

The week ending October 31, 2014

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Israel to buy second squadron of stealth F-35 jets

The U.S. and Israel have tentatively agreed to a deal that would send Israel a second squadron of F-35 fighter jets from the U.S. manufacturer Lockheed Martin, costing upward of \$3 billion, roughly one-fifth of Israel's annual defense budget. [The Times of Israel](#) reported that the transaction, which is still subject to Israeli government approval, was sealed during meetings in Washington last week between Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Israeli news website Walla reported Tuesday. At its heart, the agreement reflects Israel's belief in the need to deal with powerful enemies far afield, such as Iran, and in the enduring importance of aerial supremacy, even as most of Israel's wars are fought against militants and terrorists armed with rockets and rocket-propelled grenades, tunnels and mortars, YouTube channels and Twitter accounts.

Israel comes to rescue of drought-struck California

Israeli knowhow will help California better cope with the devastating outcome the severe draught plaguing the West coast behemoth, which is said to have cost to the state's economy at least \$2.2 billion and left 500,000 acres fallow. According to [Ynet News](#), California is the source for more than 50 percent of U.S. fruit, vegetables and nuts, and almost 90 percent of America's strawberries, olives, broccoli, nectarines and garlic are grown there. The agriculture industry has suffered a deadly blow as a result of the current drought, which prompted the state to declare a state of emergency last January. Now Israel will try to alleviate some of the damage the dry spell has caused. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and California Governor Jerry Brown signed a strategic cooperation agreement as part of which Israel, a world leader in the field of water, would help out the drying state. Prof. Eilon Adar, a world expert in groundwater flow systems, will work to help the state work out solutions to the issue. "If we managed to overcome the water issues in the Middle East, we can do it anywhere in the world," Prof. Adar said. "Nonetheless, (to address the issue) they will need to improve the management and efficiency of the water market and increase and optimize the coordination between the water companies."

IRAN

Key Lawmakers Press for Congressional Oversight on Iran

This week The New York Times reported that the Obama Administration might attempt to avoid congressional approval if a deal is reached between the P5+1 and Iran. While the administration refuted these claims, a number of lawmakers voiced their concerns and reinstated the role of Congress; among them: Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chairman of

the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC), released the following remarks: “It’s tough to see a solid agreement when Congress – which was critical to putting in the strong sanctions that got negotiators to this point – is so clearly sidelined . . . This report is another sign that the Obama Administration may strike an agreement that fails to protect the vital national security interest of the United States and our allies.” Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), HFAC ranking member, voiced similar concerns: “I disagree with the Administration’s reported assertion that it does not need to come to Congress at this point during negotiations with Iran. We don’t know if the negotiators will be able to reach a good deal. In the meantime, we must ensure that the United States is in the best position to use our leverage at every point in the negotiation process, and the current sanctions regime represents our most powerful leverage against Iran. I believe that the letter that Chairman Royce and I sent over the summer, along with over 300 colleagues, reflects the will of the Congress: Congress must play a role at the outset of any comprehensive agreement.” On July 10th, Royce and Engel, along with 342 of their colleagues in Congress, sent a letter to President Obama calling for ‘greater consultation with Congress on a potential sanctions relief package that may be part of a final agreement.’

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

After Waze And Mobileye, Israelis Now Reinvent... The Deodorant.

When you think of Israeli innovation, things like the world’s first USB drive or advanced cyber security solutions may come to mind. But sometimes, Israeli innovation also comes in the form of ...deodorant. That’s right. According to [No Camels, Israeli Innovation News](#), a new Israeli Kickstarter campaign called ClickStick is hoping to make waves in the deodorant sector with their electric deodorant applicator. Currently, the team has raised nearly half of their \$55,000 funding goal and still has 34 days to go, which seems to mean that the electric, eco-friendly deodorant dispenser has a market, somewhere. According to the creators of ClickStick, the electronic deodorant dispenser emits the healthiest amount of deodorant, is environmentally friendly, and yup, you guessed it, is electric. Inserting the eco-friendly ClickStick deodorant or your favorite brand, all the user needs to do to avoid imminent stink is press a button on the applicator that will release the minimal and healthiest amount of deodorant a person needs. The company believes the applicator is ‘beautiful,’ coming in a number of colors and with a sleek design that could potentially make a great gift for someone you don’t mind embarrassing. Finally, and this is the cherry on the cake, the company promises that the ClickStick applicator helps its users avoid those annoying deodorant stains on your shirt. Although we’re not sure how they can guarantee this, it’s nice to think that people are so concerned about deodorant stains that they are innovating technology to avoid them.