

Pepe Escobar: Iran Declares NATO "Complicit" and Must Be "Held Accountable" For Consequences!

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#Nima

Hi, everybody. Today is Thursday, June 25th, 2026, and our dear friend, our brother, Pepe Escobar, is here with us. Welcome, Pepe.

#Guest

Nima, you are the light of my life. Yes. I am in the middle of NATO stand, 40 degrees. The French are going crazy. I am coordinating a very complex move. I'm exhausted, overworked. But then I talk to you and everything is brilliant.

#Nima

Then let me start with your new YouTube channel together with Larry Johnson, which is so important. Many in our audience may not know the new channel that you started with Larry Johnson is Transition Protocol.

#Guest

Thank you very much.

#Nima

Please go there and you can find the content, basically something that no one else is prepared to present you with, that sort of information. It's somehow different, whole information. The gathering, you know, Pepe Escobar coming together with Larry Johnson, is huge. You can go there and enjoy this sort of information. They're providing you with their podcasts, usually 40 minutes, 30 minutes, 37 minutes, podcasts that are so important. Please go there and subscribe to the channel.

#Guest

Thank you, Nima. You're a gentleman, of course. We all know that. Thanks. We are very small. We are not as huge as your channel, for instance. But we are less than three weeks old. We are two and a half weeks old. It's just the beginning. It's growing steadily. It's great. People from all over the world—this is wonderful. And I don't know if I told you about the previous story and if your audience knows. Our previous channel was canceled by a direct order from the U.S. government to Google. Cut these guys off with no warning, nothing. It was called Power Shift. And in our first week, we had two mega scoops back to back.

And by the weekend, we were gone. So, you know, we are back as Transition Protocol. It's very small. We're going to have Vijay Prashad every week as well. Vijay is one of the best international analysts anywhere. I've followed his career since the beginning. I wrote about his books. Vijay is great. So we plan to bring more people later on, but we are just at the beginning. What's different about this channel is that Larry and I—and we discussed this in detail, as we all know—we are old school, Larry and I. We go back a long way, himself at the CIA and myself as a foreign correspondent, literally everywhere.

But now we have access directly to the negotiating table between Iran and the U.S. Very few people have that kind of access. So we said, no, we have to make this public. We need to do at least two shows a week. So, in fact, it works like this: Larry has a solo show on Monday, I have my solo show on Tuesday, and on Wednesday we are together. And then we have guests and other people like Vijay on Thursday and Friday. So this is just the beginning, guys. But, of course, we already have a series of bombshells. And, of course, we are being attacked from all sides, which is perfectly normal. Larry is used to it, and I am used to it.

But people who have no clue whatsoever about deep intel—how do you get deep intel? How do you check deep intel? How do you trust your sources? What you can say and what you cannot say—and the sources sometimes are very explicit: "Look, this is background, you cannot talk about this." And some of the stuff, in fact, almost everything that we've talked about so far, is highly explosive, starting with something that was our discussion yesterday. One of the key items—and this came directly from Pakistani military intelligence. They usually don't share this kind of information. And we learned via other people in South Asia and West Asia that these people, they trust Larry and myself. They know that we are not going to distort what is being passed to us. So this information is immensely important, Nima, for Iran and for all of you, the audience, for global public opinion.

Okay, I'll try to put it in a thriller way, or a cliffhanger. Why do you think, from one day to another, the Israeli campaign of assassinating Iranian leaders and scientists—very important players in the Iranian political, geopolitical, economic, military sphere—why did this stop from one day to another? So we got our answer from Pakistani military intel immediately after the assassination of Ali Larijani, which at the time, as Nima, you know very well, he was, I would say, the most powerful person in Iran at the time, considering that leader Mojtaba Khamenei was recovering from his wounds, and he

was essentially silent after the decapitation strike on February 28. And Larijani was coordinating everything—the political vector, the military vector, the public relations vector, the diplomatic vector, etc.

So he was assassinated. And of course, in the minds of the best cult, Iran would be a beautiful body with no head. Oops, it did not work, number one. And number two, guess what the Pakistanis offered to Iran. Pakistani military intelligence got in touch with the IRGC, the highest levels of the IRGC, which also included at the time talking to Ghalibaf. Ghalibaf was at the time, let's say, the number two most important character in Iran. And they said, look, we can help you with that, essentially because they had been helped before by the Chinese. And the Pakistanis had set up a counter-intel, electronic warfare counter-intel center between Islamabad and Rawalpindi, which was immensely sophisticated, with help from the Chinese once again.

