

Israel Today – October 30-Nov. 2, 2015
Rabbi Howard L. Apothaker, Ph.D.

Netanyahu and the Democrats (*New York Times*)

Netanyahu made a direct appeal Tues. to Democrats. "The relationship with the United States - all parts of the United States - and the American people is a strategic asset to our national security and our future." 16 Democratic senators sent a letter to Obama Monday calling for a new and strengthened "Memorandum of Understanding" on security assistance to Israel - including "missile defense systems, increased bilateral cooperation on cyber, intelligence, and R&D for tunnel detection and mapping technologies." The senators commended Obama's "commitment to an unprecedented level of military, intelligence and security cooperation with Israel to address new and complex security threats."

EU Approves Settlement Product Guideline (*Reuters*)

The EU's executive approved Wed. new guidelines for labeling products from Israeli settlements. Dan Diker: Tens of thousands of Pals are employed in 100's of factories in some 8 industrial zones in Area C of the W. Bank that falls under Israeli control per the Oslo Accords. The head of the Pal. Prof. Ass'n in the W. Bank, called on Abbas to avoid causing a closing of W. Bank industrial zones before a suitable substitute is found.

Netanyahu Asks for \$50B in Military Aid (*Globes*)

Sources close to Netanyahu confirmed Mon. that Israel has asked for military aid totaling \$50 billion over ten years, starting in 2018 –for annual defense aid and for the dev't of missile interceptor systems - Iron Dome and the Arrow. Netanyahu emphasized the tech changes to the security sector which require significant investments in the dev't of new defensive measures and advanced weaponry. The PM is aware of US budget restrictions, but added: "If you look at the American aid to Israel and the mutual utility it produces, what Israel is asking for is not exceptional, it is not such a large investment."

Israeli-Pal. Talks Unlikely in Next 14 Months (*JPost*)

WH spokesman: "Given the dynamic, it is unlikely that the 2-state solution will be reached in the next 14 months We will need to see a commitment by Pal. leaders, too, to ending violence and incitement and demonstrating their commitment to negotiating in good faith.... Israel is the strongest ally the US has in that region of the world and improving and strengthening Israel's security is good for the national security of the US."

Post-Deal Regional Hegemony? - Jonathan Spyer

The most aggressive alliance active in the ME is the bloc of states and movements gathered around Iran. Because of the limitations of Iranian methods and the sectarian nature of the conflicts in question (blood conflict w/

non-Shia Arabs), it is unlikely that this will result in the attainment of Iranian regional hegemony.

Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism

An Int'l Conference on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism, attended by delegates from 41 countries and 10 regional and int'l orgs, opened in Israel Monday.

Israeli Arabs Prefer to Stay in Israel (*Democ.Inst.*)

The Israeli Democracy Index 2015 survey: 84.5% of Jews and 83.4% of Arabs in Israel reported that they are not interested in emigrating to a Western country even if offered citizenship in that country.

Israel Launches Largest Solar Plant (*JPost*)

Israel launched its largest solar plant Tuesday, the 55-megawatt Haluziot field of Enlight Renewable Energy, located in the NW Negev. The field includes 180K solar collectors and will generate enough electricity to power 18K households.

Israel's Cymmetri Deceives Hackers (*WSJ*)

Cymmetria whose software lures hackers into cyber traps makes decoy servers which simulate an org's real networks without jeopardizing operations or giving away real data.

Purifies Wastewater Using Plants (*Israel21c*)

Ayala Water & Ecology's phytoremediation systems are built into the landscaping at hundreds of industrial, residential, agricultural and recreational sites throughout the world. The system is an energy-free way to create a balanced water-purifying ecosystem that needs no maintenance aside from pruning as with any garden.

