrinking. Ben Shapiro's audience has shrunk. And candidly, I think some of that went into the calculations of Donald Trump, recognizing these guys aren't all that popular after all. And so, we can probably—they're going to have to pay attention to us more. Or we can ignore them, because it's not like they've got a giant audience.

#Nima

J.D. Vance said two-thirds of the weapons they have used—basically talking about the missiles they used on their fighter jets and the interceptors—came from the United States. It means they came from the United States during the war or before the war, or...

#Larry

I think it doesn't matter. I mean, he's just saying that total U.S. support—two-thirds of what Israel uses—comes from the United States. Just leave it at that.

#Nima

But my understanding is all of them come from the United States. I'm talking about, are they producing interceptors?

#Larry

Yes, they produce David's Sling and the Iron Dome. Yeah, I mean, Israel does produce Patriot PAC-3. But that's what J.D. Vance was referring to. If you look at all—if you total up all of the armaments that the Israelis are using—then we're saying two-thirds of those are coming from the United States. But that means still Israel was building or providing one-third for itself.

#Nima

You know what's so amazing about what's going on right now is not only the Republicans, who are totally those people who are Zionists, but you see Democrats are coming out against the deal. They were criticizing Donald Trump for this war, and right now they're attacking him because he's making some sort of deal.

#Larry

Yeah, well, yeah. I mean, again, it's not a surprise. They're also bought and paid for by Israel. You know, most members of Congress are taking money from AIPAC. One of the few who didn't was Thomas Massie. And, you know, that lesson has been learned by some other members. They figure, well, don't go up against the Israeli dollars. But public opinion is changing. And at some point, you know, I think Israel recognizes, I would say, the writing's on the wall. They don't have a strong future in the United States with the American public.

#Nima

I think something huge is happening, Larry, in the United States vis-à-vis Israel and what's going on considering the relationship between the United States and Israel. Because if I were to mention the most Zionist, you know, the Secretary of State of the United States, I would say Antony Blinken and Hillary Clinton. The most Zionist, or Mike Pompeo, by the way, would be one of them. And I have never thought that one day we're going to hear this sort of, you know, objection on the part of, for example, Hillary Clinton when it comes to Israel. And she said, I don't know if you saw the latest interview she had. She's just criticizing the way Israel is behaving.

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

It's something new. When she goes that far, it means a lot, in my opinion. Here's what she said, Larry.

#Speaker 04

Well, you're absolutely right. When I was Secretary, it was a constant theme by Netanyahu and his then government, the then Defense Minister Ehud Barak, the former Prime Minister. It was relentless. It was a constant push.

#Speaker 05

Now, I remember... What would he say to you? What? What would he say to you?

#Speaker 04

He would basically say, you need to support us in attacking Iran. And back then, this was 2009 to the end of 2012. We had more capacity than Israel did on several fronts to do that. And so there was a constant argument that we would have. And I remember one day, I was on the phone for hours with Ehud, with Bibi, with others. And they would say things like, our planes are on the tarmac. And I'd say, well, good luck. I mean, great. Why are you doing this?

#Speaker 05

Where else would planes be, other than in the air?

#Speaker 04

But on the tarmac, ready to take off. I see. Yes. Although they'd be in the hangar, they were on the tarmac. And, you know, you would say things.

#Speaker 05

You're saying you were being played?

#Speaker 04

All the time. All the time.

#Speaker 05

I mean, by an ally that receives an enormous amount of aid.

#Speaker 04

Well, of course. And look, Bibi's been obsessed.

#Nima

Yeah, I think these sorts of interviews are huge. When you remember the history of these people and the way they were talking about Israel just one month ago or two months ago — I listened to one of her interviews — she was totally supporting Israel. She didn't want to mention genocide, what is going on in Gaza. It's genocide or something. Right now she's going against Israel and the way Israel is behaving. I think they somehow perceive how serious the war against Iran in West Asia was. That's why they're coming out and saying this is the end. Are you going to be trapped, or are you going to save yourself from what Benjamin Netanyahu or Israel wants you to do? Yeah.

