

Larry Johnson & Prof. Marandi: US-IRAN SECRET DEAL EXPOSED: the 14 Points

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#Nima

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

#Larry

And... yeah, I think... clearly Iran started, too. Yeah.

#Nima

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

#Larry

That's why they put it this way. What about the first paragraph?

#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. 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, the 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. And also, they're going to down-blend the Iran-enriched uranium in Iran, not outside of Iran. Right, as Donald Trump 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 the West 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 Iran's nuclear program? Since the war started, Iran hasn't produced 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. Well, I mean, just let me...

#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.

#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, etc.

#Marandi

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 just 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.

#Larry

Yeah.

#Nima

You remember? Yeah.

#Larry

Well, they fired on—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 restricted ones. And it's a huge complexity to explain what is the difference between the two. 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. Let me just send the link. Professor Marandi is going to join us, Larry, in a moment.

#Larry

Let me just... My interpretation of the first clause of this agreement is this: it's 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, then therefore it's almost like giving Iran straight-up permission to go after Israel if they remain in Lebanon.

#Marandi

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?

#Marandi

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. Okay, yeah.

#Nima

Yeah. You're back. You're back.

#Marandi

Yeah. So 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. Yeah, I think my connection's not very good. You're okay now. You're okay. Yeah, so 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. 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.

#Nima

Yeah, he said it.

#Marandi

What did he say exactly?

#Nima

He said that, yeah, the same sentence that he 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.

#Marandi

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.

#Marandi

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

And so the Iranian government... 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.

#Marandi

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. Well, there's also another reason, and that is that Iran has not yet opened the Strait.

#Marandi

The opening of the strait 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 somehow, in this point, they're addressing the issue that you've just raised with the case of the insurance and the transportation.

#Marandi

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 at this point, 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 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 were 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?

#Marandi

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 and saying that the assurances given by the Americans are not enough.

#Marandi

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

#Larry

It seems like, 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. Yeah.

#Nima

Yeah. I think the other important point, Larry, is the one that is talking 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 gonna, no military ship is gonna get through the Strait of Hormuz. And 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. Is that correct? Because it was reported by Axios.

#Marandi

Yes. The foreign ministry spokesman has been on television for a live program. Before him, Dr. Kalibov 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.