



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending June 19, 2015

IRAN

Concerns Continue over Iran's Prior Nuclear Work

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the largest pro-Israel lobby in Washington, issued a rare [statement](#) on Wednesday raising concerns with recent remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on a key U.S. position in nuclear talks with Iran, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). Via teleconference on Tuesday, Kerry said, "We're not fixated on Iran specifically accounting for what they did at one point in time or another. We know what they did. We have no doubt. What we're concerned about is going forward." The response to his comments has been swift, prompting the secretary's new spokesman, John Kirby, to open his first briefing with an attempt to "put a fork" in the notion that the U.S. was conceding on a key negotiating position. "The [International Atomic Energy Agency]'s concerns about possible military dimensions, past and present, have to be resolved before there is a deal," Kirby told the press, charging that it is "absolutely, completely false" that the U.S. has shifted on the matter.

Key Senator Says to Forget the Deadline on Iran Talks for a Better Deal

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Wednesday that he had urged Secretary of State John F. Kerry to ignore a looming deadline for nuclear negotiations with Iran if that's what it takes to secure a more ironclad deal. Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), a key figure in brokering a compromise bill acceptable to the White House and congressional skeptics of an Iran deal, said he spoke with Kerry by phone late Wednesday afternoon, a day after Kerry said the United States is not "fixated" on Iran accounting for every last bit of its past secret nuclear research. According to [The Washington Post](#), Corker has said he thinks the administration is softening its positions in a rush to strike a deal by a self-imposed June 30 deadline. "June 30 is an artificial deadline," Corker said he told Kerry. "If it takes longer to get the right deal, take longer, please. Don't start cutting corners. I know group dynamics; when you're close to the end of a deal, and your aides are pushing part of what's going to be a major legacy, I understand how that can affect things. But please, please stop!" But Corker's remarks underscore growing concerns in Congress about negotiations with Iran to rein in its nuclear program in exchange for lifting sanctions. The United States is one of six world powers negotiating with Iran, and Kerry has played a dominant role in the talks, which have produced a temporary framework agreement. Kerry is expected to join discussions in Europe soon in a push for a final deal.

[Click here to learn more about the Iran Nuclear Talks.](#)

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Power Vows to Fight Anti-Israel Bias at the U.N.

U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power confirmed the U.S. will continue to oppose any biased U.N. resolutions against Israel during a recent House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing. Stressing Israel's right to be treated as any other nation, Power said the United States "will continue to confront anti-Israel bias wherever we find it." Several members of Congress including Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY) thanked Power for her effort to stand up for Israel at the U.N. and asked her to continue fighting for Israel. Power also said that the president has made it clear that "we are not reevaluating our friendship or bond with Israel. What we are engaging right now is how it's not incredibly clear how to find a path toward a two state solution."

State Department: The United States Will Stand With Israel at the U.N.

The United States will continue to stand with Israel in the international arena, a senior State Department official said on June 15. "The United States has consistently opposed every effort to delegitimize Israel or undermine its security, including at the United Nations," said Assistant Secretary of State Julia Frifield. "We uniformly and firmly oppose one-sided and biased actions designed to punish Israel in international bodies, and will continue to do so." In a letter to Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Frifield further asserted that the United States will not reassess its relationship with Israel. "We want to assure you we are not re-evaluating our relationship with Israel," said Frifield. "The United States will continue our close military, intelligence and security cooperation with Israel. This close coordination reflects the enduring commitment of the United States and is essential to the security of the Israeli people." In March, Rep. Engel, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, wrote a letter to the administration expressing concern over a potential change to U.S. policy supporting Israel at the United Nations and other international bodies.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

New Israeli Device Enables Jet to Take Over if Pilot Passes Out

Elbit Systems announced on Monday a new physiological monitoring device for air force pilots, which enables the jet's on-board computer to switch to autopilot if the human pilot suffers hypoxia (lack of oxygen) or loss of consciousness, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). The new system, called Canary, monitors the pilot's vital signs and physiological functions, and issues real-time alerts on the pilot's Helmet Mounted Display, or through the plane mission computer, if it detects the onset of problems. In extreme, life threatening cases, when the pilot can no longer control the aircraft, Canary will "facilitate recovery of the pilot and the aircraft by engaging the auto pilot," Elbit said. Canary has been developed in conjunction with the Defense Ministry, and uses sensors made by the Israeli start-up LifeBEAM. It "will be integrated into Elbit Systems helmet and HMD systems and does not require any pilot interference or action," the Haifa-based defense company said. "Pilots may be exposed to life-threatening medical conditions during flight due to low levels of oxygen (known as hypoxia). Modern aircraft may cause G-induced Loss of Consciousness (GLOC) and other physiological conditions (extreme fatigue, dehydration)," said Elbit Systems Aerospace Division's General Manager, Yoram Shmueli. "We believe that our new system will solve these problems and save pilots' lives," Shmueli stated. Sources at Elbit added that potential clients have shown interest in the new system, which should complete the development stage in around a year.