

# Israel: Don't Trust Iran

## Netanyahu Urges US To Keep Iran Sanctions In Place

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday urged President Barack Obama to keep tough economic sanctions on Iran in place, even as the U.S. weighs a potential warming of relations and a restart of nuclear negotiations with Tehran's new government.

"If diplomacy is to work, those pressures must be kept in place," Netanyahu said during an Oval Office meeting with Obama.

The two leaders met at the White House just days after Obama's historic phone call with new Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. The 15-minute call marked the first direct conversation between U.S. and Iranian leaders in more than 30 years.

Obama credited the flurry of U.S. sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy with bringing Rouhani to the negotiating table. While he said it was important to "test diplomacy," the president also said that Rouhani must back up his more conciliatory words with actions that give the international community confidence that Iran is not seeking to produce a nuclear weapon.

"We enter into these negotiations very clear-eyed," Obama said, adding that while



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama in the Oval Office of the White House Monday in Washington.

he preferred a diplomatic solution, all options remain on the table, including military action.

Obama and Netanyahu, whose tense relationship has somewhat improved in recent months, also addressed the tenuous peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, the bloody civil war in Syria, and unrest in Egypt, the first Arab country to forge a peace treaty with Israel. The two leaders had not met in person since March, when Obama made his first trip to Israel as president.

The sudden prospect of diplomacy with Iran overshadowed a host of pressing issues on the U.S.-Israeli agenda. Netanyahu has long been skeptical of Obama's preference for negotiating with Iran, repeatedly pressing his U.S. counterpart to issue credi-

ble threats of military action if Tehran gets close to producing a nuclear weapon.

Sitting side-by-side with Obama, Netanyahu echoed his recent warnings that the U.S. and other Western nations should not be swayed by Rouhani's courtship. Israelis derisively called Iran's efforts the "smiley campaign."

"The ultimate test of a future agreement with Iran is whether or not Iran dismantles its military nuclear program," he said.

Iran has offered to open its nuclear facilities to international inspectors as part of broad negotiations with the United States but has insisted that its nuclear program is its right and is for peaceful purposes only. The U.S., Israel and other allies have long accused Iran of seeking a bomb. Iran says it is enriching uranium for peaceful purposes.

## Kenya: Security Forces Eyed In Thefts

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Jewelry cases smashed. Mobile phones ripped from displays. Cash registers emptied. Alcohol stocks plundered.

For the second time in two months, poorly paid Kenyan security forces that moved in to control an emergency are being accused of robbing the very property they were supposed to protect. First the troops were accused of looting during a huge fire in August at Nairobi's main airport.

Now shop owners at Westgate Mall are returning to their stores after last week's devastating terrorist attack to find displays ransacked and valuables stolen.

One witness told The Associated Press that he saw a Kenyan soldier take cigarettes out of a dead man's pocket.

Shopkeepers spent Monday carting merchandise and other valuables out of their stores and restaurants to prevent any more thefts. No one can say for sure who is responsible, but Kenya's security forces are strongly suspected.

## Weapons Experts Kick Off Syria Mission

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Inspectors charged with the enormous task of overseeing the destruction of Syria's deadly chemical weapons stockpiles kicked off their mission Monday, racing to meet tight deadlines against the backdrop of civil war.

The Syrian regime lashed out at the rebels, claiming government forces are fighting mostly al-Qaida-linked militants and refusing to talk with the main Western-backed opposition group — a blow to U.S.-Russian efforts to hold a peace conference by November.

New splits within the opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, also emerged on the conditions for attending the planned conference in Geneva. After meetings with U.S. officials in New York last week, the group's leader expressed readiness to attend talks aimed at establishing a transitional government with full executive powers, leaving open the question of whether President Bashar Assad could stay on.

But other coalition members expressed astonishment, saying they would participate only if they have prior guarantees that Assad would step down.

## Governor Vows To Fight DOJ Lawsuit

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's Republican governor is vowing to fight a lawsuit by the U.S. Justice Department challenging the state's tough new elections law on the grounds it disproportionately excludes minority voters.

Gov. Pat McCrory said Monday he has hired a private lawyer to help defend the new law from what he suggested was a partisan attack by President Barack Obama's Democratic administration.