And they said, look, we can give you everything you need, and we'll even fly our best technicians to Tehran to show you how you can counteract the whole kill chain that is now embedded in the Pentagon and with the Israelis. I won't name names about the programs. I'm sure many of you know what we're talking about. I won't name the names of the programs and the names of the companies behind them, because this information is very serious. And we discussed among ourselves and with other people, and we decided to leave this vague in terms of Pakistani military intel helping Iranian intel to counteract the attacks—the serial attacks against Iranian leadership. So after the assassination of Larijani—and this is something all of you can go to the public record and reconfirm.

There were no more assassinations, period. Because now the Iranians, like the Chinese and like the Pakistanis, are in possession of all the counterintel that they need. This is as much as we can reveal at the moment without naming names, of course. And this, of course, made the Americans and the Israelis panic. They were already panicking with the offensive capabilities of Iran, and now they started to panic with the electronic warfare capabilities of Iran as well, augmented—they already had it, but now they had direct help from Pakistan and with the blessing of China in the background as well. So this is what we were talking about yesterday, Nima. It's very, very important information, for which already we are getting the usual flack from people who don't know shit about anything.

But that's okay. It comes with the territory, right? So this is what all of you can get if you go to our young, very small channel for the moment. You get intel that you won't find anywhere else. And that's a compromise that Larry and I, we promise to all of you: everything that you hear is true. Deep intel, it's fact-checked, and we are allowed to say what we are saying because we trust our sources. Very, very important. And very important, our sources trust us. So that's why they give us this kind of information.

#Nima

And you had an article that you sent me before. Sure. Here is the article. And Pepe, when it comes to the situation between Iran and the United States, what is, in your opinion, the main factor of what has happened? Because Donald Trump—we know that Donald Trump wants desperately to get out of, you know, the situation that he's in right now. Yeah, exactly. He started himself the war of aggression against Iran. But two sort of problems: one of them, he's deeply involved with Israel, and he has to support Israel. There is no way out for him. On the other hand, he has to get out of the region.

The two things don't come together. And what is your understanding of the latest meeting we had between the two Americans and Iran in Switzerland, which, by the way, was a huge sort of—you know, you remember the same day they were there and Donald Trump was tweeting, "I'm going to kill you, then I'm going to attack Iran harder than before." You know, the Iranian team trying to walk out. And then you see what happened later on when J.D. Mann said, "Oh, we managed everything in nine hours, we were talking together." But how do you find the position, the situation that the United States is in, and Donald Trump particularly?

#Guest

Well, I wrote another column, Nima, about all that. And I wrote the column as a thriller. In Switzerland, because it was a thriller in Switzerland. It was cliffhangers, back and forth. And the whole thing practically collapsed in the middle of the... The negotiations did not even start and they were already collapsing. So all of you, you can find this article on Geopolitics Prime. If you go on X and you go to Geopolitics Prime, and if you go to their Telegram channel as well, you will find this article in detail. And it's exclusive as well because our information came to Larry and to myself. They came from one of the guys who was at the negotiating table. So he told us stuff that was absolutely mind-boggling.

#Nima

This is the article that you're talking about.

#Guest

This is the article. This is the Telegram version, which anybody can read anywhere. So it is really inside the U.S. negotiations, and it is really a thriller. So among other things, guys, all of you, Iran actually walked out three times from the negotiation. It was not once, it was three times. Every time Trump opened his mouth to threaten Iran and say, "I'm going to bomb you again," and the usual crap, Araqchi would tell Zarif face to face—they have a very good interpersonal relationship—"Look, we're getting out of here. There's nothing for us to do here. It's completely absurd." So actually,

sorry, Zarif was panicking, of course, the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He would call General Asim Munir and say, "Look, let's go out there and grab the Iranians and try to bring them back again and try to explain to them that we're doing everything to smooth the situation."

