

Israel Today –June 3-5, 2016
Rabbi Howard L. Apothaker, Ph.D.

Peace Talks in Paris (*Reuters*)

The US won't bring specific proposals at a Paris conference meant to set out a framework for negotiations between Israelis and Pals, nor has it decided what, if any, role it may play in the French effort. *JPost*: Israel is holding intensive talks w/ Wash. on how the French-led ME summit meeting in Paris will proceed, and what conclusions will emerge. Aaron D. Miller: Motivation for breakthroughs does not exist, given the gaps between Israel and the Pals on the big issues. The French approach has no chance of sustained survival without US endorsement. The DG of Israel's FM: "The only way to get a stable regional arrangement that allows us to create peace in the ME is if the parties of the region come to understandings between them.... If you have a conflict w/ your neighbor, you don't go all the way to France and bring Senegal over to solve it. You talk directly to your neighbor.... They're running from negotiating w/ us." G. Rumley: For the Pals, the conference represents a victory. (1) In the broader int'l community, the Pals believe they will find a more sympathetic audience. (2) By moving the process away from a bilateral to a multilateral forum, the Pals hope the conference could result in binding int'l parameters for a future Pal. state. The meeting in Paris will most certainly bolster Ramallah's confidence in its int'lization campaign. *JPost*: Forget unrelenting terrorism, the Hamas-Fatah split, and the consistent Pal. refusal to recognize Israel as the nat'l home of the Jews. Per a paper published on Thur. by the French FM to explain its initiative, settlement activity is the main threat to a 2-state solution. The French document contains not a word regarding Pal. culpability for the current diplomatic logjam and revitalizes the notion that the Israeli-Pal. conflict is at the core of instability in the ME.

French Immigrants Young, Academics (*Ha'aretz*)

From 2013-15, Israel added 16K+ French Jews. In 2014; half were 34 or younger; half had higher education w/ at least 16 years of schooling in fields such as medicine, engineering and finance. The potential French aliyah is 200K. 43% of French Jews are considering emigrating to Israel, mainly based on the insecurity they feel.

UN Report on Iran's Nuke Program (*Daily Caller*)

The IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, furnished its 2nd report on Iran's nuclear program Fri. Israel: "The IAEA report lacks technical details about critical implementation issues.... Without this info, an independent determination of whether Iran is complying w/ the JCPOA is not possible." No figure on low-enriched uranium in Iran's possession, nor how much has been sent out of Iran, diluted and produced; nor info on how many centrifuges

are operating in Iran's Natanz nuclear facility. *AP*: Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism despite a nuclear deal w/ world powers, per the State Dep't in its annual survey of worldwide terrorism.

Comparing Israel to Nazis - Anti-Semitism (*JTA*)

The Int'l Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, 31 Western nations devoted to commemorating the Holocaust, adopted a definition of anti-Semitism that includes hate speech vs. Israel, e.g., "claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor" and "applying double standards by requiring of it [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation." Comparing Israel to Nazi Germany is also listed, along w/ "accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust."

Israel Boycott Is Failing (*Bloomberg*)

Foreign investments in Israeli assets hit a record high last year of \$285.12 billion, a near-tripling from 2005 when BDS movement was started. Money managers, economists and gov't officials say Israeli assets are an attractive alternative to weak performers elsewhere. The country's economy is growing faster than those of the US and Europe; its interest rate is higher. Startups raised \$3.76 billion last year from non-Israeli investors, the highest annual amount in a decade. Foreigners spent an additional \$5.89 billion acquiring them. A survey of 9 Israeli firms w/ ties to settlements showed major non-Israeli holdings have increased or remained largely unchanged over the past 3 years. While some state pension funds in N Europe have opposed investing in companies linked to Israeli activities in the W. Bank, many others in China and elsewhere want assets w/ good management, high dividend yields and a healthy balance sheet. Netanyahu met w/ Finland's FM Thur. who expressed total opposition to BDS activities.

Arab Israeli Salafists Take Aim at Culture (*AFP*)

Salafists are increasingly asserting themselves among Israel's Arab population, taking their campaign to cultural institutions and local gov'ts, opposing anything they view as immoral.

3,000-Year-Old Egyptian Amulet Found (*Is. Hayom*)

On Tues., Israeli high school students participating in an archaeological excavation at the Tzipori (Sepphoris) in the Galilee discovered an Egyptian amulet that is 3,000+ years old. It is an Egyptian scarab from the times of the Ramses, the 19th Dynasty, the golden days of the pharaohs of Egypt.

Syrians Planning ISIS Attack in Germany (Reuters)

3 Syrians w/ links to SIS were arrested in Germany for planning a large-scale attack in Duesseldorf. ISIS militants took advantage of the chaotic influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants to sneak fighters into Germany.

