

TRANSCRIPT

A Situation Report on the Mideast Peace Deal A Victory Coalition Briefing on the Progress to Date and the Challenges Ahead

Frank Gaffney with Dr. David Wurmser, Maj. Elliott Chodoff, and Kenneth Abramowitz

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BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

[00:00:00] Frank Gaffney: Welcome to this Briefing of the Victory Coalition, a project of the Institute for the American future, and an effort often done in partnership with others. But on this occasion, we are taking point ourselves for the purposes of providing a situation report on developments in the Middle East, in the aftermath of the announcement of a ceasefire now signed by Hamas and by Israel and.

[00:00:26] A larger Middle East Peace framework, some 20 points in length fashioned by President Trump and endorsed by dozens of countries in the course of a summit in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt last Monday. We have been following closely developments on the ground, especially in Gaza, and providing as best we can, a running commentary and analysis at the Victory Coalition, which you can find@victoryco.org about some of the steps that are very positive, notably most especially the release by Hamas of the 20
[00:01:00] surviving hostages number of.

[00:01:01] Others who were deceased either when they were taken from Israel in the October 7th, 2023 massacre, or because they perished in captivity at the hands of Hamas. Presumably that's the good news. The bad news is that many other hostages also deceased, are yet to be released to Israel. Contrary to the promises made in this ceasefire agreement.

[00:01:25] it's not the only problem with the implementation of the agreement. It's early days to be sure, and as of now. It seems everyone is trying to give the benefit of the doubt to the Principal Me Factor, namely this terrorist organization, Muslim Brotherhood franchise in the Palestinian area known as Hamas.

[00:01:46] We're going to try to take stock for the purposes of assuring that the truth about what's going on is available, that we are not operating on the basis of false impressions or understandings of [00:02:00] what is going on the ground in Gaza in

particular, and therefore perhaps making some ill-advised policy decisions, notably on the future trajectory of this accord and the larger.

[00:02:11] Context in which it has been made. We have put together a small but distinguished panel to discuss these issues. both what has happened so far notably the role that has been played by President Donald Trump in bringing all of this to pass. And his quite extraordinary trip, not just to Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, but also to the Israeli Knesset as well as indeed we want to be also very mindful of the decisions that he has yet to make both in his own right as president of the United States, but also as the chairman of the board of the peace committee.

[00:02:53] I can't remember the exact term for it, but it is. Something that is supposed to [00:03:00] help make all of this actually go. And we'll hear more about that. And the prospects for its success and the putative hope for an enduring end to a war that by some accounts has been going on for 3000 years in this region.

[00:03:17] To begin our conversation, we're going to turn to one of the most accomplished national security practitioners specializing in the Middle East that I've had the privilege to know and work with over many years. His name is Dr. David Wurmser. He has a PhD and has been serving in a variety of capacities.

[00:03:39] Notably as a Naval intelligence officer, he rose through the ranks to that of a lieutenant commander. He has also served in senior positions advising an under Secretary of State, a National Security Advisor and vice President of the United States on Middle East policy. he knows whereof, he speaks, and he [00:04:00] is working these days with the Center for Security Policy, where he is the director of its Mideast program.

[00:04:07] And we are very pleased to have him as a panelist for the Victory Coalition and contributor, especially to this very timely assessment or situation report, if you will, sit rep on the ceasefire. And where we go from here. Dr. Wormser, thank you for joining us. The floor is yours, sir.

[00:04:28] Dr. David Wurmser: Thank you. And it's an honor to be on a panel with Ken and Elliot.

[00:04:34] They both are people I turn to for knowledge. unfortunately I have to go first, so I'll only get their knowledge as we go on. any rate. So let me start. By reminding everybody that what was agreed to and what is in the process of implementation is a narrow agreement that was signed by Israel and agreed to by Hamas.

[00:04:59] And it, [00:05:00] it is only for this phase. It is essentially a hostage agreement, which is Israel gets back all its hostages, emphasis on all dead and alive and return for which Israel withdraws to what is called the yellow line, and is a limited

withdrawal in Gaza, as well as gives up thousands of terrorists that are imprisoned in Israel some of whom are the worst of the worst.

[00:05:27] There is no agreement beyond that. There is overall an agreement to agree or some broad based understanding or support, but there is no specific agreement on anything beyond that at this stage. so at this point, the only operational agreement is a hostage agreement. Now, beyond that, there's the larger agreement, which does drive further Israeli withdrawals, not the entirety of Gaza.

[00:05:52] Even at the end of all the process, Israel remains in the Philadelphia corridor, which separates Israel from Gaza [00:06:00] critical because it keeps Hamas or whatever emerges in Gaza separate from Egypt, which is critical. And second of all, a buffer zone around the entire perimeter of Gaza, which helps Israel prevent another October 7th.

[00:06:14] So that though is not fully. Agreed to. There's no details, there's no real agreement yet. and the real novelty that I think the Israeli government and President Trump forwarded was to disconnect the two and get going on the first. and that's why we've had this release of hostages now about that.

[00:06:35] The release of hostages is not complete. There are still 19 Israelis held hostage. They're dead, but they're still held hostage by Hamas' ransom. Some may genuinely be difficult to locate, but we're talking a handful. The Israelis are convinced and they have strong intelligence from what they're saying publicly, that a large amount of those remaining 19 are in [00:07:00] Hamas custody.

[00:07:00] And Hamas knows exactly where they are and they have no problem retrieving them. It is a deliberate choice at this point by Hamas not to give them up. So that's a direct violation right there. the second thing is Hamas has been probing Israel. It's been surging populations toward Israeli lines.

