# NEG

## Romney

#### **Romney supports Netanyahu in preventing Iranian nuclear weapons capability.**

The New York Times, 2k12 (“Romney to Back Israel’s Right to Strike Iran, Aide Says”http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/romney-to-back-israels-right-to-strike-iran-aide-says/, July 30, 2012)

Mr. Romney and Mr. Netanyahu met Sunday morning for a working meeting, and the topic turned quickly to Iran. “I have to say that I heard some of your remarks a few days ago — you said that the greatest danger facing the world is of the Ayatollah regime possessing nuclear weapons capability,” Mr. Netanyahu said. “Mitt, I couldn’t agree with you more, and I think it’s important to do everything in our power to prevent the Ayatollahs from possessing the capability. We have to be honest and say that all the sanctions and diplomacy so far have not set back the Iranian program by one iota.” He added: “And that’s why I believe that we need a strong and credible military threat, coupled with the sanctions, to have a chance to change that situation.” Mr. Romney, after acknowledging “a friendship which spans the years” — dating back to their days as young consultants in Boston — also discussed Iran. “Your perspectives with regards to Iran and its effort to become a nuclear-capable nation are ones which I take with great seriousness and look forward to chatting with you about further actions that we can take to dissuade Iran from their nuclear folly,” Mr. Romney said. At the annual Herzliya Conference in 2007, Mr. Romney took a strong stance against Iran, arguing that the country’s nuclear capabilities must, can, and will be stopped. But the message coming out of Mr. Romney’s campaign in advance of his speech represents a ratcheting up of his previous position. In excerpts released by his campaign, Mr. Romney plans to stress the importance of protecting Israel’s right to defend itself against Iran. “But today, the regime in Iran is five years closer to developing nuclear weapons capability,” Mr. Romney’s prepared remarks say. “Preventing that outcome must be our highest national security priority.”

#### Romney encourages Israeli action against Iran.

The New York Times, 2k12 (“Romney to Back Israel’s Right to Strike Iran, Aide Says”http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/romney-to-back-israels-right-to-strike-iran-aide-says/, July 30, 2012)

JERUSALEM — In a speech here Sunday evening, Mitt Romney plans to assert that he respects Israel’s right to take pre-emptive action to stop Iran from developing nuclear capabilities that could be used for a weapon. Dan Senor, a senior Romney foreign policy adviser who helped orchestrate Mr. Romney’s visit here, told reporters in a briefing before the speech that Mr. Romney would express — several times — that it was “unacceptable” for Iran to develop the capability to build nuclear weapons and his view that Israel does have the right to take action against Iran. “If Israel has to take action on its own, in order to stop Iran from developing that capability, the governor would respect that decision,” Mr. Senor said. Previewing Mr. Romney’s remarks, Mr. Senor explained: “It is not enough just to stop Iran from developing a nuclear program. The capability, even if that capability is short of weaponization, is a pathway to weaponization, and the capability gives Iran the power it needs to wreak havoc in the region and around the world.”

#### If elected, Romney would support a military strike by Israel on Iran.

The New York Times 2k12 (“In Jerusalem, Romney Delivers Strong Defense of Israel” http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/speaking-in-jersusalem-romney-delivers-defense-of-israel/, July 29, 2012)

JERUSALEM – Mitt Romney said Sunday that preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear capabilities would be his “highest national security priority” if elected president, in a speech that emphasized the shared values and interests he sees between Israel and the United States but which offered few specifics about the policies he would implement to pursue them. “We have a solemn duty and a moral imperative to deny Iran’s leaders the means to follow through on their malevolent intentions,” Mr. Romney, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, told an audience of about 300, including a large contingent of American donors who flew here for the speech. “We must not delude ourselves into thinking that containment is an option.” Unlike the Obama administration, which generally speaks about stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, Mr. Romney echoed the language of Israel’s leaders, who talk instead about blocking Tehran from even the capability to develop one. His top foreign policy aide, Dan Senor, also went beyond Mr. Obama’s statements that all options should remain on the table and that Israel has the right to defend itself by suggesting Mr. Romney is ready to support a unilateral military strike by Israel

