



ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

Commentary...

Washington Sold Out Israel's Deterrence to Save Iran's

By Yigal Carmon

To understand what happened in the Middle East overnight Saturday, one has to go back four years to the killing by the United States of Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani.

Iran needed to retaliate symbolically to save face, and asked to do so. The United States allowed Tehran to attack its Ayn al-Asad airbase in Iraq. Fifteen missiles were fired at the base, causing minor damage and shedding not one drop of blood, a feat for which Iran may deserve a Nobel Peace Prize.

Lt. Col. Staci Coleman, the commander of the 443rd Air Expeditionary Squadron, and members of her squadron testified that they had been briefed about an impending Iranian ballistic missile attack almost six hours before it happened. Captain Wesley Florez, the executive officer of the 1st Expeditionary Rescue Group, said that he had received information about the attack early the previous afternoon.

Former president Donald Trump told Fox News in February 2024: "Do you know, we hit them [Iran] very hard for something that they did, and they had to hit back, they feel they have to do that and I understand that. Do you know, they called me to tell me 'We're going to hit a certain location but we're not gonna hit it, it's gonna be outside of the perimeter'...They let us know. And we had 16 missiles that went off...And we knew they weren't going to hit. And now I reveal it...So they aimed those missiles and they said, 'Please don't attack us, we're not going to hit you.' That was respect, we had respect."

Iran's then-foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that the Iranian regime had informed Iraq of its plans to launch missiles at the U.S. base. This move guaranteed Iraq would then inform the United States, so that precautions would be taken to prevent the loss of life.

Now, let's come back to Iran's missile and drone strike on Israel on April 14. Iran wanted to restore its deterrence after the killing in Damascus of Iranian General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, who by Iran's own testimony was the mastermind of Hamas's Oct. 7 attack. The United States then did to Israel what it had done to itself: It coordinated with the Iranians so that civilians would not be struck. Arab media are already reporting this coordination. Iran made it easy for the United States, Israel, Britain and Jordan to know what it would and would not do, and where it would do it.

Israel was not part of this coordination.

Iran then launched 300 cruise and ballistic missiles and drones, with the only injury being to a 7-year-old Bedouin Israeli girl, whose house was hit by shrapnel from an Israeli interceptor.

When Hamas shoots, there are injuries. When Hezbollah shoots, there are injuries. When Iran shoots, there are none.

Just as was the case with Ayn al-Asad four years ago, the Iranian strike caused minor damage, in this case to Israel's Nevatim Air Force Base in the northern Negev, but no one was injured there, either.

Can this be explained by claiming, out of sheer hubris, that the Iranians are weak and stupid? Only naive people can believe this.

In the days before the attack, America, according to media reports, had exchanges with Iran. Early warnings had been coming from America for a whole week, including in reports by The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg. All of Israel was put in hysteria over the upcoming Iranian attack, which anyway benefited Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, pushing from the news his responsibility for October 7.

America coordinated the attack with Iran so that no one would be

physically injured or killed. This was achieved thanks to the highly skilled American, Israeli, British and Jordanian air defenses.

The Americans played Israel, and are continuing to do so by preventing an Israeli

reaction. In fact, they began the pressure on Israel not to react even before the attack took place. U.S. CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael Kurilla went to Israel on April 13 and pressed for prior coordination with the United States of any action by Israel.

Now, President Joe Biden has said it himself: You weren't hurt, they failed. Don't do anything. Don't escalate because you will be dragging us into a war. We protected you and no one was hurt, the answer will be diplomatic.

Indeed, almost no one was hurt—but Israel's deterrence was struck down by Washington's coordination with Iran. Israel's deterrence was sold out to save Iran's.

When the ballistic missiles that can reach Tel Aviv from Iran in 12 minutes were delayed, I told friends that it was probably in order to stop for refreshments along the way and that the Americans were going to tell us not to react.

Al Jazeera, the Qatari channel aligned with Iran, reported that drones spotted over Aqaba in southern Jordan were continuing on their way to Eilat. Anyone who knows the area knows that drones anywhere in Aqaba could reach Eilat in two minutes, and yet there were no drone bombings in Eilat.

This coordination with Iran that guaranteed no casualties, no injuries, was carried out over Israel's head.

Israel's air force, like those of the United States, United Kingdom and Jordan, did a great job. They had full information about the incoming missiles. Israel got the information from the Americans, who got the information about the what, where and when of the air strikes from the Iranians, enabling an unfathomable 99% interception rate.

