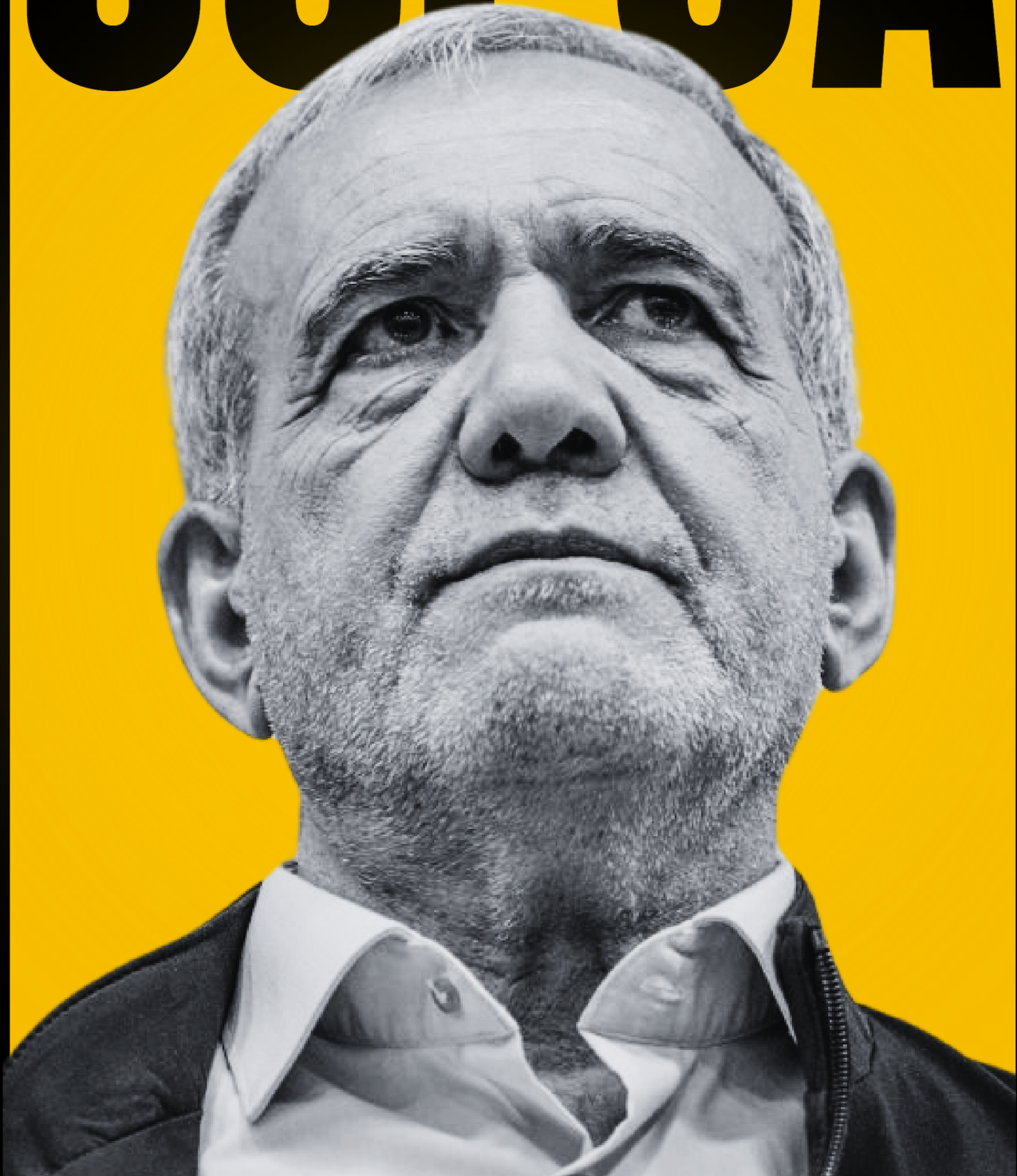




GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

JCPOA



STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

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REFERENCE

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken warned that Iran is politically a week or two away from building a nuclear weapon.

