

A Brookings Leadership Forum

The Saban Center for Middle East Policy
presents

H.E. SHEIKH HAMAD BIN JASSIM BIN JABR AL-THANI
Foreign Minister of Qatar

"An Arab Leader's View of Post 9-11 Challenges"

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AMBASSADOR MARTIN INDYK: Sheikh Hamad, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I'm Martin Indyk, the Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at The Brookings Institution. On behalf of the Saban Center I'm delighted to have an opportunity to welcome you all here this morning for a very special session of the Brookings Leadership Forum with His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, the Foreign Minister of the state of Qatar.

Sheikh Hamad was named Minister of Foreign Affairs by the Emir of Qatar in 1992. Since then, over ten years, he has been the architect of Qatar's new foreign policy, expanding its relations outside the Arab world with the leading nations of Asia, Africa and Europe, guiding Qatar to a leadership role in the Islamic world, in the organization of Islamic countries, and playing a critical supportive role in promoting Arab-Israeli peace.

At the same time Qatar has also dramatically strengthened its political, economic and security ties to the United States. As the Washington Post reported today on its front page in a story that highlighted the transfer of 600 U.S. personnel to the multi-billion dollar airbase that's being built at Al-Udeid in Qatar, and the transfer of these personnel from Central Command in Tampa, Florida. The Washington Post referred to Qatar as emerging as a "key strategic ally" of the United States in the Gulf.

It is a special pleasure for me personally to welcome Sheikh Hamad to Brookings and to the Saban Center. I had the distinct honor of working with him over many years in the U.S. government and saw close-hand how skillfully he steered his country's foreign policy. He is a true friend of the United States and he has a real and strong commitment to strengthening the relations between the United States and the Arab world, and promoting peace in his troubled region.

I'm also especially grateful for the support that his government is providing to The Brookings Institution's project on U.S. relations with the Islamic world, including the hosting of a very important conference that the Islamic Project of Brookings will be organizing with the government of Qatar in Doha in October of this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday was a very sad day for the United States and for all people who love freedom, and today we look ahead to the President's speech at the United Nations to phase two of the war on terror and the question about what to do with Saddam Hussein's flaunting of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions. It is therefore very timely for Sheikh Hamad to address us on the issues that confront U.S. relations with the Arab world and the Islamic world in the wake of September 11th.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the Saban Center at Brookings and its leadership forum Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani.

[Applause]

SHEIKH HAMAD BIN JASSIM AL-THANI: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. First of all I would like to convey the condolences of His Highness the Emir of Qatar and the people of Qatar about the tragedy which happened on the 11th of September.

This country is a great country and I think they can get over this more stronger and they can concentrate on how to help the world, and not themselves, to look ahead for new future especially in the countries which they need help in education, as the countries in Africa and Asia which suffer from sickness and other due to lack of financing and lack of education.

First of all I would like to say that what happened on 11th of September is a tragedy not only for the American people, but for the American people and for ourselves. The people which did or planned 11th of September, they wanted not to harm you only, they wanted to harm you and to harm us by making this big void between the two nations, between the Arab world and the United States, between the Arab world and the Western countries.

For that reason we have to ask hard, both sides, how we can build the bridge and where is the weakness and from where is the weakness? If it's from our side we have to correct it, if it's from our side, if it is from the American side, they have to correct it.

No doubt that we have mistakes. No doubt that the relationship in the beginning which we enjoyed some time doesn't go to the depth to build a base so it could continue when we have crisis like this.

I think it is very important that we reform ourselves in a new kind of relationship and we cannot reform ourselves without building a bridge and see what is the difference.

I think the most important thing which we have to look at is first of all how we can build the confidence now and how we show each other that we are partners to fight the terrorism and to fight the people which are against these relations between the two nations. We cannot do this without confidence. We cannot do this without kind of, democratic countries which they can talk in different language between the both sides. So we have to upgrade ourselves also in the Arab world and to understand what's going on.

I don't put all the blame on ourselves, but also we have to let the people in United States know us more and know what is the problem.

First I would like to talk about the Middle East problem which is between the Palestinians and the Israelis. I think this problem we have to give more effort, especially from the United

States, to stop the bloodshed and the violence between both sides. Both sides are human beings and I think the Palestinians have the right to live in their country in peace as the Israelis have to live in peace. We cannot say this by words. We have to do something on the ground. I think the United Nations, with support of the United States, has to take a role and to play a role in this.