[00:07:21] It's been even before the agreement started being implemented, try to kidnap more Israeli hostages. Hamas is making it very clear that the re the status quo before October 7th, namely October 6th is what they're trying to reestablish and they have no intention to back down from that. And that brings us to phase two.

[00:07:44] And this is where some, first of all, I want to say something about President Trump. There would not have been a phase one. Those hostages would still be in Gaza, were it not for President Trump. There was a [00:08:00] perfect storm whose real, Credit goes to the IDF for having fought Hamas to near collapse and would've gone to full collapse within a couple weeks.

[00:08:10] Prime Minister Netanyahu for making a series of decisions that both tactically and strategically left Hamas in a terrible position right now. whether it's destroying the

Ring of Fire, the collection of nations or movements that Iran had organized to put a noose around Israel and attack it.

[00:08:30] they're all destroyed, whether it's Hezbollah Yemen and so forth. Now they're still alive, but they're largely destroyed, whether it's Iran itself which was largely neutralized in June. May have to be redone soon, but neutralized in June. These strategically shifted the ground in the Middle East and isolated Hamas.

[00:08:50] that's one major thing. The second thing is the Israeli government was not gonna withdraw. And the third thing is that President Trump himself [00:09:00] has a large amount of credibility in the region. And quite frankly, a lot of people are scared of him, especially how close he is to Israel and how lockstep he's been with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

[00:09:14] So the Condi, and then the final act that led to this moment, in my view, is that Israel struck, Doha struck Hamas leadership in Doha. I think that terrified the not only the Qatari, but the Turks because they knew Israel will do anything to go after Hamas. Now there's no limits anymore, and they're, Protection of Hamas under their tutelage had ended. And they realized the game was up there for both for Hamas, which are in many ways are a strategic asset for Qatar and Turkey. And second of all, the game was up. Even for them, they were facing the embarrassing situation of not protecting people in their territory.

[00:09:59] And [00:10:00] having the Israelis at will violate that territory, I think that drove Doha to call it off call the whole war off. And they had obviously the power to do So that leads us to phase two. Fundamentally, there's a big question and it's un-, I think it's unclear which way this goes. The way the agreement is vaguely written and not agreed to by everybody essentially brings in Turkey and Qatar to make Hamas behave on certain key points.

[00:10:32] And there, and in exchange for which they play a leading role in reconstruction and redefining Gaza Strip. This is a strategic choice that's embedded in that. And it's a goodie that has been given to Qatar and Turkey to compensate for the terror and fear they faced felt of a potential Israeli strike, again, on leadership and Hamas.

[00:10:55] And that made them lean into Hamas. It's hard to reverse that at this point. But make no mistake: strategically, they are at odds with Israel. It's a very dangerous collection of states. Bringing that coalition into Gaza also checkmates Sisi in Egypt, and it can easily pull Egypt—already drifting—into a posture of pre-empting, co-opting, and appeasing the Qatari-Turkish bloc.

[00:11:21] So it can create a strategic circumstance where Israel has a dagger run by, by Turkey. And Qatar pointed at its heart near Tel Aviv, 20 miles away. and that of

course could be even without Hamas, that can be direct by their presence. That said Hamas is playing games and it knows that ultimately it is the key element of support a key element that gives Turkey and Qatar their role in that area.

[00:11:51] So they're beginning to say, we want disarm and we won't leave power. And they're behaving accordingly as well. They're killing off [00:12:00] opposition. So at this point, phase two looks very difficult to implement because the core element of phase two is the Hamas arms and leaves power. And that the president has made very clear is an absolute, and he's reiterated that demand yesterday.

[00:12:17] So it's difficult to see how we proceed from here in this context, which is also very strategically important in another way. Which is Saudi Arabia and the UAE made peace with Israel under the Abraham Framework. And the basic assumptions of it were that you can make peace with Israel without resolving the Palestinian issue.

[00:12:39] The Palestinian issue by virtue of this war, and by the demands of Qatar and Turkey. Is reinserted as the gateway to a larger regional piece. That's what we saw their behavior and their statements in Sharm Sheikh. And moreover, since they're now taking the lead on the Palestinian issue, they essentially have a veto over Saudi Arabia with respect to rapprochement with Israel and any potential peace treaty—because they can sabotage or delay the process by making the Palestinian issue difficult or unresolved, which in turn blocks Saudi Arabia.

[00:13:14] So what we're gonna see is a very careful strategic initiative in my view, by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to circumvent Qatar and Turkey and reach out directly to the United States and try to make themselves be the main. Rebuilds of Gaza, which then they don't really care that much to solve the issue.

[00:13:36] They would then wanna leverage that to say we're on our way with Gaza, so now we can go ahead and make peace or strategically cooperate with the Israelis. So there's definitely a potential of a major strategic competition unlocked through the Gaza situation between Qatar and Turkey.

[00:13:55] And it's precisely for those reasons that I don't believe Qatar [00:14:00] and Turkey want to disarm and allow for the full elimination of Hamas and power, because they wanna use 'em as a leverage to slow down, retard, or potentially even sabotage Israeli **rapprochement** with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. And this is, these are strategic issues the president will have to deal with.

[00:14:21] He's been very clearheaded until now and he's been very clearheaded about his support for Israel. And I don't think anybody can question how pro-Israeli he is. So it'll be interesting to see how the president carries forward. But in the agreements between Israel and the United States which are still the only really fully agreed upon structure beyond this first phase is not the 20 points.

[00:14:48] It's a specific agreement, I believe 13 points between Israel and the United States. The United States is very much committed to the destruction of Hamas in its entirety, [00:15:00] either by diplomacy or by force. And I think that's what's behind the president's statements in the last 24 hours demanding Hamas disarm or else quote, we will do it, which since the United States will not use its own forces to do it, implies that Israel's given the green light to go ahead.

