

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Abd Al-Rahman Al Thani of Qatar and an Exchange With Reporters in Évian-les-Bains, France

June 16, 2026

President Trump. Thank you very much, everybody. I think—we appreciate you being here.

We've had a great meeting. We have a great relationship. The Amir is a fantastic man, respected all over the world. The Prime Minister, likewise. And—but we have to go the Amir first. Do you agree, Mr. Prime Minister?

Prime Minister Muhammad. Of course. Of course, yes. [*Laughter*] Lucky for that.

President Trump. First him.

No, but highly respected people, great people, and we worked very well together.

We have our deal done with Iran, and it should be successful. It goes to a second stage, which I think will be, actually, easier.

I didn't want to attack them last week, but we had no choice. And we did it twice, actually. We were doing it a third time, and we were able to not have to do that. But we have a deal that's a fair deal. It's a good deal.

We are not investing any money in Iran, by the way. We—that rumor got out there yesterday. It was ridiculous. We have the right to go in someday and do—if I want to do something or if somebody wants to do something, but we are not investing any money. We have no obligation to invest any money in Iran.

Working with Qatar and the people of Qatar was really a pleasure. They are—they were tough. They were strong. You know, they are the closest to Iran physically. So, with other countries, I noticed they had to travel about 45 minutes to get there. With you, you could walk right across the border, so you were in a more dangerous position.

But I just—I do have to say, you have—you fought, and you helped us and with great bravery. So I just want to compliment you on that. And you'll always be my friend.

Amir Tamim. Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. It's always a pleasure seeing you.

I want to thank you for your leadership in this very, very important, critical time in the Middle East.

I think, as you mentioned, Mr. President, this is a very important deal. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I think, you know, with this momentum, if we continue like that, Mr. President, I think we can achieve and do great in the region. So it's going to be very important for the region and very important also for Iran as well.

So we are here to help. Whenever, you know, friends ask us to help, we're always here to help.

Of course, also our bilateral relationship, Mr. President. Since your historic visit in Doha last year, our trade partnership is going to reach \$1.2 trillion.

President Trump. Right. That's right.

Amir Tamim. And this is huge. And we have a lot of great investments that we're very proud of as well in the U.S. and also American companies investing in Qatar.

So, overall, you know, we are very, very proud and very happy about this relationship.

And you know, I also—I, once again, thank you very much for your leadership. I think it was a very critical time, but I think you did—you took the right decision.

Thank you.

President Trump. Thank you, Tamim.

Qatar is going to be investing much more than a trillion dollars in the United States. We have over 18. It's going to be \$19.4 or so when it—the new figure's out.

But you know, we set a record. There's never been anything like it. No country in history has had that kind of investment. We'll be having almost \$19.1 or \$19.2 trillion invested in the United States. The record was three 10 years ago from another country when it was hot, but we have the hottest country in the world right now.

But Qatar has been a great investor. And we—really rekindled ourselves when I met with you last year. A year ago. Probably 13—13, 14 months.

Amir Tamim. Yes.

President Trump. That was a good trip.

And, so they're——

Amir Tamim. It was May. May. Last May, I think.

President Trump. Yes, that's right.

Amir Tamim. A year—yes, yes, yes.

President Trump. That was—a great trip that we had. We established—we've—we've been friends for a long time. We've known each other for a long time, but Qatar is investing tremendous amounts of money in our country, and we appreciate that.

Our country is doing—we're building more factories, AI. We're leading AI by a lot. We're building automobile factories. We're building more than we've ever built in the history of our country. Never—no country has ever doing—what we're doing right now, no country has ever been able to do. And those factories will be opening over the next year, year and a half. Some are already open or very soon.

The pharmaceutical companies are coming back. The car companies are coming back from Germany, from Japan, from so many other places—Mexico and Canada. They're all coming back.

We lost them foolishly years ago because we had Presidents that didn't really know what they were doing. They should have never lost, but they're all coming back in beautiful, brandnew, gleaming factories.

In fact, there are a couple of big, old plants, and I said, "Are you going to use that plant?" And they said: "No, we're building brandnew. They're knocking it down." Everything's built brand-new, beautiful. It's jobs.

And the auto business—we're going to bring back probably—we lost 57 percent of our automobile business. I think we're going to bring—bring it mostly back.

