

IRAN BLOWS UP IN OBAMA'S FACE

June 25/09. Barack Obama's key policy of seeking dialogue with Iran's leaders, to keep a lid on Iran's nuclear program is looking more and more ridiculous.

After a week of soft-peddaling on the brutal crackdown on Iran's aggrieved reform-minded protestors, Obama finally said he was "appalled and outraged" at the violence with which the demonstrations have been repressed.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose disputed election victory has prompted the biggest crisis in the 30-year history of the Islamic Republic, hit out at President Obama.

Ahmadinejad accused Obama of following his predecessor's lead. "Mr Obama made a mistake to say those things. Our question is why he fell into this trap, and said things that previously (former President) Bush used to say," Ahmadinejad said.

Hugo Chavez, the President of Venezuela who is an ally of Mr Ahmadinejad, added: "People are in the streets, some are dead, they have snipers, and behind this is the CIA, the imperial hand of European countries and the United States."

U.S. HITS BACK AT AHMADINEJAD CLAIM



June 26/09. The White House has accused Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of seeking to blame the US for unrest following Iran's disputed election. The US replied one day after Ahmadinejad sharply criticized President Barack Obama for condemning Iranian violence against protesters.

Tehran's leadership has accused foreign governments of fuelling the protests.

OBAMA FLEXES MUSCLES IN MIDEAST, RESUMES TIES WITH DAMASCUS

June 24/09. U.S. President Barack Obama is resuming diplomatic ties with Syria after a four-year hiatus as he aims for a regional peace in the Middle East. Syrian President Bashar Assad has conditioned peace with Israel on its regaining sovereignty of the strategic Golan Heights. Slightly more than half of the population on the Golan comprises Jews, and most of the remainder are Druze.

Israeli Foreign Minister spokesman Andy David told Israel National News Wednesday morning that the move by the U.S. is part of President Obama's policies of "talking with the enemy" and that the issue of the Golan Heights is not a top American priority.

He noted that the return of an envoy does not necessarily mean an improvement in relations, and that the U.S. wants to have a more direct influence on the issues of the inquiry into the murder of former anti-Syrian Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, the struggling economy in Syria and its support of Iraq rebels.

Imad Mustafa, Syria's ambassador in Washington, welcomed the news of the return of an American counterpart to Damascus. The U.S. recalled its envoy from Syria four years ago, following the mammoth bomb attack that killed Hariri. Syria has been suspected of being behind the assassination.



"It's in our interests to have an ambassador in Syria," a senior Obama administration official told CNN. "We've been having more and more discussions, and we need to have someone there to engage," he said. The government has not made an official announcement, and no one has yet been named to serve in the post.

Syria remains on the American list of states that support terror, but relations between the two countries have been closer since President Obama took office in January.

OBAMA'S PLANS FOR PA STATE STUCK IN NEUTRAL

June 24/09. The deep division between Israeli and American views on the future of Judea and Samaria became more evident yesterday when the office of PM Binyamin Netanyahu announced the cancellation of a planned meeting with U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell, in France. The Prime Minister, on an official visit to Italy and France, was scheduled to meet with Mitchell on Thursday in Paris.

The American envoy instead will now meet with Defense Minister Ehud Barak during Barak's trip to Washington next week.

The official explanation for the cancellation was the need to "clarify issues."

Netanyahu directly Barack Obama's stand against the presence of Jews in Judea and Samaria in his recent speech. He voiced determination to continue building in existing Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, but hoped to dampen the American response by expressing willingness to accept a "demilitarized Palestinian state."

Instead, he has been met by **more extreme resistance from the Obama administration**. A U.S. State Department spokesman told reporters on Monday that opposition to building for Jews in Judea and Samaria includes established Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, where thousands of housing units are under construction.

These areas of Jerusalem, in which more than 250,000 people live, were established up to 40 years ago after the entire city was restored to Jewish sovereignty during the Six-Day War. The neighborhoods were officially annexed to Jerusalem nearly 30 years ago.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has warned in recent days that making a loud fuss over the "settlements" clouds what he considers major issues towards a peace agreement between Israel and the PA.

Even if Washington wants to find a compromise solution, President Obama's announcement in his speech in Cairo earlier this month has left the Arab world assuming that the U.S. is in its corner.

The Arab world has made it clear that it will not consider any compromise in the so called Arab Peace Plan, which calls upon Israel to surrender all of Judea and Samaria, including the Old City and Jerusalem neighborhoods, such as French Hill, Ramot and Gilo.

<http://au.mg2.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch?.gx=1&.rand=4n40emps4p7d5>

“OBAMA MAY BE 'MOST HOSTILE PRESIDENT TO ISRAEL’”

June 22/09. *newsmax.com* reported that Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, says President Barack Obama’s refusal to take a stand on protests in Iran stands in sharp contrast to demands he has made on Israel.

“I think he should take a strong stand to support the protesters in Iran who want to transform that society into one that promotes democracy and human rights,” Klein says. “But while meddling in Israel’s affairs and making specific demands, he explicitly states he refuses to meddle in Iran’s policies and has said almost nothing.”

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS RETHINKING SUPPORT OF OBAMA

“There are many leaders in the organized Jewish world who say they are deeply concerned about Obama’s actions and policies toward Israel, and now they’re rethinking their support for Obama during the campaign and the election,” says Morton Klein, whose organization of 30,000 members is the oldest pro-Israel group in the US.

Based on the president’s speech in Cairo on June 4 and many of his foreign policy appointments, Klein thinks Obama “may become the most hostile president to Israel ever.”

Obama’s speech was “harmful to Israel and supportive of the stream of false Palestinian Arab claims concerning Israel,” Klein says. “He is relentlessly pressuring Israel while applying virtually almost no pressure on the Palestinian Authority to fulfill its written obligations.”

As a child of survivors of the Holocaust, Klein says he was particularly offended by Obama’s comparison of the suffering of Palestinians with the Nazis’ murder of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust. “I found this to be an abominable, odious, and ridiculously false analogy,” he says.

While Klein’s parents’ survived, his father lost his eight brothers and sisters and all his aunts and uncles in Nazi concentration camps. Klein’s mother lost half her family.

In his speech, Klein says, Obama said that “the treatment of Palestinian Arabs by Israel is equivalent to the treatment of South African blacks during apartheid and of enslaved blacks before the Civil War, more than implying that Israel is an oppressor. He falsely claimed that Palestinian Arabs were displaced by Israel in 1948, when in fact, if six Arab nations hadn’t invaded Israel to destroy it, there wouldn’t be a single Palestinian Arab who left that area.”

Klein disputes Obama’s reference to Palestinian Arabs trying to establish a state for 60 years. ...
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http://www.newsmax.com/kessler/Barack_Obama_Israel_Iran/2009/06/22/227763.html