#Larry

Yeah. I mean, yeah, it appears to be what she's saying. You know, it's significant, but I don't think it's that significant simply because it's not going to be widely heard. You know, people like you and me that follow the news closely, yeah, we'll say, oh man, that's huge. But the average person out there, they won't pay attention to her. But, you know, I think it has to be taken as there is a shift. But it's still not as important a shift as needs to take place because, again, you're seeing that there's a lot of—Trump is coming under a lot of criticism, bipartisan criticism, for striking this deal with Iran. So if he's actually being celebrated, that would say that actually the worm has turned against Iran, but that's not the case. It's almost like, why are we abandoning our closest ally? That kind of thing.

#Nima

But what are the main sources? What is the main reason for this criticism, in your opinion? Nothing has happened so far. There is a document out there, and the only thing that happened last night was at midnight they lifted the sanctions on the Iranian oil and energy sector, which they were selling before this war started.

#Larry

Yeah, but which—I'm not sure I'm following—who was saying what?

#Nima

What is the main reason for these people to go after the Trump administration?

#Larry

The main reason is they think they're abandoning Israel. These politicians who have been bought and paid for by Israel see this as abandoning and betraying Israel. That's not complicated, dude.

#Nima

What do they want from the Trump administration for Israel? What's the solution then? Do they really want to go back to war?

#Larry

Why do you think they'd have a solution? And why do you think that they're thinking rationally about this? I mean, can you give me any evidence that they've ever thought, you know, shown that they've thought this through and have a coherent thought? No, it's just simplistic nonsense. You know, I see people, yeah, we should have gone in on the ground. Okay, I mean, even guys with military experience, and you go, how the hell is that? Explain that one to me. Explain. It's like there was just a report. I got a friend who sent me a report saying that the Kurds have now launched an invasion into northern Iran.

And, you know, I was thinking that's got to be a bogus report, number one, because to do that, the Kurds would have to have a logistics chain. I mean, we're talking a lot. If they're going to invade Iran with any kind of force at all, you've got to have a way to get them resupplied with food, with water, with ammunition. And you need to have a medical evacuation plan that's able to work if this is large scale. There's no way in hell they've got that. Absolutely not. Can they launch a raid and attack a town or village on the border of Iran? Sure. But to try to actually come in and occupy territory in Iran and keep it? They'll be wiped out within a day or two.

They simply cannot. They don't have the ability to sustain themselves because it requires a lot of logistics behind it. That's what these people don't understand. Most people just, you know, they're

the ones who think that the chicken they eat, you know, they go buy a chicken at the local grocery store and they think that's how the chicken actually exists. They don't realize it was once a living bird walking around, and it had to be slaughtered and then cut up and butchered in a way so they can finally put it into a plastic styrofoam wrapper and put it in a freezer.

#Nima

The reason I'm asking this, Larry, is that let's assume the United States—let's assume Donald Trump doesn't come out with this memorandum of understanding. What is the alternative for them?

#Larry

Well, it's already out. So what do you mean, would not come out with it?

#Nima

No, I would say because these people who are against MOUs, so what is the alternative for that, for the MOU, for these people?

#Larry

Why do you think they would assume there's an alternative?

#Nima

So staying in the fight, it means that Donald Trump said it. I think the main reason was mentioned yesterday by Donald Trump, that we are four weeks away from the oil reserves, four weeks away from being totally depleted. So this is the main reason. Is there any sort of communication between the Trump administration and these people?

#Larry

Again, dude, you keep talking as if these people are rational people, that they're logical, that they're sitting there and weighing the facts and then go, oh, heavens, yeah, we don't have the military assets to do this, and if we continue down this course of action, we're going to face an economic catastrophe. Yeah, we've got to move away from the military side and go towards trying to fix the economic side. They're not thinking that way. So, yeah, I'm saying don't assume that they're thinking that way because they're not. They're doing just the opposite. You know, they don't think there's any consequences to be had here. That's what's sort of truly shocking about all of this.

#Nima

Fox News, by the way, is playing totally into the hands of the Israelis right now. They're somehow managing.

