

ABC News Special

03/02/26

11:57:36 a.m.

2 minute and 33 seconds

DIANE MACEDO: Mary, the President said that this was necessary to, in his words, eliminate “the grave threat posed to America by this terroristic regime,” talking about the regime in Iran. And then he went on to say that the U.S. was very nearly under threat. Will that be enough to satisfy his critics in Congress who say this was not urgent? He did not need to do this without congressional approval?

MARY BRUCE: Well, Diane, the President certainly is, for the first time, really fleshing out a bit more what that imminent threat was that, he has argued, led him to change his mind and go ahead and strike Iran now, because, of course, this morning and in the days leading up to this, we have heard from the President and other top officials this argument that Iran had for decades been very hostile to the rest of the world. And now, the President is explaining that imminent threat, arguing that that Iran had missiles capable of reaching the U.S. and saying that they were, that the U.S. was very nearly under threat. But the U.S.’s own intelligence had concluded that it would take nine years for Iran to have a missile capable of reaching the U.S. and sources have confirmed to ABC News this morning that administration officials briefed congressional staff over the weekend, saying that U.S. intelligence did not suggest Iran was preparing to launch a preemptive strike against the U.S. So, there are still some very big questions here about what evidence the President had of this imminent threat and going forward on how long this campaign is going to last. You heard the President there saying, whatever it takes, of course, this is the President who promised not to drag the U.S. into prolonged foreign conflicts, Diane.

(...)

12:00:03 p.m.

21 seconds

IAN PANNELL: Oil prices have spiked, natural gas prices have spiked, and this will start to hit people in their pockets. But here in the region, I think there’s a real sense of concern about how rapidly this is escalating where it ends, and no clear sense of mission objectives, how you measure success and how you get out of it and bring about peace.