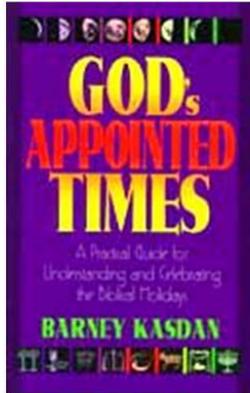


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update May 16, 2019 ***(11th Lyar, 5779)***

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For the Yachad Report Newsletter For May 2019

WHITE HOUSE REVIEWS MILITARY PLANS AGAINST IRAN: Media sources reported on Mon.13 May 2019 that top USA defense officials presented an updated military plan to President Donald Trump's administration that envisions sending up to 120,000 troops to the Middle East, should Iran attack American forces or accelerate work on nuclear weapons. Tensions between Iran and the United States have intensified since Trump pulled out of a 2015 international deal to curb Iran's nuclear activities and imposed increasingly strict sanctions on Tehran. Trump wants Tehran to agree to a broader arms control accord and has sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Gulf in a show of force against what USA officials have said are threats to USA troops in the region. Iran has claimed that the USA is engaging in "psychological warfare," calling the USA military presence "a target" rather than a threat. Iran has also said it will not allow its oil exports to be halted.

USA ASSESSMENT: IRAN BEHIND ATTACK ON SHIPS IN UAE: An American military team assessing blasts that damaged four commercial ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday 11 May 2019 has blamed Iran or Iranian-backed proxies using explosive charges. Each ship had a 5-to-10-foot hole in it, near or just below the water line, a USA official confirmed. A Norwegian-flagged vessel, two Saudi oil tankers and a bunkering tanker flagged in Sharjah, one of the UAE's seven emirates, all suffered similar damage on Sunday. The UAE asked the USA to help investigate the damage, which Gulf officials have characterized as sabotage. UAE's state media said there had been "no injuries or fatalities on board the vessels" and "no spillage of harmful chemicals or fuel." The USA had warned ships prior to the attack that "Iran could be targeting maritime traffic in the area" and that America had moved additional ships and aircraft into the region. The Saudi Energy Minister said two of the ships that were targeted were Saudi oil tankers that were en route to the United States. The minister, Khalid al-Falih, said the two tankers were hit in what he called "a sabotage attack". The attack caused "significant damage" to the ships, he added. Last week, the USA

military deployed an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Middle East in a move that USA officials said was made to counter “clear indications” of threats from Iran to American forces in the region.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: ‘IF IRAN DOES ANYTHING, IT WILL SUFFER’: USA President Donald Trump warned on Mon. 13 May 2019 that Iran would “suffer greatly” if it targeted USA interests. “We’ll see what happens with Iran. If they do anything, it will be a very bad mistake,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “If they do anything they will suffer greatly,” he added. President Trump’s comments on Monday came after the United Arab Emirates reported four commercial vessels had been sabotaged on Sunday 13 May 2019 just outside the Strait of Hormuz. Iran sought to distance itself from the incident. USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo canceled a trip to Moscow on Monday and instead stopped in Brussels to share information on “escalating” threats from Iran with European allies and NATO officials. Pompeo last week threatened a “swift and decisive” USA response to any attack by Iran.

IRAN THREATENS TO ATTACK ISRAEL IF THE USA LAUNCHES AN ASSAULT: Iran has aimed fire at the deployment of USA military forces in the Persian Gulf and threatened an attack on Israel if the aircraft carrier was ever used against them. Speaking to reporters on Sunday 12 May 2019 the Iranian Parliament’s vice-speaker Ali Motahhari said the military forces based in the region had started a ‘psychological’ war in the region.” The comments come after the Pentagon deployed the USS Lincoln to the Middle East in a move that officials said was to counter ‘clear indications’ of threats from Iran. In addition to having terrorist allies Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, Iran also has a number of explosive missiles aimed at Israel making the country a dangerous threat. Noting that “anything could happen” former Finance Minister of Israel Yuval Steinitz told Israeli news sources: “Things are heating up. I wouldn’t rule anything out. Iran may fire rockets at Israel.” He added: “The American sanctions are breaking the neck of the Iranian economy, and a new and stronger wave of sanctions is still to come.” On Sunday 12 May 2019, President Trump revealed that he had increased economic pressure on Iran in a bid to get Tehran to curb its nuclear and missile programs.

