

## ITAMAR RABINOVICH

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### **Terry Martin, Journalist and TV News Anchor**

Now, Itamar Rabinovich, can you hear me?

### **Itamar Rabinovich**

Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

### **Terry Martin**

We can and we are so glad that you are with us, because your voice in this conversation is essential. Can you tell us where you are joining us from? We can see you are in a vehicle.

### **Itamar Rabinovich**

I am in a vehicle. We had a misunderstanding about the panel, so I am not at my home, as I planned to be. I am in my car speaking on my phone. Here I am, anyway, and I am delighted to be with you.

### **Terry Martin**

Excellent. We can see and hear you very well and it is just fine that you are in that car. We are very glad that you can join us today.

Would you like to offer a few comments? We have just been getting underway. I did an introduction of our guests, including yourself, with the hope that you would be joining us. We have heard from a couple of speakers so far. We have touched on some of the themes. We have been in email contact with one another, so we are staying pretty much on track with what we discussed.

Would you like to offer some comments to the plenary at this point, over the next couple of minutes, before we move on to the next speaker?

### **Itamar Rabinovich**

Yes. I think that we need to look at the so-called 'day after'. We must have a vision of where we want to take the region and the Arab/Israeli relationship to. This means dealing with the larger Palestinian question and the Israeli relationship with the Palestinian authority.

I heard the reference before to 'the West against the rest'. It does not have to be that way. I think there are several countries in the Middle East that do not see a problem with the West,



but see a problem with Iran. Our host itself, Saudi Arabia, and others have been the target of violence by proxies of Iran.

I see that the current war is not just a war between Israel and Hamas, Israel is targeted or threatened by five Iranian proxies. In order to organize the region to deal with these issues, there will have to be a plan for dealing with the Israeli/Palestinian relationship. It is difficult to envisage it. We are in the middle of a war. We have the wrong Israeli government for doing that, but the need is there.

The debate inside Israel today is do you deal with the political issues domestically in the middle of a war? Do you wait for the end of the war, whatever that end may be? However, I hope that, at the end of it, there will be a government in Israel that would be willing to look at the larger picture and to fit into a scheme that will help organize the region, including dealing with the larger Palestinian question.

**Terry Martin**

Thank you very much. If you do not have anything to add, we will move along. It did not take you very long to get to Iran and Iran's proxies, the role that they are playing in this war. I think that is a hugely important part of this, of course. We need to discuss that.

Also important is what you mentioned about the political context within Israel itself and the ability of the Israeli government, or willingness of it, to address this problem in a constructive way. These are question marks that you have raised.

Thank you for now, if you do not have anything else to add? I do not want to interrupt you.

**Itamar Rabinovich**

You are very welcome.

**Terry Martin**

Okay. Our connection seems to be stable. I hope it will stay that way. We will continue, then, here on the panel, bringing in voices.