Obama, Netanyahu Focus on Shared Goals (NYT)

Obama and Netanyahu focused on shared goals: confronting Iranian mischief, countering terrorism, bolstering Israel's security and strategizing over Syria. "We don't have a disagreement on the need for making sure that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon, and we don't have a disagreement about us blunting destabilizing activities in Iran that may be taking place. Bibi said he shared the goal of eventually resolving the conflict w/ a 2-state solution: "I remain committed to a vision of peace of 2 states for 2 peoples, a demilitarized Pal. state that recognizes the Jewish state." Obama: "We condemn in the strongest terms Pal. violence against innocent Israeli citizens. And I want to repeat once again, it is my strong belief that Israel has not just the right, but the obligation, to protect itself." *Times of Is.*: Bibi: This was "one of the best meetings I've had with him," that the discussion focused mainly on Israel's security needs and American military aid to Israel, and steps on the ground J-lem intends to take to stabilize relations with the Pals; preparations for the renewal of the US-Israel Memorandum of Understanding which regulates American military assistance to Israel.

Jordan Policeman Shoots Dead Foreign Trainers

A Jordanian police captain at a police training center near Amman Monday, killed 2 Americans, a South African and 2 Jordanians. He wounded 2 Americans and 2 Jordanians, before being shot dead. (BBC)

Mayor Dismisses Academics' BDS (Guardian-UK)

The mayor of London, Boris Johnson, speaking at the outset of a trade mission to Israel, hit out at those involved in boycotts of Israel. "I cannot think of anything more foolish than to say you want to have any kind of divestment or sanctions or boycott against a country that, when all is said and done, is the only democracy in the region, is the only place that has, in my view, a pluralist open society....This is a very, very small minority in our country who are calling for this."

Stabbing Attack - Nir Hasson

Tues.: A Pal man charged Israeli border police officers manning a checkpoint just east of J-lem w/ a knife. Police fired and killed the attacker. A Pal. wielding a knife charged 2 Israeli security guards at Damascus Gate in J-lem. He was shot. 2 Pals, one of whom was 12 years old, stabbed an Israeli security guard on the Light Rail in J-lem Tues. The guard shot one the assailants; the other was apprehended by security forces. A Pal. assailant w/ a knife in his hand ran toward 2 security guards near Damascus Gate in J-lem's Old City. The guards shot the attacker before he managed to stab them. (Ha'aretz)

Hamas Terror Network in West Bank (Ynet)

Israeli security arrested 24 members of a Hamas terror network in Kalkilya in the W. Bank Mon. The network received guidance, instructions and large-scale funding from Hamas command centers in Qatar and Gaza.

Palestinian State of Denial - Bret Stephens

"You do not make peace w/ enemies. You make peace with former enemies - either because you have defeated them, or because they collapse, or because they have defeated you" Huh? (WSJ)

Pals' World of Lies - Bassam Tawil

Abbas continues to talk about a "peaceful, popular uprising" vs. Israel, like the stabbing an 80-year-old lady in Rishon Lezion, and a 70-year-old Jewish woman in J-lem. Abbas then attacks Israel for shooting the knife-wielding assailants. Abbas and Fatah "voice appreciation for the heroic steadfastness" of the Pals., that it is their duty to "defend" the Islamic holy sites and, if killed, they will end up in Paradise. Welcome to the world of the Pals: we lie and believe our own lies. And then want the rest of the world to believe them, too.

Arab Psychological Warfare - Irwin J. Mansdorf

A professed repudiation of violence while failing to accept responsibility for specific violent actions by Pal. Arabs is a central part of the psychological strategy employed by groups associated w/ the resistance. By playing the role of victim and, in so doing, excusing "victim-generated" violence, Pal. Arabs act blameless; any violence they engage in is considered "different," justifiable and excusable: "victim rights" without any victim accountability. Any suggestion that a victim bears any personal responsibility or liability for their fate is unthinkable in much of Western society. Even extreme and brutal violence, is psychologically excused by claiming asymmetry between the alleged victim and the accused oppressor. *Irwin Mansdorf, PhD., is a clinical psychologist.*

Americans/Brits Support Israel (WashPost)

Survey trends show Americans' favorable views of Israel have been little affected by the row over the Iran deal: 59 out of a possible 100 favorability rating. Favorable views of Israel rose across the political spectrum when compared to 2014. Israel is seen as Britain's leading ME ally by 50+% of the British public. Only 12% back the singling out of Israel for boycotts; 43% object to such a move. 47% believe a BDS campaign against Israel would also hurt Pals.

