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Israel 1NC (1/3)

Israel will get scared from withdrawl – fears loss of deterrence against Iran

Susser 04 (Leslie Susser, Staff Writer, Israel Worried About U.S. Iraq Withdrawl, April 15 2004) http://www.jewishjournal.com/world/article/israel\_worried\_about\_us\_iraq\_withdrawl\_20040416/

As Shiite and Sunni resistance to the American presence in Iraq intensifies, Israel's defense establishment is worried that a U.S. withdrawal under fire could have devastating consequences for the battles against weapons of mass destruction and global terrorism. And Israel could be one of the big losers: Israeli officials believe a loss of American deterrence would encourage Iran to continue its nuclear weapons program, and its support for terrorism could lead to a hardening of Syrian and Palestinian attitudes against accommodation with Israel and could spark more Palestinian and other terrorism directed against Israeli targets. Without American deterrence and a pro-Western Iraq, the officials say, Israel might have to rethink its attitude on key issues like the concessions it can afford to make to the Palestinians, its readiness for a land war on its eastern front and the size of its defense budget. But there is an opposing, minority view in Israeli academic and intelligence circles: The quicker the Americans leave, this view holds, the quicker the Iraqis will have to get their act

together. And once they do, they will not necessarily pose a threat to Israel or the West.

The US will buy off foreign and domestic Israeli opposition by increasing sales to Israel of advanced US military technology

Petras, Professor of Sociology at Binghamton, 5/14/07 (<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/2007/05/the-pro-israel-lobby-and-us-middle-east-policy/>)

With the US trade deficit exceeding $500 billion dollars, one of its few competitive export sectors is its arms industry, which is number one in world arms sales, followed by Israel. The Bush Administration’s planned arms sale to Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf allies has been blocked by Israeli action through its Zionist Lobby (NY Times, April 5, 2007). The Administration officials twice scheduled and canceled briefings for members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee because of AIPAC’s influence over the Committee and the likelihood that the arms deal would be rejected. As a result the Administration is hoping that Israel will call off its Lobby attack dogs **in exchange for** a 20% increase in US **military aid** and grants to Israel — upping the total of military aid from $2.4 billion dollars to $3 billion annually. Secretary of Defense Gates, who was unable to shake the Lobby’s influence over Congress, had to fly to Israel to plead with Israel to allow the sales to go through **in exchange for receiving advanced US military technology**. US grants to Israel of advanced military research, design and technology has increased Israel’s competitive position in the world’s military high-tech market and increased its share at the expense of the US, as seen in its recent $1.5 billion dollar military sales to India. In brief, the Israel Lobby runs circles around the US military-industrial complex in terms of influencing the US Congress, blocking lucrative deals and advancing Israel’s sales in the world market.

Israel 1NC (2/3)

Israel asks for American bunker buster bombs to feel safer

UPI 6/9/10

(“Israel asks U.S. for more precision bombs” http://www.upi.com/Top\_News/Special/2010/06/09/Israel-asks-US-for-more-precision-bombs/UPI-58021276096834/)

Amid growing fears of a new Middle Eastern war, Israel's defense ministry has asked Washington for more JDAM precision-guided bombs for its air force, the Haaretz daily reports.

The ministry has also asked the Pentagon to expand the U.S. arsenal pre-positioned in the Jewish state in December 2009 so that Israeli forces can access the weapons in an emergency, the liberal newspaper reported Tuesday.

Israel first used the Joint Direct Attack Munitions in combat against Hezbollah forces in its 34-day war in July-August 2006. They were used again in Operation Cast Lead, the 22-day invasion of the Gaza Strip launched Dec. 27, 2008, against fighters of the Hamas fundamentalist Palestinian group.

JDAM systems provide precision guidance for "dumb bombs," making them immensely more accurate.

There was nothing to indicate that the request pointed to any imminent operations by the Israeli air force against the Jewish state's main foes, Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah.

