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Middle East Update



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ISRAELI ISSUES

Clinton said. "I'm proud that we put a lid on Iran's nuclear program without firing a single shot," she added. "Now we have to enforce it, and keep supporting Israel's security."

IRAN DEAL: "Iran's Top Leader Distances Himself from Nuclear Pact, Which He Once Supported" by Rick Gladstone: "In blunt remarks prominently featured in Iran's state news media, the senior leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the talks that led to the nuclear agreement in July 2015 should be regarded as an instructive lesson on the dangers posed by interactions with governments he regards as enemies."

Khamenei said Monday that dialogue with the US had proven to be "a lethal poison," as Washington had shown that it could not be trusted. "We said two years ago that the nation will see the nuclear talks as an experience to see what the Americans would do in practice and now it has become clear that they are still busy with plots and destructive measures," he said.



Quote of the Week

"...the situation with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been an area where despite enormous efforts on my part -- and a lot of people's parts -- we haven't made the kind of progress that I wanted to see... And I will also say, though, that in some ways because Israeli society has been so successful economically, it has I think from a position of strength been less willing to make concessions." - [Remarks by President Obama](#) (March 23, 2016)

Rebuttal - Israel would not exist if not for its "position of strength" and the determination of the Jewish people to have, finally, their homeland back! Would the United States give up its 'position of strength' negotiating with China or Russia?



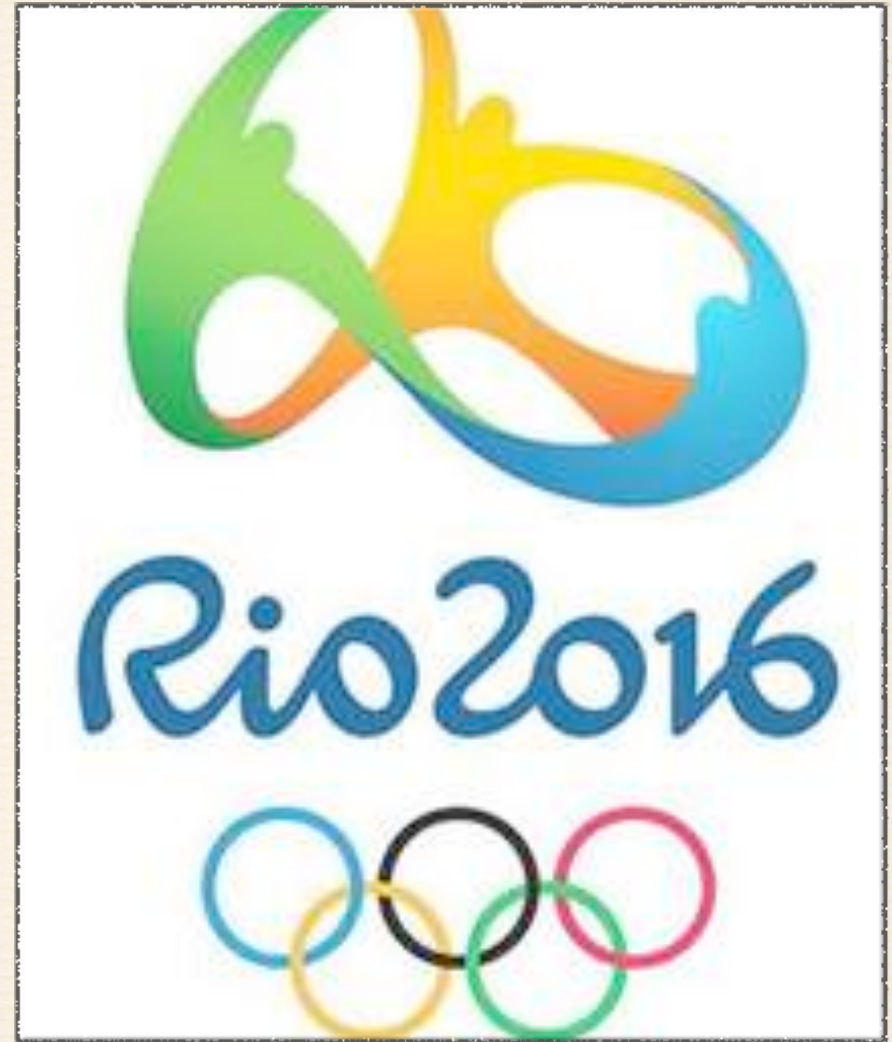
Obama Seeks Greater Distance from the Jewish State

- ❖ The State Department should be aware of the fact that its repeated questioning of the legality of Israel's settlement activity and Israel's claims regarding Jerusalem, in fact, prejudge these central negotiating issues and play into the Palestinian and European denials of Israel's rights.
- ❖ When fixating on settlements, the State Department is deliberately **turning a blind eye to the mortal danger of Islamic terror and hatred of Jews that permeate Palestinian society**. In so doing, the Department is, in fact, giving a green light of encouragement to the Palestinian leadership, media and administrative bodies that openly incite, encourage and support terror, violence, and boycotts against Israel.



