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UAE SITREP DOCUMENT

DAY 69 – A DEAL IN 48 HOURS?

Prepared for the CEO

Westminster Security Group Ltd

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Subject: The Security Situation in Dubai, the UAE, and the Wider Middle East

Classification: STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

☑ BREAKTHROUGH: THE US AND IRAN ARE CLOSE TO A ONE-PAGE, 14-POINT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT WOULD END THE WAR. Axios reports the draft MOU would include: Iran committing to a MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT; the US lifting sanctions; and both parties retreating from controls on ship transits through the Strait of Hormuz. Many terms are contingent on a final agreement being reached by both delegations. Washington expects responses from Tehran on “several key points” within 48 HOURS. Stocks jumped and oil plunged on the news. Iran’s FM spokesperson Baqaei confirmed Tehran is “reviewing the latest US peace proposal” and will convey its response through Pakistan. Sharif named MBS as a partner who helped convince Trump to pause Project Freedom. Al Jazeera analyst Krieg (King’s College London): “Washington has accepted that the simultaneous resolution of the war, Hormuz, and the nuclear file in one final package is not currently feasible.” This is the closest the two sides have been to a deal since the war began on 28 February.

⚠ WARNING: BUT TRUMP SIMULTANEOUSLY THREATENED BOMBING “AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL AND INTENSITY THAN BEFORE.” Truth Social (Wednesday): if Iran “doesn’t agree, the bombing starts.” He demanded Iran “agree to give what has been agreed to.” In the same breath he said if Iran lifts its Hormuz blockade, the US naval blockade would “allow the Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran.” But he told the New York Post it is “too soon” for another round of in-person talks. And told reporters “never a deadline.” CENTCOM disabled ANOTHER Iranian oil tanker on Wednesday. Iran’s IRNA published a framework for a “new system” of Hormuz governance reflecting a “new balance of power” with Iran and Oman playing a central role. Gas hit \$4.54/gallon – highest since July 2022, up 52% since the war began. Hezbollah and Israel continue daily exchanges. Pezeshkian: Hormuz negotiations require “lifting of the naval blockade” first. The 48-hour clock is ticking.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: DAY 69 – THE 48-HOUR WINDOW

This may be the most consequential 48 hours since the war began. Axios reports that a draft memorandum of understanding – a single page, 14 points – is near-agreed between the US and Iran. The framework includes the nuclear moratorium that was absent from all previous proposals and that caused the Islamabad talks to collapse. Washington expects Tehran’s response on “several key

points” within 48 hours. If Iran agrees, the war could end before Trump flies to Beijing on 14 May. If Iran does not, Trump has explicitly threatened resumed bombing “at a much higher level.”

The Draft MOU

Element	Reported Detail (Axios)
Nuclear	Iran commits to a MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT.
Sanctions	US lifts sanctions on Iran.
Hormuz	Both parties retreat from controls on ship transits through the Strait.
Contingency	Many terms contingent on a final agreement being reached between the two delegations.
Format	One-page, 14-point memorandum of understanding.
Timeline	Washington expects responses within 48 HOURS.
Phase 2	45-day negotiation window for a permanent settlement (Wikipedia, citing the framework).

WS Assessment: This is the deal framework the war has been building toward for 69 days. The nuclear moratorium – the issue that collapsed the Islamabad talks – is now included. The structure is a phased approach: an immediate MOU ending the war and opening Hormuz, followed by 45 days of detailed negotiations. This mirrors the “Hormuz first, nuclear later” formula Iran has been pushing – but with a nuclear concession (moratorium) attached upfront that gives Trump political cover. The 48-hour response window places the decisive moment on Friday 9 May.

The Strategic Shift

Al Jazeera’s analysis (citing King’s College London’s Andreas Krieg): “Washington has accepted that the simultaneous resolution of the war, Hormuz, and the nuclear file in one final package is not currently feasible.”

- Rubio’s declaration that Epic Fury is “over” on Tuesday marked the shift.
- The US has moved from insisting on a comprehensive single-package deal to accepting a phased approach.
- Iran’s Jalalzadeh (parliamentary security committee): “The balance of deterrence is currently skewed in Iran’s favour, and this reality is slowly sinking in in Washington.”

This phased approach is what Westminster Security has assessed as the most likely outcome since Iran’s original proposal on 28 April.

2. TRUMP'S DUAL MESSAGE: DEAL OR DESTRUCTION

Truth Social (Wednesday)

- If Iran lifts its blockade, the US naval blockade would “allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran.”
- **But “if they don’t agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before.”**
- Iran must “agree to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption.”

To Reporters (Wednesday)

- Asked about a deadline: “Never a deadline. It’ll happen. It’ll happen. But never a deadline.”
- To the New York Post: “too soon” for another round of in-person talks.
- Met with US oil executives at the White House on Wednesday. Said they “all want to go there and elsewhere.”

Iran’s Response

- **FM spokesperson Baqaei:** Tehran is “reviewing the latest US peace proposal” and will convey its response to Pakistani intermediaries.
- **Baqaei on X:** Cited the International Court of Justice – “negotiations require good faith. It is not dictation, deception, extortion, or coercion.”
- **Pezeshkian:** “Any negotiation regarding the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz requires the lifting of the naval blockade.”
- **Iran’s IRNA:** Hormuz will be governed under a “new system reflecting a new balance of power” with Iran and Oman at its centre.

