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Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

This is a special edition of our weekly Debrief

NETANYAHU PRESENTS OLD NEWS TO AN AUDIENCE OF ONE TO KILL THE IRAN DEAL

In a speech today, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered what was billed by senior Israeli officials as a blockbuster revelation about Iran's nuclear program. But Netanyahu just repackaged old information to sell Donald Trump on killing the Iran deal.

TOPLINES

- In the latest move of his multi-year effort to kill the JCPOA, Benjamin Netanyahu today presented nothing but reasons to maintain this historic nuclear-constraining agreement.
- In addition to providing no evidence that Iran is violating the JCPOA, Netanyahu reminded the world precisely why it is so important to have the very constraints on Iran's nuclear program, including inspectors on the ground, that we would lose if Trump tears up the JCPOA.
- Netanyahu, like Mike Pompeo with whom he just met, and John Bolton who is now advising Donald Trump, has spent years calling for a disastrous war with Iran, and is once again taking steps to put the world on that path.

MESSAGING

Netanyahu's presentation confirmed what we already knew: Iran had a nuclear weapons program that it halted in 2003. [\[SOURCE\]](#)

- By highlighting Iran's past work on nuclear weapons -- and thus Iran's knowledge of how to build a bomb -- Netanyahu inadvertently made the case for the Iran deal, which blocks Iran from ever building nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu provided no information that Iran has violated the nuclear agreement.

- The Israeli military's chief of staff said last month that the deal is working. [\[SOURCE\]](#)

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- Netanyahu did not say how the current deal is insufficient in blocking Iran from building a bomb.

Netanyahu's speech on the Iran deal gives Trump cover to kill the deal.

- Netanyahu's speech was for an audience of one: Donald Trump.
- Netanyahu's presentation was nothing more than part of his years long campaign to kill the Iran deal.

The Iran deal has a built-in mechanism called the Joint Commission to settle disputes.

- Any intel suggesting Iran is cheating on the deal --or other parties to the agreement are violating it -- should be handled through the JCPOA Joint Commission and by the IAEA.

The timing of Netanyahu's speech is suspect.

- The deadline for Trump waive sanctions on Iran as the agreement requires is approaching next month.
- Netanyahu just met with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a fierce opponent of the JCPOA who's been angling for war with Iran for years.

The Iran deal is working as it should in blocking Iran from building a nuclear weapon.

- The IAEA has certified 10 times that Iran is in compliance with the agreement. [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- U.S. intelligence agrees that Iran is complying. [\[SOURCE\]](#) [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- Without the deal, we won't be able to monitor Iran's nuclear activities and verify that it's not building a bomb.

Netanyahu has been spreading false and/or misleading information about the Iran nuclear program and the Iran deal for more than a decade.

- Netanyahu's public claims about the Iran deal contradicted what Israeli intelligence believed. [\[SOURCE\]](#)
- Netanyahu was also a strong proponent of the Iraq war, once telling Congress: "If you take out Saddam's Regime, I guarantee you, that it will have enormous positive

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reverberations on the region.” [\[SOURCE\]](#)

- “There is no question whatsoever that Saddam is seeking and is working and is advancing toward the development of nuclear weapons,” Netanyahu also told Congress. [\[SOURCE\]](#)

“Fixing” the deal means killing the deal

- The U.S. cannot unilaterally alter the terms of a multilateral agreement. Any effort to do so is really an effort to kill it.
- It is standard practice to negotiate follow on agreements to arms control deals. Critics should seek to address concerns with the Iran deal within this framework and include all parties involved: the U.S., Britain, France, the EU, Russia, China, and Iran.

Killing the Iran nuclear deal will only bring Iran and the U.S. closer to war.

- Iran has stated its intent to expand its nuclear program if the U.S. withdraws from the deal, bringing it closer to building a nuclear bomb.
- Calls for war among deal skeptics and opponents will grow in the absence of the agreement’s round-the-clock inspections and monitoring that can currently ensure Iran isn’t covertly building nuclear weapons.

Killing the Iran deal sets a horrendous precedent with allies and adversaries alike.

- Walking away from the agreement will weaken our ability to do diplomacy with other countries, particularly North Korea.
- Iran will have no incentive to negotiate on other matters, such as its ballistic missiles, human rights, or other regional issues.
- If the United States moves to unilaterally kill the deal, it will be the U.S. that is isolated, not Iran.

Trump and his enablers in Congress and beyond will own the consequences of killing the Iran deal

- The crisis of the Iran deal’s future is entirely one of Donald Trump’s own making.
- Trump has already endangered the agreement by creating uncertainty about its future and discouraging investment in Iran.