



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending September 2, 2016

IRAN

AIPAC Statement on Concessions to Iran on JCPOA Implementation

We are deeply troubled by today's report that Iran was secretly allowed to evade certain restrictions in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) so that it could begin receiving sanctions relief. If the report is accurate, this unwarranted leniency sets a dangerous precedent concerning adherence to the agreement. No further concessions should be granted to Iran, and complete transparency related to the deal's implementation must be provided.

This latest development follows earlier reports that Iran exceeded its quota for heavy water production, and failed to provide the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with unencumbered access during its investigation into the possible military dimensions (PMD) of Iran's nuclear program.

Since the agreement was implemented, Iran has continued its malign behavior, to include harassing American military forces, procuring prohibited technology, testing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and stoking regional conflicts. The administration and Congress must exercise robust oversight of Iran's behavior and respond to violations of the JCPOA, U.S. law or United Nations Security Council Resolutions with certain, swift and severe penalties.

U.S. Expresses 'Concern' Over Iran's Deployment of Advanced Missile Defense System to Fordow Nuclear Facility

The United States raised concern over recent reports that Iran has deployed its recently acquired Russian-made S-300 advanced surface-to-air missile defense system battery to the underground Fordow nuclear facility. "We've seen the reports of this deployment. Obviously, that's of concern to us because we have long objected to the sale of Iran—of these kinds of capabilities," [said](#) State Department Spokesman John Kirby in a press briefing. Kirby also emphasized that the U.S. will "stay in close consultation" with its allies regarding the deployment of the battery. On Aug. 28, Iranian state television [revealed](#) footage of an S-300 carrier truck in Fordow lifting its missile launchers into the air. According to the report, the battery was deployed to protect the secretive nuclear site from attack. The sophisticated defense system provides long-range protection against both aircraft and missiles. Russia delivered the first S-300 shipment to Iran earlier this year and will send the remaining components by the end of 2016. "Our main priority is to protect Iran's nuclear facilities under any circumstances," Brig. Gen. Farzad Esmaili, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' air defense force, [told](#) Iranian media. "Today, Iran's sky is one of the most secure in the Middle East." Members of Congress have also spoken out against the deployment of the missile defense system to Fordow.

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

DoD Approves Israeli Radar for U.S. Iron Curtain Testing

The Pentagon has given Herndon, Virginia-based defense solutions company Artis the green light to integrate Israeli radars from Rada Electronic Industries Ltd. into its Iron Curtain close-in active protection system (APS). “We have received approval from the U.S. government to import two Rada radar units for purposes of testing and evaluating them with our Iron Curtain active protection system,” Artis executive Brian Detter told [Defense News](#). On Monday, Netanya, Israel-based Rada announced it would provide its Compact Hemispheric Radar-based RPS-10 radar to support Artis’ active protection against rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and other shoulder-launched threats. Dov Sella, Rada’s chief business development officer, noted that Rada’s strategy targets “all APS manufacturers.” “Because our system is software-defined, we can adapt ourselves to all APS systems. Our radar is product-agnostic and presents a very attractive combination of price and performance. We believe it is one of the world’s most advanced capabilities for detecting threats and transmitting information in real time to APS countermeasures,” Sella said.

ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

Israel, Iran and Pakistan said cooperating on landmark science project

Israeli scientists are reportedly participating with colleagues from Pakistan, Iran, Egypt and Jordan on a \$100 million project to develop the Middle East’s new particle accelerator — the Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications, or Sesame. Sesame’s members are Iran, Pakistan, Israel, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Bahrain — a group among which diplomatic discomfort is rife: Iran and Pakistan don’t recognize Israel, for example, nor does Turkey recognize Cyprus. “We’re cooperating very well together,” said Giorgio Paolucci, the scientific director of Sesame told The Guardian. “That’s the dream.” According to [The Times of Israel](#), Sesame is a synchrotron—a large device that accelerates electrons around a circular tube, guided by magnets and other equipment, close to the speed of light. This creates radiation that is filtered and flows down long pipes in which instruments are placed, to gather the radiation and undertake experiments.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel’s Paralympic team hoping for medals at Rio

Two-time quad tennis Paralympic medalist Shraga Weinberg will bear the Israeli flag aloft as he leads a delegation of 30 physically and visually disabled athletes into the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. Running from September 7 to 18, the Paralympics will include 4,350 athletes from 178 countries competing in 23 disciplines. According to [Israel21c](#), Israel’s delegation of 15 men and 15 women will compete in 11 categories. “For half the athletes in this delegation it’s their first Paralympics,” says Dr. Ron Bolotin, professional manager of the Israel Paralympic Committee and the Israel Sports Association for the Disabled in Tel Aviv. Four years ago, Israel’s Culture and Sport Ministry launched an initiative to identify and promote more potential Olympic and Paralympic athletes in childhood. This is significant because world-class athletes generally begin training in childhood, but most of Israel’s Paralympic competitors entered athletics only after becoming disabled in their teens or 20s.