Israeli bunker busters causes Iran strikes and war with Iran

Institute for Research Middle Eastern Policy 05

(5/1/2005“Arming an Israeli Attack on Iran: Why the US should cancel "Bunker Buster" Bombs for Israel” http://www.irmep.org/GBU.htm)

There are many factors motivating Israel to strike Iran immediately upon receipt of GBU-28's. Its current status as a nation under pressure to conform with the quartet's road-map for to peace is causing an internal situation close to civil war and leave Israel's Likud leadership looking for a way to solidify its hold on occupied territories. The US presence in Iraq will at some point wind down, leading to troop withdrawal and a diminished possibility of drawing the US into a costly "regime change" exercise in Iran. The Israeli option of disrupting the road map for peace while drawing the US into a conflict with Iran by conventional means is more likely with bunker busters. Israel has many motivations to immediately use the GBU-28. Tactically, it is not in the US interest to enable any catalyst of a three way conventional war with Iran. Strategically, the US will have to deal with Israeli nuclear weapons if it hopes to encourage regional players to enter the NPT and disavow nuclear weapons.

Israel 1NC (3/3)

Iranian War causes extinction

Jorge Hirsch, a professor of physics at the University of California San Diego. He is one of the originators of the physicists' petition on nuclear weapons policies started at the UCSD, 1/3/2006, America's nuclear ticking bomb, http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060103/news\_mz1e3hirsch.html

If only conventional bombs are used in an unprovoked U.S. or Israeli aerial attack against Iran's facilities, Iran is likely to retaliate with missiles against coalition forces in Iraq and against Israel, as well as possibly a ground invasion of southern Iraq, that the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq would not be able to withstand. Iranian missiles could potentially contain chemical warheads, and it certainly would be impossible to rule out such possibility. Iran has signed and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (in 1993 and 1997 respectively), however it is still likely to have supplies, as determined by the U.S. State Department in August 2005. Early use by the United States of low-yield nuclear bombs with better bunker-busting ability than conventional bombs targeting Iranian nuclear, chemical and missile installations would be consistent with the new U.S. nuclear weapons doctrine and could be argued to be necessary to protect the lives of 150,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq and of Israeli citizens. It would also send a clear message to Iran that any response would be answered by a far more devastating nuclear attack, thus potentially saving both American and Iranian lives. However, the nuclear threshold is a line of no return. Once the United States uses a nuclear weapon against a nonnuclear adversary, the 182 countries that are signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty will rightly feel at risk, and many of them will rush to develop their own nuclear deterrent while they can. A new world with many more nuclear countries, and a high risk of any regional conflict exploding into all-out nuclear war, will be the consequence. The scientific community (which created nuclear weapons) is alarmed over the new U.S. nuclear weapons policies. A petition to reverse these policies launched by physicists at the University of California San Diego has gathered over 1,500 physicists' signatures including eight Nobel laureates and many prominent members of the U.S. scientific establishment (http://physics.ucsd.edu/petition/). Scientists object strongly to the concept of WMD, that lumps together nuclear weapons with other "weapons of mass destruction" and blurs the sharp line that separates immensely more destructive nuclear weapons from all other weapons. An escalating nuclear war could lead to the destruction of civilization. There is no fundamental difference between small nuclear bombs and large ones, nor between nuclear bombs targeting underground installations versus those targeting cities or armies.

Uniqueness – Bunker Busters

Obama not delivering bunker busters – de facto sanctions.

World Tribune 3/18

(3/18/10 “Obama blocks delivery of bunker-busters to Israel” http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2010/me\_israel0217\_03\_18.asp)

WASHINGTON — The United States has diverted a shipment of bunker-busters designated for Israel. Officials said the U.S. military was ordered to divert a shipment of smart bunker-buster bombs from Israel to a military base in Diego Garcia. They said the shipment of 387 smart munitions had been slated to join pre-positioned U.S. military equipment in Israel Air Force bases. "This was a political decision," an official said. In 2008, the United States approved an Israeli request for bunker-busters capable of destroying underground facilities, including Iranian nuclear weapons sites. Officials said delivery of the weapons was held up by the administration of President Barack Obama, Middle East Newsline reported. Since taking office, Obama has refused to approve any major Israeli requests for U.S. weapons platforms or advanced systems. Officials said this included proposed Israeli procurement of AH-64D Apache attack helicopters, refueling systems, advanced munitions and data on a stealth variant of the F-15E. "All signs indicate that this will continue in 2010," a congressional source familiar with the Israeli military requests said. "This is really an embargo, but nobody talks about it publicly."

Link – Israel Wants Bunker Busters

**Israel will ask for bunker busters**

**Sunday Times 5/21**/2010

(Christina Lamb, “Israel to ask US for bombs in the fight against Iran's Nuclear sites” http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle\_east/article7069724.ece)

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, will use a visit to Washington this week to press the US to release sophisticated bunker-busting bombs needed for a possible strike on Iran’s nuclear sites.

