



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending July 3, 2015

IRAN

Iran Talks Extended for a Week as Negotiators Seek to Bridge Differences

The deadline for an agreement in the Iran nuclear talks was officially pushed back by a week on Tuesday as negotiators extended a temporary accord that limits Iran's nuclear program, reports [The Washington Post](#). In a White House news conference with Dilma Rousseff, the visiting Brazilian president, President Obama said, "I will walk away from the negotiations if in fact it's a bad deal. . . . Given past behavior on the part of Iran, that simply can't be a declaration by Iran and a few inspectors wandering around every once in a while." The seven-day extension was needed "to allow more time for negotiations to reach a long-term solution—a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—on the Iran nuclear issue," said Marie Harf, spokeswoman for the State Department negotiating team. Iran has balked at providing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors entry to military bases, which is problematic because most of Iran's nuclear and nuclear-related facilities are at such sites.

Members of Congress Discuss Key Requirements for a Good Deal with Iran

As the P5+1 closes in on a nuclear agreement with Iran, members of Congress are speaking out about key requirements that must be included to ensure any deal truly blocks Iran's pathways to nuclear weapons.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) stated "Sanctions are what brought Iran to the table in the first place. Iran's crude oil exports have nearly halved in three years, Iranian banks have been barred from the international financial system and extensive nuclear proliferation, missile and other arms-related sanctions have hampered Iran's quest for regional hegemony. Any deal that explicitly or implicitly gives the Iranians sanctions relief on anything other than the country's long-term and verifiable performance on its obligations is a bad deal."

Additionally, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) made a statement on the floor on June 25, arguing that "Iran has a 30-year record of cheating but already the ayatollah has stated that Iran will not allow inspections at military sites today. Khamenei is always backtracking on major commitments agreed to by negotiators on all sides. This is a serious issue and, in my opinion, a clear ploy by Iran to frustrate the negotiations and move the goal post on these negotiations."

[Click here to read more statements from members of Congress on the requirements for a good deal.](#)

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Bipartisan Senate Letter to Obama Urges Continued U.S. Support for Israel Abroad

Twenty-two senators sent a bipartisan letter to President Obama on June 26, advocating for U.S. support for Israel in the global arena. Authored by Sens. Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), the letter urges the president to maintain the United States' historic policy and protect Israel at the United Nations and other international bodies. "At a time of increasing instability in the Middle East, with Israel's right to exist as a nation under continual threat and denial by its neighbors, our support is as critical as at any point in history," the senators wrote, "We ask you to continue to support Israel's efforts to find peace and security and to deny any Palestinian efforts to circumvent direct negotiations with Israel through counter-productive unilateral actions at the United Nations." The senators argue that a change in the U.S. posture will hamper the prospects of lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. The letter was signed by Sens. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Richard Burr (R-NC), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), James Lankford (R-OK), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), David Perdue (R-GA), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), John Thune (R-SD), Mark Warner (D-VA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Star Trek-Style 'Tricorders' on Their Way to Customers

In just a few weeks, early adopters will receive the world's first device that can scan products and provide a list of ingredients, components, materials, and other important information about food, pharmaceuticals, plants, and much more. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Consumer Physics, the company behind the device, called the SCiO device, announced Monday that it was preparing to ship its first units to researchers who ordered the device.

The SCiO device, says many observers, reminds them of the "tricorder" – the device from the Star Trek TV show that the crew of the USS Enterprise used to figure out what the fascinating things they found on alien worlds consisted of. This device uses near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy to scan physical materials for their molecular fingerprint, discovering the specific components of a piece of fruit, a hamburger, a pill, and, eventually, anything else, depending on what apps are developed on the platform. Dror Sharon, CEO of Consumer Physics, states, "It's been more than four years since we started working on SCiO, and the Kickstarter campaign has been part of an absolutely amazing journey."