Senators: Don't Label Israeli Products (Ynet)

Three dozen US senators on Tues. sent a letter to the EU foreign policy chief expressing concern over plans to label products manufactured in W. Bank settlements.

The plan sets a "troubling precedent" that "play(s) into the narrative of the BDS movement, which is an effort to delegitimize Israel rather than promote a resolution of outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians."

Beyond Iran Deal (*WashPost*)

Obama no longer harbors hope even for renewed talks during the last year of his presidency. A Deputy Nat'l Security Adviser: "There are practical things that can be done on the ground to build back some degree of trust and cooperation between the sides [including] rejecting violence and incitement. And we've called upon the Pal. leadership to do so."

Car Attack, Knife Attack (*Ynet News*)

Friday in the W. Bank: 2 Israeli civilians were wounded in a Pal. shooting attack. An Israeli soldier was seriously wounded after being shot in the head by a Pal. resident. The attacker was arrested. A video shows a Pal. woman attempting to ram a group of soldiers w/ her car. The woman was killed during the attack. A Pal. from the Ramallah area stabbed an Israeli in the chest. Sunday in the W. Bank: A Pal. drove into a group of Israelis at a hitchhiking station, wounding 5 before being killed by police officers. A Pal. woman stabbed a guard at the entrance to Beitar Illit. She was shot and wounded.

Israel Makes America Safer (*Defense One*)

The US and Israel are far closer than many realize on core issues. As Mr. Obama's deputy ass't sec'y of defense for ME policy from 2012 to 2015, I traveled to Israel 24+ times to discuss how to preserve Israel's "qualitative military edge." Sec'y of Def. Carter reinforced his priority that America's military develop an insurance policy should Iran back away from the nuclear agreement. Israel provides the US intelligence, joint military exercises, and technology, [all] to find better ways to shoot down enemies' missiles, defend against cyber attacks, and detect weapons smuggled through tunnels on Israel's border. The scars over the nuke agreement pale against shared interest in holding Iran accountable, and deterring and responding to Iran's destabilizing threats. A monitoring group should be created to discuss Iran's destabilizing activities and its significant conventional forces, its terrorist attacks, and cyber capabilities.

Do Pals Want 2 States? - Yossi Kuperwasser

The former head of Pal. Gen. Intelligence and a member of Fatah's Central C'ttee: The Pals have waged a struggle to liberate their land ever since the Balfour Declaration. Per Tirawi, there is no single act that will achieve the objective, just a "cumulative struggle." Abbas has again declared that he will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state, that such recognition would nullify the "right of return" and would require a change in the Pal. narrative. The only solution is that of 2 states for peoples w/ mutual recognition. The idea has not died; it has not yet been born because the Pals, and the Europeans who support them, refuse to allow its birth.

Fifth President of Israel Dies (*Ha'aretz*)

Yitzhak Navon, Israel's 5th president (1978-1983), died Sat.. He served as Ben-Gurion's political sec'y and bureau chief. In 1980, he visited Egypt as an official guest after the Israel-Egypt peace treaty was signed. He received a warm welcome after speaking Arabic during his visit.

UK Academics in Haifa U. Conf. - (*JPost*)

Haifa U. hosted 13 academics from leading universities in the UK over the weekend at a conference on quantitative studies of conflict in int'l relations. It was held against the backdrop of increasing calls for the academic boycott of Israel among UK academics. No institution has yet to announce a boycott.

