

*CBS Mornings*

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7:00:42 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Addresses the Nation]

KELLY O'GRADY: President Trump gives a primetime address to the nation on the war with Iran but provides few answers about what it will take to end the fighting.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Over the next two to three weeks, we're going to bring them back to the stone age.

(...)

7:03:15 a.m.

5 minutes and 36 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: War with Iran; Trump Gives Primetime Address on Iran War]

O'GRADY: Well, this morning, we're going to start the news with President Trump's late-night address to the American people. Now, in his nearly 20-minute speech he made his case for the war against Iran and said the U.S. military would, "finish the job soon." But he didn't say what that job is. After the speech, oil prices rose more than seven percent. The national average for a gallon of gas is now \$4.08. Weijia Jiang is at the White House. Good morning.

WEIJIA JIANG: Good morning, Kelly. Good morning to everybody. As President Trump deals with sagging job approval numbers and soaring gas prices he tried to assure Americans the war won't last much longer, something he has been doing since the war started. Trump did not offer any new details about a time frame, a plan for winding down on what victory would look like.

TRUMP: I can say tonight that we are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly.

JIANG: President Trump delivered a full defense of the Iran war and promised Americans the end to the military operation is in sight, claiming the objectives are "nearing completion."

TRUMP: We've done all of it. Their navy is gone, their air force is gone, their missiles are just abused up or beaten.

JIANG: The President made no mention of sending U.S. troops into Iran, though he vowed to continue the U.S. bombing campaign even as he says negotiations are ongoing.

TRUMP: We're going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We're going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong.

JIANG: And he again threatened to strike Iran's energy infrastructure if the country is not willing to make a deal.

TRUMP: We have our eyes on key targets. If there is no deal we are going to hit each and every one of their electric generating plants very hard, and probably simultaneously.

JIANG: Trump also acknowledged many Americans are concerned about the recent rise in gas prices here at home. They have risen by 36 percent since the war started.

TRUMP: This short-term increase has been entirely the result of the Iranian regime launching deranged terror attacks against commercial oil tankers and neighboring countries that have nothing to do with the conflict.

JIANG: Before the speech, Trump told Reuters he planned to discuss with NATO and he was considering withdrawing from the alliance. But, in the end, he did not talk about NATO in his address. The President did call on member nations to help to secure the Strait of Hormuz which Iran continues to threaten with drones.

TRUMP: When this conflict is over, the strait will open up naturally.

JIANG: President Trump also said the U.S. has plenty of oil and suggested allies buy from the U.S. instead of countries in the Middle East. The United Kingdom is hosting a virtual summit today with 35 countries to talk about reopening the Strait of Hormuz, but the prime minister has made clear they do not want to get tangled up in the conflict, Matt.

MATT GUTMAN: Weija, thank you. Let's go to CBS news national security analyst Aaron Maclean, a U.S. Marine veteran and foreign foreign policy advisor on Capitol Hill. Good morning, Aaron. I got to ask you, the President talking about overwhelming victory, about obliterating Iran's military but he talked about two to three more weeks of war, of attacking Iran as energy sector. What did you make of that speech?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: War with Iran; Aaron Maclean on Status & Impact of War]

AARON MACLEAN: Hey, good morning. I mean, if you go back to the matrix of objectives that the President and others of his administration laid out at the start of the campaign a month ago, you can go it and give them grades. The Iranian navy — I think our military is doing pretty well. The Iranian military is largely at the bottom of the sea or has holes in the sides of its boats. The missile program has massively been degraded, but it's here where you get slightly more moderate grades, right? They retain the capacity to harass their neighbors pretty significantly day to day as a big salvo fired at Israel and other countries just in the last 24 hours. President Trump spoke repeatedly about the nuclear program. Not a lot of action directly connected to the nuclear program thus far and it is unclear what the status of the goal will be going forward. And, of course, I think the biggest thing that's on everyone's minds and we just referred to it in that good report there is the Iranians have played the major card available to them which is the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, is having a massive economic impact and at some point is going to have to

be dealt with.

GUTMAN: Alright, so let's talk about that major card. The President started speaking, oil prices were down. By the end of his speech, oil prices were up. The President talked about naturally opening the Strait of Hormuz. We are all obviously concerned about gas prices. So, how does the President open up the Strait of Hormuz naturally?

MACLEAN: Yeah, so, there were a series of comments through the speech. First, he basically said the Strait of Hormuz is not America's problem because we don't buy our oil from there which, while technically true, of course, there's a global finite supply of the commodity. So, if there's a lack of supply the price still goes up in America. I think they should in and take it and he said don't worry, it is naturally going to open up which implies his objective remains a deal at which point the Iranians open it up or perhaps regime change where they no longer harass it. You can see — I think he's aware of the difficulty of a military campaign to open the Strait. It's been done before. The United States did it in the 1980s, but it's potentially protracted as a military operation. The President promised the American people a four-to-six-week war.

GUTMAN: And we're already four weeks into it. Aaron McLean, thank you very much.

MCLEAN: Thanks.

(...)

8:00:41 a.m.

2 minutes and 55 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: War with Iran; Robert Costa on Analysis, Reaction to Trump Speech]

GUTMAN: We begin this hour, though, with the President's vow to Americans that the war will end soon. Speaking in a primetime address, the President defended his decision to attack Iran and said the U.S. military needs more time.

TRUMP: I made clear from the beginning of Operation Epic Fury we will continue until our objectives are fully achieved. Thanks to the progress we've made, I can say tonight that we are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly. Very shortly. We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We are going to —

GUTMAN: CBS News chief Washington analyst Robert Costa has been talking to sources close to the President. Bob, good morning. So, the President gives an address, the kind of address most presidents give before the start of a war. Now? He's doing it a month into the war. Did it tell you anything about what I think most Americans want to know about: will we see boots on the ground in Iran?

ROBERT COSTA: Good morning. It tells a lot about the morning and President Trump. He is

exerting executive power. As we've seen from many president in both parties over the past quarter century, when it comes to war powers, he is not taking the case to Congress before a military conflict. He is speaking to the nation in the midst of conflict. And you see a real aggressive approach right now from President Trump. There's no signal that he wants to wind this down in any way or use ground troops. It's really about how he navigates so many issues, trying to get toward a deal. He wants to leave a lot of options on the table.

GAYLE KING: I'm curious. You have many sources. What are your sources telling you about how they're feeling or thinking about his remarks? And you have talked to the President himself. First, let's hear what the sources are saying to you?

COSTA: Well, those around President Trump say privately he's a lot like he is publicly, Gayle, that he is confident that they've depleted many of the military assets of the Iranian government and at this point it is a question of when they at some level start to get out, but they want to make sure that the situation is stable in terms of the economic reality, the Strait of Hormuz, and they want to make sure that the Iranians are not going to threaten U.S. targets or allied targets in any way.

KING: So how does he view this war, Bob? And how is he balancing it with public opinion? Because right now, the public opinion is not on his side on this.

COSTA: I have spoken to him about this. He does not perceive his foreign policy as some kind of muscular nation building approach, even though he took that action in Venezuela. He is considering action in Cuba. He took this military conflict to Iran. He is someone who views the world through perceived threats to the United States, and he is looking at the threat of a nuclear power, a nuclear weapon from Iran, and he wants to, in a sense, check that box to make sure that he addresses it as president.

KING: All right, Bob. Thank you. Always good to see you.

COSTA: Thank you.