And for chips—we were the king of chips, and then it got stolen from us. We were—we went from being the king to having basically no chip business.

The CHIPS Act that was done by Biden was a disaster. Just a stupid thing to do. He handed billions and billions of dollars to people, and then they didn't build a factory.

But we have a different system. We have a system that if they don't build, they can pay tariffs—they have to pay tariffs of upwards of 200 percent. They don't have to pay anything for a little while, but if they don't get their plant built, then we're going to—we would have, I think, 50 percent of the chip industry by the time I leave office. So—maybe more.

They're building mostly coming out of Taiwan, but they're building—and a lot of them, for whatever reason, in Arizona—Arizona and Texas.

But we'll have 50 percent—maybe more than that—of the chip industry.

We're going to have—you know, we'll be making almost all of our pharmaceuticals. And likewise that, if they don't build, they'll have 150- to 200-percent tariff to pay. If they do build, they have no tariff to pay.

So our country has never done anything like this.

And just—I want to mention Iran. We appreciate the relationship we've had over the short period of time with Iran. And the primary thing—it's—you know, we can talk about Iran deal all day long. We're not investing any money. We have the right to if we want, but we're not investing any money.

We didn't pay for it like Obama did. He paid billions of dollars. He paid \$1.7 billion from an airplane, all green cash. It was crazy. I watched that. I—couldn't believe it.

But the one thing that's happening that's of note—frankly, the only thing that really matters to me—is Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, and it says it loud and clear. They're not going to develop it. They're not going to buy it. They're not going to do anything with it. And if they do, they suffer unbelievable consequences. Not just a little bit like—I won't even tell you the consequences, but the consequences are the ultimate consequences.

And with that being said, I hope we have a very good relationship.

But the biggest thing is they will not have a nuclear weapon, and that's the reason I got in, and that's the reason I agreed to sign.

And we originally had—Marco was with me, and they originally wrote that "We will not develop a nuclear weapon." I said: "No, no. You're not going to develop, but you're not going to buy either." So we have—that took another couple of days of time. Everything was—it's ridiculous, but—so we have, they will not develop, purchase, buy, or any other thing. They're not going to acquire a nuclear weapon.

If they do, all hell will rain down on them. And they're not going to do that. I'm—you know?

Now, you talk about regime change. I never cared about regime change. It was never a part, but I guess you have regime change because you know better than anybody: The first group, they're all dead. The second group, they're dead. A part of the third group is gone. And we're dealing with people that I think are very rational people, and they were nice to deal with. They were strong people, smart people. I think, actually, they're smarter than the first and second group. But they're not radicalized, and they're, you know, looking to help their country.

So, again, I don't believe in regime change. You know, I've watched regime changes for years, and they never work. It has to just happen. I can tell you: This is a country where the Amir is so respected—and the Prime Minister is so respected—by the people, and that's the way a country should run. It should run out of respect not of fear.

As you know, at least 42,000 protesters were killed in Iran. Killed. They were protesting. The wrestler.

They had the big event at the White House the other day, the UFC, and they were all talking about—he was a great fighter. And he was hung with his two friends because he spoke something about their regime. It's tough stuff.

So we're very happy that we were involved. We're very, very impressed with Qatar and the way they've handled things, because they were really on the line. They were on the front line. They were being shot at just about as much as anybody, but you were a lot closer. You were right there.

Literally, I could walk in a—every other place, I have to take a plane, but I can walk. So they were really on the line.

And I just want to comment that, you know, you should—I just want to really congratulate you on bravery. I don't know if you get congratulated for bravery, because bravery is something you either have or you don't, and you never know until you test it.

Amir Tamim. Yes.

President Trump. But you were tested——

Amir Tamim. Yes.

President Trump. ——and you had great bravery. Thank you very much.

Amir Tamim. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you. I really appreciate it.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine

Q. Are you going to have a separate meeting with President Zelenskyy? And what would a ——

President Trump. I had one.

Q. What would a Ukraine deal look like?

President Trump. Well, we have one, but we had a good meeting. I'm meeting him later on too. We had a very good meeting.