NY Councilmen Call to Ground Kuwait Airways

Calling Kuwait Airways' refusal to sell a ticket to and Israeli citizen "blatant discrimination," 10 members of the NYC Council asked the US Dep't of Trans. and the Port Authority of NY and NJ either to enforce anti-discrimination laws or stop the airline from operating at Kennedy Airport. On Oct. 22 the dep't directed the airline to "cease and desist" from refusing to sell tickets to Israeli citizens. (*NY Jewish Week*)

Palestinian Stabbing and Ramming

In West Bank /J-lem

They continue at about a dozen per week. ~Half the assailants are killed instantly, the other half are wounded and/or captured. Bassam Tawil: This is not a "popular uprising, just another wave of terrorism: targeting Jews for being Jews. Attacks on Jews in Israel and the W. Bank are part of the global *jihad* that has been waged for many years against Jews in particular, non-Muslims in general, and even against other Muslims who might follow a differing version of Islam.

Pal. Violence / Global Terror - Moshe Arens

The violence in recent weeks is just another chapter of the wave of radical Islamic terror that has attacks targets around the world during the last few years. The perps are inspired by ISIS's decapitations. They cannot be appeased. Their aim is death to infidels - Jews and Crusaders. J. Spyer: Cooperation between Israeli security forces and those of the PA has continued despite the violence. The PA leadership does not control the young carrying out the stabbings. Abbas prefers not to trash the relative stability of recent years. It is the Islamic State which has "pioneered" murder w/ cold steel in the Middle East. The Tanzim and other Fatah armed groups have been instructed not to engage in violence. The attacks come from Pals too young to remember the last Intifada. This leaderless, directionless trend will not produce any gains for the Pals. The inspiration for the wave of knife attacks is fairly obvious.

Saudi Prince Support Israel vs. Pals? (*News Tribe*)

Saudi Prince al Waleed bin Talal has denied as "bogus" a report by the Kuwaiti media outlet *AWDNews* that he would side w/ Israel in case of a Pal. uprising.

UN Giving PA a "Prize" for Terrorism (*JPost*)

Israel rejects any diplomatic initiative that allows the Pals to avoid direct negotiations, gives them any kind of political benefit from the current violence, and does not demand immediate cessation of PA incitement.

Ending Century of Pal. Rejectionism - Daniel Pipes

Every year or two a campaign of violence is spurred by Pal. political/religious leaders spreading wild-eyed conspiracy theories (e.g. al-Aqsa Mosque is under threat). Each round ends w/ the Pals in a worse place: the dead and wounded, buildings destroyed and an economy in tatters. Their actions harden Israeli opinion, making the prospect of concessions and compromise less likely. J. D. Halevi: By unleashing Pal. terror, Abbas hopes to bring about greater int'l intervention in the conflict. The Pal. struggle against Israel will then continue from the new borders under improved circumstances. B. Ganor:

The current wave of terror will only subside after the incitement abates and the messages from the Pal. leadership to the Pal. public change. H. Gur: A most remarkable fact about the stabbings/protests that dominate the headlines is how few Pals are participating: a few hundred; at moments of high mobilization, perhaps a few thousand. Attackers of Israelis are battling a growing Pal. realization that their nat'l movement has no narrative or political vision that offers a way forward to better days. The quick deaths the attackers meet time and again bring the collapse of Pal. solutions and self-respect, and Israeli unflappability, into sharper relief. If Jews can't be made to leave, then what is the value of Pal. sacrifices made on the altar of this misbegotten strategy? Prof. E.Zisser: In the Arab world no one has the time or the energy for yet another round of Pal. unrest. Both Egypt and Jordan are trying to defuse the situation and convince the Pals to shelve the issue.

