

July 2014

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A Feckless Foreign Policy

President Obama has granted \$47 million in aid to a U.S. declared Terrorist Group

Hamas is not a stand-alone terror group. It is part of a much larger web of Islamic jihadist terror groups including al-Quaida and its affiliates as well as the Shi'ite Hezbollah... --Jerusalem Post, 7/23/2014

You would think anytime an Arab-led coalition including Egypt, Fatah, Jordan and Saudi Arabia presents a cease-fire plan totally acceptable to Israel, the United States would be fully supportive. The Obama administration, however, appears to be aiming another direction. Collaborating with several of Israel's most visceral detractors and core of the Muslim Brotherhood, Secretary of State John Kerry offered a different plan for a regional cease-fire last week that rained down howls of dismay from even the usually compliant world press.

Dismissing Egyptian-led cease-fire efforts, Kerry offered the Israelis a deal that would disenfranchise Fatah while recognizing Hamas as the legitimate authority in the Gaza Strip. Foreign policy experts say that rather than choke off this terrorist organization, the U.S. offer would have allowed it to collect billions in "charity," which would purchase more armaments for engagements with Israel while Hamas would have conceded nothing.

David Harsanyi, journaling for *TownHall.com*, says the Kerry (or Obama) plan "...made no demands on Hamas to purge itself of rockets or tunnels or other weaponry that destabilizes the area. At the same time, the agreement would have limited Israel's ability to take them out."¹ Although Harsanyi says this final point is disputed by U.S. officials, what isn't disputed is the fact that the proposal not only irritated Israel but also upset Egypt and even the Palestinian Authority!

For starters, there are no good guys sitting across the table from Israel—only "bad and badder."

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is a terrorist organization created in 1964 during the Arab League Summit in Cairo. Its stated goal was the "liberation of Palestine" through armed struggle while seeking to destroy the existence of Zionism in the Middle East.

In 1967, the PLO splintered into four or more political factions, giving rise to Fatah and Yasser Arafat, who broadened PLO tactics to include establishment of diplomatic relations with key UN member states without foreswearing terrorism. Arafat was eventually warmly welcomed to the White House by former President Bill Clinton.

And, Hamas got its start in 1987 during a major Palestinian Intifada (uprising). Its roots are in the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, and its strength is concentrated in the Gaza Strip and areas of the West Bank. During the intervening years, Hamas has initiated many anti-Israeli attacks in Israel and the Palestinian territories, including large-scale terrorist bombings against Israeli civilian targets, as well as small-arms attacks, improvised roadside explosives, and the launching of rockets into Israel.

In early 2006 Hamas won legislative elections in the Palestinian territories, ending the secular Fatah party's hold on the Palestinian Authority and challenging Fatah's leadership of the Palestinian national movement. Bottom line: Once again, the U.S. Government is trying to confer legitimate political status on an entity it officially lists as a "Foreign Terrorist Organization."

So just how does U.S. foreign policy work? Is the United States government really, as it often claims, Israel's best friend? No—not according to Mr. Harsanyi.

"Israel's function within the great halls of diplomacy was always as a lever on the Arab states," says Harsanyi. "It was not an end, but a means of moving them one way or another. When the Arab states drifted into the Soviet orbit, the 'Special Relationship' was born. The relationship accomplished its goal once Egypt was pried out of the Soviet orbit. It has lingered on because of the emotional and cultural ties of Israel and the U.S." ¹

By being a "good lever" during the Cold War, Israel could damage Egypt enough that the latter would come to the negotiating table overseen by the U.S. and move back into the Western sphere of influence. In the current crisis in the Gaza, Harsanyi says the U.S. State Department is trying to use Israel to leverage Egypt back into the Islamist camp. It was, after all, Egypt where Obama traveled to fan the flames of the Arab Spring; and Egypt that rejected Mr. Obama's friends—the Muslim Brotherhood.

So, swap Egypt for the PLO and that's how the disastrous peace process happened. Then swap the PLO for Hamas and that is where we are now. Once Hamas comes to the negotiating table, the White House will back its demands against Israel in exchange for getting the Brotherhood on board with its agenda.

But, clearly, the Obama administration's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East will not, and cannot bear fruit. Less-than-four months ago, Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, deputy chairman of Hamas's political bureau reiterated: "Hamas will not recognize Israel...this is a red line that cannot be crossed." ²

On Sunday, the White House released a statement from the president celebrating Eid-al-Fitr, the end of the month-long Ramadan fast for Muslims. In the statement, Obama said:

"Eid also reminds us of the many achievements and contributions of Muslim Americans to building the very fabric of our nation and strengthening the core of our democracy."

Gary Bauer, a former Reagan administration official takes strong exception. Bauer responded, "I wonder if the president could nail down for us when all that 'fabric building' and 'democracy strengthening' took place... I'm also still waiting for Obama to deliver a speech singing the praises of the Judeo-Christian contributions to the fabric of our society. The Founders were reading the Torah and the New Testament on their way to Constitution Hall, not the Koran. But I won't hold my breath."

Bottom line—*Islam* means "submission" (absolute) to Allah. Check the dictionary, check the Quran. Hamas like its many brotherhood organizations is engaged in a war to force Allah upon the world through terror and death. Pretending this is not so, will not bring peace either to the Middle East or rest of the world.

Bauer adds, "Hamas is an Islamofascist organization. Israel is a pro-American democracy. In a war between good and evil, why are we pressuring good to stop fighting evil?" ³

Rick Forcier

¹ David Harsanyi, "Seriously, What Is John Kerry Doing?," *TownHall.com*, 8/1/2014

² Amer, Adnan Abu (May 5, 2014). "Hamas' Abu Marzouk says recognizing Israel a 'red line'". *Al-Monitor*, en.wikipedia.org

³ Gary Bauer, *American Values*, 7/23/2014