LOCATION

**Aspen Security Forum,
Colorado**

DATE

July 20, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran Nuclear Deal, remains a pivotal agreement in international diplomacy and non-proliferation. Initially implemented in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany), the JCPOA aimed to curb Iran's nuclear capabilities in exchange for sanctions relief. Despite its initial success, the deal has faced significant challenges, including the U.S. withdrawal in 2018 and subsequent regional and international tensions.

Under the Trump administration, the U.S. initiated a unilateral withdrawal on the insistence of the arch foes of Iran, i.e. Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had always been against the American attempts under President Obama to negotiate a deal with the Iranians. President Obama's team started secret negotiations with Iran in and around 2012 in Oman. Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed the U.S. Congress in 2015 voicing his opposition to the deal when it was at the cusp of being signed.

Under the "Maximum Pressure on Iran" policy, President Trump withdrew from the deal and ordered the imposition of hundreds of sanctions targeting Iranian network groups in the region. Major Iranian banks and companies affiliated to the Iranian energy industry continued to be targeted throughout Trump and Biden administrations. However, under the Biden administration, the Iran policy from the White House showed a gradual shift towards more accommodation to renegotiate the deal with Iran, as was seen throughout the Vienna Talks.



BACKGROUND & KEY OBJECTIVES

ORIGINS AND GOALS

- Initiation: The JCPOA was negotiated to address international concerns over Iran's potential development of nuclear weapons.
- Objectives: To delay Iran's path towards a nuclear weapon, limit the scope of Iran's nuclear program, enhance transparency through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and ensure that its nuclear activities remain peaceful & for civilian purposes only.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Uranium Enrichment: Restrictions on the level and amount of uranium enrichment to 3.67%
- Centrifuge Technology: Limits on the number and type of centrifuges
- Inspections: Enhanced monitoring and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Sanctions Relief: Gradual lifting of international sanctions in exchange for compliance.



RAFAEL MARIANO GROSSI
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
(DIRECTOR GENERAL)

CURRENT STATUS

U.S. WITHDRAWAL AND IMPACT

- **Withdrawal:** In May 2018, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA under the Trump administration.
- **Reactions:** Re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S. and increased tensions between Iran and other signatories

IRANIAN COMPLIANCE AND NON-COMPLIANCE

- **Compliance:** Iran initially adhered to the deal's terms but began violating some provisions after the U.S. withdrawal
- **Non-Compliance:** Increase in uranium enrichment levels and development of advanced centrifuge technology according to reports from IAEA.
- **Inspections:** Enhanced monitoring and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

DIPLOMACY AND NEGOTIATIONS

- **European Efforts:** European signatories (UK, France, Germany) have sought to salvage the agreement through diplomatic channels
- **Current Negotiations:** Discussions have hit a roadblock since Israel-Hamas war decreased the room for negotiations between Iran and the U.S



DESCRIPTION

European Signatories
(France & Germany)

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

REGIONAL SECURITY

- West Asian Stability: The JCPOA's collapse exacerbates regional instability, with increased potential for nuclear proliferation and escalation of regional conflicts as was seen when the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia declared that if Iran builds a nuclear weapon, the Kingdom will also work towards restoring deterrence by building a nuclear weapons program of its own.
- Proxy Conflicts: Iran's earnings from the sanctions relief propelled its commitments for its regional allies and affiliated proxy groups that function under the umbrella entity of "Axis of Resistance" led by Iran.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- U.S.-Iran Relations: The strained relationship continues to impact broader U.S. foreign policy and international diplomatic efforts.
- P5+1 Dynamics: Divergent interests among P5+1 members affect the unified approach to the JCPOA.

NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

- Global Impact: The deal's challenges raise questions about the efficacy of international non-proliferation agreements and the mechanisms to enforce compliance.



DESCRIPTION

The "Axis of Resistance"
STRATEGY

Axis of Resistance

IN WEST ASIA

Iran Backed Hezbollah Militant Group (LEBANON)
Carrying attacks in Northern Israel

Iran Supported by Bashar-al Assad Govt.