## Iranian Retaliation

#### Iran would target American troops in Afghanistan, and Petroleum infrastructure in the Persian Gulf.

The New York Times 2k12 (“U.S. Sees Iran Attacks as Likely if Israel Strikes”, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/29/world/middleeast/us-sees-iran-attacks-as-likely-if-israel-strikes.html?pagewanted=all , February 29, 2012)

WASHINGTON — American officials who have assessed the likely Iranian responses to any attack by Israel on its nuclear program believe that Iran would retaliate by launching missiles on Israel and terrorist-style attacks on United States civilian and military personnel overseas. While a missile retaliation against Israel would be virtually certain, according to these assessments, Iran would also be likely to try to calibrate its response against American targets so as not to give the United States a rationale for taking military action that could permanently cripple Tehran’s nuclear program. “The Iranians have been pretty good masters of escalation control,” said Gen. James E. Cartwright, now retired, who as the top officer at Strategic Command and as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff participated in war games involving both deterrence and retaliation on potential adversaries like Iran. The Iranian targets, General Cartwright and other American analysts believe, would include petroleum infrastructure in the Persian Gulf, and American troops in Afghanistan, where Iran has been accused of shipping explosives to local insurgent forces.

#### The Iranian defense minister is committed to retaliation to an Israeli strike.

Buck 2k12 (Tobias, Chief Executive Officer, President, Chairman and a Director of Paragon Medical, Inc “Israel gets ready for Iran retaliation”(http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/6840c9ac-6133-11e1-8a8e-00144feabdc0.html , Feb 27, 2012)

As they ponder the option of a military strike against Iran, Israeli leaders have started to worry about targets closer to home. Prompted by concern over a possible Iranian counter-attack, they are debating how well their own country is prepared for war. Iranian leaders have left Israel in no doubt that a strike on its nuclear facilities would invite harsh retaliation. The latest threat came on Saturday, when Gen Ahmad Vahidi, the Iranian defence minister, warned that “a military attack by the Zionist regime will undoubtedly lead to the collapse of this regime”. On previous occasions, Gen Vahidi has warned of a “crushing response” to any Israeli strike. Though some in Israel dismiss such threats as bluster, most senior Israeli officials fear that the country’s home front would indeed be severely tested in a conflict with Iran.

#### Ayatollah Ali Khamenei guaranteed retaliation from an Israeli attack.

LA Times, 2k12 ("Iran's supreme leader warns of retaliation if Israel or U.S. strikes” http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\_now/2012/03/iran-nowruz-strike-back-israel.html, March 20, 2012)

REPORTING FROM TEHRAN -- Iran will strike back with equal force if the United States or Israel attacks it over its nuclear program, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned in an address from the eastern city of Mashhad in observance of Nowruz, the Persian new year. "The holy Koran states that if an enemy attacks you first, the enemy will certainly be defeated," he said. “This is divine law. We are not thinking of attacks and aggression, but we are attached to the existence and identity of the Islamic republic." Khamenei urged the U.S. to have a respectful attitude toward Iran. His words followed a video address from President Obama to Iranians, the fourth annual address he has created for Nowruz.

#### **Iranian retaliation would slow economic growth, and lead to war.**

Washington Times, 2k12 (‘Iran will retaliate if attacked, but how?”http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/2/iran-will-retaliate-if-attacked-but-how/?page=all, April 2, 2012)

Middle East analysts are certain that Iran would retaliate if Israel strikes its nuclear facilities, though the size, nature and targets of the counterattack remain mysteries. Iran has several options, such as an all-out military offensive that likely would engulf the entire region, a more limited assault using proxies in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, or a terrorism campaign against Israeli embassies and Jewish sites around the world. What’s more, the counterstrike options entail global consequences, including a slowing in economic growth because of higher oil and gasoline prices, fuel shortages from shipping disruptions in the Persian Gulf and the potential for the U.S. to become embroiled in another war.