[00:15:21] Anyway I think I've droned on long enough and they're smarter people than me following, so I want them to have more than enough time. to follow through.

[00:15:32] Dr. Wormser remains to be seen whether they're remotely as smart as you are, but I'm sure that they will have important contributions to make in addition to the splendid ones.

[00:15:45] You did. I did just wanna make one small corrective. I think. you mentioned that the Saudis and the UAE had gone into the Abraham Accords with Israel. I believe that the Saudis haven't formally done so [00:16:00] yet. they've had a kind of modus vivendi with Israel for a long time. Of course they have.

[00:16:07] They're clearly sympathetic to it and part of the ta at larger part of it. But no, you're right. They've not formally entered peace with Israel.

[00:16:14] Frank Gaffney: And actually this is one of the tragedies of the Biden years is I think they would've been into the absolute. Partnership that the others were had.

[00:16:23] Had it not been for the active efforts of the Biden administration to try to ensure that the Palestinian issue was thrust back into the centerpiece of all of this, we are going to hear next an Israeli perspective. We are blessed with the friendship and the collegial partnership with Maj. Elliott Chodoff of the Israel Defense Forces.

[00:16:47] He's now in the Reserves. He is an extraordinary military and strategic analyst a podcaster with a program called Conflict Uncovered. [00:17:00] He, his frequent guest on our Securing America program on real America's voice and in other platforms. And we asked him to join us. To bring, particularly, of course an Israeli point of view, but also that of a military man.

[00:17:16] He has served in Gaza as the other combat theaters in. His distinguished career, which at the age I believe of 70 continues in the reserves. He is so highly regarded for his acumen and his I think his. Clarity and you'll get a taste of it here in a video that I recorded with him earlier today.

[00:17:39] He was unable to join us in real time, but I'm very grateful to him for allowing us to take a chunk of his interview, which will be broadcast early tomorrow morning on real America's voice for the purpose of this program. So let's go to the video with Maj. Elliott Chodoff now.

[00:17:58] Maj. Elliott Chodoff: The critical phase [00:18:00] from Israel's point of view was getting back the 20 live hostages.

[00:18:04] This was a point, and there's a lot of nonsense out there. This is a deal that could have been closed a year ago or a year and a half ago. It's simply not true. It's not true for a number of reasons. And I think that they're important to get out there. First of all, the overall situation of Israel's enemies is much worse today than it was a year and a year or a year and a half ago.

[00:18:25] In other words, the same deal today. Even if the terms of the deal, which they're not the same, but even if they were the same, it's not the same deal because the world is a different world and there are things that Israel could agree to today that it shouldn't have agreed to a year ago. And.

[00:18:44] Even just going out on the limb of saying, okay we're gonna cut, come off the slack and give them a little bit room to get back to 20 hostages is critically important. Let's also keep in mind that the hostages in and of themselves are [00:19:00] a, were a multifaceted issue. They're a moral issue. And I don't think there's any question.

[00:19:07] It's things that, that I've spoken about over the past couple of years. Israel, Jewish ethics, Western ethics getting people out of hostage situations is a value in and of itself enhanced or exacerbated, maybe by the fact that they were taking hostage on our watch. In other words, we failed.

[00:19:28] Let's, to be very straightforward about it. We failed. We were defeated in the first hours of October 7th, and now we're paying part of the price for that. And I think that's, it's not a nice thing to say, but it's a reasonable thing to say. So getting them out and closing that chapter.

[00:19:45] It was very important was, is it beyond the ethical and the value? It was a, an open political issue in Israel. It was an open social issue. And I say this all legitimately even if I don't agree with everything or many things that the [00:20:00] demonstrator demonstrators were saying, I can't say I disagree with everything they were saying.

[00:20:04] But this essentially ends that chapter, the release of Palestinian prisoners, terrorists, murderers, and the like. Also a cost. And again, I, and both of these are parts of the cost of not succeeding as we should have. But I would say that given the overall situation that we're dealing with Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

[00:20:27] The quantitative and even qualitative advantage given to them by releasing these terrorists is well within the value worth it to get the hostages back. And I want to add to that parenthetically, the people who say YIs was released in the GI Shali deal, and therefore that is why October 7th happened.

[00:20:52] That's simply not true. October 7th happened because the IDF failed in its mission and sin. Sin war was a conduit, not [00:21:00] the maker, if you will. I mean he was personally, but there were others. His brother Mohammad death. There's no shortage of terrorists. Coming back, the Israeli withdrawal as well. The IDF is withdrawn from areas that it was in is given Hamas breathing space in the cities, in Gaza City and other places, and that, that comes with a cost.

[00:21:22] But here we also need to keep in mind that an IDF withdrawal, even from all of Gaza, and I'm not advocating, and I'm trying to put a perspective on it. It's not the same thing as an American withdrawal from Afghanistan. We're not pulling out halfway around the world requiring a massive logistical effort to go back.

[00:21:39] We're pulling back 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 kilometers, which is tactical jumping space for armored and mechanized units. It's a day of movement. So all of that, once again, within what I consider to be [00:22:00] a reasonable price, to pay to close the chapter on the hostages and bring them home. Not surprisingly, and I was certainly not surprised.

[00:22:11] Hamas already on the first day began to violate the terms of the agreement in particular having to do with the bodies of hostages that had promised to return and the initial agreement they were going to return all 28. Then at the next phase they said we don't know where seven of them are. We don't know where nine of them are.

[00:22:36] And ultimately they returned four and then another four of which one was not an Israeli hostage, it was a Gazan dressed in an IDF uniform and so on and so forth. And here we're. They're still holding the vast majority of the bodies of the [00:23:00] hostages who were either taken dead or murdered along the way.

