🇺🇸 THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT: PRETEND NATIONAL SECURITY

Steve Bakke 🇺🇸 May 22, 2018

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was agreed to by Obama in 2015. I'll refer to it simply as the Iran nuclear deal or agreement. Trump pulled-the-plug on the deal because there's no hope of achieving the original intent as described by Obama: "After two years of negotiations, we've achieved a detailed arrangement that permanently prohibits Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon." The theory was that Iran would trade their nuclear ambitions for economic incentives. Did the agreement perform as intended or was Trump right to end it?

The agreement has many flaws. The U.S. isn't even allowed to be involved in the direct monitoring of compliance. Because of lengthy dispute resolution procedures, "anytime monitoring" doesn't really exist. Also, Iran was permitted to continue developing missile technology, which is their nuclear warhead delivery system, and also could maintain a level of uranium enrichment. And believe-it-or-not, Iran even had the right to declare some military sites "off limits" to inspection. I could go on and on.

Significant financial assets were released to Iran, mostly representing funds "frozen" decades earlier – up to $150 billion. In spite of assurances to the contrary this was used primarily to finance world-wide terrorism and the expansion of Iran's Mideast influence.

Democratic Senators Schumer and Menendez were originally skeptical about Obama's assurances. Menendez felt the deal wouldn't be based on "preventing nuclear proliferation, but on managing or containing it." He was right. Several years have passed and no credible commentator continues to make claims that this deal will prevent Iran's nuclear weapon development. These concerns were recently confirmed by Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu in his detailed disclosure of Israeli intelligence findings. The biggest take-away from that disclosure was the extent Iran went to hide their continued nuclear aspirations.

Trump's actions left our allies very concerned. Perhaps they had resigned themselves to the reality of the delay tactic, but one thing is for sure, they want the trade dollars that the Iran agreement provided.

This was not a treaty as some believe. Obama faced opposition to the deal, and wouldn't have received approval from the Senate, as is required for treaty ratification. He merely settled on this as an informal agreement with no backing by the U.S. Congress. That's why Trump could cancel the agreement so easily, also without being subject to Congressional approval.

The agreement amounted to little more than containment or delay. When dealing with this rascal regime, the hope of voluntary containment is a pipe-dream. Obama's assurances were merely wishful thinking. The "loosy-goosy" agreement resulted in Iran being able to technically comply, all the while using the funds that we released to them to spread terrorism in the world and to expand their destructive influence throughout the region. In just a few years under the agreement, Iran would be closer than ever to having serious nuclear weapon capabilities. They were actually given a pathway to nuclear weapons.

Will withdrawing from the Iran deal harm negotiations with North Korea? No – much to the contrary. North Korea officials understand what a good deal Iran received in the agreement, and they would want similar concessions. The Iran deal can no longer be a goal for North Korea to shoot for. And if any end is achieved in the negotiations, it will be a much more effective agreement than was the Iran deal.

We achieved nothing close to the original expressed intent of the agreement. As explained by Secretary of State Pompeo, we are asking Iran nothing more than to behave like other more civilized nations in the region.

I support Trump's actions. Let the new super-sanctions work.