So they did this three times, which is completely nuts. And in the end, can you believe that the people around Vance, not Vance himself, were telling the Pakistanis to tell the Iranians, "Look, don't pay attention to what these vociferations on Truth Social coming out of Washington are. We are here, and we want to deal with you guys, even if we are not talking face-to-face." This is another important piece of information, Nima. Both delegations never spoke a single word to each other. Everything went through the middlemen, mostly the Pakistanis, but also the Qataris. So it was a back and forth all the time. I'm sure many of you have seen the video where Araqchi enters the room, he goes straight to Sharif. They talk to each other. Araqchi doesn't even look at the back of the room where Vance was looking at him, like a deer caught in the headlights like this. Araqchi didn't even look.

#Nima

They were somehow confused.

#Guest

Completely confused. You can tell by the footage that obviously he didn't know what was going on. What our source also told us is that from the beginning, they were not supposed to meet. It was agreed by both sides. But then the Americans set up a trap. The first time the Iranian delegation entered the room, the Americans wanted to have the cameras rolling and a handshake. When the Iranians noticed that, they said, no bloody way we're going to shake hands with these people. And this, in Iran, would go down, and you can confirm, Nima, would go down very, very badly, right? So this was the first walkout. There were two others, right? And that explains, because Vance was expecting to go to the center of the room and shake hands with Araqchi. Never happened.

So, another one of the walkouts — the third walkout — was the most dangerous of them all, because basically Araqchi told Sharif, "That's it, now it's definitive. Okay, you tried to explain to us twice, a third time, come on, it's too much." You know what happened? Prince Faisal, Minister of Foreign Relations of Saudi Arabia, called Asim Munir personally, on Asim Munir's phone, because he was following everything, of course. And he told Munir, "Look, this thing cannot fail." These were his words, according to our source. And our source knows because he was at the table. He's Pakistani. He was at the table. And obviously, he heard from Munir what they talked about on the phone. And then Faisal, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, made two pledges to Munir directly.

And he also said, look, I'm going to call the Iranians after I talk to you, and I'm going to tell them the exact same thing I'm telling you now. Number one, we can guarantee the money. If Trump decides to walk out and not pay the \$12 billion — it's \$6 billion first, then more than \$6 billion in the

second phase, and then \$12 billion in the third phase, total \$24 billion. If Trump says no, no problem. We, Saudi Arabia, guarantee that you, Iran, are going to get the money. And on top of that, Qatar, which was in the room already, had already pledged to Iran, look, don't worry, your money is in our banks. So whatever the Americans do, we tell our banks to give you the money that is yours. So can you imagine, Nima, in the space of less than an hour or so, you have two major GCC nations promising to Iran that Iran is going to get its money.

This was enormous. And the second thing, the second part of the phone call, Faisal said, look, to speed things up, you guys should come to Riyadh, which is something that is going to happen between today and tomorrow. A high-level Pakistani delegation with Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Munir, the Field Marshal. They're going to Riyadh. They're going to meet with MBS face-to-face. And what are they going to do? They're going to upgrade their military pact, which will include, of course... At the moment, we can define it as a Pakistani-guaranteed security umbrella for Saudi Arabia that can be extended to other GCC members, starting with Qatar, perhaps Bahrain and Kuwait. The UAE is another story, much more complicated, later on.

And, of course, this might include, I wouldn't say directly, but Egypt, which was part of the first four Sunnis when they met before the first meeting in Islamabad, brokered by the Pakistanis between the Americans and the Iranians. And Turkey, which was part of this first meeting, they might consider that Turkey is part of NATO. They might say, okay, we don't disagree with that. And the most important thing, Iran will not disagree because the Pakistanis informed Iran in the first place. The Chinese talked to Iran about that. The Chinese, the Pakistanis, and the Iranians, they are in close alignment. And China wants to have a good relationship between Iran and the GCC because it suits Chinese geoeconomic interests especially.

So everything is, you know, when you put it all together, what happened in the space of roughly one hour in Bürgenstock in Switzerland changed the whole picture drastically. And without American interference, even though they were over there in the palace. Which, by the way, very funny to all of you. Do you know who owns the Bürgenstock Palace in Switzerland? The Qatari royal family, once again. So it's fascinating. It's really a thriller. It's a James Bond thing, no question about that. But in the end, at least we had, I would say, the lineaments of "let's start discussing those 14 points seriously." Obviously, after Switzerland, the whole thing started to derail. For obvious reasons, Nima and all of you are on this. You know who is trying to derail the MOU. And it's not only that, that's cult.