Q. You're going to meet him separately?

President Trump. Look, Russia should make a deal. Russia's lost tremendous amounts of people and so has Ukraine. Last month, they lost 35,000 soldiers between the two of them. Think of that. This is on a monthly basis. They average 25,000 people, mostly soldiers—young—young, beautiful people. And it's crazy what's going on there.

But we had a meeting. And we'll see how—I spoke with President Putin on Sunday, and it's sort of the same thing. I mean, they just keep going—fighting, losing soldiers. They lose so many soldiers.

This is—not since World War II has anything like this happened. I settled eight wars. This was the one I thought was going to be the easiest to settle.

Amir Tamim. Yes.

President Trump. They just—there's a lot of dislike between the two leaders.

But yes, I'm meeting with him again later on today.

Ukraine/U.S. Security Assistance

Q. And are you going to have a special focus on Ukraine now that Iran has been dealt——

President Trump. I will. We're going to look. Now we focused on—we were focused on Iran. That's——

Q. Yes, sir.

President Trump. ——going to be in the back, in the rearview mirror. But we'll be—I just——

Look, we have nothing to do with it. We sell weapons to them. We don't even give them. Obama gave them 350 billion dollars' worth of weapons—gave—which was crazy.

The European Union pays us full price for weapons. But it's not that, it's that—this—it has no impact on us, other than we sell weapons.

We're thousands of miles away, but the only reason I'm in—I—don't like to see 25,000 young people die every month. Every month, 25,000 people die. Young people. They're just starting their life. They go to this front, and they get blown up, and Ukraine is losing a lot of people too. I mean, the whole thing is ridiculous.

So, yes, I'm going to do whatever I can.

Iran

Q. Mr. President, if the Iranian regime continues to kill their own people, will you still move ahead with this deal?

President Trump. If they refuse to what with their people?

Q. If they continue to kill their own people—the Iranian regime—will you——

President Trump. Well, we're talking—we talked to them about it, and——

Q. And what did they say?

President Trump. ——we see.

I will say the majority of that took place during the first and second regimes, much more so than now. It was much——

Q. Iranians tell me——

President Trump. It was much more severe.

Q. ——that's not the case, Mr. President.

President Trump. But it's a terrible thing.

Yes, do you have a question?

Iran/Nuclear Weapons Development

Q. Yes, Mr. President. What are the—this is for both you and the Amir. What are the economic opportunities for Iran if there's, you know, continued cooperation with the United States moving forward?

President Trump. Well, I think they'd be good. I mean, I can tell you from our standpoint, we have a lot of opportunities all over the world, but the Amir lives right next door. And I think—you know, they have a lot of oil. I think they'll be good.

First, they're going to have to prove themselves, I think, before any of us go in there, but I could—I hope they do well. I hope they do well.

Look, one thing: Whether they do well or poorly, they can't have a nuclear weapon. That's a big thing. If they had a nuclear weapon, they would have blown up Israel, they would have blown up the Middle East, and they probably would have taken a shot at us. We would have gotten them first, I think, but they would have done tremendous damage.

Had we not canceled the Obama nuclear deal, the JCPOA, you would have had them having a nuclear weapon 5 years ago. You know, that expired. That was a road to a nuclear weapon. It was the dumbest deal I've ever seen, other than NAFTA. NAFTA, maybe, was even dumber. But just in terms of a bad deal for us.

Paid them billions and billions of dollars. We pay nothing. They paid them billions of dollars, and it was a disaster. I terminated that in my first term. Had I not terminated—and—we hit them hard. We terminated it.

In my second term, we sent in the B-2 bombers, and we terminated their—I call it the nuclear dust—their enriched material. Right? And totally effectively.

And I remember when CNN, which is fake news—I don't know, you're probably here—but CNN said, "Well, maybe it wasn't that effective."

So the Atomic Energy just reported that it was one of the most devastating bombings that they've ever—the whole mountain collapsed on top of them. And frankly, to go get it, we—we're going to go get it. But to go get it is a big deal, because they say only China and us have the equipment where you can even get—the whole mountain has collapsed on top. We have cameras on it.

You could make the case: Why are you even bothering? Because it's not really valuable. It's—you know, it's probably half a million dollars' worth.

Prime Minister Muhammad. Yes.

President Trump. It's not very valuable stuff. But I think, psychologically, we want to get it.

[At this point, several reporters began asking questions at once.]