Ya'alon: Israel Surrounded by Jihadists (*PJ Media*)

Israeli DM Ya'alon at the US Nat'l Defense U. Tues: "I supported Oslo.... Neither Arafat at that time and Abu Mazen [Abbas] today ... who are considered relatively moderate in the West, are not ready to recognize our right to exist as the nation state of the Jewish people.... [We are] living on an island surrounded w/ *jihadists*: Shia, Hizbullah; ISIS; Jabhat al-Nusra.... Today, it's Islamic motives, more than nat'l motives, that call to eliminate the State of Israel as a Jewish state." Before there were settlements.... The borders between ours and the Pal. entity can't be a return to the 4 June 1967 lines ... because they are indefensible borders."

Good Political News

US Pledges to Boost Israel's Military Edge

Def. Sec'y Carter pledged to enhance "the entire spectrum" of strategic cooperation w/ Israel, from cyber defense and high-end attack capabilities down to a joint program aimed at combating terror tunnels. Carter restated to visiting DM Ya'alon the US's longstanding commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge. He pledged continued US support for Israeli active defense programs against rockets and missiles, including Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow. "This is one of the most trusted relationships we have in the world and so when we discover something that is critical to both of us, we share it, and we do that from electronic warfare to cyber to all kinds of...tremendous intelligence sharing....The alliance is a two-way street, and we appreciate what we get as well as what we give, and it's an alliance that makes us stronger too."

Kerry: Pals Must Stop Incitement (*State Dept*)

Kerry: "The kind of violence that we have been seeing in recent weeks hurts everyone....It is absolutely vital

for Israel to take steps that empower Pal. leaders to improve economic opportunities and the quality of life for their people on a day-to-day basis. And it is equally important for Pal. leaders to cease the incitement of violence and to offer something more than rhetoric; instead, propose solutions that will contribute in a real way to the improvement of life, to the reduction of violence, and to the safety and security of Israelis."

Israel on UN C'ttee on Peace in Outer Space (*JPost*)

Israel was accepted into the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in a 117-1 vote. The C'ttee governs the exploration and use of space for peace, security and development.

Indians Eager to Enhance Relations (*JPost*)

The India-Israel Forum convened this week in Israel: "India is very keen to have Israeli products made in India. Leading figures of Reliance Industries India said they were exploring agreements w/ Israeli educational institutions for use of their research.

Make EU Funds Conditional - Lars Adaktusson

We need to condition all EU funds for the territories on an actual Pal. renouncement of hate and incitement to violence. Building a society that sees cutting throats as abhorrent is not a pro-Israel position. It falls into the oft forgotten category of the right thing to do. *The writer, a Swedish journalist and TV news anchor, is a member of the Eur. Parliament's C'ttee on Foreign Affairs.*

IOC Revokes Qualifier Status in Kuwait (*Reuters*)

The Asian shooting championship, which starts in Kuwait this week, has been stripped of its Olympic qualifying status after an Israeli delegate was refused an entry visa. The IOC said the denial of a visa went against the non-discrimination principle of the Olympic Charter.

WH Retreats from Diplomatic Push at UN

The US is sticking to a stance that the UN should butt out of the Israeli-Pal. peace process. "Nobody is talking about a resolution in the UN Security Council now," an Arab diplomat said. (*Foreign Policy*)

Responsibility of Arab Culture - Hassan Mneimneh
Aggression against innocents doesn't bestow honor on the perpetrators, their supporters, or a culture that finds these acts praiseworthy. Arab media is saturated w/ solemn declarations that Israel should be eliminated, and jubilantly welcomes the killing of any Israeli. This attitude hardens the Israeli public and action as a response. There is a need for a long overdue reconsideration of the Arab approach to the Pal. cause. Arab culture must address the fundamental question of whether it conceives of a place for Israel in the Arab region. Currently, the disagreement in Arab culture vis-a-vis Israel is between

the proponents of its elimination via active "resistance" and the advocates of waiting for its extinction via passive "moderation." Either way, there is no room for Israel. The result is an Arab culture that prides itself on murder as long as it is inflicted on the other.