[00:23:05] This is their game playing. And by, by the way, Israel cut them. A lot of slack on this. And I think that part of it has to do with wanting to maintain the agreement going forward to get those bodies back. Part of it, I think, is also about not wanting to cross President Trump at this point, but in saying that we believe, and this was the official statement, that the body that they returned that was not Israeli was a mistake.

[00:23:31] I don't think it was a mistake. I don't believe it was a mistake. So this is who we're dealing with, they. Part of the deal was for them to disarm. They've stated openly, they're not disarming. Part of the deal was that they would not be part of the next administration Gaza. They're already moving in and murdering their opposition.

[00:23:51] And these are all very important and concerning issues. And the murdering of the opposition in particular, and [00:24:00] the US tacitly accepting it is particularly problematic. If we look into the future, president Trump yesterday or the day before, said something along the lines of they're going after some really bad people and he's right.

[00:24:15] Here let's not kid ourselves. The DMO family or a bunch of jihadi radicals. This is not good guy, bad guy. So let's say in a vacuum, I wouldn't shed many tears. However, it's not a vacuum. And I'm reminded of an American experience. In 1991, during the Gulf War, America encouraged the Shiite uprising in Iraq and then left them to hang, hanging out to dry.

[00:24:45] And so Saddam massacred them. When the American, the US Army went into Iraq in 2003, in particular the hundred first Airborne Division going into Naja and then into Karbala trying to [00:25:00] organize the locals who were Shiites against Saddam and against his Fed. They didn't want to have a, anything to do with the US Army at that point.

[00:25:09] They have long memories, which I think is perfectly correct. You didn't support us back then. And why should we trust you? This isn't about, you didn't support us. Why would, why should we support you? You didn't support us, and you let us get killed. Why should we trust you today? And I see the potential of a parallel.

[00:25:27] Of that in Gaza, if there's an interest in raising some sort of power opposition, ground level, grassroots level to Hamas, letting the massacre their opposition is not a good way to start. And that's really my concern. The Turks and the Egyptians. Let's see. Turkey is a country ruled by Erdogan, who is, has happily threatened to bomb Tel Aviv.

[00:25:53] So having his troops not far from Tel Aviv doesn't make me feel all warm and fuzzy. The [00:26:00] Egyptians have also referred to us as the enemy, despite a peace treaty that we signed in 1979. I'm talking about the current ASI administration. They have violated that peace treaty, the military parts of it in Sinai, but not in sweeping numbers.

[00:26:16] Putting 10,000 Egyptian troops in Gaza puts us back to pre-1967 when the Egyptian army was there also on the road to Tel Aviv. So I'm not feeling really good about any of that. In addition, what I am even more concerned with is that this peacekeeping stabilizing force, and we could throw the Palestinian authority.

[00:26:38] And on that as well, he's going to end up doing pretty much what the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) does vis-à-vis Israel and Hezbollah. And that is that they protect, they'll protect the terrorists from Israel and not the other way around. And while we are sitting on our side watching Hamas rebuild, and whether [00:27:00] it's doing it above ground or below ground, and I mean that both literally and figuratively when we see it and we say to the Turks, Hey, look they're building a rocket factory.

[00:27:10] And they say, no, they're not. Or they'll find one out of every find, quote unquote, one out of every 10 arms warehouse, and they'll blow it up and say, look we're doing the job. Meanwhile, these guys I'm talking about Hamas are organizing and

training and arming. And if Israel does something, it's an attack against Egypt and Turkey.

[00:27:32] I'm not really happy with that kind of an arrangement. I think the dangers are immense.

[00:27:37] Frank Gaffney: That seems to be an understatement. Elliot let me just put it to a fine point. Does this create basically a situation on the ground that could be perilous to Israel? Not just something that you're unhappy about?

[00:27:52] Maj. Elliott Chodoff: It's absolutely perilous. It brought us the Hezbollah situation that we diffused this past year, which was potentially [00:28:00] catastrophic. And it can bring us the same there. Note in Lebanon, we've taken a zero tolerance. We're gonna take it out no matter what policy, since the ceasefire up there. If we don't have that if we don't have that legitimacy, we're going to be facing this again in, I don't want to estimate three years, five years, whatever it is.

[00:28:22] We'll be right back where we started from with a stronger Hamas, a better organized one a more experienced leadership than the last time around. 'cause they learn from their mistakes as well.

[00:28:32] Frank Gaffney: And the difference will be that in Lebanon you don't have Turks and Egyptians protecting the terrorists, as you say.

[00:28:40] You would in, in much closer proximity to the heartland of modern day Israel Elliot, this is very bracing stuff because I think it's information that isn't generally being brought to the fore in the general parlance, that somehow we've lanced the boil here. It does seem to me that based on what you've said, this is very fraught Indeed.

[00:29:08] And that's if it goes according to plan and it may not. It may not indeed. And we're gonna explore that possibility a bit further with another of our distinguished authorities to whom we turn on all of these matters with our Victory Coalition. Briefs. His name is Kenneth Abramowitz.

[00:29:30] He is by day an expert on healthcare financial matters. Indeed. He is a member of a Hall of Fame, which has designated him as number five out of something like 15,000 financial analysts of a claim, which is pretty impressive stuff. Those obvious skills have been honed and applied further, [00:30:00] I'm delighted to say, to his real passion, which is strategy and the affairs of state in places like the Middle East and.

[00:30:14] Here in the United States as well, worldwide for that matter. And he has gone to extraordinarily impressive lengths to analyze and characterize and explain to the rest of us the challenges that we are now facing, not just from quarters like Hamas and even the rest of the characters the Sharia supremacists, I call them in the Middle East, but them the communists and the globalists as well.