#### Iranian retaliation would draw in US forces.

Washington Times, 2k12 (‘Iran will retaliate if attacked, but how?”http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/2/iran-will-retaliate-if-attacked-but-how/?page=all, April 2, 2012)

Iran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of the world’s petroleum is transported. Economic forecasters predict that closing the strait could push the price of oil to more than $200 a barrel. The Iranian regime also could sponsor attacks against U.S. forces in Afghanistan or strike U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf, such as the Navy’s 5th Fleet based in Bahrain. Alternatively, Tehran could attack U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf, many of which have been agitating for a strike against Iran. Israel and Western nations suspect Iran of trying to build a nuclear weapon, which Tehran has denied. The Jewish state considers a nuclear-armed Iran an existential threat because of the regime’s call for Israel’s destruction. The U.S. has urged Israel to allow international sanctions enough time to persuade Tehran’s leaders to change their behavior, but Israeli officials have said that the military should strike before Iran can secure its nuclear facilities from attack, presumably by this summer. Suzanne Maloney, an Iran specialist at the Brookings Institution, said Tehran would “prefer to avoid a full-fledged confrontation with Washington,” but that the density of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf would make it difficult for Tehran to do anything in the Gulf without drawing a U.S. response.

#### Israel strike would draw in Iranian allies.

Middle East Voices 2k12 (Arab Spring News and Conversation - Powered by VOA "Scenarios for Iran Retaliation Vary if Israel Strikes Nuclear Targets” http://middleeastvoices.voanews.com/2012/04/scenarios-for-iran-retaliation-vary-if-israel-strikes-nuclear-targets-97100/, APRIL 13, 2012)

With Western patience running thin, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warns that time for diplomacy is not “infinite” and that “all options remain on the table.” Israel says it will not stand by as fears grow that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons capability – an allegation Iran denies. China said recently that an Israeli strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities would set in motion a military backlash with far-ranging consequences. Analysts interviewed by VOA say an attack on Iran is likely to provoke a retaliatory missile barrage on Israel by Iran and its allies. They say Iran-sponsored terror could erupt against Jewish targets worldwide, U.S. interests, and American allies such as Saudi Arabia, which could be perceived by Iran as supportive of an Israeli strike

#### Strike would draw in Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Middle East Voices 2k12 (Arab Spring News and Conversation - Powered by VOA "Scenarios for Iran Retaliation Vary if Israel Strikes Nuclear Targets” http://middleeastvoices.voanews.com/2012/04/scenarios-for-iran-retaliation-vary-if-israel-strikes-nuclear-targets-97100/, APRIL 13, 2012)

Analysts say it is far more likely, though, that Iran may ask its allies in Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories to inflict revenge on Israel. “Iran is more likely to hit back using proxy forces, sleeper cells and sympathizers who are closer,” Fitzpatrick said. Rubin says Syria is “the real gravitational center of the missile and rocket threat against Israel because of the proximity of our territories.” He said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, an ally of Iran, may view an attack on Israel as “an escape from his battle against anti-government rebels and a way to win over Islamist elements within the country’s [Sunni Muslim] opposition.”

#### Iranian missiles can reach 35 US military bases in the Middle East.

Glaser, 2k12 (John, Editorial assistant at The American Conservative., Senior Vice President of the Theology and Ethics Department, AntiWar.com“Iran Warns of Retaliation After Any US-Israeli Strike- A first strike would set off a dangerous tit-for-tat escalation of uncontrolled war over the entire Middle East”http://news.antiwar.com/2012/07/04/iran-warns-of-retaliation-after-any-us-israeli-strike/ , July 04, 2012)

Iran has warned Washington that it could retaliate after any unilateral attack it sustains and destroy US military bases across the Middle East and target Israel within minutes following an uptick in threatening postures from the US and Israel. “These bases are all in range of our missiles, and the occupied lands (Israel) are also good targets for us,” said Amir Ali Haji Zadeh, commander of the Revolutionary Guards aerospace division. Haji Zadeh said 35 US bases were within reach of Iran’s ballistic missiles, some of which can reach targets 1,300 miles away. ”We have thought of measures to set up bases and deploy missiles to destroy all these bases in the early minutes after an attack,” he added. Iran’s bluster, such as it is, is in response to a recent increase in rhetoric and military postures from the US and Israel, following a partial breakdown of nuclear talks last month.