Heirs of Spanish/Portuguese Jews (*Times of Is.*)

This week Lisbon began bestowing Portuguese citizenship upon descendants of Jews who were persecuted on the Iberian Peninsula some 500 years ago. 4,302 people have begun the citizenship process. Tens of millions of Latinos and Hispanics in N. and Latin America and Europe are descended from Portuguese Jews.

BDS Activists' Discrimination Convictions (*JTA*)

France's highest court of appeals confirmed earlier rulings that found promoters of a boycott against Israel guilty of inciting hate or discrimination. In France, several dozen promoters of a boycott against Israel have been convicted of inciting hate or discrimination.

150 Jordanians To Work in Eilat (*Ammon News*)

Israeli authorities have approved the 150 Jordanian hotel workers to work in hotels in Israel's southern resort city of Eilat, under a plan that could eventually include up to 1,500 Jordanians.

Economic Costs of Unrest - D. Rubinstein

There are 14 Israeli W. Bank industrial zones, including Adumim near Jericho w/ 330 factories, Barkan in Samaria w/ 160 factories and the zone between J-lem and Ramallah. The factories do food processing, textiles, printing, furniture manufacturing, construction and plastics. 30,000+ Pals are employed in these zones, w/ some 20K more working in construction, transport, supply and agriculture. In total, more than 200K Pals make a living from activities in contact w/ Israel and represent 25+% of the Pal. workforce.

Foreign Armies Send Troops to Train (*Times of Is./*)

12 of the graduates of the IDF's latest combat officer training course were from foreign armies, incl: the US, Brazil, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands and Italy.

Our Right to Life - Amb. Eviatar Manor

Israel's UN Amb.: "How is it that, when the citizens of Israel undergo a vicious terrorist assault, my country is accused of murdering children, summarily executing attackers and using excessive force. In Sweden, an assailant armed w/ a sword murdered 2 people and wounded 2 and was shot and killed by the police.... Was the attacker summarily executed as well or was he shot to prevent further killings of innocent people? Let me be clear: Israelis stabbed or run over by a car while walking in the street or waiting for a bus are victims; Pals shot while actively attempting to stab civilians are

terrorist perpetrators.... The days of spilling Jewish blood without Jews allowed to defend themselves are long gone.... We shall exercise our right to life." *NY Observer*: On Oct. 21, a man wielding a knife lunged at a border patrol officer. The assailant was shot 4 times. Did you hear about this incident? Probably not. That's because the incident took place not in Israel, but at the US-Mexican border crossing in Calexico, California. No int'l headlines, no rage for the poor guy even after he was denied entry into the US. Most of the Pals were killed in the midst of an act of terror. Shooting someone who wants to take your life is as appropriate a response at the border between CA and Mexico as it is in the clash between terrorist and Israeli citizens.

== =

Anti-Semitism among Migrants (*JPost*)

German Jews fret over the potential for a rise in anti-Semitism due to "widespread anti-Semitism among Muslim youth" who have made their way to Germany, several community leaders told Chancellor Merkel Tues.. Per a security document obtained by *Welt am Sonntag*, Germany is "importing Islamic extremism, Arab anti-Semitism, nat'l and ethnic conflicts of other peoples, as well as a different societal and legal understanding

Why Is Product Labeling Big Deal – G. M. Steinberg

While invoking a rhetoric of peace, the EU and its reps. in Israel continue to promote policies and orgs that reinforce the conflict ... promotes boycotts and other actions that single-out and demonize Israel.... A full and independent investigation of the EU's relationships w/ fringe groups that fuel the conflict is long overdue.

Restore the Caliphate, Annihilate the Jews (*MEMRI*)

In a video posted on Oct. 24, a Pal. preacher: "Allah willing, the Caliphate will be the one to liberate J-lem very soon...and it will annihilate the Jewish entity." "Oh Allah, annihilate the Jews. Oh Allah, let us kill them. Oh Allah, make the ground swallow them up, along w/ their homes...Oh Allah, bring the whip of torment cracking down upon them."

