

The week ending November 14, 2014

IRAN

U.S. Senators Menendez and Kirk Release a Statement on Iran Negotiations

On Nov. 12, U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) released a statement regarding the P5+1 nuclear negotiations with Iran. "As co-authors of bipartisan sanctions laws that compelled Iran to the negotiating table, we believe that a good deal will dismantle, not just stall, Iran's illicit nuclear program and prevent Iran from ever becoming a threshold nuclear weapons state," said the senators. Menendez and Kirk warned the Obama administration that they will "act decisively" on toughening sanctions on Iran should a deal not be reached. "This will require stringent limits on nuclear-related research, development and procurement, coming clean on all possible military dimensions (PMD) issues and a robust inspection and verification regime for decades to prevent Iran from breaking-out or covertly sneaking-out. Gradual sanctions relaxation would only occur if Iran strictly complied with all parts of the agreement. If a potential deal does not achieve these goals, we will work with our colleagues in Congress to act decisively, as we have in the past."

U.S. Condemns Iran Supreme Leader's Social Media Attacks to 'Destroy Israel'

During a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry personally condemned Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on his recent Twitter attacks to annihilate Israel. Asserting that Khamenei's comments were "unacceptable and shocking," Kerry discussed the tweets while updating Netanyahu on a negotiation session with Iran in Oman. On Nov. 8, Khamenei posted a plan to his Twitter account titled "9 key questions about the elimination of Israel," which used the hashtag #handsoffalqsa referring to the Arabic name of Temple Mount. Khamenei's comments called Israel a "barbaric, wolflike and infanticidal regime" that "has no cure but to be annihilated." U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Jen Psaki also spoke out against the comments saying, "We strongly condemn the hateful remarks made about Israel on Twitter from an account linked to the supreme leader. The remarks are offensive and reprehensible, and the entire international community should condemn such rhetoric." Following the tweets, Netanyahu calls upon the P5+1 countries to not rush into a deal with Iran. "There is no moderation in Iran. It is unrepentant, unreformed. It calls for Israel's eradication, it promotes international terrorism, and as the IAEA report just said, it continues to deceive the international community about its nuclear weapons program," said Netanyahu.

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Logan adding nonstop flights to Tel Aviv

Add Tel Aviv to the growing list of international cities that are a nonstop flight away from Boston. Governor Deval Patrick and the Massachusetts Port Authority on Monday reached an agreement with El Al Israel Airlines, which will offer three nonstop flights a week to Israel, beginning in June. “The appetite for it runs deep,” Patrick said. “The excitement about it is broad, and we are convinced that both the load and the yield will be as good for El Al as I know the route will be for us.” According to [The Boston Globe](#), Patrick made the announcement at a press conference at the State House, where he was joined by David Maimon, chief executive of El Al. The governor commended business, community, and academic leaders, including New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who had worked behind the scenes to bring the airline to Logan since his initial trade mission to Israel, in 2011. He led a second delegation there in May. Patrick referred to Israel as “one of the most productive commercial and cultural relationships that we have.” The governor said 200 companies with Israeli roots operate in Massachusetts and collectively employ nearly 7,000 people in the state. Many were attracted by the technology and health care centers. Nadav Efraty said he moved the company he founded in Israel to Newton after he met Patrick during the first trade mission. Now, Desalitech Inc., a desalination company that treats and purifies sewage and other wastewater, has projects and employees in both locations. Efraty said the new flight will make it easier for his workers to fly back and forth each week and decreases their travel time from about 14 hours to nine hours each way. “Our situation is not unique,” Efraty said. “This is going to be very helpful to the businesses here and to the community. It is great to see it finally happening.”

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

‘Hospitals of Hope’ launched against Ebola

MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, launched Operation Hospitals of Hope this week as its newest weapon to help Africa fight the severe Ebola epidemic. According to [Israel21c](#), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is earmarking NIS 1.2 million to the project, which is part of its ongoing contributions to the global fight against the deadly virus. Israel will send two containers of medical equipment to each of three countries hard-hit by the virus—Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. The equipment includes mobile clinics with a capacity of 20 beds each, in addition to protective equipment for healthcare workers, a treatment cart and everything needed to set up the clinics quickly and start treating patients immediately. At the launch event in Ashdod, MASHAV Director Gil Haskel said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also sending medical teams to Cameroon and Côte d’Ivoire to advise the local residents in dealing with emergency situations and preventing epidemic outbreaks. This is in addition to large donations of equipment and medications already sent to Sierra Leone, protective kits to the African Union, and other forms of aid from MASHAV and Israeli NGOs including IsraAid. “As head of MASHAV, I am proud to stand once again at the forefront of international aid efforts,” said Haskel. Israel has already contributed millions of shekels’ worth of equipment and expertise to the fight against the Ebola epidemic, including sending aid, and experts, creating apps to help caregivers control Ebola and even developing a sterile tent that can be used to help combat the deadly disease.