Iran Backed Militant Groups

- Asa'ib Ahl al Haq
- Kata'ib Hezbollah
- Badr Organisation

Iran Backed Liwa Fatemiyoun

Iran Backed Liwa Zainebiyoun

Iran Backed Al-Ashtar Brigades

Iran directly supporting Hamas in war against Israel

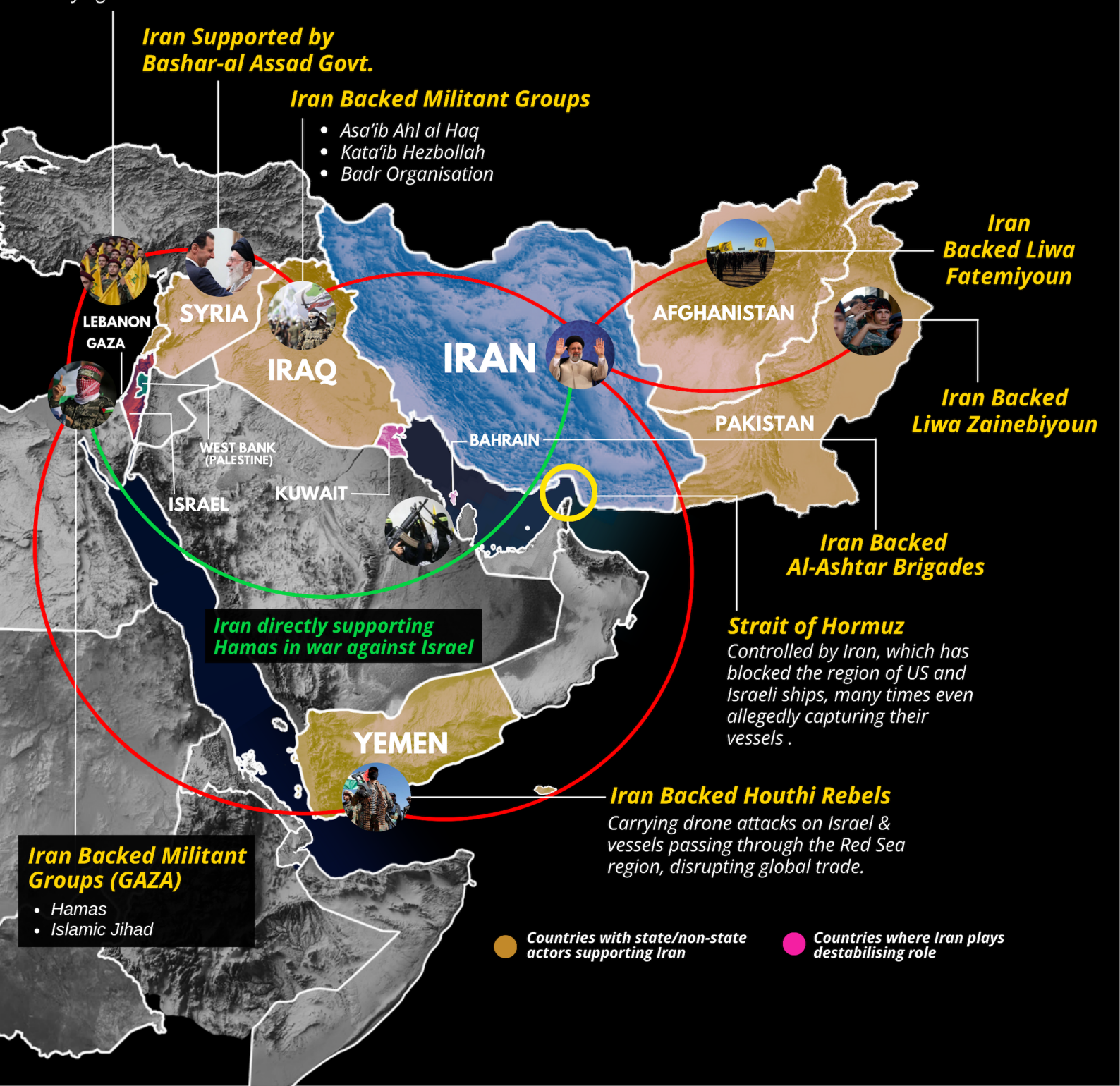
Strait of Hormuz
Controlled by Iran, which has blocked the region of US and Israeli ships, many times even allegedly capturing their vessels.