Israel, Jordan Easing Holy Site Tensions (*AP*)

Kerry said that Israel and Jordan have agreed on steps to reduce tensions at the Temple Mount, after meeting w/ King Abdullah Abbas in Amman. The steps: round-the-clock video monitoring and Israel's reaffirming of Jordan's special and historic role as custodian of the site. Israel has pledged to maintain the rules of worship at the site. Israeli and Jordanian officials said Tues. that surveillance cameras will be installed within days at the Temple Mount in J-lem, streaming live on the Internet for maximum transparency. Israel welcomes the plan. Jordanians Tues. criticized the PA for rejecting the

idea. *Reuters*: Netanyahu: Israel "has an interest in cameras being deployed everywhere on the Temple Mount" to refute claims that it is changing the status quo; to "show where the provocations are really coming from."

UK Academics Call to Boycott Israel (*Jsh Chronicle*)

A letter signed by 343 British academics calling to boycott Israel appeared in the *Guardian* Tues. The letter was in response to a pro-Israel initiative last week backed by 150 writers, artists and musicians, including "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling. Rowling has defended her decision to oppose a cultural boycott of Israel: "I believe strongly that cultural dialogue and collaboration is more important than ever before and that cultural boycotts are divisive, discriminatory and counter-productive." Israeli official: "Those who call for a boycott against Israel during a month which saw 45 stabbing attacks - in which more than 100 Israelis were wounded, and 10 were murdered - blatantly ignore the lives of Israelis, and the conditions necessary for peace."

Boycott Campaign - Enemy of Peace (*Ynet*)

There are no calls for a boycott of the PA, even if time and again its leadership refused any settlement based on the idea of 2 states for 2 peoples, and even though the PA makes monthly payments to imprisoned murderers of Jews; no call for a boycott against the PA that continues to fund anti-Semitic incitement against Israel. There is something very racist about the absolute exemption from criticism granted to the Pal. side, but obsessive criticism directed to the Israeli side.

Iran and Syria

US Invites Iran to Join Syria Talks (*WSJ*)

Iran will be invited to join int'l talks on the Syrian crisis in Vienna. The US and its Arab allies previously blocked Tehran from participating in the talks on Syria. The WH Tues. also said it was willing to let Assad remain in office and oversee a political transition in Syria, though he'd eventually have to go.

Ross: Firewall Against Iran Nuclear Weapons

Dennis Ross: "The [Iran] deal itself buys you 15 years. One of my main concerns is what happens after year 15.... To deal w/ that vulnerability you have to bolster your deterrence in a way that convinces them there is a firewall between threshold status and weapons status ... that for any misbehavior they pay a price ... that matters to them.... I would like to see a joint consultative committee between the US and Israel on the implementation.... I think it would be reassuring to the Israelis and it would send a message that we are really going to hold the Iranians to what they are obligated to

do. But I would also like that committee to be a forum for contingency planning to deal w/ options for when the Iranians ratchet up what they will do in the region."

Israel Makes Arabic Compulsory in Schools (AFP)

Israel's Knesset voted on Wed. to make Arabic classes compulsory for students from the age of six.

No Deal until Sanctions Repealed (Press TV-Iran)

213 Iranian lawmakers said no practical measure should be taken on the implementation of the nuclear agreement before the US and EU officially declare the lifting of all financial and economic sanctions. *Fox*:

Russia has helped Iran deliver weapons into Syria twice a day over the past 10 days.. The flights breach two UN Security Council resolutions which impose an arms embargo on Iran.