Israel wants bunker buster to protect self from Iran

Sevastopulo 05(Demetri Sevastopulo, Staff Writer US Wants to Sell Israel ‘Bunker-Buster’ Bombs4/27/05) <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0427-05.htm>

The Bush administration has proposed providing Israel with 100 bunker-buster bombs capable of destroying underground targets, a move seen as sending a message to Iran to halt its nuclear program. The Pentagon on Tuesday notified Congress of the possible sale of 5,000lb GBU-28 bombs, developed during the 1991 Gulf war to destroy Saddam Hussein's hardened command centers. Congress has 30 days to object. Any deal would be the first sale of the Lockheed Martin-built munition to a foreign country. In January, Dick Cheney, US vice-president, suggested that Israel might take military action if the US and European Union failed to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. Ariel Sharon, Israeli prime minister, this month said Israel had no intention of attacking Iran. However, Iran will not welcome any sale, which would come as Tehran negotiates with France, Germany and the UK over halting its nuclear program. Iran says the program is for peaceful purposes.

Link – Israel Wants Bunker Busters

Israel wants bunker busters to root out Hezbollah

Reuters 2006-07-09( Reuters,Uk kingdom based news service, Israel needs 'bunker-busters', http://www.news24.com/World/Archives/MiddleEastCrisis/Israel-needs-bunker-busters-20060719)

Jerusalem - Israel's efforts to crush Hezbollah are being hindered by its lack of air force bombs capable of penetrating the Lebanese group's command bunkers, a leading Israeli military expert said on Wednesday. Israel has been shelling Lebanon's infrastructure since Hezbollah killed eight of its soldiers and abducted another two last week. Close to 300 people, the vast majority of them civilians, have died while Hezbollah has kept fighting on. Alon Ben-David, Israel analyst for Jane's Defence Weekly, said that while the Israeli air force was stemming some of the cross-border rocket fire by Hezbollah, it was failing in its bid to track and kill commanders who had gone to ground. "Many of the Hezbollah leaders are in underground bunkers, and Israel does not have the ordnance to reach them," Ben-David told Reuters. "It could well be holding up the offensive." Hezbollah is known to have buried some of its arms caches, but there is no confirmation that its commanders are in bunkers. Israel asked the United States in 2004 to sell it airborne "bunker-buster" bombs in what security sources said was part of preparations for a possible strike on arch-foe Iran's fortified nuclear facilities. Pentagon approval for the sale of 100 of the GBU-28 bombs came through last year. But Israel's defence ministry, amid steep budget cuts, said it decided against making the purchase. Ben-David said an Israeli arms firm was designing its own, lighter version of the GBU-28, which weighs 2 ,272kg and can penetrate about 7m of concrete. But the Israeli model has not yet passed the prototype stage, he said. "There are smaller bombs in use against fortified targets, but these have only limited effectiveness for bunkers," he said. An Israeli military spokesperson declined to give details on air force ordnance being used, but said it was satisfactory. "The mission is going as planned," the spokesperson said. An Israeli air strike in south Beirut on Friday flattened a residential building which Israeli media reports said concealed the command post of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. After several hours incommunicado, Nasrallah issued a video statement defying Israel. Lebanese security sources said he had vacated the Beirut building two days earlier. A senior Israeli military intelligence official told Reuters on Monday that Nasrallah had not been targeted, despite vows by Israel to strike at the entire "terrorist network" in Lebanon.

Link – Iraq

Iraq has forced America to withhold aid for Israel – costs

Telegraph 07

(8/9/2007 “Overstretched US cuts aid to Israel” http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1559881/Overstretched-US-cuts-aid-to-Israel.html)

America has been forced to withhold funding from its key ally in the Middle East amid the strain of paying for its expensive military campaign in Iraq. Washington had promised Israel a substantial increase in its financial support to bolster it against Iran.

But US officials decided to amend their pledge because of escalating costs, including the need to spend $750 million (£375 million) to fly thousands of armoured troop carriers to Iraq to protect troops against Iranian-made roadside bombs.

The Pentagon has come under intense pressure to speed up deployment of the new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP), which boasts a V-shaped hull and a raised chassis and is proven to withstand a range of explosive projectiles common in Iraq.