But Israel's deterrence was lost, and restoring it will be a painful process because, as the Iranians are threatening, their next attack will not be pre-coordinated. The worst thing Israel could do would be to believe that the results of this weekend's attack is the best Iran can achieve. They can do far more.

(The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Apr 16)

חג כשר ושמה

Iran's Attack Requires a Broad Response By Amir Taheri

Iran's attack on Israel, with more than 170 drones and 120 ballistic missiles, was the largest that Tehran has ever launched against the Jewish state.

Previously, Iran used proxy forces, including Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis rebels in Yemen, to rain down rockets on Israeli homes and ships. Now, Iran is attacking directly and striking at well guarded military sites.

Iran has crossed a red line—forcing responses from both Israel and America. The Islamic Republic is openly courting war. We should not give them the war that they want.

"Certainly, this is an escalation," House Intelligence Committee chairman Mike Turner said on NBC's Meet the Press, urging the Biden administration to respond to an "already escalating" crisis.

Israel promises a response. We will "exact a price from Iran in a way and time that suits us," Israeli War Cabinet member Benny Gantz said on Sunday.

The world is inches from open war between Israel and Iran, which could then draw in Arab states, and then the United States.

Let's carefully consider the chasm opening beneath us. With a regional war, oil and gas prices would climb to new heights, sputtering the U.S. economy and scrambling the presidential race. Elections are also slated for the United Kingdom and other NATO allies this year. War could bring to power anti-immigrant parties as either leaders or key coalition partners.

Meanwhile, with America and NATO distracted, Russia would have a free hand in Ukraine and China could more safely invade Taiwan, the world's largest maker of semiconductors. The leader of the free world would be forced to focus on the supply of oil and chips, a captive to the whims of dictators in Tehran and other places.

For the first time since British rule ended in 1783, America's future might be decided overseas. This bleak and unthinkable prospect would drive public opinion towards a long war with casualties comparable to World War II.

While this dystopia is possible, there is still time to prevent it.

Many ordinary Iranians do not seek war. The Iranian regime is unpopular with its own people, the majority of whom are younger than 30. They want prosperity, not conflagration. The scale of the protests in 2022 and 2023 shocked the ayatollahs. The demonstrators cited corruption, not Israel, as the source of their suffering. The unemployment rate reached 9.6% in 2023 according to the IMF. It is expected to top 12% this year.

Iran's galloping inflation mobilizes more apolitical people against the regime. They see the prices in souk and blame the mullahs. This is why war is a helpful distraction for Iran's leaders.

At the same time, as a result of the attack Israel largely regained its position within the world community, a position that had been severely eroded by civilian losses suffered in fighting Hamas in Gaza.

U.S. President Joe Biden praised American forces who helped Israel shoot down "nearly all" of the drones and missiles fired by Iran and pledged to coordinate a global response.

That said, there is fear in Washington that Israel may set off a wider war by responding to Iran's aggression—a war that America clearly does not want. Biden confirmed his administration's "unwavering" commitment to Israel but also reportedly told Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in a phone call Saturday that the United States would not join offensive operations against Iran.

Biden is wary of becoming further entangled, as the U.S. Navy is already fending off missiles launched by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.

Israel's and America's forbearance—sticking to defensive use of anti-missile technology and pinprick counterattacks on Iranian proxies that directly attack American forces—may not be enough to deter Tehran. The mullahs may simply escalate further.

Clearly, policymakers must think more broadly to prevent war.

Sanction enemies. While Iran is already one of the most sanctioned nations on Earth, sanctions must be expanded to companies and countries that supply weapons to Iran or its proxies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Sanctions should reflect the reality that Iran leads a consortium of terrorist groups. These sanctions need to be enforced by all G-7 nations.

America should also strengthen its support of opposition movements both inside and outside Iran, including trade unions and democratic dissidents.

Airtight sanctions on oil and gas sales will cut off funds for Iran's war-machine. A slowdown in Iran's oil exports means more unrest in Iran's electricity-starved cities and larger budget deficits, which may topple the regime.

Support Allies. The United States must help its friends and not just cripple its enemies.

Jordan, once described as "island of stability" in a sea of chaos, now finds itself with a fragile economy, civil war in neighboring Syria and a large population of Palestinian refugees (many of whom as now citizens. While a staunch U.S. ally, and recipient of both U.S. military and economic aid, it is teetering as Iran-backed groups spread dissent and militants cross its desert frontiers.