I am not going to do a long speech because I would like to lay the ground and then to answer some questions.

Second thing about Iraq, or the third thing about Iraq. The Gulf area has been in crisis more than 20 years. During the Iran-Iraq War, after that the invasion of Kuwait, and now. We are waking up to a new crisis it seems to me in the Gulf. We in Qatar are trying to avoid any military action in the Gulf. This sometimes has a lot of interpretation which is some of it's right, some of it's wrong.

I have been to Baghdad a few weeks ago, less than a month ago, and I saw Saddam Hussein, and I talked to him very closely and told him that he has to let the inspectors in without any conditions, to avoid another crisis in the area. We are continuing this dialogue with the Iraqis.

As small country we are doing our best in this, but I can see there is a big momentum going on and we need to see how we can slow down this process.

No doubt that we are supporting peace in the region and our relationships with the United States is not a secret relation in Qatar. From the beginning everything between us and the United States has been known to the world and to the people. His Highness' policy is not to hide this relation. As we always say, I don't think we like to have a secret wife or a secret lover. If we have a relation, everybody will know it. If action will be taken from Qatar everybody will know about it. So there is nothing to be learned from other sources on this aspect.

I will stop here and I am ready to take questions.

QUESTION: Are you willing to allow U.S. troops [inaudible]?

SHEIKH HAMAD: That is a very direct question. First of all, as I told you we are working hard not to let a war happen, and at the same time the United States and ourselves and the Iraqis know that we have a very special relation with the United States and it is not secret that they are already in Al-Udeid.

The United States has not asked us up until now for any support or any permission for an attack from Qatar to Iraq. If they ask us we will look at this seriously, but at the moment there is no decision because nobody has asked us about it.

QUESTION: Sir, would Qatar place any conditions on the use of Al-Udeid base if it comes to that? That's one.

The second part, you said you met with Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Did you get any feeling about his willingness to allow the inspectors in and under what conditions? And I'll leave it at that.

SHEIKH HAMAD: I think there is hope that Saddam could accept the inspectors. He is just worried that if he allows the inspectors in, the military action will still be carried out. So he said why should I do it if the military action will be done with or without the inspectors? That's what he said to me when I met him. We have to look at this point seriously, if he will allow them according to the United Nations Resolution, I think that's a big step for Saddam and we are wishing and still hoping that he takes this action.

QUESTION: Christian Boers with United Press International.

One of the stated policies of, at least information that's come out of the U.S. government, has been the need for, towards the Middle East region, the Arab nations in particular, the need for a growth of democratic states and democracy within the individual countries but there's a lot of disagreement whether this is really a potential for true democracy in the Western sense within countries in the region. I was wondering if you could address that issue.

SHEIKH HAMAD: Well as you know His Highness the Emir when he came to power in '95, had this on the agenda. Part of the agenda, was how to move the country to a democratic state. I think last year, three years ago we have been working on this hard. This year we finish our constitution in Qatar. I think by year 2003 we will have a parliamentary election. With that we will complete our democratic body in Qatar. I think by the year 2005 we will have a full system in Qatar, run through a democratic, of course monarchy, but democratic country. This is the will of His Highness.

And I think the trend is this. The trend is this because the people are well educated now. We have to educate ourselves as a responsible people how to deal with people in a democratic country. And I think we need to make a big effort to try to educate ourselves and our people for democracy. That doesn't mean that they don't know democracy, they know it well. But how to practice the democracy. And our decision in Qatar has very clearly been made that we will have a democratic country, we will have a parliament, free election, and we have already a [ministerial] election, and free elections. We have a free press. I think the time is due to continue in this line.

We cannot talk with you as a democratic country in the future if we are not a democratic state. There will be big differences in our view.

Before, I think people looked maybe more for business, the people who are business minded either here or on other side. There is mutual interest between both sides but I don't think this could continue without a democratic base on both sides, which they will have dealing either commercial dealing or political dealing or any other dealing between two states.

AMBASSADOR INDYK: Can I just follow up on that for a moment, Sheikh Hamad? Some people say that the danger of democratic government in the Arab world is that the people that will benefit most from that in the early stages are the extremists and it will help the extremists come to power and they have no interest in democracy. How do you respond to that kind of concern that in fact democratic governing will create instabilities rather than a stable process?