It's the enormously powerful Zionist axis between Washington, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and New York. And the neocons. And, most important, Donald Trump's donors, starting with Miriam Adelson, who practically bankrolled most of Trump's campaign. And we already had an article, which was obviously dictated by her, signed by some nobody in Israel, published in a newspaper that is owned by the Adelsons, basically saying that Trump betrayed us. So this is already the start of a

public campaign against Trump. So he is cornered—cornered by the Zionist lobby, cornered by the neocons, cornered by a lot of people inside the Republican Party, cornered by the Democrats, and cornered by public opinion and the numbers.

And the fact that he's not controlling the Strait of Hormuz. He's vociferating about this every day. Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz. Iran says, today we're going to have five ships, tomorrow 10 ships, maybe 70 ships, and tomorrow maybe we're going to have one or two, depending on how you, United States, behave. So this is the actual situation on the ground. And for a guy with the ego of the Milky Way like him, he simply cannot live with that. But at the same time, he is looking at his constraints. And back to the theme of this column that you showed on screen, where I had fun comparing him to Crassus, who lost the Battle of Carrhae in 53 B.C., when the Romans lost against the Persians.

And after that, the famous story that the Persians put a lot of gold in his mouth when he was dead. And, of course, this was Roman overextension. And a very rich guy in Rome thinking that he could go there and win against the Persians at the time. And he got kicked pretty, pretty badly. So that was the playful part of the story, comparing Crassus with Trump. But the biggest hit is the desperation that he found himself in when he looked at the numbers in terms of the depletion of the strategic reserves of oil of the United States. And I received some of these numbers from one of the old-school deep state sources, and he was explaining in detail in a very long email that essentially we are now, we were in mid-June.

So this was a few days ago. When Trump looked at the numbers, he saw that by mid-August, this would be the absolute limit for the depletion of the strategic reserves. And from one day to another, the price of oil would skyrocket. Inflation in the U.S. would skyrocket, and it would be a total mess. And that should have been the number one reason for him to desperately cling to the MOU or a deal. But as Nima explains, the situation between now, mid-August, a little bit before the midterms and all that — after the midterms, depending on what happens, all bets are off. And this information, or series of rumors, is already circulating in Washington that he will be back to war after the midterms.

And it's very, very plausible, credible, and considering the egomaniac narcissist in question, ultra plausible, right? So he's buying time. He's buying time between now — we are in late June — to August, all the way to late October, the midterms in November, and after that. And obviously, Nima, as you know very well, people in Iran, the leadership in Iran, are fully prepared for it. They have no illusions. And they have no illusions that the Americans are going to follow the deliberations or the suggestions built into the MOU. The acrimonious process has already started. We have Marco Rubio opening his mouth and saying one stupidity after another about the international status of the Strait of Hormuz. There are no international waters in the Strait of Hormuz.

#Nima

It's Iran in the north, Oman in the south.

#Guest

That's it, according to international law. So we know that this thing will derail all over the spectrum, right? So Iran has no illusions about it. And, of course, they have their finger on the trigger. And this goes to everything. This goes to any American adventure that could happen within the next few weeks or months. And, of course, if Israel does not abandon the attacks on Lebanon, there will be a very harsh response. And so far, as we know, coming from everybody speaking for the death cult, they are continuing to attack Lebanon, southern Lebanon. For the moment, not Beirut, but for the moment. But southern Lebanon, they continue to attack it. They continue to kill civilians. They continue to raze villages to the ground. Nothing has changed.

#Nima

Pepe, two important incidents. One of them was the reports that Pakistani intelligence believed that Mossad wanted to assassinate Asim Muneer. And the other one was what happened in Qatar, because these two countries were so important in the summit. They were mediating between the two sides. So we had a huge explosion in Qatar. Which was?

#Guest

Explosion in Ras Laffan, exactly. It was not anywhere else. It was in the most important gas node in Qatar. So this has all the markings of a false flag.

#Nima

By the way, Iranian intelligence believed that it was Israel.

#Guest

I was going to say absolute, but not absolutely correct. But this is the number one scenario to consider. Of course, there's no evidence so far.

#Nima

Because they said it was a technical issue. A technical issue doesn't cause a huge explosion like that.