[00:30:51] He may give us a short course on that. In the course of his remarks Ken is the president of the founder as well of save the [00:31:00] West. You can find it@savethewest.com. He is the chairman of Citizens for National Security and an author of the Multi-Front War Defending America from Political Islam, China, Russia, pandemics and Racial Strife.

[00:31:17] We're always delighted to be able to pick his brains considerable brains. They are. And welcome Ken Bro. The floor is your sir,

[00:31:24] Kenneth Abramowitz: that's a pleasure to be with you and thank you for your compliment of how I study what's going on in the world. But you underestimate me. I also look at the solar system.

[00:31:35] We, we won't have time for the solar system this time, so maybe another time. So I just wanted to, upon what David said to which I agreed with everything he did, his usual great job. The president Trump publicly said the reason he was able to accomplish this deal. He got everyone together and he created a reasonable deal for everybody.[00:32:00]

[00:32:01] But when you're dealing with lunatics you don't want a reasonable deal for everybody. You want the forces of good to defeat the forces of evil. You don't want everyone to feel happy. But President Trump made the decision to make everyone happy on the theory. I'm just putting words in his mouth on the theory that he need to do that in order to get pressure on Hamas to release the hostages both the living and the deceased hostages.

[00:32:32] So he prioritized friendship. These disparate group of what I call frenemies or enemies to come together to get those hostages out. That's what he wanted. That's what prime Minister Netanya wanted, and they accomplished it, obviously for the living hostages for the 28 deceased hostages. Kamas is purposely slow walking that [00:33:00] because they don't wanna go to phase two.

[00:33:02] Phase two means they disarm demilitarized. And so my guess is they just wanna slow walk the deceased hostages to prolong to by week after week. The question is, when will President Trump lose patience with this game, and when will the Israeli government lose patience with the game?

[00:33:24] And so I'll guess and in the interim, a lot of people getting killed in Gaza and president Trump made the same as not President Trump. His policy team, his negotiators made the same mistake that they made in Syria. In other words, when you are dealing with bad guys, you should expect bad guys to be bad, like instantaneously.

[00:33:48] It's not like they think about it for a week or two. In Syria, they made the mistake of ignoring the minorities, and in Gaza they're making the same mistake—ignoring the minorities.

[00:34:00] You see, the Middle East is what I call a bottom-up region, not a top-down region. Historically, a big dictator comes in on top and tells everybody—majorities and minorities—“listen to me or I'll kill you.” And that's essentially what's going on in Gaza right now, and that's what's going on in Syria. We need to rethink our policies to favor the minorities, not just the majorities.

So for example, Syria is 50% majority, so these in 50% minority, we should be protecting the minorities as well as fostering a better relationship with the majority.

[00:34:44] But you have to protect the minorities. So now let's go to Gaza. There's numerous clans there. Tribes extended families. We should be protecting them. They're the future of Gaza, not some top down organization. Cer, certainly not Hamas or a [00:35:00] successor to Hamas. And we should be supporting what I call we, the people against the elites.

[00:35:07] And so that, that was the conceptual mistake made. But I think it was a purposeful mistake because as I said before, they wanted the hostages back and they just figured that they had to do that for now. Now, one of the reasons why all the Arabs and Muslim countries came together on the thinking about phase two is because they all have a different idea of what they want in phase two.

[00:35:37] Egypt thinks it's gonna take over Gaza. By the way, Israel did all the work, but the IDF did all the work. America supplied the two thirds of the weapons and Egypt figures. I'll just take over Gaza, and then Qatar and Turkey with their Muslim Brotherhood friends, they say, oh no, will we'll take over Gaza.

[00:35:56] And then Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, who are [00:36:00] not Islamists anymore, used to be they wanna take over Gaza in the ID. Publicly said he didn't wanna take over Gaza, which I think was a mistake because in the Middle East, either good guys control land or the bad guys control land there's nothing in between.

[00:36:17] So anyways, we now have a period of time, call it one week, two weeks, three weeks. I don't think it'd be more than four weeks until President Trump gets angry and frustrated and allows, encourages the IDF to go in and finish the job. By the way, in Iran, president Trump also didn't finish the job.

[00:36:43] And in the Middle East, when you're dealing with bad guys, you have to finish the job. You it's like in World War ii. Can you imagine two months before World War II ended, if we said, let's negotiate with Hitler and the Japanese Imperial Army. It's really not nice to blow up these people.

[00:36:59] This is really terrible. [00:37:00] There's blood all over the place. You have to bring it to fruition if you wanna end endless war. President Trump always says, I hate endless wars. He should follow through with his instincts and end the endless war by allowing Israel to defeat Hamas and then allowing Israel to defeat Iran.

[00:37:21] And then you'll have a peace, I won't say peace, but a more peaceable middle East after Hamas is destroyed and Iran is destroyed. So I hope President Trump goes back to his instincts of winning. President Trump often says, I'm gonna win. We're gonna win so much. He'll get tired of winning.

[00:37:40] Now's the time for America to win. To win in Gaza and win in Iran. And that's what I hope will happen over the next 12 months that when President Trump realizes that his goal of getting everybody to work together is not really gonna happen. And it's time for America and [00:38:00] Israel to reassert its power over the bad guys.

[00:38:04] So that's the quick summary of the way I look at things. And we can talk about any questions or further comments. You might have

[00:38:12] Frank Gaffney: Ken Abramowitz. Thank you very much. I so appreciate that bottom line really and think that it might be useful. David if we could get your thoughts about that concluding point that if you want to end an endless war, you have to win it decisively and winning it decisively.

[00:38:33] Whether it's Gaza, whether it's. Iran or other bad actors requires, in turn the decisive, again, to use the term defeat of the ideology as well as the individuals that adhere to it and are acting on its direction. I personally have used the term sharia [00:39:00] supremacism to describe that ideology. Others have used different terms for it.

