

ABBOTT CALLS FOR RESTRAINT IN REGARD TO ISRAEL

Barak Obama's dangerous new lurch into anti-Israel populism changes global politics in extremely dangerous ways, and poses a challenge for Kevin Rudd. – Greg Sheridan.

The Foreign Editor of The Weekend Australian, Greg Sheridan, reports:

March 27-28/10. The Australian Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott, has called on the Rudd government not to expel an Israeli diplomat over allegations the Israeli secret service, Mossad, used forged Australian passports in the assassination of a Hamas terrorist in Dubai.

Mahmoud al-Mahouh was found dead in his hotel room in Dubai on January 20 this year. The Dubai authorities later established he had been murdered.

Abbott wants the Rudd government to ignore the precedent set by Gordon Brown's government in London, which expelled an Israeli diplomat as punishment for the use of British passports in the Dubai killing.

While stressing that he did not condone the misuse of Australian passports, and while it is not yet known whether Israel was involved in the assassination, Mr Abbott pleaded for understanding for the Jewish state.

"We can never forget that Israel is a country under existential threat in a way Australians find difficult to understand," Mr Abbott told *The Weekend Australian*. "It's also the only pluralist democracy in the Middle East.

"We have to understand that Israel sometimes has to do something which mercifully other countries are spared the necessity of doing. It strikes me that it would be an over-reaction to expel an Israeli diplomat."

The Rudd government is in the midst of considering how it will handle a report on the passports affair from the Australian Federal Police. The AFP group sent to Israel to investigate whether Mossad was involved in the misuse of Australian passports left Israel to return to Australia on March 8. Its report has not been finalised.

The British government gave Canberra a copy of its report, which found it "highly likely" that Israel was involved in the misuse of British passports.

PM Kevin Rudd told ABC radio yesterday that the government had yet to make up its mind on how it would react to the AFP report. He said; "It's currently with the Australian Federal Police and others ... those investigations are ongoing."

Sources have also told *The Weekend Australian* that **Australian intelligence agencies use forged passports in their clandestine work.**

Analysts believe the agency most likely to do this is the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, which runs secret operations in numerous countries.

Opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Julie Bishop told *The Weekend Australian*: "It would be naive in the extreme to believe a foreign power never used a forged passport. The Australian

government would have to be very careful to ensure that Australian agencies never used forged passports."

She said expelling an Israeli diplomat would be an "extreme step" and that she would "not want to see Kevin Rudd politicize this case in an election year."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/>

COMMENT: Britain's expulsion of an Israeli diplomat is an example of the hypocrisy of governments. As Julie Bishop rightly said, "It would be naive in the extreme to believe a foreign power never used a forged passport."

Would Gordon Brown have us believe that the British intelligence agencies are squeaky clean?

In fact, European intelligence agencies have warned their governments not to point fingers at Israel regarding the presumed stolen passports issue. because three fingers point back at themselves.

Tony Abbott is right! Most Australians have not idea of what it is like to be, like Israel, besieged by violent terrorists whose main goal is to see you wiped out. And they have no idea of what feels like to be constantly dictated to, and vilified by most of the nations of the world, and the United Nations.

DE BORCHGRAVE: OBAMA FACES DISINTEGRATING SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST, MEXICO

- By: Jim Meyers – www.newsmax.com

Award-winning journalist Arnaud de Borchgrave tells Newsmax that he will not see a Palestinian state in his lifetime — and the ultimate solution will likely be a single nation shared by both Israelis and Palestinians.

In his exclusive interview with Newsmax.TV, de Borchgrave also says he seriously doubts that new sanctions will deter Iran from continuing its nuclear program, warns that a single incident in the Middle East could push oil prices to as much as \$400 a barrel, and asserts that Mexico is already to a great extent a "narco republic."

De Borchgrave was with Newsweek magazine for 30 years, 25 of them as chief foreign correspondent covering most of the world's major news events. He is now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, editor at large at United Press International and The Washington Times, and a Newsmax correspondent.

Asked about reports that the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, Germany and China have agreed to draw up new sanctions against Iran in response to its nuclear weapons program, de Borchgrave says the sanctions will be determined by "the lowest common denominator among all those powers.

"China has some long-term arrangements with Iran, oil deliveries going over 10 years. Russia, now after the latest terrorist incident in Moscow, may be a little more amenable than it was. There will be sanctions. Whether they will bring Iran to a different viewpoint on their nuclear ambitions, I doubt it very seriously. They've been at it for 25 years."