Iran Backed Houthi Rebels
Carrying drone attacks on Israel & vessels passing through the Red Sea region, disrupting global trade.

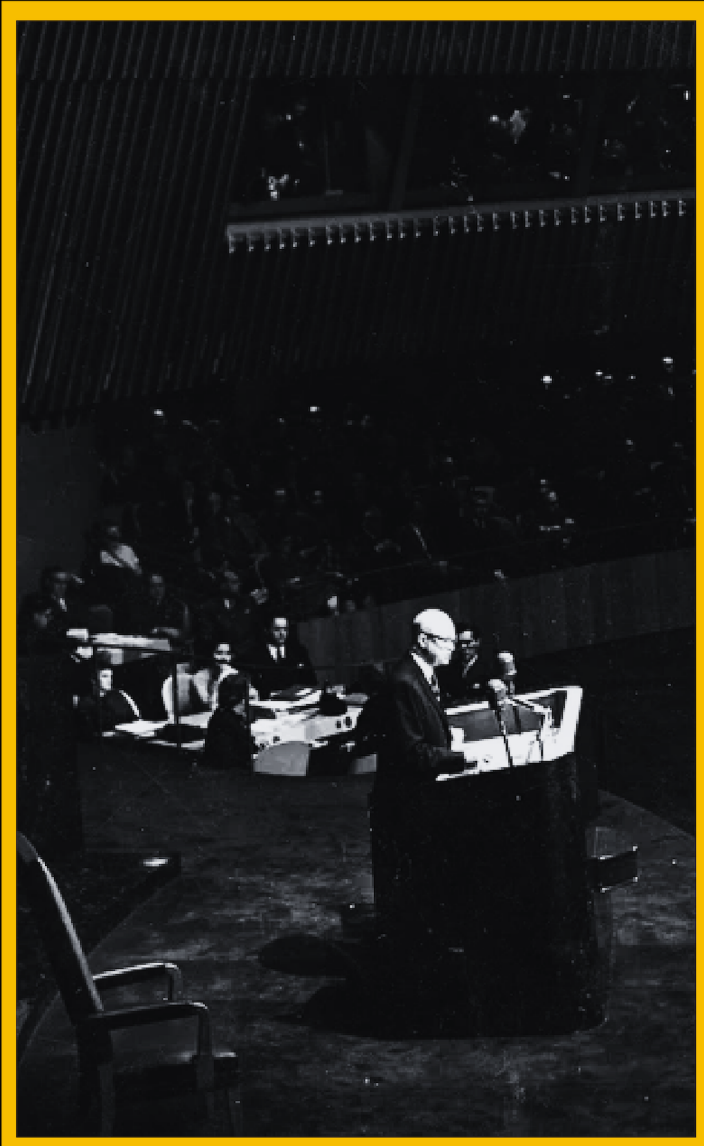
Iran Backed Militant Groups (GAZA)

- Hamas
- Islamic Jihad

● Countries with state/non-state actors supporting Iran
● Countries where Iran plays destabilising role



RECOMMENDATIONS



DESCRIPTION

President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his Atoms for Peace speech at the U.N. General Assembly in 1953

FOR POLICY MAKERS

- Diplomatic Engagement: Reinforce diplomatic efforts to restore the JCPOA or develop a new framework for nuclear non-proliferation with Iran, that reflects the aspirations of the region.
- Regional Cooperation: Enhance collaboration with regional partners to mitigate security risks and stabilize West Asia.