#Guest

Huge explosion. So it was not a technical issue. And obviously, the Qataris have to be very, very careful. They cannot accuse Israel point blank because then they're going to be attacked again. And of course, they are trying to coordinate not only with Iran, but also Pakistan has a say in all that. If

it's proven that it's Israel, how are they going to respond? But no question, this has all the markings of a false flag. Number one. Number two. And for that, obviously, Larry and myself, we got killed. We were serially killed all across the spectrum because basically we were telling our audience, and the audience of all of you who have very successful shows, that Pakistani military intel had a very credible scenario that they uncovered, according to which, under orders of Netanyahu, there would have been an attempt to assassinate Field General Asim Munir.

So this is the information that we received. It's not that Larry and I, one day drinking vodka online, decided to come up with that. So people who criticize us without knowing how these things work, they're not even fools. They are beyond stupid. Number one. Number two. And obviously, when we heard that, we were both like, wow. So could you please ask this? We told one of our connectors, in fact. Could you please ask this source once again? Is this absolutely credible? Was this uncovered? Was this ready to go? Look, my information is surefire. It was uncovered, and they sent a message via the proverbial mediators.

This was not specified, but it could have been Oman, for instance, which is relatively neutral. Or it could have been via Turkey, for instance, to Tel Aviv: if you touch our delegation going to Switzerland, and especially if you touch Field Marshal Asim Munir, we're going to wipe you off the map. Guess what happened immediately afterwards? Nothing. So apparently, Tel Aviv got the message. So this, once again, if you put this all together, Pakistan and Israel, they are fighting a proxy war already for all practical purposes. So, you know, we hear this rhetoric coming from the desk calls about our next enemies are going to be Turkey, that kind of bullshit.

No. And Pakistan has already relayed to the Israelis, look, we have our eyes on you. So you better start behaving, or at least not behaving in the usual animalistic way that you do. Because otherwise, you're going to have to pay a price. So we have two in a row. We have the intel, the techno-intel that they supplied to Iran to stop the Israeli assassinations of Iranian leadership. And on top of it, Pakistani military intel uncovered this plot to kill Munir, or maybe other members, if not the whole Pakistani delegation. So this is something that is going to evolve very, very fast. And it's something that we should all be paying enormous attention to.

Especially when we link the Pakistani-Saudi relationship and now the possibility that this security umbrella that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are trying to organize for West Asia, especially for Saudi, but for the rest of West Asia possibly, with participation from the GCC, with participation from Egypt. Turkey is a very complicated case once again. So then we're going to have—the definition "Muslim NATO" is not appropriate—but we're going to have a very close alignment of four or five very influential and powerful Sunni nations. And obviously, the Deskult would be very wise not to mess with them, especially because Pakistan is a nuclear power.

So this is where things are going on one side, Nima. On the other side, will the Zionist axis or the Epstein syndicate, in the next few weeks and months, what kind of radical play will they be willing to make? Which way will they be willing to go or risk—to go not only against Iran, but against Pakistan

and Saudi Arabia? So anything they do in terms of subverting the MOU and the possibility of Iran and the GCC having a relationship that holds, they would be going against Iran, against Pakistan, against the Pakistan–Saudi Arabia connection, and against China, which is right behind supporting it all. So now we have the two camps clearly defined.

And it's getting more and more volatile by the minute. Because we know, Nima, you know, our audience knows, the Zionists will never give up. They will never give up. They'll never give up on Lebanon. They'll never give up on Syria. They'll never—obviously, Gaza and the West Bank, we all know what is already happening. And they will never give up on Iran. And they'll never give up on expanding ad infinitum. And that includes everybody. It includes stealing land from Iraq, stealing land from Saudi, you name it. From Jordan, you name it. They'll never stop. There's only one way to stop them. We all know which way it is. And Iran also knows which way it is. And there's no other way.

#Nima

I think, Pepe, when we talk about the situation between Iran and the United States, and considering the recent meeting, I would assume that you have some information from your source in Pakistan on the visit of the Iranian president to Pakistan, which was important. He basically brought up the concept of a new security architecture for the region, in which he mentioned Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, and Pakistan as part of that security architecture. I assume that Pakistan, because they have a good relationship with Saudi Arabia and they have a good relationship with the Iranians, can somehow facilitate the ongoing negotiations or the talks among these countries. What is their concept on that, and how far are we from achieving that sort of security architecture in the region?

