



[Translated and adopted from the Hebrew original]

February 22, 2021

To:

Prime Minister Netanyahu
Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Gantz
Minister of Foreign Affairs Ashkenazi

CC:

Chairperson of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Hauzer
Head of National Security Staff, Ben Shabbat

From:

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Matan Vilnai

Re: Recommendations Regarding Israel's Iran Policy

Gentlemen,

Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS), which I chair, assigns great importance to the unqualified resolve of the U.S. and Israeli governments to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Realizing that the grave situation created by recent Iranian actions, CIS has recently convened a dedicated team to review the challenge at hand. It consists of CIS members and other senior experts, many of whom served for decades in most senior positions at the relevant security agencies, including the IDF, the Mossad, Israel Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Security Council. The team was tasked to assess the situation, consider Israel's options for dealing with it, and offer recommendations concerning the desired short as well as long-term strategy for addressing the various threats posed by Iran.

The team first formulated its recommendations on the desired Israeli response to the immediate situation at hand, including an emerging American policy.

I take the liberty of sharing with you our interim recommendations, as follows:

- We agree that at this point, prioritizing diplomacy is the prudent way to proceed in tackling the security challenges posed by Iran.



- We welcome the U.S. initiative to bring Iran back to full and transparent compliance with the limitations as set out in the JCPOA agreement, provided that it also requires Iran to fully comply with its obligations under UNSCR 2231 (regarding dual-use missiles) and its IAEA Safeguards obligations.
- We similarly embrace the U.S. position whereby the easing or removal of sanctions on Iran should be linked to its fulfillment of all of these commitments.
- We also concur that a parallel effort ought to be undertaken to secure a new, follow-up, long-term agreement with Iran that addresses the imperfections of the JCPOA, factors in information gathered since the conclusion of this agreement and tackles all other disconcerting aspects of Iran's conduct.
- Concurrently, we consider it essential for the United States (preferably with its European allies) to make clear to Iran which of its activities will be deemed unacceptable and which of its recent actions ought to be rectified. This requirement assumes added urgency given the expiration last fall of the weapons embargo on Iran, progress Iran has made in the interim in the nuclear and missile domains, Iran's aggressive regional activity, its support for terror groups, and its continued advocacy of the annihilation of Israel.
- Specifically, we believe it would be important for the United States (and, preferably, its European allies) to make clear to Iran that:
 - Iran, and any of its citizens, must not engage in any activity related to the development of a nuclear explosive device, must keep a healthy distance from facilities, materials, equipment and know-how associated with its Possible Military Dimension (PMD) weaponization and systems integration work, as documented in the nuclear Archive.
 - Iran must provide immediately the IAEA with unfettered access necessary to address all Safeguards related concerns as well as cooperate fully with the IAEA's effort to reach a Broader Conclusion to reassure the international community that Iran's nuclear program is and will remain peaceful.
 - In line with provisions set forth by the JCPOA on Iranian procurement, Iran has to submit approval requests for imports of dual-use items and technologies. This matter cannot be entrusted exclusively with the supplying countries. Additionally, periodic post-shipment inspections should be carried out to ascertain that their use is consistent with the stated purpose of acquisition.
 - In the missile realm, Iran must be made to recognize that the United States will take a grim view of, and act to prevent, activity in developing for its proxies, supplying them, or deploying outside its borders systems,



components, or production and assembly infrastructure for long-range, accurate, advanced, and/or dual-use means of delivery (ballistic as well as cruise missiles, rockets and UAVs).

- We believe it would be important that the Biden administration reaffirmed the long-standing U.S. policy to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, even if diplomacy fails in achieving this objective, and make its position clear to Iran.
- Additionally, we consider it important to reconstitute a senior U.S.-Israel mechanism to review and assess Iran's conduct in all the aforementioned domains and consider appropriate responses to challenges it might present. It stands to reason that this forum would also discuss ways for upgrading U.S. and Israeli capabilities to timely detect and respond (separately or jointly) to Iranian advances in any of the areas of concern.

We firmly believe that such a combined approach would go a long way toward safeguarding common U.S. and Israeli core interests as well as reassuring the Israeli public of the unwavering U.S. commitment to Israel's security. Furthermore, an intimate U.S.-Israeli collaboration in this realm is also bound to help foster regional stability, security, and prosperity.

We submit that tactical disagreements over the path forward must not stand in the way of pursuing common goals and values. We wholeheartedly support an approach combining American leadership and Israeli cooperation in an effort to address Iranian challenges in general, and the nuclear one in particular.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

The CIS team and I are at your disposal for further discussions of these and related issues.

Respectfully,

[Signed]

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Matan Vilnai
Chairperson

CIS is a non-partisan movement of over 300 retired IDF generals and their Mossad, Shin Bet, Israel Police and NSC equivalents, committed to securing Israel's future as the strong, democratic home of the Jewish people.