

Israel Must Prepare for ‘Day After’ Iran Deal, Researcher Says

By Gwen Ackerman Nov 3, 2014 7:14 PM GMT+0200

Israel should ask for U.S. security guarantees if Iran and world powers reach a nuclear deal this month that leaves the Islamic Republic with the potential to develop weapons, an Israeli political analyst said.

“There is the possibility that there will be enough holes in the agreement that will allow Iran to become a nuclear threshold state,” **Azriel Bermant**, a research fellow at The **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv, said by phone.

If Israel fails to head off a deal it doesn’t like, then “the U.S. president could try to placate it by giving it a side letter of security guarantees in the event of a violation of the agreement by Iran,” he added. “Israel needs to start thinking about what it would want in that letter.”

His conclusions are based on a simulation exercise the research institute held Sept. 29 on the aftermath of a “bad deal” with Iran.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Iran must commit to stop enriching uranium and dismantle an unfinished heavy-water reactor that could eventually produce plutonium. Both materials could be used to produce atomic weapons. The Israeli leader dismisses Iran’s assertion that its nuclear program is meant for energy and medical uses, suspecting it’s a cover to build bombs.

Israeli officials have described Iran’s nuclear program as an existential threat, saying all options, including a military strike, are on the table to stop it.

A Nov. 24 deadline has been set for reaching a final nuclear deal. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday he thinks an accord is attainable by that date.

“Netanyahu should put everything else aside and refocus on Iran,” **Bermant** said.

Netanyahu spokesman Mark Regev said the prime minister’s office has a policy of not commenting on the reports of research organizations such as with the INSS simulation.

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