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## ATLANTIC'S JEFFREY GOLDBERG ENVISIONS AMERICAN AND ISRAELI INTERESTS DIVERGING OVER IRAN

Believes Israel will continue to exist after Iran goes nuclear

June 4, 2009 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- In a series of provocative statements made on Shalom TV, Atlantic's National Correspondent Jeffrey Goldberg cautions that American and Israeli interests may differ when it comes to dealing with a nuclear Iran, and that members of the US Jewish community could be forced to choose sides.



"We're moving toward a very huge crisis, not just in the Middle East, but in American-Israel relations because responses to the same threat might diverge to some degree," remarks Mr. Goldberg on Iran's nuclear weapon initiative. "The main thing holding back Israel (in the future) from attacking Iran or Iranian nuclear sites would be America's unwillingness to see this happen."

According to Mr. Goldberg, "You have 130,000 American troops in Iraq, right next door to Iran. Their lives would be in danger if Israel attacked Iran."

Speaking with Shalom TV President Mark S. Golub, the American-Israeli journalist claims that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's view of Iran as "a threat to Jewish survival" places two of Israel's defense doctrines in conflict with each other.

"The first defense doctrine is: Don't do anything to alienate America. The second doctrine is: Don't allow countries that threaten your existence to have nuclear weapons.

"The \$64,000 question is: Would he risk the relationship with the United States of America in order to deal with the existential threat from Iran?" Mr. Goldberg asks.

"For years, we in the American Jewish community have been able to say to ourselves [that] Israel's interests and America's interests overlap so much that we never have an internal conflict," he continues. "If you're being intellectually honest with yourself, you have to say that what's good for Israel in this case might not be the best thing in the world for America. You have to be open to that discussion."

However, in suggesting that the cost of attacking Iran (or allowing Israel to attack Iran) might outweigh the benefit, Jeffrey Goldberg--who served in the Israeli Defense Forces--acknowledges that he is speaking strictly as an American.

"I've decided in my life that I'm an American Jew," he concedes. "I love Israel, I want Israel protected and I want it safe. [But] do I want America to do things that possibly endangers its own national interest in order to protect Israel? I don't think so."

Much of Mr. Goldberg's rationale stems from his belief that while "Israel can't thrive in the Middle East if Iran has the bomb, the truth is the day after Iran goes nuclear, Israel will continue to exist." In this future, he theorizes that the US could tell Iran that "any threatened harm with these nuclear weapons to Israel will provoke an American military response against you."

"Israel hasn't faced a situation in its 62-year history in which an avowed enemy that--rhetorically, at least--seeks its destruction has been a nuclear power," Mr. Goldberg concludes. "That poses a set of unique challenges to Israel and it poses real questions to American policy makers and the American public [since] the level of threat to each country is different. And that's why we're heading into a very difficult moment when interests might diverge."

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