US Backs Kurds (WashPost)

US commandos are accompanying the Kurdish-led Syrian Democ. Forces (SDF) as they push toward Manbij in Aleppo province, backed by US airstrikes, this to further squeeze ISIS in the Syrian city of Raqqa. Turkey opposes using the SDF, which has ties to the militant Turkish Kurdish PKK, designated as a terrorist org by the US and Turkey. Turkey fears that Kurdish advances will encourage Kurdish separatist sentiments inside Turkey.

Ties w/ Arab World and Peace (Times of Is.)

"By improving ties w/ the Arab states, we set the stage for a future breakthrough w/ the Pals.," the Israeli FM says. It has recently met w/ officials from Arab countries, including those w/ which Israel has no formal ties.

Roots in Jerusalem Are Deeper than Others

Netanyahu: "On the 49th anniversary of the reunification of Israel's capital ... we remember the J-lem that was divided until the Six-Day War w/ barbed wire fences, minefields, a no-man's land. Only Israel can safeguard J-lem's existence as an open city. The org. charged by the UNESCO recently determined that the Temple Mt. has no connection to the Jewish people. Our forefathers visited the Temple Mt. 3,800 years ago. The 2 temples of the Jewish people stood on the Temple Mt. for 1K years. King David made J-lem our capital 3,000 years ago; ever since, the Jewish people have prayed in the direction of the Mount. Does anyone claim that the pyramids in Giza have no connection to the Egyptians? That the Acropolis in Athens has no connection to the Greeks? That the Coliseum in Rome has no connection to the Italians? Israelis have a primal claim on J-lem. Our roots here are deeper than any other people, and the same is true about the Temple Mount.

Israeli-Pal. Security Coop. Increasing (Times of Is.)

The past 2 months have seen a significant drop in the number of arrests and raids by Israeli forces in the PA; Pal. security services have been carrying out arrests of Pals planning stabbing and shooting attacks and bombings. In general, the level of operations by PA security forces has significantly risen in recent months, and Pal. officers are also active in the villages surrounding J-lem. A Pal. woman attempted to stab a group of soldiers Thur. in the W. Bank She was shot and killed.

Jewish, Arab Fertility in Jerusalem (Is. Hayom)

The fertility rate for Jewish women in J-lem is now 4.3 children; among the city's Arab women - 3.3 children.

The city's overall Arab population grows while the Jewish majority has shrunk, this due to from a lack of available housing.

Namer Armored Personnel Carrier - (JPost)

The IDF's new Namer APC completed its first combat drill on Wed.. Its upgrades the IDF's land combat capabilities in challenging terrain and comes w/ the Trophy active-protection system against shoulder-fired missiles. Namer APCs saved many soldiers' lives during the 2014 conflict in Gaza.

Israel-Arab Economic Cooperation in Jordan (Ynet)

A project was founded in Jordan by a group of Israeli farmers who had been evacuated from the Gush Katif settlements as part of the 2005 Gaza disengagement. They cultivate organic vegetables, relying on hundreds of Muslim workers - many refugees from Syria - and then export the produce to Orthodox Jewish community in Israel, and to S. Arabia and the UAE.

Leviathan Natural Gas Field (Reuters)

Israel's gov't Thur. approved the dev't of the Leviathan natural gas field to give Israel a 2nd source of gas supply while potentially turning it into a gas exporter. The field is expected to become operational in 2019. The site will cost at least \$5 billion to develop.

Georgia w/ State's First Solar Field (JPost)

Georgia Power and Israel's Energiya Global subsidiary inaugurates a 59-acre solar power field in Glynn Co., GA, after winning a \$30 million tender for the state's first commercial-scale solar field.

Accessibility Tech for the Disabled (Israel21c)

2 Israeli nonprofits won Impact Challenge grants from Google to make the world more accessible to people w/ disabilities: \$1 M. toward the joint dev't w/ Sesame Enable of a solution that will allow people w/ limited mobility to operate smartphones w/ head movements; \$700K to develop Makeathon-in-a-box, a template for community make-a-thons that bring makers and people w/ disabilities together to build prototypes of new solutions for accessibility challenges; a \$400K grant for its project w/ Israeli startup Click2speak to develop a keyboard controlled by eye tracking for people w/ limited mobility and high cognitive function.

Simplifying Cloud Integration (ITProPortal)

IBM is buying Israeli-based EZ Legacy to help companies understand and make changes to the mainframe code in cloud apps. EZSource provides a visual dashboard to quickly, easily show developers which applications have changed. 80% of businesses are expected to adopt a hybrid cloud strategy before the end of 2017.