When Jordan's king decided to shoot down Iranian drones which had crossed into its sovereign airspace, his decision was popular in Jerusalem and Washington, but not at home. Supporting the Jordanian monarchy is both a moral and a strategic obligation of America.

Other Arab allies, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, are a few kilometers from Iran and risk reprisals from the Iran or its proxies. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have already suffered terror attacks by Iran-backed militants.

The Emirates and Bahrain took big risks by choosing to be on the side of modernity and peace by signing the Abraham Accords, recognizing and making peace with Israel.

Morocco, America's oldest ally and also a signatory to the Abraham Accords, will also be vital for countering terrorism across North Africa and stopping Iran's growing influence in the Arab world and Africa. Morocco's king is also his nation's top religious leader. He has worked tirelessly to promote a moderate form of Islam across Africa—countering Iran's many efforts to foment extremism among Africa's young Muslims.

Prosperity for the region. Once Hamas is vanquished in Gaza, a Marshall Plan for the Palestinians will be needed to keep Iran at bay while Gaza is reborn as peaceful and growing. Gaza should reclaim its past as a key port and a food supplier to the Mediterranean.

Gaza has sizeable offshore proven gas reserves and could use these resources to finance a low-tax, light-regulatory model of the UAE or the tech-led route of Ireland. This would give ordinary Palestinians hope and prosperity, the true foundations of a lasting peace.

The United States should commit to supplying Arab allies with military equipment to defend themselves against Iran, just as it has done with Israel. Additionally, the Arabs need their own Iron Dome.

The United States often criticizes Arab nations for working with China to secure their economic and military security. Yet, the Arabs are only asking of Beijing what Washington will not give them. It is time to reverse this dynamic and make it valuable to be America's friend.

A strong set of sanctions and alliances is the best deterrent to Iran. To prevent a wider war, and the economic and political catastrophes that naturally comes with war, America needs to strengthen its friends and discourage its enemies.

Piecemeal politics won't do.
(Jerusalem Strategic Tribune Apr 15)

Jonathan Glazer, Liberal Jewish Prophet By Liel Leibovitz

Oscar acceptance speeches are to culture what tax audits are to a small business: nasty, brutish, and somehow never short enough. And yet, when Jonathan Glazer took the stage at the 96th Academy Awards earlier this year to accept the statuette for Best International Film, he delivered the rare oration that was greater even than the movie he'd written and directed. In a few short and glorious sentences that have since launched a thousand think pieces, Jonathan Glazer told the truth.

Let us—because it's been a moment since this lion of cinema rose up and roared at Hollywood—recall Glazer's fiery words.

"Right now," he said from the stage of the Dolby Theatre, "we stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people. Whether the victims of October—whether the victims of October the 7th in Israel or the ongoing attack on Gaza, all the victims of this dehumanization, how do we resist?"

Some mirthless fustians rushed to note that Glazer was awfully incoherent for a man who'd just won a very big award for writing a thinky film about Auschwitz called *The Zone of Interest*. Did he mean, they queried, that he and his two producers, who stood beside him, are themselves men who refute their Jewishness? Or merely that they refute the fact that their Jewishness had been hijacked by those who cheer on Israel's military escapades? The meaning, the critics noted, was unclear.

Such nitpickery is missing the point. Glazer's speech was stunning and brave because it demonstrated, like few addresses before it, and in front of 19.5 million viewers, the complete, total, and utter moral, spiritual, and intellectual bankruptcy of vast swaths of mainstream liberal Judaism.

In a few mumbly, stumbly sentences, Glazer laid out the credo shared by so many of our self-appointed intellectual and moral betters. In the beginning, goes this leftist theology, was "The Occupation," the conflict's cardinal sin, committed, alas, by the Jews.

And The Occupation beget The Cycle of Violence, pitting the sons of Jacob against the sons of Ishmael, both righteous and both rightfully aggrieved and both, curses, capable of shedding blood. Israelis and Palestinians, in this telling, are coiled together like a big, bruised Ouroboros, with each fresh outrage prompting the snake to chomp just a bit further on its own tail. And to stop it, we need little more than for brave men and women to straighten the lapel of their tuxedos, smooth the hem of their dresses, put on a pin, and demand, politely but firmly, that the killing stop.