SHEIKH HAMAD: Well I wish we can run the country like before, and if you think that in every country the extremists will come, this is because of the way matters were handled in other countries. I think there are extremists everywhere. Even in United States there are extremists, in Europe there are extremists. But how will we handle them and how you will work with them? Democratic system I think is important and you will have an up and down in it until it settles. It will not settle for first 20 or 30 years. People need to be educated how to deal in a democratic society.

I mean we need to educate ourselves how to deal with this when it comes up next year. We don't know how to deal with a parliament, or present our case as a government. So it's not an easy task. Yes, maybe the example that you have, what happened in Algeria. But I think you might find that some extremists come to power, but they have to play according to the rules, according to the international rules. If they don't play according to the international rules there is the United Nations and there is all the world that will be against them. We saw examples of this in the world.

So this could happen, but I think extremists are part of our society and we have to deal with them. We have to convince them and they convince us when they are right, that we need to be convinced by them and when we are right we have to convince them.

QUESTION: Barbara Slavin of USA Today.

You say that the United States has not asked for permission to use facilities in Qatar yet against Iraq. Will it be sufficient if you get this request from the United States or do you need a U.N. Resolution, approval from the Arab League? What will be required for Qatar to be part of a coalition against Saddam? Thank you.

SHEIKH HAMAD: You want to drag me to this. [Laughter] And I promised myself before I came here that I will not be dragged to it so I will keep my promise to myself.

Let me tell you this. What I answer, to be more frank and I hope you will know it, I answer as a diplomatic answer, that nobody has asked us. We did not give permission, because nobody has asked us. But you have to realize that we have a very special relation with the United States. This relation will always be in our consideration in any decision that will be taken by the state of Qatar. That is my answer.

QUESTION: My name is Andrei Shivoval with the Russian News Agency Tass.

Let me try to ask that in a different way though. No, no, no, sir.

You are going to the General Assembly right? Do you feel the U.N. can still do something to maintain peace in the region which is your goal? Who do you regard as your natural allies in those efforts at the U.N.? What efforts do you want to put into that?

And on a different subject, the head of the Russian Parliament when he recently visited Qatar said that the Qatari side suggested creating a gas OPEC. Can you tell us what he meant, whether that was true or not? Thank you.

SHEIKH HAMAD: We didn't suggest a gas OPEC. The Russians suggested that. We are cautious about this up until now. We did not make up our mind.

Let me tell you one thing, the United Nations have to play a role in the conflict between Iraq and let us say the international arena or with the United Nations [sic]. I think we have to work, all of us, to make an effort with the United Nations to say what they want exactly from the Iraqis. I think we should tell the Iraqis look, this is what we want. If you do this you will avoid any military action. But we have to know that United States has also their own opinion. You have to ask the United States if they will cooperate through the United Nations or they want to do it alone. We don't know about that.

QUESTION: [inaudible] Capitol Hill. I know you've got several meetings. Specifically what do you plan to discuss with them?

SHEIKH HAMAD: Well, first of all as you know I usually come to United States twice a year, so that is not a special occasion at the moment. Usually when I come here we discuss our relation with the United States which is growing not only in the military sphere and economic aspects and education. As you know there are university exchanges often in Qatar from the United States. And also we will discuss the latest crises, the Middle East crisis and the Iraqi crisis. We would like to share our view with their view, how they are looking at these problems and how they are looking to solve this problem. We know that in your country, this is thanks to the democracy, you have many different opinions here. And sometimes you need to know all these opinions to make a judgment because from far away we cannot judge what you are going to do.

QUESTION: [inaudible]

SHEIKH HAMAD: The message which I would like to say is that our area is an important region for, not for us only, for the world because of the energy there. The message that we know that United States after 11th of September have some comments or some questions about our area and I think they are right to have these questions and we have the right also to answer these questions and we have to cooperate how to get out of this matter. I know it is not concerning Qatar immediately, but we are part of the region. So it is concerning us.

The message also which I would like to take, is that any military action will destabilize the area and we have to know, as a small country we have to know where we are and that's important for us.

QUESTION: -- Insight Magazine.

Mr. Foreign Minister, two questions. One, is the Palestinian use of suicide bombers justified? And two, Al Jazeera TV has been accused of promoting radical Islam, so what do you think of Al Jazeera?