#### Israel strike would lead to underground Iranian nuclear weapons development.

Glaser, 2k12 (John, Editorial assistant at The American Conservative., Senior Vice President of the Theology and Ethics Department, AntiWar.com“Iran Warns of Retaliation After Any US-Israeli Strike- A first strike would set off a dangerous tit-for-tat escalation of uncontrolled war over the entire Middle East”http://news.antiwar.com/2012/07/04/iran-warns-of-retaliation-after-any-us-israeli-strike/ , July 04, 2012)

Iran’s warnings about retaliation to any US-Israeli strike ought to be taken seriously. A Pentagon war simulation, details of which were reported in March, forecasted that a “strike would lead to a wider regional war, which could draw in the United States” and would immediately get at least 200 Americans killed in Iran’s retaliation. Not only would a unilateral strike provoke a dangerous and escalatory Iranian response, but many experts agree that a preemptive attack would drive the Iranian nuclear program underground and make weaponization inevitable. As Thomas Pickering, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and former U.S. Ambassador to the UN under George H.W. Bush, told Congress in March, “[A military strike] has a very high propensity, in my view, of driving Iran in the direction of openly declaring and deciding, which it has not yet done according to our intelligence, to make a nuclear weapon to seemingly defend itself under what might look to them and others to be an unprovoked attack.” Meir Dagan, former head of Israel’s secret service has explained several times as well, “If Israel will attack, there is no doubt in my mind that this will also provide them with the justification to go ahead and move quickly to nuclear weapons.”

#### The Middle East is a hot-spot for retaliation against Israel.

Baldor, 2k12 (Lolita C. Associated press, “General warns of Syrian bioweapons, Iran threat” http://www.thetruthseeker.co.uk/?p=44591, March 6, 2012)

The top U.S. commander in the Middle East will warn Congress on Tuesday against efforts to scale back the Navy’s presence in the embattled region, saying threats from Iran and elsewhere will require more ships and maritime missile defense capabilities. Marine Gen. James Mattis, head of U.S. Central Command, also said Syria has a “substantial” chemical and biological weapons capability and thousands of shoulder-launched missiles. Until now, the U.S. military has largely declined to describe the expanse of weapons that President Bashar Assad’s regime has at its disposal. Mattis laid out his concerns in testimony prepared for Senate and House Armed Services Committee hearings this week. He and Navy Adm. William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, are testifying before the Senate panel Tuesday. The testimony was obtained by The Associated Press. Mattis’ comments come as the Obama administration meets with Israeli leaders this week to discuss the escalating Iranian threat and the possibility of a pre-emptive strike by Israel. Against a backdrop of roughly $500 billion in Pentagon budget cuts over the next decade, Mattis said the U.S. must use its Navy and special operations forces to maintain a smaller but still strong military presence in the Middle East as the wars in Iran and Afghanistan end. “The stacked Iranian threats … of ballistic missiles, long-range rockets, mines, small boats, cruise missiles and submarines demand stronger naval presence and capability to protect vital sea lines of communication,” Mattis said.

# AFF

## Strike before elections

#### Netenyahu’s agenda demands strike before the November election.

Carmichael , 2k12 (Michael, Scholar at Duke University , political consultant, historian, author and broadcaster. “Netanyahu has Decided to Attack Iran before the U.S. Elections in November.” Promethean Post, http://prometheanpost.com/2012/06/netanyahu-has-decided-to-attack-iran-before-the-u-s-elections-in-november.html, June 23, 2012)

Senior Israeli officials now confirm that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has, “decided to attack Iran before the U.S. elections in November.” Netanyahu’s agenda is much broader than knocking out Iranian nuclear installations for his aim is to reshape the political landscape in the USA and Israel shifting everything to the far, far right in order to create a new comfort zone for religious fundamentalists. Netanyahu’s major backer, Sheldon Adelson, is now firmly behind Mitt Romney, and they are known to believe that an Israeli attack on Iran in September or October will displace Obama and many dovish Democrats in Congress and establish a hawkish regime in Washington. Israel has agreed to restrain any attack on Iran until after the current round of five talks between Iran and the P5+1 that will come to an end in either late July or August:

#### Recent US cooperation with Israel signal it’s support of possible strike before the elections.

Carmichael , 2k12 (Michael, Scholar at Duke University , political consultant, historian, author and broadcaster. “Netanyahu has Decided to Attack Iran before the U.S. Elections in November.” Promethean Post, http://prometheanpost.com/2012/06/netanyahu-has-decided-to-attack-iran-before-the-u-s-elections-in-november.html, June 23, 2012)