#Larry

Yeah, are you surprised by that?

#Nima

Not at all. They were supporting Donald Trump.

#Larry

I mean, good God, it's been that way for, you know, 26 years. So that's like being surprised and, God, I was looking at my male dog and he was licking his balls. Yeah, that's what male dogs do, okay?

#Nima

Do you think Israel would go, you know, would go to some—are they gonna do something stupid, in your opinion? Because two things, I think recently we've learned from Laura Loomer and Naftali Bennett in Israel. Both of them were talking about 9/11 is coming to the United States, that Islam is going to do some sort of operation in the United States. That can totally change the whole situation with what's going on in West Asia—a false flag, something like that.

#Larry

Okay, and why would, quote, Islam, do that in the United States?

#Nima

I don't know. Why are they on the border of Iran in northern Iraqi Kurdistan? The new group, ISIS, was formed by the British and the French. They are at the border of Iran in Iraqi Kurdistan. Two weeks ago, they came to power. They said, "We are here. We want to invade Iran." The same people can do something.

#Larry

Yeah, good. Let them invade. Do you understand what it takes to sustain an invasion? I mean, you know, that means you're moving forward in what—walking or in vehicles? If they're in vehicles, they've got to have gasoline or diesel to be refueled to keep going. Where are those fuel tanks coming from? Have they already pre-positioned and assembled those vehicles? There's no way they

could do that without Iran knowing about it, because Iran's got the Russian and Chinese intelligence showing them that. So that, you know, that didn't happen. This is just, you know, more misinformation from the West to try to, you know, distract, frighten, whatever. But the Kurds do not have—do the Kurds have the ability to launch attacks across the border into Iranian territory?

#Speaker 03

Yes.

#Larry

But only what you—it would be called a raid, just a temporary go and kill some people, set some things on fire, then run away. What we're talking about is, do they have the ability to go in with, say, 5,000 men and occupy an area and defend it and prevent Iran from controlling that area? No, they do not have that ability. They're being trained by the CIA. That right away tells you that they don't have that ability. The CIA has a very good track record of fucking these things up.

#Nima

The perception on the part of Iranians, Larry—before coming to this, Larry, I told you that the Iranian Supreme Leader just issued a statement today saying that he didn't feel good about the MOU. So he gave permission to the Iranian president to sign it and see what would happen with the MOU. But basically, when he puts this sort of statement out, it means that he doesn't feel good, and it means that some parts of the government are not happy with what's going on.

#Larry

Yeah, I'm sure there is some division in Iran about it.

#Nima

Yeah.

#Larry

So are they going to walk away from the agreement, or are they going to stick with the agreement? They'd be foolish to walk away from it now because they've got the United States. They established five red lines, and those red lines were: relief of sanctions, unfreeze assets, lift the blockade, acknowledge the ownership—the authority—of Iran over the Strait of Hormuz, and end the fighting in Lebanon. So those are all conceded in that document. Now, the Israelis haven't stopped the attacks in southern Lebanon. So now it's a matter of, is Iran, once that agreement is signed again tomorrow, once they put it into effect tomorrow, then Iran's in a position where it can launch attacks

into southern Lebanon against Israeli positions to support Hezbollah. Because that agreement says it is now Iran's obligation to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. It says that in the first paragraph.

#Nima

It seems last night Iran wanted to hit some targets in Israel.

#Larry

I'm not talking about hitting targets in Israel. I'm talking about hitting Israeli targets in Lebanon.

#Nima

I don't know what the— I assume that they wanted to hit some targets in Israel, the northern part of Israel. But serious negotiations, serious talks are happening between the two sides that we're not aware of, in my opinion.

#Larry

Correct, correct.

#Nima

Behind the scenes, coordinating what's going on between Israel and Lebanon. That's why you see J. D. Vance coming out talking this way. Iran wanted to attack Israel last night, which could have been the end of the MOU and whatever is happening between the two sides.

#Larry

Uh-huh.

#Nima

Do you see that happening, the management happening in the United States between the United States and the Israelis?