PRESIDENT TRUMP SLAMS RASHIDA TLAIB OVER ISRAEL COMMENTS: President Donald Trump reprimanded Democratic Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib in a tweet on Mon. 13 May 2019. “Democrat Rep. Tlaib is being slammed for her horrible and highly insensitive statement on the Holocaust,” Trump said. “She obviously has tremendous hatred of Israel and the Jewish people.” Trump was referring to Tlaib’s comments over the weekend, where the freshman lawmaker said that the Holocaust gave her a “calming feeling,” claiming that Palestinians provided a “safe haven” for Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. Tlaib’s comments were historically erroneous, as the Palestinians allied with the Nazis during World War Two. Muhammad Amin al-Husayni, the Palestinian Grand Mufti at the time was friendly with Adolf Hitler and helped spread anti-Semitic propaganda leading up to the Holocaust. Tlaib and fellow freshman Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Michigan have made waves early in their terms for their virulently anti-Israel beliefs, some of which have been widely perceived as anti-Semitic. Both Tlaib and Omar are supporters of the movement to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Israel (BDS), which has ties to Palestinian terror organizations such as Hamas.

RASHIDA TLAIB USES HISTORICAL INACCURACY TO EXPLAIN WHY THE HOLOCAUST GIVES HER ‘A CALMING FEELING’: Democratic Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib said last weekend that when she envisions the Holocaust she gets a “calming feeling” because her Palestinian ancestors provided a “safe haven” for some Jewish people. In fact, 435 Holocaust survivors were killed by Palestinians and Jordanians violently opposing any local creation of a safe haven for Jews. Palestinians allied with the Nazis during World War II. Muhammad Amin al-Husayni, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem during the time, was opposed to “further immigration of Jews to Palestine and Jewish national aspirations in Palestine,” according to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Al-Husayni notably met with Adolf Hitler and “collaborated with the German and Italian governments by broadcasting pro-Axis, anti-British and anti-Jewish propaganda.” After the Jewish state of

Israel was declared, Arab leaders urged their people to leave the newly formed nation-state. Despite Israel officially announcing “ a full and equal citizenship” for all occupants, the Arab nations, including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, invaded Israel the following day. Tlaib is America’s first Palestinian congresswomen and her time in office has been embroiled in allegations of anti-Semitism and anti-American sentiments. She received widespread criticism for her numerous ties to terror-affiliated activists. GOP Conference Chair Liz Cheney said, “Surely now House Speaker Nancy Pelosi & Majority Leader Steny Hoyer^[PDP] will take action against vile anti-Semitism in their ranks,” Cheney said. "Rashida Tlaib thinking the Holocaust provides her a ‘calming feeling’, must cross the line, even for them."

SEN. TED CRUZ SLAMS REP. RASHIDA TLAIB’S HOLOCAUST COMMENTS: ‘THEY’RE HORRIFYING’: Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, took aim on Mon. 13 May 2019 at three prominent Democratic freshman congresswomen calling them "radicals" after Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., made recent controversial remarks about the Holocaust. "The Democratic Party as a whole is galloping to the left. And one of the components of that is the extreme left has a long history of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hatred. We're seeing it with this freshman trio, these three freshman house members who keep expressing anti-Semitic, anti-Israel comments, said Cruz. "Whether it's congresswoman Tlaib's comments about the Holocaust, which are just... they're horrifying, or whether it's Congresswoman Omar's tweet attacking Israel, saying 'it's all about the Benjamins.' It's repeating anti-Semitic attacks," he added. The third member of the trio that Cruz made reference to is most likely Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who has staunchly defended Omar and Tlaib.

BEN-GURION AIRPORT SET FOR \$840 MILLION EXPANSION: Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport is set to significantly grow after the Transportation Ministry approved expansion plans worth NIS 3 billion (\$840 million) to cope with growing demand. In 2018, almost 23 million passengers traveled through Ben-Gurion Airport. Within five years, passenger traffic is expected to reach 30 million annually. Under the new plans, Ben-Gurion Airport's main Terminal 3 will be expanded by some 80,000 square meters, including the addition of 90 new check-in counters, four new baggage hall conveyor belts and the expansion of the existing duty-free space, immigration checkpoints and parking facilities. A fifth passenger concourse will be constructed, branching off from the terminal departure hall, to accommodate additional aircraft.

USA B-52 BOMBERS LAND IN QATAR OVER UNSPECIFIED IRAN THREATS: USA B-52 bombers ordered by the White House to deploy to the Persian Gulf to counter unspecified threats from Iran have arrived at a major American air base in Qatar, the USA Air Force acknowledged Friday 10 May 2019. Others landed at an undisclosed location Wednesday. 8 May 2019 in “southwest Asia,” the Air Force said. Early last week, the White House announced it would send the USA Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and the bombers into the Persian Gulf to counter Tehran. At an impromptu news conference regarding Iran at the White House, USA President Trump said, “We have information that you don’t want to know about. They were very threatening and we have to have great security for this country and many other places,” he said. Trump added that he wanted to speak to Iran’s leaders. On Friday 10 May 2019 the deputy leader of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps’ political bureau stressed that Iran will not engage in talks with the USA and added that the United States would never “dare” to attack the Islamic republic.