You could spend hours, days even, amusing yourself by tearing this worldview to shreds. You could note, for example, that the brave and noble struggle to end the Israeli occupation magically began three years before the occupation itself. For Israel took control of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in 1967, three years after an Egyptian con man named Yasser Arafat declared himself a Palestinian and merrily busied himself killing Jews. Or you could speak at length about the three-decades-old travesty known as the Oslo Accords, a strategic blunder that left thousands of Israelis dead, set up a despotic and murderous Palestinian Authority that pays its citizens to slaughter Jews, and saw the Palestinian leadership consistently, even comically, reject any attempt to reach anything resembling reconciliation.

But don't waste your time grousing at the Glazers of this world. There isn't a reasoned, reasonable way of seeing things. It's an ecstatic faith, and though it loves wrapping itself in the gilded garbs of objectivity, rationality, and universalist compassion, it is, at its core, a cult.

Here are the liberal Jewish cult's core beliefs:

- The disparate hamulas, or feuding clans, that occupy the towns and villages of Judea and Samaria secretly possess, despite all appearances to the contrary, a distinct and innate sense of peoplehood. They are the Palestinian People.
- And though they have a funny way of showing it whenever anyone makes them a concrete and binding offer, the Palestinian People want just one thing: the establishment of a sovereign nation in its indigenous homeland.
- It's a perfect—and perfectly pleasant—idea to understand: Palestinians and Jews, Yin and Yang, their desires and frustrations intertwined, eager to find some way to share their narrow and too-promised strip of earth. And the only thing standing between them and Heaven are Very Bad Men: Bibi Netanyahu and Itamar Ben-Gvir, but also the goons of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. There are, of course, Very Bad Men on both sides, both equally contemptible.
- The solution, then, is simple: Israel withdraws from the occupied territories, the Palestinians declare a state, both sides see the benefits of peace and prosperity, the Very Bad Men go away.
- And only if and when that happens can we all be Jews again, because, otherwise, our virtuous faith will be stripped of all its pretty talk of *tikkun olam* and left instead with little but the gross bits about not eating shrimp or not marrying non-Jews. Therefore, we can't really be Jews until we've fully embraced the Palestinians. QED.

In 1956, Leon Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schachter published a book titled *When Prophecy Fails*. They wanted to see what happened when members of a lunatic cult realized that the insane predictions at the core of their worldview were proven false. The cult's leader, a Chicago housewife named Dorothy Martin, claimed she was receiving transmissions from the planet Clarion, telling her, with great certainty, that the United States would be devastated by a biblical flood on December 21, 1954. Showing up on a very dry December 22, the researchers observed a fascinating phenomenon: The cult's true believers were not dissuaded by having reality curtly and resolutely slap them in the face. Instead, they doubled down on their kooky beliefs. They might have gotten the date a bit wrong, they argued, but Clarion never lied. The flood was coming. It was time to build big arks.

The Glazers in our midst ought to commiserate. Did Israel's withdrawal from Gaza lead to the rise of Hamas and the horrors of October 7? Well, then, the answer is more withdrawals. Did billions of dollars in aid allow the Islamist marauders to arm themselves to the

teeth while starving their own population? Send more cash. Did the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank turn out to be a despotic, demonic tyranny? We need another one in Gaza.

Laugh off the above at your own peril. After Glazer delivered his *cri de coeur*, hundreds of Jewish artists, intellectuals, and writers signed a petition denouncing his words. It was a heartfelt effort, but it failed to get to the heart of the problem: Jonathan Glazer, *c'est nous*.

We perfectly respectable and warm Jews who truly care about our faith and our community and love Israel may not stand up in wartime and hint at some sense of equivalency between victims and perpetrators, but many of us live in precisely the same moral universe that Glazer so perfectly captured in his speech—a universe in which Jewish life is unthinkable unless it cares deeply about, and proposes some practical and laudable solution to, the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

As the war in Gaza rages on, and as escalation simmers on the Lebanese border, this imagined moral universe seems very far removed from the real one on the ground. In reality, the overwhelming majority of Israelis have now internalized a few hard truths:

- There's no such thing as a Palestinian people.
- There's no real difference between Hamas and Fatah.
- The overwhelming majority of Palestinians aren't interested in building a robust, flourishing state where they can live and work in dignity, prosperity, and peace. They're interested in righting what they believe is the fundamental wrong of their existence, the Jewish state next door, an abomination that must be destroyed no matter how long it takes or how many must die in the process.
- To protect itself and secure its peaceful existence, Israel will have to seize territories it needs to control, in Gaza and Lebanon alike. This will involve displacing more civilians and will lead to more international condemnation.
- But above all, it will mean the end of the "peace process" and an era marked by the belief that we were marching, however haltingly, into a warm embrace with the rest of the world.