#Larry

What do you mean by the management?

#Nima

Management to withdraw Israel from Lebanon.

#Larry

Well, all the United States can do is ask and then threaten, as J.D. Vance did, that, you know, we can pull off, recall all of these planes and other assets we've deployed on your behalf. If you don't comply, they could do that. We'll see if Trump does that. I mean, he's under enormous pressure to back away, but it also looks like he was given enough warning the other day about what was coming economically, that he had zero interest in facing that. And that's why he's insisted, okay, we've got to get out of this.

#Nima

Let's assume you're part of the Trump administration. What would you say to J.D. Vance or Donald Trump himself in order to manage the situation with Israel and manage the situation, by the way, in the United States, which we know is totally against the MOU?

#Larry

I would call Israel up and say, look, your troops need to be withdrawn, you know, 12 hours from now. And if they're not, we are going to immediately suspend aid and recall all of our assets, including the air defense assets that we've deployed to your country. You know, just play hardball that way. Will they do that? I don't know. We'll see. I can make the case that Trump would be disinclined to do that, but it appears that the briefing he got over the weekend about the severe crisis that's going to unfold if they don't get the Strait open and get oil flowing, that it's going to be a real problem. I don't think he was exaggerating that. I think he was being absolutely honest about it.

#Nima

Then do you think the president has that sort of power? What sort of power? The call that you mentioned, calling Benjamin Netanyahu and saying, you're going to do this unless I do that, and I'm going to punish you this way. Is that within the power of the president of the United States, given the current conditions and how Congress is supporting, by the way, the Israeli agenda?

#Larry

Well, I think Trump does have it in his power to do some of that. And then there's also the possibility that he'd get pushback from senators, that they might even try to impeach him. But again, I don't think that Donald Trump—well, he said it yesterday, we don't have to imagine—he said we're out of oil in four weeks. So that's why he's doing this. Someone got to him, got the message, and said, okay, we've been lying to you, we've been convincing you that everything's okay, and it's not okay. We're facing an emergency situation if we don't get the Strait open and get oil starting to flow. And

so that's why he agreed to the Iranian position, not because he thought the Iranians were right. His balls are in a vice. And Israel doesn't have the leverage, the fear of the economic collapse of this economy. I mean, because if that happens, Israel's screwed anyway, because the United States isn't going to have extra money to send to Israel.

#Nima

Do you think instead of putting political pressure on Israel, which we know is totally dependent on Congress, the United States can put some sort of economic pressure on Israel without, you know, that, because that I think purely is dependent on the Trump administration? It's less related to Congress. Is that possible instead of going?

#Larry

So what do you mean?

#Nima

I would say putting some sort of, you know, it's about Turkey and other countries who are somehow helping Israel in the whole process, saying, you do this, I'm going to ignore what you're doing. And Congress can do nothing about it.

#Larry

Well, Congress is limited, you know. It can act annually with appropriations and fail to provide money or, you know, not appropriate money. So the power really lies with Trump in terms of how to limit access to the aid and withdraw aid as he can. Congress gets into the role during the appropriation process, but they can't really come in right now and mandate spending unless that money has already been appropriated for that activity.

#Nima

I see the move of the Trump administration as though it's so important in 2028, Larry. And, you know, it's all about oil reserves. It's about the economy. It's about the stockpiles of the United States. These are two important factors, by the way—the economy and the stockpile. And the third factor would be 2028, which is so important for the administration.

#Larry

Well, it may be too late. You know, Trump's actions were primarily driven to allow oil to start flowing back through the Persian Gulf and to get that oil—to basically get the 20% of oil that has been taken off the market—back on the market. Now, the problem is, it's not like going to the faucet in your

kitchen, turning the faucet on, and water immediately runs out. In this case, there is no faucet that he can turn that's going to make oil immediately start running out of the Gulf. You do have oil on Iranian tankers that are headed out of the Gulf, but where are they headed? China. China. So that's not necessarily going to help the West—the shortage in the West.

