

The Delray Democrat

Why did Trump Really Bomb the Iranian General? Let's Connect the Dots—or Bullets!¹

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Trump's watery excuse for killing Iranian General Soleimani, "an imminent danger to Americans in the Middle East," was as ridiculous as the black Sharpie circle he drew around Alabama to "prove" his claim that the state was in the path of Hurricane Dorian, despite scientists saying no. Madman changes reality with a Sharpie!

Our own Dr. Strangelove ordered a baseless act of war without notice to our Congressional leaders. Why? Perhaps a favor to the Royal House of Saud?

Let's connect the dots (bullets).

- Saudi Arabia has long been Customer of the Year when it comes to buying arms from the U.S., including a 10-year, \$350 billion arms deal which President Obama approved to help the Saudis push back against feared Iranian aggression.
- However, Obama decided to hold up parts of the deal when Saudi airstrikes began killing civilians in Yemen, including 140 children in a school bus. Congressional Democrats and Republicans have objected to the arms sale, worried that the Saudi's real goal was nuclear proliferation.
- Trump didn't care. "I've got Article 2 and you don't!" In 2017, his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, now best buds with the murderous Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, hammered out a \$110 billion arms deal with his pal despite congressional disapproval. How? Trump, Sharpie at the ready, claimed Iran posed "an emergency." Familiar? Further, Trump would ignore Saudi crimes in Yemen and elsewhere, such as the barbaric murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. "I see nothing." But why?

Now we connect the dots (bullets)! A Congressional report found the arms sale to the Saudis was a "bonus for Westinghouse Electric, [the only manufacturer of large nuclear reactors in the U.S.] which is owned by a subsidiary of Brookfield Asset Management, a real estate company that recently bailed out Kushner and his family's company in their ill-fated, \$1.8 billion purchase of a Manhattan office tower at 666 Fifth Avenue."

The Saudis, always hiding behind the trees, applauded Soleimani's assassination, a blow to its long-time foes, Iran and its proxy, al-Qaeda. And the specter of Iranian "imminent danger" added yeast to the argument that the Saudi arms deal was necessary.

Sadly, Congress's fears for Yemeni civilians were realized. Some of the weapons Trump sold to the Saudis were used to create one of the worst humanitarian disasters in a decade, with more

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, February 2020, p. 4.

than 100,000 Yemenis dead to date.

And nuclear proliferation? Right again. The investigations found “Trump met with the CEOs of several private nuclear power companies who sought his help in building power plants in the Middle East...that could put Saudi Arabia on the path to developing nuclear weapons, and further destabilize the Middle East.”

Just as frightening, the report discovered that Saudi Arabia & Friends had transferred some of those weapons to “al Qaeda-linked fighters, and Iranian-backed rebels” and this illegal transfer “exposed some of America's sensitive military technology to Tehran... potentially endangering the lives of US troops in other conflict zones.”

Dr. Strangelove was a satire about international mutual destruction ignited by a madman. Indeed, the Trump-Iran bombings sounded like the old Keystone Cops. “I’ll shoot, but if you shoot back, then I won’t shoot you after you...”

Then everyone went to bed. This time.