SHEIKH HAMAD: I am here not as a spokesman of Al Jazeera, but I will try to give you our opinions and the government's.

First of all the suicide bombing, we are not supporting the suicide bombing in Qatar as a government. I think human beings have respect, he is a Palestinian or he is an Israeli. Both sides have to respect each other and not to kill each other. This problem cannot be solved through this tragedy. It has to be solved on the table. We all know through history even if there is a war and there is a victory, the end is at the table to discuss what they are going to do. This we know from World War I and II, that always they sit at the table to discuss what they are going to do after the victory.

My opinion, my advice for the Israelis, that they have the upper hand. They are the strongest. They are more stronger than the Palestinians. If they are thinking, strategic thinking for the long term -- I am not talking about 10 or 20 years -- they have to sit and to give what they promised to give. The world also has to deliver what they promised in the Madrid Conference and through United Nations resolution 242. Why don't we implement that, why the Israelis don't accept to implement it. They say yes we will implement, but we need to discuss it. Okay, what do you want to discuss and how many years do you want to discuss this problem?

I think the most important thing which if we need to avoid many more crisis in our area and many more areas is to give rights to the Palestinians, to give them their land according to the

'67 border, and according to resolution 242.

We are supporting United Nations Resolutions so we should support this resolution and let the Israelis implement it. That's one thing.

If I am talking about Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera is a private and not private because it's financed by the government at the moment. It doesn't cover its expenses as far as I know. So the government when they would like to have a free press, they thought that they have to have a TV, a free TV in Qatar. And believe me, we are suffering as a government from this channel because we have a lot of friends, a lot of brothers which don't like what's on Al- Jazeera.

But we are not supporting or directing Al-Jazeera to attack somebody else or to attack a country like some of the other states. This is not our policy, not His Highness' government policy. Our policy is to have free TV. But I cannot say that it is fair, what is presented in Al- Jazeera. It is only six years old, Al Jazeera. It needs time to settle. There are many mistakes there. I can see there is many mistakes. But these mistakes are not meant to be done as mistakes as far as I know. Maybe some of them were meant to be done but not by us, maybe by one of the employees, who would like to accuse this guy or accuse that country. But this is not the policy of the government of Qatar, it doesn't present our policy of Qatar.

The other part of your question if it supported any, about Al-Jazeera if it supported any?

QUESTION: [inaudible]

SHEIKH HAMAD: No, no. We did an assessment of this that some of our friends says that we are supporting. Tell me how are we supporting radicals and have an office for the Israeli government or for the Israeli state in Doha. Tell me how we can support this, while so loudly they know our relationship with the United States which has used Qatar for actions in Afghanistan, and for other purposes everywhere. It doesn't work together.

But in our region, in our area people always think, we have been educated to say and to repeat what the government says. To change that, the government, not the people, will be against you. What you hear here I know is part of government lobbying, many governments lobby and I don't blame them. If I am on their side I would lobby against Al Jazeera. But we have to give it time to settle. That's one thing.

Radical? No. We are a monarchy country. Yes, we are a Muslim country and we are proud about our religion, but we are a moderate Islamic country. You can go in Qatar, you can see the women driving, the women working, the women wear whatever they wear here, they wear it in the street in Qatar. So we are not a radical country. But yes, we are proud that we are an Islamic country.

For that reason it doesn't fit. And we looked at a percentage of the programs which we show on Al Jazeera. And it shows that this is a very small percentage, what you call radical programs. But people usually focus on them and then they say oh, most of the programs is radical because you hear one or two programs a day so you think that Al Jazeera is talking in behalf of radicals. That we will not allow it, we are not part of it. Our line is completely different than this.

QUESTION: -- Engel of the Guardian, London.

Sir, from your meeting with Saddam can you tell us something about your assessment of his mood? Do you feel that he has weapons that he could use in a last resort and do you believe that he would use them?

SHEIKH HAMAD: I wish he told me. [Laughter] I asked him and he said no, he doesn't have, but he doesn't tell me -- [Laughter]

QUESTION: Did you sort of make an assessment of what you felt his situation was?

SHEIKH HAMAD: I am not a military guy so I cannot make an assessment if he has or not. But I can make an assessment that I will not be surprised if he will accept the inspectors to be in Baghdad. I would not be surprised from my conversation with him.