That's number one. Number two, you've got other foreign tankers that are not under the control of Iran sitting there in the Gulf ready to move, except for the fear of mines and the fact that insurance companies will not allow them to move for fear of hitting a mine and being sunk. So that insurance process is going to be held up until such time, or the insurance process will delay those ships from sailing. So how long will it take to clear the Gulf of mines? In April, somebody from Pete Hegseth's Department of War testified before Congress that it would take up to six months. So July, August, September, October, November—we're all through until New Year, six months from now.

So it's possible that that oil won't get flowing for six months. Then you've got to raise the question, were any of the wells damaged? And the oil terminals where the oil is pumped into these ships—were those damaged? Have they been repaired? No. And then on top of that, you get, you know, the ships themselves, their mechanical condition, having been sitting doing nothing for three months, just at anchor. Are the ships' engines still good? Can they function? So just one complication after another just means that although Trump signed this, oh yeah, we got to get the oil flowing, it ain't going to flow. And so there are going to be some real problems facing them.

#Nima

During the press conference that J.D. Vance had, he was asked about the 2028 presidential election. And the reporter asked him, you said you're not going to be part of that. He was like, where did I say that? It was like this. And it seems that he's serious. I think his point in attacking Benjamin, those people in the Netanyahu administration, is that you're not going to ruin my 2028. Because he knows that if they get the United States involved in this endless war, two years is nothing, in my opinion, with the war in the Middle East.

#Larry

Right, right.

#Nima

You remember when the war in Ukraine started. We were talking about it being six months, then it was going to be one year, and now we're approaching five years of war in Ukraine.

#Larry

Right.

#Nima

So that's the recipe for disaster for J.D. Vance, in my opinion.

#Larry

Yeah, well, I think J.D. Vance, according to Robert Barnes, has basically recognized he's got no future. His political future is pretty well sealed, and I think he's content with that. But he's going to do what he can to keep this war from expanding, and that's exactly what he's done, which is driving the neoconservatives and the pro-Israel crowd just absolutely nuts. It's making them crazy.

#Nima

I really believe that. Who's going to be the candidate for the Democrats in 2028? Kamala Harris?

#Larry

No, no. I mean, Harris or Newsom won't be. It'll be somebody else.

#Nima

Who? There's nobody who can capture the vote.

#Larry

Oh, right, right. There's nobody that you see obvious right now. Could Josh Shapiro out of Pennsylvania step up and become a viable candidate? Yeah, maybe. How about Ro Khanna of California? Possibly. You know, he's going to be strong. So there are a number, you know, it's just too far out, because for the Republicans, they're going to say it's going to be either J.D. Vance or Marco Rubio.

#Nima

From Iranian sources, Larry, we've learned that Saudi Arabia, in the first five or after five or six days of the war, when the war started on February 28th, contacted Iran. And they said, we have nothing to do with what's going on. We don't want to be part of this fight. You remember how many times it was reported in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times that the Saudis are pushing for the continuation of the war, hitting Iran harder. And they were talking behind the scenes with the Iranians, saying, we are not doing anything here. And they're just... Because I was asking you and other people on this podcast, what's going on with Saudi Arabia? Why are they pushing for the continuation of this war? Because we have nothing from them.

#Larry

Well, yeah, but how could you interpret that as evidence you're pushing for the continuation of the war?

#Nima

No, because of the news. It was in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. They were reporting that Saudi Arabia is pushing for the continuation.

#Larry

But again, look at the source. That source is the New York Times, the Washington Post, American sources. Did you see any Saudi sources being quoted?

#Nima

No, they were silent. That's why we were somehow speculating if Saudi Arabia was doing this or that, because they were silent. They didn't say anything in those days.

#Larry

Well, it's clear there were diplomatic contacts going on between the Saudis and Iranians, and they were publicizing it. And I wouldn't be surprised if they worked out an accommodation that Iran could happily bomb the Prince Saud Air Base, just provided they, you know, shied away from civilian casualties. So, you know, we've seen so much misinformation about Iran over the last three months. And now this week, when we get down to the actual truth that came out, you know, what Iran leaked about the document on Tuesday turned out to have been much closer to the truth than what the U.S. was leaking, than what was being leaked to Bloomberg yesterday.