US-Israeli Company WalkMe Raises \$50M (*Reuters*)

WalkMe, whose platform guides users through online processes, raised \$50 M. Established in Israel in 2011, WalkMe is headquartered in San Francisco w/ 270 employees, including 160 in Israel. WalkMe is used by customers such as Kimberly Clark, Stanley Black & Decker and SAP to drive users to action as they interact w/ software of websites, which can increase sales,

Israel Fills UN Hall for Anti-BDS Conference (*AP*)

1,500+ pro-Israel activists, students, and reps of Jewish orgs filled the UN Gen. Assembly Tues. for a conference sponsored by the Israeli mission on how best to combat BDS on US campuses. Israel's Amb.: "Their only goal is to bring an end to the Jewish state.... BDS is the true face of modern anti-Semitism." *Globes*: 1/3 of Amer. students believe that a boycott of Israel is justified.

Sanctions Won't Put Hizbullah Out of Business

The group has a massive rocket arsenal of 150K, including many w/ greater accuracy and payload than in the past. A robust strategy to hit Hizbullah in the purse is by itself insufficient. (*WashTimes*)

Gazan Kids Put on Play of Death (*Ynet*)

Elementary pupils in a Gaza city put on a show last weekend w/ kids dressed as Islamic Jihad fighters, w/ camouflage uniforms, helmets and play guns. Children enacted placing a bomb under an IDF tank and blowing it up, shooting mortar fire at an IDF outpost, and raiding an outpost and killing an Israeli soldier. *Pal. Media Watch*: Near Bethlehem children portrayed Israeli soldiers arresting a Pal. youth, planting a knife next to him, and then shooting him in cold blood. At another play young Pal. children "executed" an Israeli soldier.

75th Anniversary of Pogrom in Iraq (*Israel Hayom*)

On 6/1/1941, a pogrom took place vs. the Jews carried out by an incited Muslim majority. Hundreds of Jews were murdered in Baghdad and elsewhere; thousands more were injured. Jewish property was looted, and homes were burned down. An Iraqi gov't investigation revealed that J-lem Grand Mufti and the Nazi Arabic-language propaganda broadcast on the radio from Berlin were the main causes behind the massacre. In 1948, Zionism itself became a crime in Iraq. On 9/23/1948, the wealthiest Jew in Iraq, Shafiq Ades, was publicly hanged in Basra. More arrests, executions, and confiscations followed. All Jews were fired from gov't posts. ~130K Jews lived in 1949 Iraq, 90K residing in Baghdad.

Israel Intercepts 10 Gaza-Bound Drones (*JPost*)

Israeli security forces intercepted a mailed shipment of motorized drones at the Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza. Security checks have thwarted dozens of attempts to send weapons through the mail.

Egypt Won't Play Leading Role (*Egypt Independent*)

In contrast to earlier reports, Egypt's al-Sisi: "We do not intend on playing a leading role or to be leaders of this issue, but we are prepared to exert all efforts that will contribute to finding a solution to this problem."

Any Int'l Effort Will Lack Balance - Dennis Ross

Having the int'l community impose the parameters of a solution regarding Israel and the Pals is ill-advised. Principles that Pals seek will be concrete; those addressing Israeli concerns will be left vague w/ the details on security and refugees left for future negotiations. The gaps are too wide and mutual distrust is too deep, making any such talks a certain failure.

Paris "Peace" Talks - Charade - Jeff Robbins

The French say the purpose is "saving the 2-state solution" and "bringing the parties back to the negotiating table." The Pals have repeatedly rejected the 2-state solution refusing negotiate w/ Israel for many years now. In 2000, 2001 and 2008 they were offered an independent state on virtually all of the W. Bank, all of Gaza and a capital in east Jerusalem. They said "no." Jonathan Tobin: Never has the int'l community come to grips w/ the fact that Pal. Nat'l identity is inextricably tied to the war they have been waging on Zionism for a century.

33% Americans Say BDS Justified (*Globes*)

33% of Americans believe that BDS represents a legitimate means of bringing pressure to bear. 62% of respondents in the US and 50% in the UK consider the BDS movement to be a modern form of anti-Semitism.

No Moderation in Iran - W. Mead (*Amer. Interest*)

Shi'a identity is the bond that keeps the country together, more than Persian nationalism. Its int'l position is even more tightly wedded to hatred of America and Israel. If Iran drops the anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism from its foreign policy, it doesn't have an ideological leg to stand on in the struggle for hearts and minds in the modern MT. *WSJ*: Iran's next supreme leader: "The Zionists have the appearance of humans, but they aren't humans and have the bearing of pigs and predators." Whoever follows Khamenei as supreme leader is unlikely to alter the regime's anti-Western philosophy.

