

NBC News Special

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2 minutes and 25 seconds

RICHARD ENGEL: That, I think, is what struck me the most is he's setting out these very, very vast objectives, military objectives, and putting a timeline on it four to five weeks, acknowledging that it might slip. But he didn't talk very much about the day after. What kind of government is supposed to replace the one that is being dismantled and disarmed in Iran right now? That is very unlikely to take place over the next four to five weeks, unless there is some sort of deal, unless somebody within the Iranian system is — like what happened in Venezuela is selected by President Trump, makes a deal with President Trump, makes a deal with Israel. But at this stage, that does not seem to be happening. We are still — still seeing an ongoing war, a war that is expanding to new territory. Just today, Lebanon, which had not been involved in this conflict until now, fired rockets into Israel. Israel firing back. Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian militia group claiming responsibility. And then just a short while ago, Qatar, which houses a U.S. base and was trying to negotiate a peace deal between the U.S. and Iran, said that it shot down two Iranian fighter jets. So, Iran is now also using fighter jets. The U.S. Consulate in Pakistan, where there were protests yesterday and pro-Iranian demonstrators tried to storm the building, announced that it is now closed. So, this is a conflict that continues to grow more complex, involve more territory, yet President Trump is saying that it will be wrapped up within four to five weeks.

HALLIE JACKSON: He's also, Richard, taking this opportunity to make the case to the American people about this war on Iran here, laying out the objectives to take out the missile capabilities of Iran, take out their naval capabilities, starve their proxies, prevent them from rebuilding any nuclear capabilities as well, Richard.

ENGEL: So, there were there were two things, two types of justifications. One was effectively a theoretical threat. He was saying that if, in the future Iran were to expand its ballistic missile program, it could threaten the United States, and if Iran were able to develop a nuclear program accusing Iran of trying to reconstitute it. So, he was talking about a theoretical future threat, and the rest was past grievances from the Iraq War.