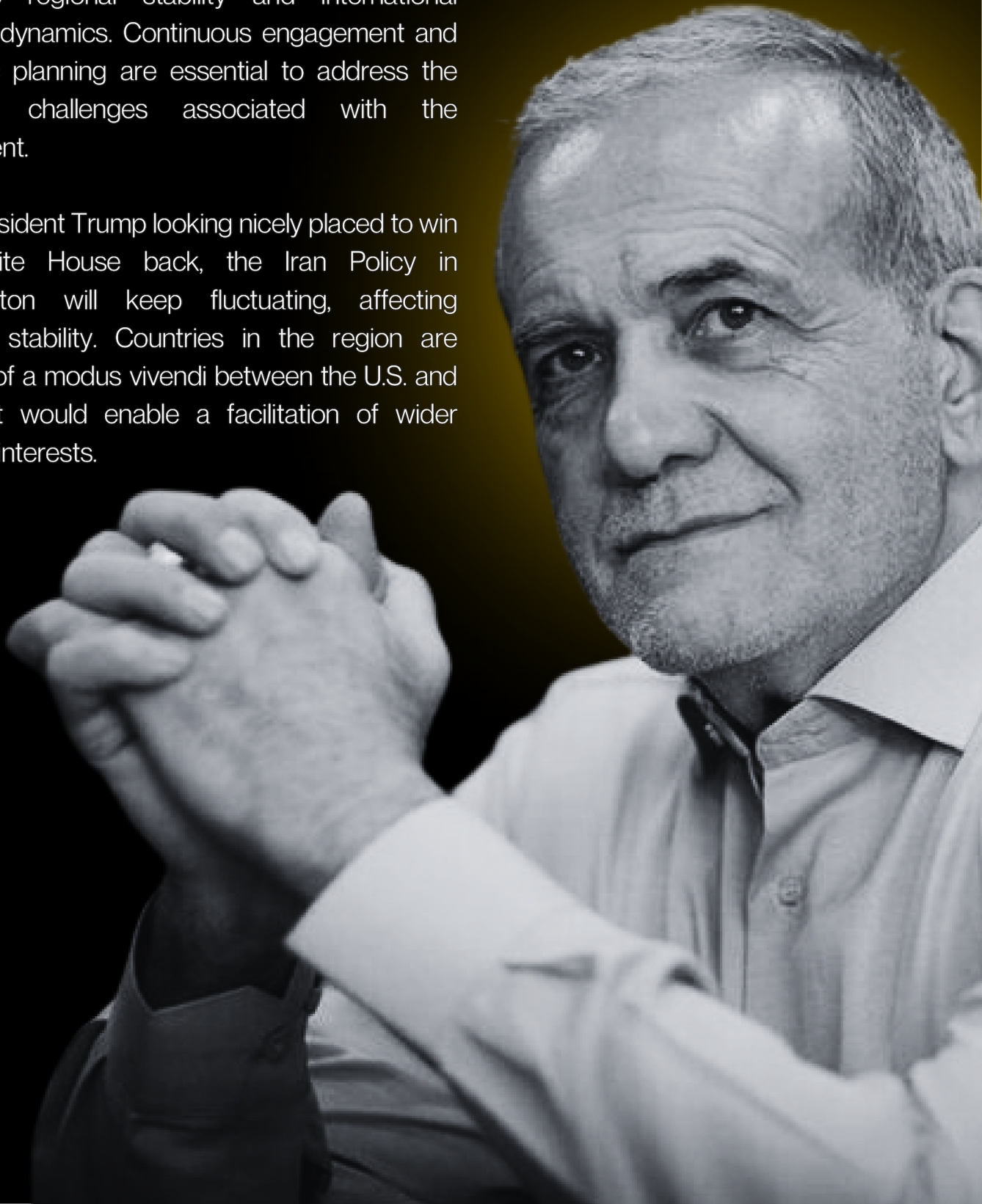
FOR INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

- Monitoring: Continue rigorous monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities and compliance with international regulations.
- Scenario Planning: Develop scenarios based on potential outcomes of ongoing negotiations and their impact on regional and global security.

CONCLUSION

The JCPOA remains a critical element in the discourse on nuclear non-proliferation and international diplomacy. Its future will significantly influence regional stability and international security dynamics. Continuous engagement and strategic planning are essential to address the evolving challenges associated with the agreement.

With President Trump looking nicely placed to win the White House back, the Iran Policy in Washington will keep fluctuating, affecting regional stability. Countries in the region are hopeful of a modus vivendi between the U.S. and Iran that would enable a facilitation of wider regional interests.



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