USA DEPLOYING PATRIOT MISSILES TO MIDDLE EAST: Acting USA Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan approved a new deployment of Patriot missiles to the Middle East, a USA official told media sources on Friday 10 May 2019. The move is the latest USA response to what Washington sees as a growing threat from Iran. Earlier last week, Shanahan approved the deployment of a USA carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East, citing "indications of a credible threat" by Iran. Officials later said that one of the reasons for the deployment was intelligence showing that Iran is likely moving short-range ballistic missiles aboard boats in the Persian Gulf. Tensions have risen between the USA and Iran over the past year, after President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. On

Thursday 9 May 2019, President Donald Trump urged the Iranian regime to agree to talks with the USA aimed at ending its nuclear program – while hinting that the USA could use military force against Iran.

PRESIDENT TRUMP ANNOUNCES NEW SANCTIONS ON IRAN AMID NUCLEAR TENSIONS: Iran on Wed. 8 May 2019 announced that it was reducing curbs to its nuclear program, just short of violating the terms of the 2015 accord with world powers. In response, a few hours later, the Trump administration introduced fresh sanctions against Iran. USA President Trump announced that he is imposing new sanctions on Iranian industrial metal sectors. "It remains the policy of the United States to deny Iran all paths to both a nuclear weapon and intercontinental ballistic missiles, and to counter the totality of Iran's malign influence in the Middle East," Trump wrote in an executive order. "It is also the policy of the United States to deny the Iranian government revenue, including revenue derived from the export of products from Iran's iron, steel, aluminum, and copper sectors, that may be used to provide funding and support for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist groups and networks, campaigns of regional aggression, and military expansion." As such, Trump announced new sanctions on Iran's iron, steel, aluminum, and copper sectors.

"Over the last month, the United States has taken several steps to increase the effectiveness of our campaign," said Trump. "We designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and increased the pressure on Iran ten-fold through full application of United States sanctions on Iranian oil exports. Today's action targets Iran's revenue from the export of industrial metals - 10 percent of its export economy - and puts other nations on notice that allowing Iranian steel and other metals into your ports will no longer be tolerated. Tehran can expect further actions unless it fundamentally alters its conduct. Since our exit from the Iran deal, which is broken beyond repair, the United States has put forward 12 conditions that offer the basis of a comprehensive agreement with Iran."

USA ENVOY: WE'LL RESPOND WITH FORCE TO ANY IRANIAN ATTACK: Brian Hook, the USA's administration's special envoy on Iran said that Iran's announcement that it plans to withdraw from parts of the 2015 nuclear deal was "an attempt to hold the world hostage," and emphasized that the USA would not cave in the face of blackmail attempts related to the nuclear deal. "Iran's threat to renew the nuclear work is something that we are going to be examining very closely," he said. "We will continue to apply maximum pressure on the regime until its leaders change their behavior. They've got to start behaving more like a normal nation, less like a revolutionary cause. They need to respect the rights of the Iranian people, and we are committed to standing with the Iranian people, and restoring deterrence against Iran's threats to peace and security." To the question of whether a military option against Iran was on the table in the light of the fact that the USA has sent reinforcements to the Gulf, he emphasized, "Any attack on American interests or on our allies will be met with force. If the Iranian regime tries, the American administration will respond". Victoria Coates, who is in charge of the Middle East in the White House and also participated in the discussion, noted that Trump is keeping "all options open" in everything related to dealing with the Iranian regime.

DANON: NO SECOND CHANCES FOR IRAN AFTER IRANIAN THREATS: "The world should not give Iran a second chance," Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said in response to Iranian threats to renew its nuclear program. "This is a government that finances terror with one hand and extorts the international community with the other. The regime in Tehran is working against a safe and stable world and is, once again, exposing the mistake that was the nuclear agreement, signed in 2015," Danon added. "This morning, I heard that Iran intends to carry on with its nuclear program. We will not let Iran get nuclear weapons," he said. "We will continue to fight our enemies, and will strike our roots even deeper in our homeland. That is what our heroes did at the dawn of the nations' rebirth, and we march in their path." ***The latest sanctions and military moves on the part of the USA against Iran - a nation that is a growing menace to the world - underline the sobering reality that a major war could be on the horizon in the Middle East.***

JEWISH NASA ASTRONAUT JESSICA MEIR PREPARING FOR HER FIRST TRIP INTO SPACE: Jessica Meir has been preparing to go into space since the age of five. Last month, NASA announced that Meir will be participating in her first mission. On 25 Sept. 2019, Meir will co-pilot a Russian Soyuz spacecraft launching from Kazakhstan to the International Space Station, with Russian cosmonaut Oleg Skripochka and Hazzaa Ali Almansoori, the first astronaut from the United Arab Emirates. Meir, the daughter of a mother from Sweden and an Iraqi-Israeli father, holds Swedish and American citizenship. She will be the first Swedish woman, the fourth Jewish woman and the 15th Jew overall to be part of a space mission.



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