20K Walk w/ Israel in Toronto (*Can. Jsh News*)

A record 20K people walked in Greater Toronto's 46th annual Walk w/ Israel on 5/ 29. PM Trudeau: "We will continue to stand w/ Israel, one of our closest friends and partners, thanks to our shared values and the presence of a dynamic and thriving Jewish Canadian community."

Israeli Start-Up's Biomedical Sensor (*Globes*)

Israeli start-up ContinUse Biometrics has developed a sensor capable of remote continuous detection and monitoring of bio-medical indicators w/ no need for contact. The sensor detects heartbeat, blood pressure, breathing pace, glucose level, oxygen saturation and alcohol levels in the blood even if the subject is located a few meters away and is fully dressed. Tyco is to invest \$1 million in the technology.

Argentina Tank w/ Israeli Armor (*IHS Jane's*)

The Argentine Army has unveiled a prototype for its TAM medium tank modernization program, for which it is working with Israel Military Industries (IMI), Elbit, and Tadiran.

Israeli Medical Cannabis (*Globes*)

Israel drug device company Panaxia signed on w/ Ultra Health, the leading medical cannabis distribution company in New Mexico, to build a cannabis processing plant. Panaxia developed a method to extract and precisely measure the active ingredients of THC and CBD in the cannabis plant; every pill or powder is designed to contain exactly the required dosage.

Alibaba Invests in Israeli Tech (*WSJ*)

Alibaba is investing in the Israeli technology company Twiggle to improve product searches on e-commerce websites. Its biggest appeal is its query language tool, which uses behavioral data and artificial intelligence to narrow search results for online shoppers.

Older News

Note of Optimism for Israel's Future – Y. Melman

(1) While Hizbullah has accumulated a huge arsenal of rockets capable of hitting strategic and military site in Israel and has gained battlefield experience in Syria, it is bogged down in the killing fields. (2) In the Golan, al-Qaeda and ISIS on the Syrian side have learned to live in co-existence w/ Israel. They are fighting other enemies more important to them and are deterred knowing that Israel would harshly retaliate. (3) Israeli-Jordanian relations have never been better: security ties & intelligence cooperation. (4) The same is true of Egyptian-Israeli relations. The intelligence and militaries of the 2 cooperate against terrorists in Sinai who have pledged allegiance to ISIS. (5) Cairo and J-lem also see eye-to-eye on to how to deal w/ Hamas in Gaza. (6) Israel doesn't face any danger from Arab armies due to the peace treaties w/ Egypt and Jordan and because the armies of Iraq & Syria have disintegrated. (7) While Iran has a strong military and missiles capable of reaching Israel, Iran's Sunni Arab enemies have turned to Israel, which is reaching

out w/ secret military and intelligence deals to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. *The writer was a senior correspondent for 27 years on national security, intelligence and strategic issues at the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.*

Israel and Greece Get Closer (*Ha'aretz*)

There are growing signs of a new regional alliance for Israel w/ Greece, Cyprus, and to some extent Egypt. Greece asked Israel to help them set up an effective air intelligence system. Both countries are in the middle of a region in anarchy and thus need each other.

Hamas Stealing Civilian Cement (*JPost*)

Hamas is siphoning off 95% of the cement transferred into Gaza to rebuild homes, so that it can use it for military purposes, per Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Israeli Delegation Visits Turkey (*Israel FM*)

For the first time in 5 years, an Israeli delegation is in Turkey for the World Humanitarian Summit to present Israeli humanitarian aid throughout the world. Its pavilion portrays how Israel is always one of the first to provide an effective response in disaster situations.

Saudi Peace Initiative (*JPost*)

Opposition leader I. Herzog (Zionist Union) revealed that both he and Netanyahu held a number of discussions over the past several months concerning a regional peace proposal initiated by Saudi Arabia; that the 2 considered taking dramatic new steps to normalize relations w/ hostile neighbors. Some Sunni gov'ts have communicated a willingness to engage in talks w/ Israel over changes to the Saudi peace initiative so it may serve as the agreed-upon basis of renewed talks w/ the Pals. *Is. Hayom*: Changes would have to include demands that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights and grant Pal. refugees a "right of return."

Is. Unemployment Falls Below 5% (*Ha'aretz*)

This is a low not seen in decades.

Israel Has 8th Highest Life Expectancy (*Ynet*)

Per the WHO, Israel has the 8th highest life expectancy rate in the world, 80.6 - men; 84.3 - women.

Negev Desert - Cyber-City (*WashPost*)

In Beersheba in the Negev Desert, a cyber-city is rising to cement Israel's place as a major digital power. The director of the cybersecurity program at the Inst. for Nat'l Security Studies. "We are small ... but we go very fast."