Turning to the Israeli-Palestinian question, de Borchgrave — who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Phillips Foundation in 2007 — tells Newsmax: "I've long argued that you're not going to see a Palestinian state in my lifetime.

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SENATORS PUSH OBAMA FOR BIOMETRIC NATIONAL ID CARD

March 18/10. Two U.S. senators met with President Obama on Thursday to push for a national ID card with biometric information such as a fingerprint, hand scan, or iris scan that all employers would be required to verify.

In an [opinion article](#) published in Friday's edition of the Washington Post, Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) say the new identification cards will "ensure that illegal workers cannot get jobs" and "dramatically decrease illegal immigration."

Schumer and Graham pitched the idea to President Obama during a private meeting Thursday at the White House. Graham said afterward that Obama "welcomed" their proposal for a new ID card law; the White House said in a [statement](#) that the senators' plan was "promising."

This push for a national ID is part of what the senators say is a necessary overhaul of immigration law, including additional border security, more temporary workers, and a form of amnesty for illegal immigrants already in the United States. It comes just two days before a rally in Washington, D.C. sponsored by groups including the AFL-CIO, Farmworker Justice, and the National Council of La Raza that also [calls for amnesty](#).

Linking national ID cards to immigration reform is a popular idea in Washington political circles. After all, if every U.S. citizen has a biometric-equipped cards, the thinking goes, it's easy to order employers not to give a job to someone without one.

But concerns about privacy, security, and federalism have torpedoed each one of these proposals so far.

REST OR ARTICLE>

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-20000758-38.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20

EXPLOITING THE CRISIS

OBAMA MAY HAVE DONE ISRAEL AND NETANYAHU A FAVOR

- By Caroline B. Glick . Apr 2/10

There is an element of irony in the current crisis of relations between the Obama administration and Israel. On the one hand, although US President Barack Obama and his advisors deny there is anything wrong with US-Israel relations today, it is easy to understand why no one believes them.

On the other hand on most issues, there is substantive continuity between Obama's Middle East policies and those his immediate predecessor George W. Bush adopted during his second term in office. Yet, whereas Israelis viewed Bush as Israel's greatest friend in the White House, they view Obama as the most anti-Israel US president ever. This contradiction requires us to consider two issues. First, why are relations with the US now steeped in crisis? And second, taking a page out of Obama's White House chief of staff Rahm Emmanuel's playbook, how can Israel make sure not to let this crisis go to waste?

The reason relations are so bad of course is because Obama has opted to attack Israel and its supporters. In the space of the past ten days alone, Israel has been subject to three malicious blows courtesy of Obama and his advisors. First, during his visit to the White House last Tuesday, Obama treated Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu like a two-bit potentate. Rather than respectfully disagree with the elected leader of a key US ally, Obama walked out in the middle of their meeting to dine with his family and left the unfed Netanyahu to meditate on his grave offense of not agreeing to give up Israel's capital city as a precondition for indirect, US-orchestrated negotiations with an unelected, unpopular Palestinian leadership that supports terrorism and denies Israel's right to exist.

<http://www.carolineglick.com/e/2010/04/>

US ALLOWS IRAN ITS NUCLEAR VISION

GREG SHERIDAN, Foreign editor / *The Australian*

April 03/10. US President Barack Obama has decided to abandon any serious effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. He is determined instead to live with a nuclear Iran, by containment and, if possible, negotiation.

This is the shifting tectonic plate in the Middle East.

This is the giant story of the past few weeks which the world has largely missed, distracted by the theatre of the absurd of Obama's contrived and mock confrontation with Israel over 1600 apartments to be built in three years' time in a Jewish suburb in East Jerusalem.

Iran is the only semi-intelligible explanation for Obama's bizarre over-reaction against the Israelis.

In the Middle East, today, Iran is the story. It is the consideration behind all other considerations.

Obama has not explicitly announced his new position and he and his cabinet secretaries still make speeches saying they will try to prevent Iran acquiring nuclear weapons. But if you look at the statements closely you see a steady weakening of resolve, a steady removal of any threat of any consequence for Iran.

Here's something else you should know about Iran. US General David Petraeus, in written testimony to congress, has revealed that Iran is co-operating with al-Qa'ida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, facilitating the movement of its leaders. The Sunday Times of London recently carried interviews with Taliban leaders who were trained in Iran.

There is no chance Obama will produce a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in his first term in office, which is how he would like to be remembered by history. There is every chance history will remember him for something altogether different, as the American president on whose watch Iran became a nuclear-weapons state.

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