

CNN's *The Situation Room*,

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10:01:57 a.m.

18 seconds

WOLF BLITZER: Happening now, President Trump is about to speak at the United Nations. Despite the White House barring CNN and other news organizations from the Presidential press pool, we do have a live signal of the President's remarks provided by U.N. Television. We'll monitor his speech and bring you any newsworthy moments as they happen.

(...)

10:03:58 a.m.

1 minute and 9 seconds

COLLINS: Of course, Wolf, as you and Pamela know, we never said we were not going to cover the President. We will do our best to cover him each and every day. We were actually positioned in this spot last year when the President was here, long before all of this back and forth over access to the White House began, as it did on Friday, and we will continue to cover the President despite their efforts to block CNN from accessing the White House grounds, as we are currently fighting in court. And as that plays out though, of course, what we are watching here are the headlines from the United Nations when it comes to the President's speech and what he does say about the war with Iran because a lot of these world leaders will be listening closely, especially those Gulf leaders, Wolf, who are going to be meeting with the President on the sidelines of this summit today, and also have been some of the most directly impacted by this war in Iran, as they have fired missiles and drones at several of the United States' allies in the region. So, all of that is something we'll be watching very closely here at the United Nations today, Wolf.

BLITZER: It's really amazing, the United Nations open up — opens up the door to all the news organizations covering the President who's in New York today for this U.N. speech even as the White House bars news organizations from covering the President of the United States.

(...)

11:01:04 a.m.

10 minutes and 20 seconds [1 minute and 32 seconds on Trump speech]

BLITZER: We begin this hour with breaking news and President Trump addressing world leaders at the United Nations. His speech before the General Assembly comes amid a spreading conflict in the Middle East and a war of attrition in Ukraine.

BROWN: And CNN has a brand-new poll out showing more Americans, including Republicans, are souring on the war with Iran. Almost two-thirds of respondents now say the U.S. is not winning, and even more say Trump isn't doing enough to end it. And nearly seven months into the conflict, a majority says the conflict has not been worth the costs. The poll also shows just 29

percent of Americans approve of how the President is handling foreign affairs overall. That is a new low in CNN polling across both of Trump's terms as President.

BLITZER: CNN global affairs analyst Kim Dozier is joining us here in *The Situation Room*. Kim, bad news for the President and the war in Iran. What -- when would you say things took a turn, a dramatic turn like this, for the White House in regards to the war? It's so opposed right now.

KIMBERLY DOZIER: I think the longer it has dragged on and the more that these polls keep coming in and signaling to the President that he's losing his domestic audience, that what he was doing today with his remarks at the U.N. is saying he could still go back to war with Iran. That's his threat to Tehran, that you better negotiate, or, and then back to yet also saying, I don't think there's going to be a resolution to this until after the midterms. So he's basically signaling his base you have got to turn out and vote for Republicans even though you're not going to see an end to the war and lower prices probably at the pump until after these votes.

BROWN: So Trump just addressed the war at the UNGA. He's trying to frame it as the U.S. is winning — winning. But you have this poll out from CNN showing a vast majority of Americans, almost two-thirds, saying the U.S. is not winning this conflict. Is this an opinion that's also prevailing worldwide?

DOZIER: When you look at the fact that, while Iran has lost so much of its military capability, it is still able to partially close the Strait of Hormuz, harass ships that go through there, and fire ballistic missiles and drones at Gulf allies and Middle East allies all the way to Jordan, that signals to the American public and the rest of the world that the U.S. isn't winning this war. Also because we have got a free and open media, you have the world aware of the fact that the U.S. is running out of interceptor-type missiles and that it is wearing out its military with this very short war. You have got countries like China watching this and saying, hmm, the U.S. can't stick it out in a long fight, and it also can't defeat a militarily inferior nation, and those are dangerous messages for the world writ large and also back here at home in terms of Trump's party's election chances.

BLITZER: And all this, Kim, is coming at a time when there are new flash points emerging, especially the Iran-backed Houthis renewing their fighting against Saudi Arabia right now. Is the U.S. doing enough right now to protect its close allies in the Persian Gulf?

DOZIER: Well, Trump knows that, if the U.S. gets in on this fight on the side of Saudi Arabia against the Houthis, the Houthis will likely widen their targeting. Right now, they're only targeting Saudi ships that go through the Bab al-Mandab and up to the crucial Suez Canal passageway. If they widen it to U.S. traffic as well, Western traffic, we could see a rise in prices not just of fuel, but also anything that goes through that canal, such as toys at Walmart, food supplies, et cetera. And then it won't just be the U.S. feeling it at the pump. Globally, people will be feeling it where — wherever they buy anything. Trump is aware of that. He's also aware that the U.S. doesn't have the kind of defense. At the pump globally, people will be feeling it where and wherever they buy anything. Trump is aware of that. He's also aware that the U.S. doesn't

have the kind of defensive weapons in the large numbers that they need to open a new front.