WS Assessment: Iran is reviewing, not rejecting. Baqaei’s ICJ-citing response is legalistic, not hostile. Pezeshkian’s blockade precondition is expected but not necessarily deal-killing if the MOU addresses it (and the Axios framework suggests “both parties retreating from controls”). The 48-hour window is the most important countdown since the original ceasefire deadline. Friday 9 May is the critical moment.

3. THE ECONOMIC PRESSURE

- **Gas: \$4.54/gallon** – highest since July 2022. Up 52% (\$1.56) since the war began.
- **Oil:** Plunged on the MOU report. Markets pricing in a deal.
- **Stocks:** Jumped on the Axios report.
- **CENTCOM:** Disabled another Iranian oil tanker on Wednesday – an unladen vessel attempting to reach an Iranian port.
- **Sen. Graham:** “You pay now, or you pay later against thugs like Iran.”
- **Sharif credited MBS:** Named Saudi Crown Prince as partner who helped convince Trump to pause Project Freedom.
- **Iranian economy:** Job layoffs, unpaid wages, rising food prices. Rial at new low. Minimum wage below \$90/month. Sausage costing 1 million rials (~\$0.70).

4. DUBAI AND THE UAE

The MOU's UAE Implications

If the draft MOU is signed, the UAE receives its three core objectives:

- **1. Hormuz reopens** – “both parties retreat from controls on ship transits.”
- **2. The war ends** – immediate ceasefire becomes a permanent framework.
- **3. Nuclear moratorium** – addresses the long-term Iranian nuclear threat.

However, IRNA's “new system reflecting a new balance of power” with Iran and Oman at its centre suggests the post-war Strait will NOT return to pre-war openness. The UAE must plan for a Hormuz governed by a regional mechanism in which Iran has a permanent structural role.

Schools Status

- Dubai, Sharjah: online learning through Thursday 7 May.
- Abu Dhabi: online through Friday 8 May.
- Return to in-person expected from Sunday/Monday if the security situation permits.

Return Guidance

Westminster Security REDUCES alert from HIGH to ELEVATED. The draft MOU, the 48-hour response window, the Project Freedom pause, and Rubio's “Over” declaration constitute the strongest convergence of positive signals in the war's history. Non-essential personnel should RESUME ACTIVE RETURN PLANNING. If Iran agrees to the MOU framework by Friday and the ceasefire continues to hold, Westminster Security will issue REVISED RETURN GUIDANCE permitting phased returns from early next week. The three conditions: (1) Iranian agreement on the MOU; (2) no further attacks on the UAE; (3) UAE schools returning to in-person.

5. WESTMINSTER SECURITY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **ELEVATED ALERT (reduced from High).** The draft MOU is the closest the two sides have been to ending the war. 48-hour response window. Trump's Beijing trip (14–15 May) creates urgency on both sides.
- **Non-essential personnel: RESUME ACTIVE RETURN PLANNING.** Conditional on Iranian agreement by Friday, no further UAE attacks, and schools returning to normal.
- **Essential personnel: maintain readiness but note improving outlook.** Trump's bombing threat means the risk of resumed strikes has not been eliminated.
- **Monitor the 48-hour window (response by Friday 9 May).** This is THE decisive moment of the war.
- **Monitor the 14–15 May Beijing summit.** China's nuclear formula could underwrite the deal.
- **Westminster Security will issue daily SITREPs and emergency updates as the 48-hour clock runs.** This is the fifty-second edition. Day 69.

6. KEY POINTS

- **A ONE-PAGE, 14-POINT MOU IS NEAR-AGREED.** Iran: moratorium on nuclear enrichment. US: lift sanctions. Both: retreat from Hormuz controls. 45-day negotiation window follows. Washington expects Iranian response within 48 HOURS. This is the closest to a deal since 28 February.
- **TRUMP: IF IRAN DOESN'T AGREE, "BOMBING STARTS AT A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL."** Deal or destruction. But also: "never a deadline." And: if Iran opens Hormuz, the US blockade would "allow the Strait to be OPEN TO ALL." The carrot and stick are both on the table.
- **IRAN IS REVIEWING, NOT REJECTING.** Baqaei confirmed. Will respond through Pakistan. Pezeshkian: blockade must be lifted. But the MOU reportedly addresses this ("both parties retreat from controls"). The tone is legalistic, not hostile.
- **THE US HAS ACCEPTED A PHASED APPROACH.** Krieg: "Simultaneous resolution is not feasible." Rubio declared Epic Fury "over." The US has moved from comprehensive single package to phased: MOU now, detailed negotiations in 45 days.
- **GAS: \$4.54 – HIGHEST SINCE JULY 2022. UP 52% SINCE WAR BEGAN.** The economic pressure on both sides to close a deal is at its maximum. Markets pricing in a resolution. Oil plunged on the MOU report.
- **ELEVATED ALERT. RESUME ACTIVE RETURN PLANNING. FRIDAY IS THE MOMENT.** The strongest positive signals in the war's history. If Iran agrees by Friday, Westminster Security will issue revised return guidance for phased returns from early next week. Fifty-second daily edition. Day 69.

Prepared 7th May 2026 – Information current as of 06:00 GMT

48-HOUR RESPONSE WINDOW: IRANIAN ANSWER EXPECTED FRIDAY 9 MAY.

DRAFT MOU: NUCLEAR MORATORIUM + HORMUZ OPEN + SANCTIONS LIFTED. 45-DAY TALKS.

ELEVATED ALERT. RESUME RETURN PLANNING. FRIDAY IS THE DECISIVE MOMENT.