#Guest

Exactly. It comes back to the beginning of our conversation. Pezeshkian, as you saw, was received like a brother, like a super, super VIP guest, of course, with all the ceremony, all the pomp and circumstance and all that, but mostly like a brother. And he has a very, very good relationship with both Sharif and with Munir as well. And he had a bilateral with Munir only to talk about security and defense, apart from all the political conversations with Sharif, with the government, etc. He had a special meeting with Munir only to discuss defense and security. So they were discussing what? The Pakistan–Saudi Arabia upgrading of their military pact.

Which, of course, from the Iranian point of view, they said, no problem, we trust you. And we trust China behind it. And the Chinese want this to work. And obviously, this is the next step in terms of having a security umbrella outside of the Americans. So all of you can imagine how this is freaking out the White House, the Pentagon, and the deep state as a whole. But this is the way things are going. If you look at Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China, this is the way it's going. So the smaller players will have to tag along, that's for sure. So, once again, the ball started to roll for good over the weekend in Bürgenstock, in Switzerland.

And then it was speeding up only two days later, on Tuesday and on Wednesday in Islamabad, with the visit of Pezeshkian. So it's all interconnected and very, very fast. So fast that we still don't have any, I wouldn't say response, but even a comment coming from Washington about all that. They are terrified because this is happening in front of their eyes and there's nothing they can do to prevent it. What are they going to do? Bomb Saudi Arabia? Bomb Pakistan? You know, which is the only thing they know. You know, their modus operandi is bomb, bomb, bomb. We know that. So the rearrangement of the chessboard is already in progress.

No question. So we have to expect moves from the other side, even though they are dazed and confused, some terrified and some helpless, but they will be deeply enraged. And it will add to what the strategic defeat is — the war that they launched against Iran has now calcified. It calcified the beginning of a new security architecture for West Asia, where we have South Asia, in the form of Pakistan, as one of the most important players. And something that is extraordinary, that I keep thinking about, because many of us were thinking that this process might start up north between Russia and the West.

Going back to December 2021, when those letters were sent by Putin to NATO and to the previous administration in the U.S., the letters were about the indivisibility of security. Basically, the Kremlin was telling everybody, look, we should have security for everybody — for the U.S., for NATO, for Western Europe, for Eastern Europe, for the post-Soviet space, for Russia, for Central Asia, for all of us across Eurasia. There was no response. The response from NATO was to provoke Russia into the SMO in February 2022. So instead of this process starting up north, it's starting in West Asia. Because the deeper meaning of this new security umbrella provided by Pakistan to a great deal of West Asia is indivisibility of security.

It's the same concept. And you have others who are not part of this umbrella, like Iran, which is sovereign and independent. They agree, as long as it's not going to be an attacking platform against Iran. And it won't, because the mediator and the provider of the security umbrella, Pakistan, is actually mediating now between Iran and the U.S. So the roles have changed completely. And of course, it's very, very important that Pakistan now has this role in West Asia that they didn't have before. This changes the equation completely. The Saudis are being very pragmatic, and they know that they need an accommodation with Iran. The Russians—sorry, the Egyptians and the Turks—we still don't know to what extent.

Basically, they agree with the new structure ahead. We still don't know the details, of course. And, of course, Qatar, sooner or later, may get in. They're very tiny. They're going to need a security umbrella from somewhere. So, you know, the whole thing is changing in a matter of days. So it's no wonder, Nima, that we're getting this incoherent blah, blah, blah coming from Washington all the time. They don't even... They cannot even understand how big this is. First of all, because they live

in a bubble. Second, they don't understand other cultures, they don't understand other ways of thinking, they don't respect other cultures and other ways of thinking, and this is happening practically in front of them, and they cannot even understand why.

Why? Because they still cannot accept the fact that they were strategically defeated. Even if they sign a memorandum of understanding, which their president is desperate to have, because it's the only off-ramp that he could find, he's already undermining the off-ramp. He was undermining the MOU even before they started to talk in Switzerland this weekend. He continues to undermine the MOU virtually every day. So this will continue, right? And now we come to, I would say, an immensely intriguing situation where probably it all depends on JD Vance for the MOU to go somewhere. Can you believe it? That everybody at the table has to rely on JD Vance. He's the only guy who has a semblance of normality here. But we all know who's behind JD Vance.