QUESTION: Can I just follow up on that? When you say you're not surprised, are you saying basically he's looking now at conditions for inspectors to come in? Some kind of guarantee that he's not going to be attacked?

SHEIKH HAMAD: I told him conditions will not be allowed, but I think he is looking for a guarantee that if he allows them in, that he will not be hit militarily until the inspectors see what they have to see.

AMBASSADOR INDYK: Can I just ask one other question about this?

The United States, not just President Bush but President Clinton also, expressed a great deal of concern about Saddam Hussein's efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. We see that as a threat to our vital interests, and now after September 11th we see it as a potential threat to Americans at home here in the United States.

You live in his neighborhood. Does Qatar and the other neighbors of Saddam Hussein see the threat in the same way? After all he invaded Kuwait, he invaded Iran, he used chemical weapons. You live next to him. How do you evaluate the threat that he poses in your neighborhood?

SHEIKH HAMAD: As I told you, more than 20 years now we are at war in the area, or we are alert for a war so we get used to it. It may be a very serious threat but we don't feel it sometimes. I think we are worried but not from Saddam only, to be very frank. We are worried about the region completely. And we are not only worried from military action but we are worried from changing or reforming the area. We are looking in Qatar to reform the area. Before we are pushed to reform with a crash program, so I think the best thing is for the area to start reforming themselves and the countries reforming themselves in the region.

I think that's the most important thing which could avoid a lot of things in the region.

Threats, as a small country we will always feel that we have threats. This is why we have part of our relations with the United States. Sometimes people blame us for this. We say we are the last end in this relationship, but maybe it's become more strong and this is because we work in a very clear basis with the United States. You never do any action from Qatar without hearing it in the news, and we don't deny it. If it is right we don't deny it. But I hope that will be the case everywhere because that could let the people understand what their government's doing. And I think if they understand, they have nothing to add more. That's the big problem which we have in the area.

QUESTION: [inaudible]

SHEIKH HAMAD: I am not defending Saddam, and I am not with him or against him. I was against him when he was invading Kuwait. At the moment I'm not with him or not against him. I am with the Iraqi people and our government is with the Iraqi people, helping to avoid the Iraqi people from any crisis.

Do you think Saddam is the only obstacle for the democracy in our region? I think you know the answer.

QUESTION: Al Millikan, Washington Independent Writers.

How do you see other Muslims who are serious about Islam wrestling with the future of their religion? And how do you explain reports claiming terrorists were recruiting at mosques, targeting the most devoted, disciplined, serious young men who want to submit to Allah?

SHEIKH HAMAD: This is part of the problem in our region. Why are people being driven to this way? They have frustrations. To be very frank, we have to see what is the problem in our region? Sometimes we push them to the mosques, sometimes we don't want them to go to the mosques. We have to make up our minds. Religion is free for everybody to choose as a religion and which grade or level he wants to have his religion. That's fair. But you shouldn't push the

others or try to dominate the others by your religion by force. That I think which shouldn't be accepted and we will not accept it. We cannot force somebody to be a Muslim or to show him how he lives. We respect the other religions and we hope that the others respect our religion.

In the end people which go to the mosques, imagine if they don't have work and they finish their university? Sometimes they have, either they sleep in the house or go to the mosque. We have to create jobs for the people in our region. We have to educate them, educate them well. The universities which we have, it's not on the level, it doesn't help us to educate our people. We have to change our education policy. I mean if you let him learn these nasty things which does not belong to the Islam and later you want to fight him, why do you let him learn these things from the beginning? I think is very important that we educate our young generation to avoid these things happen.

AMBASSADOR INDYK: I just want to follow up on that because one of the trustees of Brookings when she heard that you were going to speak today she sent me a whole range of e-mails of sermons that have been delivered from mosques in your country. And also broadcast on state television. There's something in common with all of these sermons. I'll give them to you afterwards, in which the "Imampraise to God" is in the conclusion of all the sermons and I'll quote from one of them. "O God, destroy the usurperes and avowed Christians. O God, destroy the Jews, pour your anger on them, destroy them, support our Palestinian brothers, give them courage and have mercy on them and their martyred children and women."

So given what you've just said about the importance of education and tolerance and so on, how do you deal with this coming from a religious leader?