The army has ordered 8,000 MRAP vehicles at a cost of $12 billion. But a request by the Pentagon for an emergency transport budget illustrates the increasing danger faced by troops on the ground.

Officials said extra funds would be used to get 3,400 MRAPs to Iraq by the end of the year.

The diversion of funds has caused a budget shortfall in Israel that forced Ehud Olmert, the prime minister, to convene an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday.

Officials discussed ways of dealing with the £250 million deficit in next year's budget, which Israeli commentators said would result in austerity measures.

More worryingly for Israel, there are fears the shortfall will have a significant impact on the ability of the country to defend itself as military training and procurement are cut back.

Link – Security Commitment

U.S. demonstrates commitment and eases Iranian threat with arms sales

Pifer et. al. Director at the Brookings Arms Control Initiative. 10

(Steven Pifer, Richard C. Bush, Vanda Felbab-Brown Martin S. Indyk Michael O’Hanlon Kenneth M. Pollack. May 2010 Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institute“U.S. Nuclear and Extended Deterrence: Considerations and Challenges”) http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2010/06\_nuclear\_deterrence/06\_nuclear\_deterrence.pdf

Strengthening American allies. For the Israelis, and probably for other American allies in the Middle East, even red lines and American treaties might not be enough to dissuade them from destabilizing behavior in response to the growing threat from Iran. For them, the United States will almost certainly have to demonstrate an even greater commitment to their ability to defend themselves, a point made explicit in the Obama administration’s Nuclear Posture Review.104 In the past, arms sales to the region paid few dividends in terms of creating the kind of integrated military effort the United States has been seeking for 60 years, but they were critical in conveying a sense of reciprocal commitment by signaling that the United States and the buying nation were inextricably bound to their defense relationship.

Link – Security commitment

US committed to Israeli security – will compensate to protect Israel against Iranian threat.

PressTV 3/9/2010

(“Biden: US committed to Israel security” http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=120429&sectionid=351020202)

US Vice President Joe Biden, who is in Israel for 'proximity talks' between Israelis and the Palestinians, has reiterated Washington's commitment to Israel's security. There is absolutely no space between the two sides in terms of Israel's security, Biden assured in a meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres. The Israeli president for his turn said Tel Aviv trusted the US administration and also called on Washington to "protect Israel against Tehran's nuclear threat." Biden, who is on a four-day tour of the Middle East, expressed optimism on the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. "I hope the beginning of what is referred to as indirect or proximity talks, I hope it is a vehicle, a vehicle by which we can begin to allay that layer of mistrust that has built up in the last several years," Biden said. Biden, who also met with Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu, is due to travel to the West Bank on Wednesday to hold talks with the Palestinian Authority leaders. The visit comes one day after Israeli authorities announced plans to build 112 new housing units in the occupied West Bank, prompting warnings from the Palestinian negotiators against sabotaging peace efforts. The construction plans come in contrast to a 10-month freeze Israel announced in November on its illegal settlement activity in the West Bank. But Washington defended the decision, saying it was not in breach of the November moratorium.

Link – Security Commitment

Obama administration committed to protect Israel security

Politico 3/16/10

“White House, Clinton: U.S. absolutely committed to Israel's security” http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0310/White\_House\_Clinton\_US\_absolutely\_committed\_to\_Israels\_security.html\

The Obama administration reiterated its staunch commitment to Israel’s security today, saying current diplomatic disputes over actions that could imperil the peace process do not change the unshakeable bond between the United States and Israel.

“Our commitment to Israel’s security is unchanged,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said at the press briefing Tuesday. “Our commitment to Israel is unchanged.”

“That was the reason for Vice President Biden’s trip” to Israel last week, Gibbs said. “And the Vice President reiterated that, after the Prime Minister found cause for regret, the Vice President reiterated the U.S. support for Israel’s security.”

Earlier Tuesday, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also said that Washington has an absolute commitment to Israel’s security, despite current serious disagreements.

Asked about reported remarks by Israel’s ambassador to Washington Michael Oren over the weekend that U.S.-Israeli relations had not faced such a major crisis since 1974, Clinton said, “I don't buy that," the BBC's Kim Ghattas reports. Clinton said that the bond between the United States and Israel is “unshakeable” and that Washington is absolutely committed to Israel’s security.