#Nima

And also, we all know about his presidential ambitions.

#Guest

So it's a very, very, very dangerous game, the whole thing.

#Nima

Pepe, we, for many years in the United States, were talking about a pivot to China, a pivot to the East. And administration after administration is coming and making—oh, the Biden administration created the war in Ukraine, and the Trump administration has a new war in the Middle East, in West Asia, against Iran. The war still has some sort of pause. We have two different players with different objectives, by the way—the United States and Israel. Israel's main agenda is the continuation of the war. The United States' agenda is to get out of the war because they know there is nothing there anymore to stay for.

This is going to be a recipe for disaster. The United States has experienced that before in Iraq and Afghanistan. So this is the same thing. It's even worse because, as time goes by, the fragility of their presence in the Persian Gulf would be somehow, you know, exposed, because that's the region that Iran dominates militarily. So the United States is saying there is a huge cost, by the way, for the United States—geopolitically, militarily—and considering all the difficulties they had during the war and during the ceasefire, since the ceasefire was announced. This is the problem.

But when it comes to the pivot to China, don't you think that after the war in Ukraine, or as we have this war between Iran and the United States, what does that mean, pivot to China? Are they going to create a bigger problem for themselves? Or maybe it's time to pivot to the United States itself—coming back to the country, coming back to the principles, those motives, those sorts of arguments,

the rhetoric of Donald Trump: make America great again, production, jobs back to America, production back to America. Because those things, if they go against China while having the two wars—by the way, the two wars are active, in my opinion, right now in Ukraine and in West Asia.

#Guest

Yes. Well, there's nothing they can do against China to start with. And that's why the Chinese are not exactly losing sleep. I was in China last month, in fact, in May. I was still in China in May before I went to Russia. They were not losing sleep. And they said, no, no, we are concentrating on our domestic challenges in the tech race, which from the Chinese point of view, they're doing everything they need to do. It's not a question of winning or losing, especially because the imperatives of the Chinese tech race have nothing to do with the American tech race, which is basically profit, Wall Street, and all that. In China, it's a completely different thing, in terms of modernization of China—by the way, the title of Xi Jinping's book published last year, which I had the pleasure to read extensively while I was in Xinjiang.

I was reading Xi Jinping's **Modernization of China**, and I was looking at the modernization of China in front of me everywhere I went in Xinjiang. So this is what they are worried about. There's a huge problem in Latin America, Nima. If you look at the map now, wow, the Americans are in control of almost everywhere. And the last remaining big piece of the puzzle is Brazil. You know better than I do what could happen in the next elections or what they could do to destabilize the Brazilian elections. So this is it, and this is in the national security doctrine. It's Monroe Doctrine 2.0. Our backyard is ours, and that's it. So this is—it's terrifying, really. And, of course, they can always come up with diversionist tactics here and there, but Greenland is going to go back on the screen sooner or later.

And, of course, there's nothing they can do in the South China Sea, especially. And Taiwan, same thing. They know that if they try anything in Taiwan, the Chinese response is going to be very, very harsh against America, not against Taiwan. Of course, if some sort of aggression against China would come from Taiwan, which is something that will never happen, then it's a different story. But the Chinese know that the Americans are capable of producing a false flag in the South China Sea or in Taiwan itself. So that's an enormous problem, and they still have to live with two strategic defeats in a row, in Ukraine and in Iran. So talk about a cornered animal. That's what it looks like, you know. So they will be much more dangerous than they already are. Obrigado, Pepe. Obrigado a você, querido. Sorry, but I have to go. Muito obrigado.

#Nima

Very good to see you and talk with you.

#Guest

Obrigado pela ajuda ao nosso canal. I'm thanking Nima for plugging our channel. And I hope all of you go to our channel. Our channel is a public service. Larry and I are doing this as a public service. If we have access to information of this caliber, we have to disseminate it. It's very, very simple. Right. So thanks, everybody. Thank you, Nima, as usual. And here from NATOstan at 40 degrees, it's not a very nice picture, I tell you.

#Nima

Let me say something to you. Somehow, you know, here in Brazil it's 24 degrees Celsius.

#Guest

Whoa, come on, it's cold.

#Nima

Yeah, you have to get back home to see. True.

#Guest

Okay. Thank you. Bye-bye. Tchou, tchau.