SHEIKH HAMAD: Let me tell you one thing. It's been said to me by one of my friends yesterday when I came at night about these kind of speeches in the mosques. In Qatar, and in some countries in the region, all the speech in the mosque is written by somebody else who is anti-faith. This has caused the people go underground.. What will be said in Qatar will be said and will be announced, so nothing will be built underground, which is more dangerous in my opinion than what's being said in speech in the mosque or in the newspaper or in the TV.

Of course I totally disagree with this type of speech, and we have a big dialogue in Qatar discussing this matter with the religious leaders. It's become much less and less. I don't know when the speech happened, but I know it is almost now finished. But this happened when the wave of the killing happened in Palestine between the Israelis and the Palestinians. And we know, as I said in the beginning, that the upper hand is for the Israelis so they have to consider that they are strong and they can kill the Palestinians but what is the use of it because they will behave not in Palestine country but in the international arena or at least in the Middle East or in the Muslim world.

We should kill this head, we should not build a [tail] between the Jews, between the Christians, between the Muslims. That's not an easy task. This task needs all of us to work.

I cannot say that this is right. It is wrong. But it is better than to have somebody plant something under table.

QUESTION: Ken Pollock from the Saban Center.

Sheikh Hamad, Qatar is also very close to Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia would also be a key country in any U.S. war against Iraq. Right now we're hearing a great deal of disagreement from the Saudi government over American plans. Help us to understand better what you think Saudi Arabia's concerns are about a war with Iraq and what it might take for the United States to assuage those Saudi concerns and bring them on board to a war.

SHEIKH HAMAD: I cannot talk on behalf of our brothers in Saudi Arabia, but I could say Saudi Arabia is a major and important country in our region, a big country. I'm sure if they have a concern it's a legitimate concern and it has to be discussed between them and the United States. We might agree with them in some of it, we might not agree in some of it. But let me put it this way. All of us are against the war. I am not with the war and I say this from the beginning, but we have to work hard to convince the Iraqis, the United States, the United Nations how to wotogether and to bring it under the international arena.

QUESTION: Richard Andereig, La je Fis, Swiss Financial Newspaper.

Is the Palestinian uprising in your view or the view of the Qatari government something that is being maneuvered by Islamic extremists? Or is it, although nobody say so officially, essentially an anti-colonial political war of national liberation in the tradition of say French Algeria, Indochina, or the Netherlands-East Indies?

SHEIKH HAMAD: Let me tell you one thing. First of all we or the Israelis in the international arena, if there there extremists in Palestine we supported them because when we were talking to the moderate people among the Palestinians from Madrid until now and they give us what we need and they give up their claims and throwing Israel in the sea and accepting the land of '67, and all the world knows, then the Israelis come to bargain in the land of '67. Then we let the extremists take the lead. I think we helped the extremists for this lead because we didn't give the Palestinians their rights to the moderate people and the right people which they are talking in the peace and they sign the peace treaties. So I think we are pushing people to be extremists because we don't give them their right to talk. That's bad.

AMBASSADOR INDYK: The last question is from your competition, Radio Sawa --

QUESTION: Sheikh Hamad, I hope you did not make a promise to yourself not to talk about it. What is the status of the Saudi-Qatari relationship today? [Laughter]

SHEIKH HAMAD: Okay. First of all if there is any misunderstanding it is between family. Between us and the Saudis and we are very close family. We can work out this difference, if there is a difference, we can work it out between us. We respect the Saudis. We assume that they respect us. And the difference, it's not a difference which is not, it cannot be corrected. Maybe there is difference of view between us and them where we respect their view and I wish that they respect our view and with the wisdom of both sides we can work it out between us as usual. I don't think there is a big problem that could concern you or concern the others. It will be solved between us and our brothers the Saudis.

Is very important to know that sometimes people exaggerate these kinds of difference of opinion. This difference of opinion doesn't mean that we don't like them or we hate them. It's a difference of opinion, that's all. But in the end we are brothers and we respect them and I am sure they respect us and we will work it out.

Thank you very much.

AMBASSADOR INDYK: Sheikh Hamad, I want to on behalf of all of us here today thank you very much for a very interesting and candid response to some tough questions. I think everybody here greatly appreciates the spirit that you have brought to this dialogue and the importance that you attach to it and we are very grateful for everything that you have told us today.

Thank you very much.

SHEIKH HAMAD: Thank you very much.

[Applause]

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