We give Israel military goods to maintain their military edge

Sharp Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs 09

(12/4/09 CRS Report for Congress “U.S.-Israeli Relations and the Role of Foreign Aid” http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf)

U.S. military aid has helped transform Israel’s armed forces into one of the most technologically sophisticated militaries in the world. U.S. military aid for Israel has been designed to maintain Israel’s “qualitative military edge” (QME) over neighboring militaries, since Israel must rely on better equipment and training to compensate for a manpower deficit in any potential regional conflict. U.S. military aid, a portion of which may be spent on procurement from Israeli defense companies, also has helped Israel build a domestic defense industry, which ranks as one of the top 10 suppliers of arms worldwide.

A2: Bunker-Busters to Deter Iran

Bunker Busters stored at Diego Rivera solve deterrent effect

Press TV 5/15/10

(“Diego Garcia bunker-busters meant to threaten Iran” http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=120910&sectionid=351020101)

The Sunday Herald has reported that hundreds of powerful US "bunker-buster" bombs are being shipped from California to the British island of Diego Garcia. In January, the US government signed a contract to transport 10 ammunition containers to the island, the Scottish newspaper wrote on March 14. According to a cargo manifest from the US navy, this included 387 “Blu-110” and "Blu-117" bombs used for blasting hardened or underground structures. Crucially, the cargo included 195 smart, guided, Blu-110 bombs and 192 massive 2000lb Blu-117 bombs. Experts say that they are being put in place for an assault on Iran's nuclear facilities, added the newspaper. There has long been speculation that the US military is preparing for such an attack should diplomacy fail to persuade Iran to halt uranium enrichment. Although Diego Garcia is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, it is used by the US as a military base under an agreement made in 1971. The agreement led to 2,000 native islanders being forcibly evicted to the Seychelles and Mauritius. The Sunday Herald reported in 2007 that stealth bomber hangers on Diego Garcia Island were being equipped to accommodate bunker-buster bombs. Although the story was not confirmed at the time, the new evidence suggests that it was accurate, the latest edition of the Sunday Herald said. A shipping company based in Florida, Superior Maritime Services, will be paid $699,500 to carry many thousands of military items from Concord, California to Diego Garcia. "The US is not publicizing the scale of these preparations to deter Iran, tending to make confrontation more likely," the Sunday Herald quoted Dan Plesch, the director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at the University of London, as saying. "The US… is using its forces as part of an overall strategy of shaping Iran's actions," he added.

Iran – Israel Relations Module

Iran – Israel Relations Key to Middle East Peace

Parsi founder and president of the National Iranian American Council and an expert on US-Iranian relations 10

(Iran-Israel relations are key to Mideast peace, says Grawemeyer Award winner “http://grawemeyer.org/news-updates/iran-israel-relations-are-key-to-mideast-peace-says-grawemeyer-award-winner

Improving relations between Iran and Israel is the key to achieving lasting peace in the Middle East, says the winner of the 2010 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. Trita Parsi, co-founder and president of the National Iranian American Council, earned the prize for ideas set forth in his 2007 book, “Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and the U.S.” He received the award from among 54 nominations worldwide. The rivalry between Iran and Israel is driven more by a quest for regional power rather than by conflicting beliefs, Parsi says. Instead of trying to isolate Iran from the rest of the world, the United States should rehabilitate Iran into the Middle East’s economic and political order in return for Iran making significant changes in its behavior, including ending its hostilities against Israel. “Most efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East focus on the clash between Israel and the Palestinians,” said Rodger Payne, a UofL political science professor who directs the award. “Parsi says the best way to stabilize the region is for the U.S. to act in a more balanced way toward Iran and Israel, which would de-escalate the geopolitical and nuclear rivalry between the two.” Parsi, who was born in Iran, holds a doctorate of philosophy degree from the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. He interviewed more than 130 senior Israeli, Iranian and U.S. decision-makers before writing “Treacherous Alliance,” which also won a Council on Foreign Relations award last year for most significant foreign policy book. Five Grawemeyer Awards are presented annually for outstanding works in music composition, ideas improving world order, psychology, education and religion. Winners of the other 2010 Grawemeyer Awards also are being announced this week.

Aff – Uniqueness – Bunker Busters

US already approved sale of bunker busters

**World Tribune 08**

(9/15/08 U.S. to sell Israel 'bunker-busters' bombs that could be used in Iran strike <http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2008/ss_israel0522_09_15.asp>)

Officials said the administration decided to approve the GBU-39 sale after months of delay that stemmed from concern that Israel would use the bunker-busters against Iran. The GBU-39, with a 23-kilogram warhead, was designed to penetrate more than 1.8 meters of reinforced concrete. "It is vital to the U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said. "This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives."

