

Saudi Uranium Enrichment Floated Under Possible Israel Deal; Initiative is part of talks that would forge diplomatic ties between the two Middle Eastern countries

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Israeli officials are quietly working with the Biden administration on a polarizing proposal to set up a U.S.-run uranium-enrichment operation in Saudi Arabia as part of a complex three-way deal to establish official diplomatic relations between the two Middle Eastern countries, according to U.S. and Israeli officials.

[...]

Yoel Guzansky, a former Israeli national-security official who now serves as a senior fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, said a deal that allows uranium enrichment in Saudi Arabia would represent a stunning victory for Mohammed, who Biden vowed to treat as a pariah when he came into office because of the country's record on human rights, including the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul by a Saudi hit team.

"From a pariah state two years ago to a nuclear-capable state?" he said. "This is remarkable."

Guzansky said any concession that could pave the way for Saudi Arabia to develop nuclear weapons might not be worth the cost.

"Perhaps the price of peace here is too high," he said. "Certainly for Israel."

Summer Said, Laurence Norman and Stephen Kalin contributed to this article.

For full article:

<https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/israel-considers-saudi-arabias-nuclear-program-under-potential-normalization-deal-617ae9bd>