#Nima

Yeah. The reason I mentioned that is today J.D. Vance said GCC countries want to invest in Iran. And I think the whole program is that because of the reality of what is happening in the Strait of Hormuz, they want to get closer. They want to get more involved with the Iranian economy, make more ties with the Iranian economy in order to diminish the threat or any sort of war if something happens, because they know Israel is not going to change its behavior. Sooner or later, they're going to fire at each other, Iran and Israel. So they want to make some sort of deal with the Iranians to somehow ensure them that they're not going to be part of the fight on behalf of Israel or facilitating an Israeli attack on Iran.

#Larry

Go ahead. Well, as I said, we've seen evidence that Qatar at least has been working quietly behind the scenes. In fact, there was some report—it was claimed initially that Iran destroyed the natural gas facility at, what is it, Ras Laffan in Qatar. But in fact, they may not have, because they coordinated and cut a deal with Qatar in advance. So if that's true, that adds a whole new dimension to things.

#Nima

So it seems to me that the point of \$300 billion being invested in Iran is totally some sort of concept of the GCC countries, basically Saudi Arabia and Qatar. This is not coming from the United States. And the United States just added its name to the point that they're going to be there and managing, and they want to know what's going on with that fund, that sort of investment in Iran. Is that your perception?

#Larry

Yeah. I mean, look, the United States is getting shut out of the Gulf. You know, the talk, like one of Iran's demands is that the U.S. withdraw troops from around it. Well, they've already done that, actually, in part—not because they were reacting to that agreement, but because their base got destroyed. They didn't have any place left to stay, so they had to get out.

#Nima

That's going to be, I think, if they decide to get close. I don't know if you've seen one of the American officials telling one of these mainstream news outlets—I don't remember, it was, if I'm not mistaken, the Wall Street Journal—they reported that the Fifth Fleet and the naval fleet of the United States in Bahrain were totally destroyed, and they see no option of getting back there. Maybe they'll go to Oman or somewhere else.

#Larry

Right, right. Yeah, no, I mean, they're done. They still call it the Fifth Fleet headquarters, but it's just a name only. There are no personnel there of any consequence. And where else are they going to go? They either go to Oman or back to Florida.

#Nima

Just imagine you're sitting in Qatar, you're sitting in Saudi Arabia, seeing what's going on with the American bases. What do you have to presume?

#Larry

Well, again, they thought this was sort of a sure deal, that if you get with the United States, man, you've got protection. It doesn't get any better than that. Uncle Sam's got your back. And then it turns out, oops, no, he doesn't. You don't have Uncle Sam there helping you.

#Nima

Larry, have you heard from that guy from Pakistan? Because I think—what is he saying about the security architecture of the region?

#Larry

Well, he was saying that the Chinese and Pakistanis learned there was going to be an assassination attempt against Arachi and Ghalibaf. And that's one of the reasons they moved the signing ceremony from Geneva to Birkenstock, which is a facility, a property that's owned by one of the emirs of Qatar, so it is well protected. So, you know, we'll see. You know, they think that's going on, and both Pakistan and China have warned Israel that if they proceed with something to try to assassinate, there will be severe repercussions against them.

#Nima

It's just mind-blowing. A diplomat in Europe is something new. I have never seen such a thing happen to Iranian officials. They did it in Syria, you remember that. But I have never seen that happen in Europe.

#Larry

Well, not in Europe, but they've, you know, and I don't know where they're planning to carry this out, but they've been warned that, you know, if you do it, you can expect some real repercussions.

#Nima

Larry, do you see Europe doing more because Donald Trump was at the G7 summit and talking with various European officials or leaders, or maybe all of them together since they were there? And was there any sort of discussion about how Europe may play some sort of role in what's going on in West Asia, or does he simply not care about Europe?