[00:39:05] But David, would you comment on this observation and I guess one of the things we want to visit about is how far from a decisive victory are we at the moment? Can think it may not eventuate at all, but is it still possible, do you think?

[00:39:22] Dr. David Wurmser: Yeah. Let's start first with the endless war issue and non-decisive victory.

[00:39:26] Really, that's in a nutshell, the history of the Arab Israeli dispute. Which is either Israel was prevented at the very end of each round from winning decisively, or even in those cases where they did, it was leveraged into a non, into a diplomatic stalemate. And that left the door open for those who wanna destroy Israel and can't reconcile to Israel, which is the Muslim Brotherhood, which is a lot of these radical states, whether it's Baathist or so forth, to realize they went.

[00:39:57] Back for, they're going back for another [00:40:00] day. The second part of that is the idea of Land for Peace, which always introduced this very dangerous concept

that, okay, you can go to war with Israel. You can fight, you can lose CATA catastrophically, don't worry. We'll set back the clock and you can try again later.

[00:40:18] A cost free attempt to go at Israel's destruction. It reminds me of the 1972 Olympic basketball game for those of us who are old enough. And to remember where they kept the Russian American game, where they kept resetting the clock. In, in, in the final minutes the clock ran out. Russia lost.

[00:40:36] So they suddenly reset the clock again for no real reason. And again after five times, the Russians finally scored a point and won. That's essentially what we see here, is that the Arabs keep fighting, losing, and then saying let's set the clock back. So even when Israel wins. Militarily diplomatically.

[00:40:56] The clock set back paradigm has prevented [00:41:00] peace from happening. And it's, in my view, that's why we have this 80-year-old struggle. If in 1948 the British hadn't forced to cease fire just as Israel was about to take Jerusalem and the entire area of Judea and Samaria, the West Bank Israel's military was, that was what they were gonna do in the next month as the ceasefire and the British having failed to help the Palestinians with the Jordanian Legion.

[00:41:24] And one has to remember the British helped the Jordanian Legion in an attempt to essentially sabotage the rise of Israel in 1948. If the British had not done that and imposed cease fire Israel might have had all of the mandatory area Gaza and Judean Samaria in 1948, and we wouldn't have a problem right now, this again and again.

[00:41:47] Now this is also beyond Israel. We see it in each other conflict that if the failure to resolve, it only opens the door for the next round. And that's where these endless wars come from, instead of decisively [00:42:00] showing, don't mess with us, don't go to war with us because you will permanently lose either territory or you'll be killed as a leadership or whatever to exact decisive cost.

[00:42:13] And to bring it all the way to conclusion is why endless wars in the region have happened and unfortunately the West has to break out of that paradigm. Now, how close was Israel to total victory? I think it was pretty close in Gaza. It was in my view and it's what I'm basing it on what I'm hearing from Israeli military analysts.

[00:42:33] They were within two to four weeks of a total victory of Hamas. Hearing what the hostages who were just released are beginning to say it may have been quicker. They say that their hostage holders were crying. They were saying it's all lost. They hope it ends. They hope they can give up whatever that they were breaking.

[00:42:53] They had mentally, physically begun to break at the time of the ceasefire.

[00:43:00] So I think another two to four weeks would've done it. Now is that still on the

shelf? I think this very moment and for the next few days, maybe week, yes, it's still on the table. Israel can resume conflict and go back to war, and in my view, decisively win fairly quickly.

[00:43:20] And my understanding is the Israeli military is drawing up plans to do just that. However, if you wait longer than a week or two, Israel will have to start demobilizing it. Remember, it's a citizen army with mass mobilization. These people, these 30, 40, 50 year olds, they have lives, families. Girlfriends kids businesses they can't put their lives in limbo indefinitely without a resolved situation.

[00:43:48] So they wanna go home. They wanna go home either in victory or go home with a deal that offers them victory. But right now, if Israel sits on this for another week [00:44:00] or two or three, it's gonna have to start demobilizing and let these people go home bitter. They'll be bitter on some level because the job's not done, and they know that the next October 6th countdown, seventh October countdown is on its way, but they will have to be released and then Israel will have to take another half year to year.

[00:44:17] To train, to refresh, to give them a breathing room and then remobilize. So in my view, we have a window of about a week or two, and then we have a closed window for about half a year. And I think that's the game Hamas is playing. They're trying to drag this out for a week or two to the point where the Israelis may no longer be able to, off the shelf, go back and win decisively, and they may have to demobilize and Remobilize in a half a year or so.

[00:44:43] Frank Gaffney: David, thank you, Ken. One of the things that I discussed with Elliot is this idea of having Turkish troops, maybe a few Qataris, but the Turkish groups troops are the one you'd worry about, [00:45:00] David's indicated that there's a divide between the Turks and the Egyptians. I, it wasn't clear to me that there was, but could you speak to this as a strategic peril to Israel?

[00:45:12] If. It doesn't get to finish the job. And we see not only by the way them in the Gaza Strip, but I gather that the Palestinian authority is insisting that for whatever that's worth, they, whatever arrangements apply there have to also apply in Judea and Samaria. This so called West Bank. Your thoughts on that, sir?

[00:45:34] Kenneth Abramowitz: The only we're talking about real solutions or pretend solutions First, it's a moral stain on America, for America to sit back and let the Hamas death cult kill as many gauss as they can in the week or two or so that David thinks it'll take for people to make decisions. It's the same moral stain that we had in Syria where we didn't protect the Jews.[00:46:00]

[00:46:00] In, I don't know, a thousand or something. We were killed like in a day. Then Israel stepped in to protect the Jews. America should have stepped in, but America

didn't. And in Iran, 80% of the country, once the Ayatollah criminal organization got gone, and we almost had them gone, and then we didn't have them gone.