Compare these insights to the tenets of liberal American Judaism, and you'll see they have almost nothing in common. And that, precisely, was the point of Jonathan Glazer's speech. It was incoherent not because the Brit didn't know better words, but because he realized, as good artists often do, that we've reached a point in which words could no longer make sense of our moment in time. It was no longer about contorting yourself into ridiculous arguments like "I support Israel but oppose its government, its policies, and the plurality of people who elected it." It was now about picking sides, simply and bluntly. Pick Team Israel, and you're siding with a country that must now do some very difficult things to defend itself against the rapists of girls and the beheaders of babies. Pick Team Enlightenment, and, sooner or later, you're going to sound more or less like Jonathan Glazer, screaming, "Please, Lord, don't lump me in with my savage brothers."

For a while, many of the nice and warm liberals in our midst will try to resist this insight with fury. They'll argue that only machines, small children, and zealots think in binaries, and that responsible people must acknowledge that reality contains multitudes. They'll spend a lot of time and energy arguing about whether this military operation was justified or that IDF strike defensible.

They'll bicker about Bibi, and they'll say that it's important, especially in times of war, to lament for the innocent victims on both sides. They'll do this because their main goal is to restore the peace and return to the hope of Oslo, the hope of being normal, just like everyone else.

But that's no longer the main goal of Israeli Jews. Israeli Jews no longer want to make peace. They want to win the war. They are increasingly disabused of the notion, which had led them to one middling military achievement after another and did nothing to keep them safe, that you can negotiate with Hamas and Hezbollah, which means that you must allow these enemies their dignity and refrain from hitting them as hard as you can. Israel's goal now, quite bluntly,

is to wipe these organizations off the face of the earth.

Americans, including most American Jews, are asking what Israel's plan is for the day after. To Israelis, the question seems obscene. They're not focused on who will govern Khan Younis when this is all over, or on what to do with the Gazan refugees. They're focused on surviving, a task that, right now, calls first and foremost for the casting off of three decades of illusions and for the absolute annihilation of their enemies.

How many American Jews will sign on for what comes next? Jonathan Glazer's bet is not too many, and he is, I fear, correct.

Somewhere on the margins, a few of us—a quarter? a third?—will double down on Judaism, not only in our support for the Jewish state but also in realizing that if the world is forcing us to choose between a hard life as proud Jews and enjoying illustrious careers and material comfort and the pleasant fragrance of our peers' approval, we've no doubt how we want to live.

And the rest? The rest will skulk away, rationalizing their disengagement by blaming politicians or policies or circumstances or just quietly retreating from any public showing of Jewish solidarity. They will, in other words, refute their Jewishness, just as the prophet Jonathan Glazer had foretold. (Commentary Magazine May 2024)

End the Iranian Regime, Now

By Thane Rosenbaum

The good news: Israel's air defense systems—Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow 3, and its vaunted fighter pilots—assisted by the United States, Jordan, England, France and Saudi Arabia, performed brilliantly in intercepting the 300 projectiles (over 100 of which were ballistic missiles) that Iran launched at Israel on Saturday night. Except for an Israeli-Arab child seriously wounded by shrapnel, the nation didn't suffer a scratch.

The bad news: What language does the Biden administration speak when it reassures Israel that it stands in solidarity with the Jewish state and warns Iran, repeatedly, "Don't"? Because, here again, those expressions of support soon come to mean something less boldly protective and cautionary. Does anyone know of a diplomacy thesaurus that Israel, and the rest of us, can use to decrypt the mixed messaging that emanates from Biden's West Wing and State Department?

During those first days after Oct. 7, Biden unequivocally stated that Israel had a legal and moral right to self-defense in response to Hamas's invasion and massacre in southern Israel. Hamas was deemed an Islamic-State clone which needed to be completely vanquished. Any country in the same position would do the same thing.

Anticipating civilian casualties once Israel's bombing campaign and ground incursion into Gaza commenced, Biden made clear that the responsibility for those Palestinian deaths would lie with Hamas. The terror group broke a ceasefire and started a war with a barbaric massacre. Worse still, it insisted on shielding itself with Gaza's civilian population.