RIO READIES FOR WORSE

- ❖ RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) – A half-million foreign tourists, dozens of heads of state and the attention of the world’s media. If there were ever a headache for anti-terror forces, it’s the Olympics.
- ❖ In the aftermath of deadly attacks by the Islamic State group in France and elsewhere, Brazil, which has almost no experience combatting terrorism, is beefing up security for the games that start in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 5. Plans include doubling the number of security forces on the streets, erecting more checkpoints and working closer with foreign intelligence agencies than Brazilians did in the 2014 World Cup.
- ❖ But will it be enough?



ISRAEL PREPARES

- ❖ Russian efforts to reach a truce between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime and the various rebel groups in Syria appear to be progressing, so Israel is already preparing for the day after, when it is safe to expect that Jihadists will turn their attention to the "Zionist enemy."
- ❖ According to Israeli media reports, the Golani Brigade ran a series of exercises last week in the Golan Heights and near the Lebanese border, in preparation for war with the Islamic State (ISIS) and Hezbollah – two sworn enemies in the civil war.



400 Million

- ❖ The Obama administration secretly organized an airlift of \$400 million to Iran in January simultaneously with the release of American hostages, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) revealed on Wednesday.
- ❖ “The logistics of this payment – literally delivering a plane full of cash to evade U.S. law – shows yet again the extraordinary lengths the Obama administration will go to accommodate Iran, all while hiding the facts from Congress and the American people,” House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, R-Calif., declared. “Hundreds of millions in the pockets of a terrorist regime means a more dangerous region, period. And paying ransom only puts more American lives in jeopardy.”



TORAH GLEANINGS

Tom Bradford of Torah Class sums up this section very well:

We must never assist or lend moral support and thus strengthen Israel's sworn enemies (as Balaam intended to do) and call it even handed or loving and kind, and think that somehow this is not cursing Israel. Balaam wasn't going to personally harm Israel, he was merely going to assist Israel's enemy (Moab) and then go home. God told him that if he did, He'd have to kill him.

We can't send supplies and money to the Palestinians, or apply political pressure upon Israel on their behalf, and then somehow claim that the God of the Bible sanctions this as a worthy and holy cause. We must not join with the secular world to push Israel into dividing the land that was covenanted to them by the Lord, or insist that Israel deed to the Muslims as their capital the very place our Messiah will again set foot when He returns from Heaven, or allow Islam to maintain a pagan shrine and worship center where the Temple of God once existed and will again, and then say that because our heartfelt intent is peace therefore doing all these things must be right in Our Lord's eyes.

If Balaam can wake up and see the light, then so can the Church. If Balaam can finally understand that Israel is not like the gentile nations, that God is not a human who changes his mind, that when he makes a promise or a covenant He will fulfill it and that the Lord Himself will curse anyone who curses His special people, Israel, then so can our brethren finally understand that. Let's do our part to see to it that it happens, soon.



ARAB CHRISTIANS

- ❖ O Little Town of Bethlehem - The Persecution of Christians In The Modern-Day City of Jesus' Birth
- ❖ It is quite clear that the West Bank's Christian population is diminishing. In 2013, Rosanna Rafel reported that "in British-mandated Palestine, before the establishment of Israel in 1948, the percentage of the Christian population stood at 18 percent. This figure has now dwindled to under 1.5 percent."



EUROPE - IS IT TOO LATE?



A new normal shrouds Europe now!

The attacks in Belgium, France and Germany amplify anxieties over Brexit, Frexit, an unravelling of an order dictated by the European Union. At a time of weakness, Europe faces its greatest threats in a generation. Only in unity shall we rise to the challenge.

(There is always a solution to any problem. But after decades of condemnation of Israel for its fight against Arab/Palestinian terror it is difficult for Europe to make the right choice: 1) Stop migration from Arab/Muslim countries. 2) Deport all Muslim criminals and terror suspects, including their families, from Europe to the countries of their origin!)





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