“U.S., Israel continue preparations for strike on Iran nuclear facilities.The website cites U.S. defense contracts and Israel’s new military preparations, suggesting that ‘all sides are getting ready for whatever may come.’Israel and the U.S. are pushing forward with preparations to jointly strike Iran’s nuclear facilities, the U.S. blog Business Insider reported on Saturday. “U.S. defense contracts, an Iranian F-16 acquisition, and Israel’s new military preparations suggest that all sides are getting ready for whatever may come,” the report says. According to the blog, the U.S navy has recently signed a $338 million contract with defense contractor Raytheon to “provide the Navy with 361 Tomahawk cruise missiles in their most recent configuration. According to the website, the U.S. is either renewing its stock of missiles or planning ahead. “On May 9,” the report added, “the U.S. House of Representatives passed the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012, which seeks to “reaffirm the commitment to Israel’s security as a Jewish state; provide Israel with the military capabilities to defend itself by itself against any threats… [and] expand military and civilian cooperation.” A senior Israeli official recently told Reuters that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to attack Iran before the U.S. elections in November.”

#### **Israel will take advantage of the election and strike by October.**

Carmichael , 2k12 (Michael, Scholar at Duke University , political consultant, historian, author and broadcaster. “Netanyahu has Decided to Attack Iran before the U.S. Elections in November.” Promethean Post, http://prometheanpost.com/2012/06/netanyahu-has-decided-to-attack-iran-before-the-u-s-elections-in-november.html, June 23, 2012)

Military experts have long agreed that the “sweet spot” for an Israeli attack on Iran will be this coming September or October precisely because of the timing of the US presidential election cycle. For maximum political impact and minimal diplomatic responsiveness, the time of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC – September 3-6 comes within this window of opportunity as well as the days immediately prior to the US election – say from Halloween till the 6th of November. It may be instructive to recall that Israel’s Operation Cast Lead was timed to coincide with the transition between Obama and Bush and ended abruptly immediately before the Inauguration in January 2009. Presidential election cycles have played major roles in the design of military timetables. For only one example, recall the Tet Offensive in early 1968 that drove LBJ out of the race for the White House.

## AT: Iranian Retaliation

#### Iran would avoid US involvement if they were to retaliate.

New York Times, 2k12 (“U.S. Sees Iran Attacks as Likely if Israel Strikes”http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/29/world/middleeast/us-sees-iran-attacks-as-likely-if-israel-strikes.html?pagewanted=all, February 29, 2012)

If Israel did attack, officials said, Iran would be foolhardy, even suicidal, to invite an overpowering retaliation by directly attacking United States military targets — by, for example, unleashing its missiles at American bases on the territory of Persian Gulf allies. “The balance the Iranians will try to strike is doing damage that is sufficiently significant, but just short of what it would take for America to invade,” said General Cartwright, now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

**Irans allies won’t respond- Syrian government pressure, and Palestinian distancing prove.**

Middle East Voices 2k12 (Arab Spring News and Conversation - Powered by VOA "Scenarios for Iran Retaliation Vary if Israel Strikes Nuclear Targets” http://middleeastvoices.voanews.com/2012/04/scenarios-for-iran-retaliation-vary-if-israel-strikes-nuclear-targets-97100/, APRIL 13, 2012)

Still, analysts say regional and internal pressures complicate the willingness of Iran’s allies to participate. Retired Brig. Gen. Shlomo Brom, former head of strategic planning for the Israeli military’s general staff, said the year-plus opposition uprising in Syria has tied Assad’s hands. With mounting international pressure on the Syrian government to end its internal crackdown, Brom said it is “highly improbable” that Syria would join Iran in retaliatory strikes on Israel. To Israel’s southwest, in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas movement has for years been seen as an Iranian proxy. Palestinian militants regularly fire rockets into southern Israel while Israeli forces respond with air strikes against Gaza. But Hamas has recently begun to distance itself from the Shi’ite-run governments of Iran and Syria, making its participation in an Iranian-led conflict less likely.