On Sept. 9, the agency notified Congress of plans to sell the M72A7 Light Anti-Armor Weapon to Israel. The proposed deal, estimated at $89 million, would bolster Israel's light anti-armor capability.

Israel has bunker busters now

World Tribune 06 (World Tribune, U.S. rushing bunker-bustersto Israel, 7/24/06) <http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/06/front2453941.072222222.html>

WASHINGTON — The United States has approved an Israeli request for "accelerated deliveries" of precision-guided air munitions to Israel. Officials said the Bush administration approved an Israeli request for bunker-buster weapons days after the outbreak of the Hizbullah war on July 12. They said the Israel Air Force concluded that its heavy air strikes on Hizbullah strongholds around Lebanon have been ineffective. Officials said the Israel Air Force failed to destroy Hizbullah headquarters in southern Beirut. On July 19, Israeli F-15I and F-16I fighters dropped 23 tons of munitions on Hizbullah's command and control bunker, but failed to destroy the hardened facility, Middle East Newsline reported. "The administration and Congress already approved the PGM sale," an official said. "We're talking about accelerated deliveries." On Monday, the London-based A-Sharq Al Awsat said the U.S. Air Force would transfer the GBU-28 bunker-busters to Israel. The newspaper said the air force would take bombs stored in Central Command headquarters in Qatar.

Aff – Uniqueness – Military Aid

Non-Unique - US providing military aid now

**Associated Press 10**

**(3/20/10“Despite anger, US unlikely to cut military aid to Israel; it benefits both sides”** <http://rdmag.com/News/FeedsAP/2010/03/manufacturing-despite-anger-us-unlikely-to-cut-military-aid-to-/>

The U.S. stepped up funding to Israel after the Arab-Israeli wars of 1967 and 1973, at a time when the Soviet Union was arming the Arabs. Following the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Washington guaranteed Israel would continue receiving annual military and civilian aid in a 3:2 ratio with aid given to Egypt. Since then, Israel's share has ranged between $2.1 billion and $3.7 billion a year. Over the last decade, as Israel's economy has grown, the U.S. has converted the whole package to military funding, under an agreement to have it at $3.15 billion a year by fiscal 2013 and keep it at that level until 2018. The package amounts to only about 2 per cent of Israel's annual gross domestic product, compared with 14 per cent in 1985. But for a country with hostile neighbours, and where military spending ranks sixth in the world proportional to size of economy, that aid is vital. It represents about 20 per cent of the country's annual defence budget. Equally important, it gives Israel ready access to advanced and unique hardware. "Israel has developed its own military industry, but there are things you can only get from the United States," said Eytan Gilboa, an expert on Israeli-American relations at Israel's Bar-Ilan University. According to Israeli defence sources and U.S. congressional reports, Israel spends the bulk of its aid on warplanes such as F-15s and F-16s, jet fuel, high-end munitions and missile defence systems — weaponry the Israeli military would find difficult to replace or do without. "If aid were to stop, it would directly affect Israel's security and have an indirect effect on its economy," said Arie Arnon, an economics professor at Ben Gurion University near Beersheba. With that potential influence in mind, advocacy groups such as Amnesty International called on the U.S. to withhold aid dollars from Israel after its offensive in Gaza last year, arguing that the money was paying for weapons that were killing Palestinian civilians.

Aff – No Iran Strikes

Israel bluffing – doesn’t want to take Iran down

Zakaria B.A., Yale University, Ph.D., Harvard University, Newsweek journalist 5/19

(5/19/2010 “Bibi’s Bluster http://www.newsweek.com/2010/03/18/bibi-s-bluster.html)

But after watching Netanyahu's government over the past year, I have concluded that he is actually not serious about the Iranian threat. If tackling the rise of Iran were his paramount concern, would he have allowed a collapse in relations with the United States, the country whose military, political, and economic help is indispensable in confronting this challenge? If taking on Iran were his central preoccupation, wouldn't he have subordinated petty domestic considerations and done everything to bolster ties with the United States? Bibi likes to think of himself as Winston Churchill, warning the world of a gathering storm. But he should bear in mind that Churchill's single obsession during the late 1930s was to strengthen his alliance with the United States, whatever the costs, concessions, and compromises he had to make.