[00:46:21] No one talks about morality this way, but America, president Trump wouldn't want to be considered immoral. And what's happening right now in God is immoral. So the moral thing to do is to send in the only army capable of managing the situation, namely the Israel Defense Forces, and say, look, we had this wonderful idea of all these Arab, Muslim countries getting together, but the Hamas death, health couldn't even wait a day or a minute.

[00:46:50] And Israel, go back, finish the job. We there's no other army. Capable and willing to do it, let's just do it. But we're not gonna sit back another day and let [00:47:00] another 50 or a hundred or however many people I get killed. That's the moral thing to do. And I think president Trump doesn't look at it that way, but his advisors should help him look at it that way.

[00:47:12] So now, if an a Arab army were to come in, which I don't want, but if it were, the only ones I would trust would be the Emirates in Saudi Arabia. Not that they're capable of doing it, but they're Muslims, they're Arabs, and they're not connected anymore with the Muslim Brotherhood, Turkey cutter.

[00:47:29] And Egypt was supplying Hamas. So I don't trust Egypt at all. So I would say if I'm President Trump it's a question of between Saudi Arabia and the Emirates versus the IDF, I would pick the IDF

[00:47:42] Frank Gaffney: and David to you. The same question. How concerned should we be that if this plan does go as.

[00:47:49] Prescribed that we will find it not only much more difficult to secure the decisive victory that has been sought, but potentially [00:48:00] face, vastly greater peril from Hamas Stan, or whatever you want to call it, that would emerge from this deal.

[00:48:09] Dr. David Wurmser: The application of this deal to the West Bank would be utterly disastrous.

[00:48:13] It is. It is exactly what Turkey and K Qatar are saying. It is what the European Union elites I don't wanna say European Union because there's some sober minded figures in Czechoslovak and in the Czech Republic or Poland and so forth, but the Macrow Starr crowd that are saying it.

[00:48:34] Israel has the best security situation and stabilization structure right now in the West Bank because they militarily are all over the place and have the right to intervene anywhere in order to maintain a security structure. That said, even under this, we're facing always the potential for some small October 7th where one of the Israeli towns or Jerusalem is invaded in [00:49:00] hostages or taken, or there's a slaughter.

[00:49:02] Or alternatively rockets from the West Bank into Tel Aviv or Jerusalem or Haifa. Over the last month, we've seen numerous rocket arsenals discovered in towns in the West Bank and in Gaza—especially in Jenin, in Samaria (the northern West Bank)—and attempts to launch them. So we really do have a very acute threat if Israel dilutes its power in the West Bank in any way, which is precisely what Turkey and Qatar and the Europeans want to do.

[00:49:37] So if you extend anything from Gaza into the West Bank, the fact is most people in the West Bank are tremendous supporters of Hamas, even more than in Gaza. At this point. So you are bringing what happened on October 7th from Gaza into the West Bank. Why anybody wants to [00:50:00] do this other than those who wanna destroy Israel would be beyond me.

[00:50:04] But that is what is being discussed. So far. The president has not at all seen to entertain anything about e extending it in there, but it is something that should be laid down and worked with the president, who really does, again, as I said, have Israel's security really high up in its his list of priorities.

[00:50:23] He needs to work with the Israelis together to ensure that this is not going to be extended in there. It's a very real danger as far as these other strategic threats. Could I just

[00:50:34] Frank Gaffney: ask you on that before you go to other threats? What about just the Turks or the Turks and Qat guitars or the Jewish guitars, the Egyptians, whatever combination it might be?

[00:50:45] In the, Hamas controlled or formerly controlled post Hamas, Gaza, how serious a problem might that be? Set aside the idea of putting it in the West Bank as well.

[00:50:58] Dr. David Wurmser: Hamas is a [00:51:00] vehicle. It's not the end game. The end of this is the danger of this new Sunni axis arising that threatens Israel to replace the Shiite axis led by Iran.

[00:51:11] And that is exactly strategically what Qatar and Turkey are after. Turkey makes it very clear, it considers even Israel to be under the purview of its imperial Ottoman aspirations. Qatar is the Muslim Brotherhood. This is not a policy. This is who they are. And the Muslim Brotherhood countenance is no Israeli Jewish or non-Muslim state existing there in fact.

[00:51:37] Yeah, they're somewhat willing to even play games with the statehood of the Palestinians in order to get the larger goal, which is the Islamic takeover of the area. So Hamas has to be seen as an extension of those two, rather than those two being an

answer to Hamas. And then Egypt has to be, unfortunately, in my view, [00:52:00] Egypt is not being lost.

[00:52:02] It is almost fully lost at this point, and it is falling to the influences. It cannot defend itself anymore against this Qatari Turkish axis. So it is now trying to appease it, which therefore makes Egypt a strategic threat. This is a mortal threat as great as what Iran posed to Israel through its axis of Ring of Fire.

[00:52:27] So Israel will have to prepare strategically for that as well. It doesn't help Israel to go from the frying pan into the fire.

[00:52:34] Frank Gaffney: Last question to you both. You've, I think, both mentioned the prospect of another October 7th. We've just marked the anniversary of it. Almost simultaneously this peace deal, is it certitude in your estimation that in the absence of a decisive victory over Hamas and keeping out of [00:53:00] these very sensitive, shall we say, areas that there will in fact be another possibly far more devastating attack on Israel than October 7th?

[00:53:13] Kenneth Abramowitz: October 7th is a threat for everybody who falls into the following three categories. Jews, Christians and Hindus. Because the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist terrorist organizations have a notorious slogan: "Christians, Jews, and Hindus will convert to Islam—or we're going to kill them." So I would say that when they say "globalize the intifada," they mean kill all Jews, Christians, and Hindus.