BROWN: I want to turn to Ukraine, because President Trump is due to meet with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the UNGA. There is a new CNN poll as part of this we have been talking about that shows the share who view Ukraine as an ally or friendly has actually dipped from 76 percent in January to 70 percent now. How is the meeting between the two leaders expected to play out?

DOZIER: Basically, Trump has to put a marker down to say that he is committed to this peace deal, because he still wants the peace awards. He still wants to be known in his legacy as the guy who ended these conflicts, and from his latest social media posts, it does seem like he's coming around to the idea that Russia is losing, rather than Ukraine losing, and that Russia is the aggressor, though we haven't seen him double down on that yet. When you talk to Ukrainian officials, they're just hanging on to get whatever they can from him to convince him to help them stay in the fight. But when you talk to them privately, they fear that they're just going to have to stick it out for two years without any resolution, that Putin will keep stringing Trump along and not agree to give up fighting. Putin is also looking ahead to this winter and trying to make progress on the battlefield, such that he can possibly take more of the Donbass territory and he can declare victory and go home.

BLITZER: In our new CNN poll, Kim, when it comes to Israel, Israel, the share of Americans calling Israel an ally or friendly has dropped to 61 percent, while 15 percent are actually calling Israel an enemy. How are you interpreting these new numbers?

DOZIER: The shocking thing about these numbers is that -- how many people on the Republican side of the house are joining in antipathy towards Israel. The Israelis could always count on the GOP in the past, but when you have got the left side plus part of the right now joining up, that spells difficulty for Netanyahu after the Trump administration in trying to enact their policies. That is possibly why you're seeing them expand right now, trying to seize more territory in the West Bank. And Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, is allowing the furthest right parts of his coalition to do some of their most extreme measures without checking them because he thinks that Trump at this point has too much going on to crack down on Bibi.

BLITZER: Yes, I suspect -- I don't know if you agree — that this deterioration in the U.S.-Israeli relationship, the weakening of support for Israel is going to hurt Netanyahu in the end-of-October elections coming up in Israel —

DOZIER: Yes.

BLITZER: — that a lot of Israelis are going to blame Netanyahu for this bad U.S.-Israeli relationship now.

DOZIER: Absolutely. Netanyahu is in a really tough situation, in that he's got to keep this coalition together, so he's got to keep the extremists in his coalition happy, but the rank-and-file in Israel are watching their greatest ally slowly turn away from, not against them, but the

antisemitism is on the rise and anti-Israeli sentiment is on the rise. Neither of those things are good for Israel's future.

BLITZER: Yes, and a lot of Israelis will blame Netanyahu for a lot of that. All right, Kim Dozier, thank you very, very much, Pamela.

BROWN: Thank you so much, Kim. And let's go live now to CNN national security correspondent Kylie Atwood at the United Nations. Kylie, what are the headlines from President Trump's address?

KYLIE ATWOOD: Well, President Trump spent a tremendous time of his speech focused on the Iran war, saying that he has a decision to make whether to annihilate Iran or to make a deal with Iran. We have heard this language from President Trump time and time again over the last six months, threaten U.S. strikes against Iran, sometimes following through on those threats and sometimes not. He also recounted what has happened over the last six-plus months, the United States trying to broker deals to end this conflict, turning to the Iranians for being the ones to violate that MOU that they struck earlier this year, but what we also heard from President Trump was that he does believe there will be an actual deal to end this conflict. And listen to what he said about the potential timing of that deal, from his perspective.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: But I have a big decision to make. Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before, maybe one of the greatest in the Middle East or even the world, or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic, and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell with no chance of survival and no hope of future greatness or generations? But I believe we will make a deal right after the election.

ATWOOD: Now, we have heard some of this commentary from the President before. What is different now is that he is here in New York at the United Nations, and so is an Iranian delegation. We heard from Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier this morning saying that the President would be open to meeting with the Iranians. A U.S. official told our colleague Alayna Treene that Trump has been interested in setting up a meeting if the conditions were right for that meeting between U.S. and Iranian officials. Obviously, it could be President Trump, but it also could be members of his delegation here, Steve Witkoff, who has engaged with the Iranians multiple times in recent months. We will watch and see if that comes to fruition. Of course, this is as the world is watching to see what the United States is going to do, because there really doesn't appear to be a breakthrough on the horizon for ending this Iran war any time soon.

BROWN: All right.

BLITZER: All right, Kylie Atwood, thank you very, very much