"I believe the federal government action is an overreach and without merit," McCrory said at a brief media conference during which he took no questions. "I firmly believe we have done the right thing. I believe this is good law."

North Carolina's new law cuts early voting by a week, ends same-day voter registration and includes a stringent photo ID requirement. The measure also eliminated a popular high school civics program that encouraged students to register to vote in advance of their 18th birthdays.

More than 70 percent of African-Americans who cast a ballot in North Carolina during the past two presidential elections voted early. Studies show minority voters are also more likely to lack a driver's license.

## Panel OKs Kennedy For Japan Post

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate panel has approved the nomination of Caroline Kennedy to serve as U.S. ambassador to Japan.

By voice vote on Monday, the Foreign Relations Committee endorsed President Barack Obama's choice, the former first daughter who has promised to carry forward John F. Kennedy's legacy with humility.

Caroline Kennedy helped propel Obama to the Democratic presidential nomination with her endorsement over Hillary Rodham Clinton, the only time she's endorsed a presidential candidate other than her uncle Ted in 1980.

If confirmed, Kennedy would replace John Roos, a former Silicon Valley lawyer and top Obama campaign fundraiser.

# Deadline Under Fire, 'Obamacare' Is Set To Go Live — With Glitches

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and other attractions. Some critical parts of the government — from the military to air traffic controllers — would remain open.

As lawmakers squabbled, President Barack Obama spoke bluntly about House Republicans. "You don't get to extract a ransom for doing your job, for doing what you're supposed to be doing anyway, or just because there's a law there that you don't like," he said. Speaking of the health care law that undergoes a major expansion on Tuesday, he said emphatically, "That funding is already in place. You can't shut it down."

House Speaker John Boehner responded a few hours later on the House floor. "The American people don't want a shutdown and neither do I," he said. Yet, he added, the new health care law "is having a devastating impact. ... Something has to be done."

For all the Republican defiance, it appeared that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and fellow Democrats had the upper hand in the fast-approaching end game, and that Republicans might soon have to decide whether to allow the government to remain open — or come away empty-handed from a bruising struggle with Obama.

Some Republicans balked, moderates and conservatives alike.

Rep. Phil Gingrey of Georgia said it felt as if Republicans were retreating, given their diminishing demands, and Rep. Scott Rigell of Virginia said there was not unanimity when the rank and file met to discuss a next move.

Yet for the first time since the showdown began more than a week ago, there was also public dissent from the Republican strategy that has been carried out at the insistence of lawmakers working in tandem with GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Contentious from its conception, President Barack Obama's health care law has survived the Supreme Court, a battle for the White House and rounds of budget brinkmanship. Now comes the ultimate test: the verdict of the American people.

A government shutdown could dampen the rollout Tuesday as insurance markets open around the country. But it won't stop the main components of "Obamacare" from going live as scheduled, glitches and all. The biggest expansion of society's safety net since Medicare will be in the hands of consumers, and most of their concerns don't revolve around ideology and policy details.

People want to know if they can afford the premiums, if the coverage will be solid, where the bureaucratic pitfalls are and if new federal and state websites will really demystify shopping for health insurance. Full answers may take months.

Expect the rollout to get off to a slow start, with some bumps.

People who don't have access to job-based health insurance can start shopping right away for subsidized private coverage. Or they can wait to sign up as late as Dec. 15 and still get coverage by Jan. 1.

Many will probably want to see how it goes for the first wave of applicants before they jump in.

Glitches are likely to pop up in the new online insurance markets. Over the weekend, several states were still struggling to get plan information to display accurately on their websites. Earlier, the federal government announced delays for small business and Spanish-language signups. A protracted government shutdown could slow needed technology fixes.

Consumers also could run into problems getting their right subsidy amounts. People with complicated tax returns and extended families living under the same roof could find they need personal assistance to work out the issues. Referrals to state Medicaid programs might go smoothly in some states, not so well in others.

"As this unveils, it is going to be very clear that everything can't be done on a computer," Christine Ferguson, director of Rhode Island's marketplace, said in an interview prior to the launch. "But by Day 60 to 120, and the year after that, it's going to get a lot more user friendly and effective."

Eventually, at least half the nation's nearly 50 million uninsured people are expected to

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