#Larry

There have been some comments, and again, I'm not sure if they're sparked by Trump. The French reportedly said that they had deployed a minesweeper to help clear up mines and get things back to

normal. I don't see, though, widespread endorsement in the European community of the Iranian government. I think they still want to classify the government as a regime, something that needs to be dispensed with eventually.

#Nima

But Europe, we know in this MOU, it says Iran is going to do that. If there is some sort of demining operation, it's going to be the Iranian side doing that, and nobody is allowed to go there.

#Speaker 03

Mm-hmm.

#Nima

So that's out of the discussion.

#Larry

Yeah, so yeah, we'll see. Right now, it's like 2 o'clock in the morning, almost 2:30 a.m. in Tehran, and so most of the sane people are in bed getting some sleep. And they've got to make a decision whether they're going to travel to Geneva or not, and it's up to putting pressure on the United States to do further pressure on Israel. I don't know if that'll work. And if it doesn't, you know, there are a variety of, you know, Iran can stay home or Iran can get permission to carry out attacks on Israel. You know, the United States may not come out and formally announce it, but they'll give the wink and a nod and a nudge and let that happen. So, you know, this, there are—well, the thing that Donald Trump signed yesterday with possession is just, it's more like a letter of intent, and the intent, you can say, has some good objectives to it, but there are a lot of ways and pitfalls and exits along the way that could destroy this thing.

#Nima

Yeah. Here is, Larry, the Iranian side, by the way, they have reported that the Iranian delegation is not going to go to Switzerland because of what's going on between Israel and Lebanon. That's going to be problematic for the Iranians. And I think they're getting a lot of pressure. As you mentioned, Iran, people are not happy. Some part of the society is not happy with the case of Lebanon. They see if they back down on the case of Lebanon, it's going to be, you know, it's going to be so damaging to the Iranian position.

#Speaker 03

Mm-hmm.

#Larry

Well, no, they could still travel to Geneva. They just inform the United States, "We're going to attack Israel. We're going to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon because they're being attacked by Israel." It's that simple, you know. They could do that, but they're not, you know, so this is far from a done deal, as I've said all along.

#Nima

Trump said that Russia and China didn't help Iran. They were neutral during the war.

#Larry

All right, good. That's good to know. It's not true, but it's good to know.

#Nima

He's so positive, by the way.

#Larry

He's good for the future. He creates his little fantasy world. Both Russia and China were quite active. And, in fact, it was Araghchi that just went to talk to Russia there over the weekend, I believe, before everything was agreed to, just to get Russia's input.

#Nima

G7 invited Brazil and the UAE, two members of BRICS, to the summit.

#Larry

Mm-hmm.

#Nima

What does that mean, in your opinion? Are they trying to manipulate BRICS? Are they trying to...

#Larry

I don't think... They didn't offer membership. They said, hey, you can come attend. And the Brazilians said, oh, great, that's what we need, just go sit in another meeting. Yeah, no, I think the G7 is actually... its time has passed. The BRICS countries alone constitute more of the world economy than the G7. There was a time when the G7 was the dominant player, but no longer.

#Nima

Larry, great pleasure as always. I think everything is so fluid, and we cannot go ahead. Because before the MOU came out, we were saying, let's see what is in the MOU. Right now the MOU is out, and we have more doubts than we had before.

#Larry

Correct. We'll see. We'll see what tomorrow brings.

#Nima

Yeah, exactly. J.D. Vance said, by the way, today he said he doesn't know if tomorrow the meeting is going to happen. And I think there is some sort of miscommunication. Yeah.

#Larry

They got to work out the Israel problem first. All right, my friend, I'll see you in a few hours. It'll be about 12 to 14 hours with Miranda, huh?

#Nima

Yeah. Yeah. Let's see. Yeah.

#Larry

That'd be, that'd be at 10:30, right?

#Nima

Yeah, it's going to be at 11 a.m.

#Larry

Oh, 11 a.m.?

#Nima

Okay.

#Larry

Make sure I got that right, and we'll see you tomorrow. God, you know, this week has just blitzed by. Holy smokes. All right, my friend. Later.

#Nima

See you, Larry.

#Larry

Bye.

#Nima

Bye-bye.