Russia-Israel Coordination Is Flawed (JPost)

When Bibi met Putin in Moscow some weeks ago they set up a coordination mechanism to avoid military clashes between forces. Sources: Russia updates Israel post facto or provides worthless info, e.g., the most recent Russian attacks on the Golan Hghts in Syria. Russian air strikes on Syria have killed 410 fighters from various insurgent groups and 185 civilians since Moscow started its aerial campaign a month ago, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Thurs..

Israel, the Beautiful / Industrious

Israel-Egypt-Italy Gas Export Teamwork (i24news)

Reps of the Italian energy company Eni are in Israel to discuss joining forces on gas exports to Europe - to explore the potential of "an east Med. gas hub" which will receive gas from various countries and send it on to Europe, mainly Italy and Spain. The company also seeks to be an outlet for Cyprus' Aphrodite field.

Israeli Technology Kills Cancer Cells (Times of Is.)

BioSight, an Israeli med-tech start-up, has found a way to fool cancer cells into letting themselves to be killed off - without harming normal cells. "Our system yields the maximum efficiency from chemo, w/ a minimum of toxicity," said Dr. Ruth Ben Yakar. "We believe it will be effective in many other kinds of cancer as well. It's a matter of finding the amino acid that a specific.

El Al Orders Boeing 787s (Chi.Sun-Times)

Boeing and El Al announced an order for ~9 787 Dreamliners for \$2.2 billion. El Al also will lease 6 more Dreamliners from independent companies. El Al has run only Boeing aircraft since 1961.

2015 Sets Record for Mergers, Acquisitions (JPost)

2015 has already broken records for Israeli mergers & acquisitions, +52% over the same time period last year,

reaching \$21 billion so far. Since 2010 there have been \$10b.+ worth of such transactions w/ China. This year more partakers came from China than from Europe.

In 35 Years, Israeli Life Expectancy +9 Yrs (JPost)

In the last 35 years, life expectancy among Israelis is +8.8 years for men and +9.0 for Israeli women; 84.1 for women, 80.3 for Israeli men, who have the 3rd-highest life expectancy among OECD countries.

Israel Helps When Disaster Strikes (Times of Israel)

From the earthquake in Mexico City in 1985, to the flooding in the Philippines this year, for 30 years the State of Israel has been sending relief delegations abroad. Almost everywhere we go, we are the first to arrive, and in most cases, our contribution is the greatest in the period closest to when the disaster occurs. The Israeli temperament is suited to functioning in disaster areas: we reach a site that's completely chaotic, and we know how to manage pretty well. We are able to handle authority, we know how to improvise, and we are good problem-solvers. In Haiti after the earthquake, our staff of 240 included nurses who had left kids behind at home, doctors, hospital dep't heads. Their readiness to help, to drop everything and work under difficult conditions, was amazing, living in tents, treating patients in intense heat and humidity, and w/ earthquake aftershocks all the time. We help those wounded in the Syrian civil war not for the public relations. Providing help makes us feel human. We've had our own disasters throughout history; we were not always offered help. It is our responsibility, therefore, to be a "light unto the nations," and realizing a human obligation. While the hospitalizations cost us millions, we do not give those who come from an enemy country a pre-test to find out what they think about Israel. We know that it doesn't change Israel's image in the world. But we are creating ties w/ the enemy that are of a different nature, saying to them: you can live alongside us without fighting. If, one day, there'll be a gov't there, and on both sides of the border there'll be people who will say to themselves, "We know from the past that we can gain from these mutual ties," that'll be our reward. We, the Jewish people, must seek out the added value in life. It was the Zionist vision that insisted on revival through building. The Zionist perspective chose not to wallow in tragedy and play the victim. The highest expression of this value is the ability to help. We've been through it, we understand it, and we know how to help. *The writer is Deputy Chief of Staff of the IDF.*

Israeli Arabs Prefer to Stay in Israel (Democ.Inst.)

The Israeli Democracy Index 2015 survey: 84.5% of Jews and 83.4% of Arabs in Israel reported that they

are not interested in emigrating to a Western country even if offered citizenship in that country.