A fair reading of Biden's assessment of the situation was that Israel couldn't be faulted for striking at the locations where Hamas and its weapons are located. Gazans elected a terrorist organization that grotesquely deployed its own people as the first line of defense. Tunnels were built to transport terrorists and hide weapons, and not as bomb shelters for Gaza's civilians.

A few months later, however, a very different Biden showed up. He mumbled that Israel's military operations were "over the top," warning against any precipitous invasion of Rafah, the last stronghold of Hamas's remaining battalions. He questioned whether the large Palestinian civilian death toll comported with international humanitarian law. And he hinted that future military aid would have to be reevaluated. And the topper: The United States abstained when the U.N. Security Council called for a temporary ceasefire without the release of any Israeli and American hostages.

Then, just the other day, Doctor Jekyll returned to the Oval Office. President Biden, having been apprised through intelligence communiques that Iran was about to launch a significant attack against

America's only democratic ally in the region, stated, repeatedly, that the United States' commitment to Israel was "ironclad." His message to Iran, repeated by both his Secretary of State and Defense Secretary: "Don't!"

But Iran did. Biden gave the same "Don't!" warning to Iran's proxies in the early days of the war. Yet, Hezbollah and the Houthis did, as well—the Lebanese terrorists have been launching missiles at Israel nearly every day; and the Yemenite terrorists have wreaked havoc on Israel and commercial shipping lines in the Red Sea.

And then Biden once again revealed his inner Hyde. On Saturday night, not long after Iran's arsenal of missiles and drones detonated in the sky, the president spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and advised him to "take the win"—no need to escalate tensions further.

Really? If Mexico had launched 300 missiles at New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles, the United States would have been satisfied with simply defending against them? I have news for the president: Texans wouldn't take it, and the Rangers would be suiting up (the special ops guys, not the baseball team).

The necessity for nationwide air raid sirens blaring across Israel, warning of ballistic missiles incoming at major population centers, was not a proportional response to the killing of a few senior commanders in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in Damascus. This was a major act of aggression, tantamount to a declaration of war.

Biden's advice to Israel? Just walk away. And one more thing: America will not take part in any Israeli reprisal.

Obviously, "ironclad" means something different to Biden than it does to everybody else. And "don't" apparently means "don't take us seriously."

If "don't" actually means, "don't," why are any Houthis still alive? Back in October, the most powerful nation in the world warned them that taking an ancillary interest in Hamas's escapades would come with consequences. The Houthis aren't even Iran's most dangerous proxy. Most people never even heard of them. Shouldn't all of them have been killed by now?

On Saturday, Iran finally decided to get its own hands dirty, rather than direct its proxies to do the dirty work. For two decades, trash-talking mullahs threatened to "wipe Israel off the map!" Finally, rather than delegate skirmishes to its proxies, Iran's maniacal Islamists mixed brinkmanship with the Rubicon and lit up the Middle East sky with missiles and drones. Israel can now, justifiably, retaliate. F-35 pilots can lock on Iran's ostensibly civilian nuclear facilities—something the rest of the region has secretly been longing for.

Will Biden stand for that? Last week he orchestrated Israel's withdrawal from southern Gaza, leaving Hamas intact. Now he's seeking further capitulation.

American foreign policy, these days, seems to be directed from Michigan and Minnesota. Are Muslims in battleground states actually dictating which battles America's Jewish ally is permitted to fight? Foggy Bottom will soon be renting space from the Ford Motor Company, based in Dearborn. That would make sense. Its founder, Henry Ford, after all, was the leading antisemite of his day.

I realize there's an election on the horizon and Biden is beholden to shrieking progressives and petulant, ignorant students. But perhaps now, more than ever, is the time for this president to exercise moral leadership, remain actually faithful to "ironclad" commitments and eschew political calculations.

Iran is a world menace. Why else would Jordan and the Saudis have assisted in downing drones whizzing over their airspace? No one other than Bernie Sanders and the Squad is rooting for Iran.

Here's a tip, Mr. President: Stop the political schizophrenia. Demonstrate that America knows how to stand beside a friend, and won't stand in the way of allowing the Jewish state to finish the job in Gaza, and, finally, take steps to bring a long-awaited end to the Iranian Islamic regime. (Jewish Journal Apr 16)
