

RELEASE IN PART B5,B6
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From: Feltman, Jeffrey D <FeltmanJD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 3, 2012 1:16 PM
To: H; Thomas_E_Donilon [redacted]
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Re:

B6

More from the DCM in Tel Aviv (and this information on the blog is interesting):

On the substance in the blog post, Dan will have greater insight, but you should be aware that the 972 blog on which the comments below were published is highly partisan, anti-BB, opposed to military action against Iran. Far left wing in Israeli political terminology.

It seems like the author has taken a point from Uzi when he says his policy advice on Iran was not taken and has spun that into a bigger BB conspiracy to keep differing views away from others in the govt. We don't know specifically what the issue referred to was, but overall I believe Uzi was hardline on Iran when he was in govt and he remains so out of govt. So it would surprise me if there was a radical difference with BB on policy.

As I mentioned, I understood the overall thrust of the article to have been airing inside PMO dirty laundry (of which there's a lot) as well as the circumstances of Uzi's departure over suspicion that he was involved in leaks.

Jeffrey Feltman

----- Original Message -----

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 12:10 PM
To: 'HDR22@clintonemail.com' <HDR22@clintonemail.com>; 'Thomas_E_Donilon' [redacted]
 [redacted]
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: Re:

B6

From our DCM in Tel Aviv:

We've got people working on a translation. It's about 8 pages/6000 words. Open Source Center is focusing on the allegation below, and will have that tonight. They'll have a full version our midday Sunday. NSC is also asking.

The interview was payback by Uzi. I understood the theme of the article was the internal chaos at the PMO, not so much a policy differences, but there are probably juicy examples to support his point.

Jeffrey Feltman

----- Original Message -----

From: H [mailto:HDR22@clintonemail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 09:54 AM
To: 'Thomas_E_Donilon' [redacted]
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Feltman, Jeffrey D
Subject:

B6

Tom--

<http://972mag.com/is-netanyahu-misleading-his-ministers-on-iran/36915/> Friday, March 2 2012 | Yossi Gurvitz | Is Netanyahu misleading his ministers on Iran? Former National Security Advisor Uzi Arad claims Prime Minister Netanyahu ordered him to refrain from providing ministers with contradictory data. Yedioth Ahronoth's weekend supplement published a very long and equally stunning interview with disgraced National Security Advisor Uzi Arad. Arad, who was forced to resign last year, was interviewed by Nachum Barnea and Shimon Shiffer, and told them about the Byzantine court surrounding Netanyahu, and exposed the shocking fact he was interrogated by the Israel Security Agency for hours in the Ben Gurion Airport as he came back from a mission in the US. But there's one point which should trouble every Israeli, which was not emphasized enough. During the interview, Arad – a long-time Netanyahu follower – says twice that he lost favor with the prime minister when he began contradicting his position on Iran during discussions. Even worse from Netanyahu's point of view, he provided the government with a different assessment about Iran and the way to thwart it. After one of those occasions, says Arad, Netanyahu took him aside and ordered him to refrain from contradicting him in the presence of others. According to Arad, Netanyahu was particularly worried that Arad's documents may serve the investigative committee which will follow the Israeli attack on Iran. Netanyahu's bureau did not deny those accusations. This is a point which must be investigated. Neither the PM nor the Minister of Security command the army; the commander is the government, a collective body. A prime minister who refuses to divulge contradictory information to his ministers is a prime minister who sabotages their ability to make an informed decision on that issue. The government's control of the armed forces in Israel has a chequered history. To make a long story short, as long as the government controlled the army, it succeeded or at least managed to avoid disaster. When it let slip of that control – particularly when it allowed factions within the government, with the minister of security always a participant, take control – calamity was often the result. The process' lowest point was probably in 2006, when Shimon Peres, then a minister of something or other, opposed the decision to begin the Second Lebanon War – but voted for it anyway, telling the Winograd investigative committee that "you don't vote against the prime minister in a time of war." Such abdication of responsibility is hardly surprising when you're familiar with Peres' history; yet we must not allow it to repeat itself. Now we are being told by Arad that Netanyahu is blinding his ministers from seeing the full picture. One can hardly think of a better reason for an investigative committee, which, should it find Arad told the truth, send Netanyahu home, and irrevocably tarnish the careers of ministers who agreed to be turned into marionettes. One Shimon Peres is more than enough. This is particularly important as Israel and Iran are not, and have never been, in a state of war. The two countries, testified Foreign Minister David Levi a decade ago, never declared war on each other. Earlier wars and operations were declared by the governments against countries with which Israel was at war; this is not the case with Iran. This war should be debated by the Knesset – particularly if it is true that Netanyahu is misleading his ministers.