[00:53:37] This is Israel, we're talking about Israel. So it's Israel's problem, but it's everybody's problem. And that's why we need to have some victories here to say, if you pull this stunt, again, I don't care what country, whether it's Christians, Jews or Hindus, you're gonna lose more territory and more people.

[00:53:55] And so this is the time to set an example. For what happens when you commit genocide against Christians and Hindus.

[00:54:03] Frank Gaffney: Thank you, Ken, for taking the time. David last thoughts on another October 7th. Is it really as stark as Ken has described it war against and I know that he doesn't mean to exclude people of other faiths or no faith at all unless they are willing to submit to Islam.

[00:54:18] That's central to the Sharia doctrine, is it?

[00:54:21] Dr. David Wurmser: It depends on the sobriety of the Israeli government and the indulgence of that sobriety of the American government, whether it's President Trump or who follows it. It, what led to this deal was Israeli strength. And the American full throated support over the last several months by President Trump of Israeli strength.

[00:54:43] That's a lethal combination for those who wanna do another October 7th. If that obtains, they can try, but it would be difficult for them. Now, are they thinking of doing it? Hamas itself says that it's gonna do it again. It said it in the last day or two that it will do it again. [00:55:00] Qatar, if we remember, has never condemned October 7th, and many of its top leadership praised the attacks of October 7th.

[00:55:07] It is, therefore, unless they say otherwise and say it was a horrible mistake or condemn. It is what they're after, and Erdogan talks about it as well. And most importantly, what we're seeing is an attempt by the Turks and Ka QRIS to use the Sunni Arab majority of Southern Syria and the Dara region to organize a Hamas like threat to Israel.

[00:55:33] It will take them some time to do but there is definitely a threat in the north of another October 7th type situation. And then second of all, from Egypt, of course we have another threat. As long as Egypt stays at peace, it may be. Contained from Gaza. But if Egypt goes bad, and as I'm saying, I believe they are going bad it, it is another inevitability that it will happen.

[00:55:56] Now, maybe the Israelis will be much more prepared, and it will perhaps not be as horrific as the last one. But the attempt to do so—and the costs of even a partially halted assault—are going to be high. And of course, we also have Jordan, which could fall at any minute, and they could launch it from there.

[00:56:17] Israel has to prepare for more October 7th because its enemies have made it very clear they will not rest, and they will do more and more of these with certainty until they destroy Israel. So Israel's in for the long haul on this.

[00:56:34] Frank Gaffney: And to that point, David as you know so well, October 7th, horrific as it was.

[00:56:42] Was only that bad because it was stopped. That's right. The destruction that was contemplated would've been far worse and almost certainly would be under other circumstances. And I just keep coming back to this point, that especially if Egypt has now [00:57:00] gone bad, as you say and part of the evidence of that David is I think Elliot made reference to it, the deployment of sizable military personnel and gear in forward deployed positions in the Sinai in violation of the Peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

[00:57:19] But when you look at this as possibly a new Sunni axis, as you've described it prominently featuring Qatar an enemy, I think by any. Ordinary definition of the term. Turkey, Egypt, some combination of the three. In the lead it will be I think indisputably, IM mortal threat to the state of Israel and almost certainly conducive to attacks from the north, from the east and elsewhere perhaps as well.

[00:57:56] David I, you're the last man standing. I want to particularly thank you [00:58:00] for your leadership on all of these matters. I had a closing thought that I just wanted to share with you and our audience. You talked about the fear, the terror, I think was your word that was induced in the Qataris.

[00:58:17] When Israel went after the Hamas leadership and much has been made of the fact that they were Hamas negotiators, they were the leadership residing in Qatar narrowly missed as I understand it many of the key individuals there. But that you argued Conduced to Qatar saying to Hamas, which it obviously substantially controls, you need to take this deal.

[00:58:48] One of the other conditions though was that BV Netanyahu was obliged by President Trump to apologize to the Qataris, as I understand it, for conducting that [00:59:00] raid. And as you and Ken were talking, I was thinking. Interesting that nobody thought the Qataris should apologize to the Israelis for October 7th to say nothing of to the rest of us for what it has done to finance Sharia's, supremacism worldwide and the jihad that it compels, its adherence to engage in.

[00:59:25] And it's this piece of it that I believe is the single most important contribution of our Victory coalition's work is to try to cut through the, the noise, I guess one might call it the prestidigitation, the distractions squirrel that we are subjected to in so many of these areas. Just bring forward some of the harsh realities.

[00:59:56] Do it in a way that is meant to be constructive. Not [01:00:00] exclusively critical, maybe constructive criticism, but constructive is the operative phrase. And with the prayerful hope in particular, that is our distinguished guests Dr. David Wormser, major Elliot Chodoff and Ken Abramowitz have, I think made abundantly clear that there is not a protracted period in which we have not I would call it the art of the deal, but the art of the bait and switch that President Trump will soon recognize that the people who are.

[01:00:43] On the other side of this conflict are not dealing in good faith and have no intention of doing so. And not the Hamas Jihadists but also not the sponsors that we're looking to somehow [01:01:00] play a constructive role in creating and maintaining a durable peace in the Middle East. We're gonna break with that and I hope come back to you in the near future with further updates on all of this, and please God with an a situation report that indicates some very constructive adjustments have been made, particularly in US policy that induces and makes possible the one.

[01:01:33] Avenue for achieving actually peace in the region, and that is decisive victory by Israel. God bless you all. Come back to us for more in the near future because Israel's wars are, in this case, ours as well. Their victory would be ours as well. That's a [01:02:00] wrap.