Amir Tamim. Can I just—can I just answer? You asked—I think the last couple of months or weeks—I think that wasn't our—we were not interested in, you know, what are the opportunities—economical opportunities in Iran. Our interest, both of us, was to—first of all, to find a deal to stop this war. This is our main target.

But looking at the economy and opportunity, I'm sure there are going to be huge opportunities, and you know, as long—as I said, this is a very important momentum to keep working like that to reach, let's say, the final deal.

After that, Iran will be, you know, of course open for any kind of investments, and I'm sure there are going to be huge opportunities. But, to be honest, you know, we never thought about, you know—our target, you know, is to try to find a deal.

President Trump. Well, they're going to need something, because we blew them up. And you know, you could make the case—I used to make the case that—like, a week ago I said it. Now it's different. We have an agreement. But if you—if we left, we did a great job. If we just left, we did a great job, because it will take them 15, 20 years, maybe, to rebuild.

And we were going to do a much bigger job if the agreement wasn't signed. We would have taken it to a level. But—and if we did that, they would never, ever, I believe, be able to rebuild. Too much.

Israel/Lebanon/Hizballah Political-Paramilitary Organization/President Ahmad Husayn al-Shara' of Syria

Q. Mr. President, what are the expectations for Israel? Can this deal survive if Israel attacks Lebanon?

President Trump. It can. And you know, I consider that the minor war. The—Iran's the big one, but we have that little pinprick out there that constantly rears its head, and that's Hizballah.

And, you know, I was very responsible for Syria. And the man that's running Syria now is a person that I put there, along with President Erdoğan and some others.

He's done an amazing job of pulling it together. He's not a Boy Scout, but he's done an amazing job of pulling it together. And he is very good with Hizballah. Does not like them.

And I'll tell you what: Israel's fighting Hizballah too long, and too many people are being killed. And you don't have to knock down an apartment house every time you're looking for somebody, because there are a lot of people in those apartment houses, and they're not all Hizballah, that I can tell you.

And I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hizballah, because to be honest with you, I think they'd do a better job of doing it.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

And I didn't like Syria. I didn't like where 2 hours before we're signing the agreement that there was an attack in Lebanon, in Beirut. It was right in—it wasn't like in the southern side and, you know—it was in Beirut. I did not like that. I let them know that I didn't like it, not at all.

But I think that Syria, you know, he's pulled that country together amazingly quickly. He's very capable. And he's been very good for me. He's protected everything that I've asked for. He's done—and if Israel can't do the job without killing everyone else, he'll do the job. Syria will do the job.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel/Iran/Nuclear Weapons Development

Q. Are you frustrated with Netanyahu, sir?

President Trump. No, we have a great relationship. And we're talking about some end details. I didn't like that he did an attack based on a—

You know, there was a very minor, little thing with some drones that were released. And he ends up doing a very—I saw that attack. I saw where that bomb went. Did you see what happened—that was not—that was a vicious—that was too much. You know, you can do too much also.

But we've had a very effective relationship. Without us—without the United States, there would be no Israel. Without me, there would be no Israel, because no other President was willing to do what I did.

I've had a great relationship with Bibi, but now Bibi has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon.

Lebanon used to be a great country. It was a country where you had professors, doctors, lawyers. The great intellect was in Lebanon. Now it's just—it's terrible.

I would say of all countries, they've been treated the worst. And they can't defend themselves. And they have Hizballah, which is a problem for them.

So, no, I'm not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hizballah.

They should have been able to do the job faster. It just goes on forever. And when that happens, it throws a negative light on the big deal—and that's the deal with Iran.

So when you ask me about Bibi: an unbelievable relationship. But Israel would have been blown up a long time ago had I not gotten involved.

Two things I did. I terminated the Iran nuclear deal. Barack Hussein Obama sold out Israel for Iran. He went to Iran. He sold them out. How anybody can vote for this guy or the party—the "Dumocrats," I call them, because they're dumb. They're dumb people. That's number one. How anybody can vote for them—and the second was the B-2 bombers. Just—totally just destroyed.

So they had the right there—the JCPOA—I watched these politicians—I watched this Senator Reed that nobody ever heard of the other day. "Well, this deal is the same as the deal Barack Obama"—no. This deal is a wall to a nuclear weapon. His deal was a road to a nuclear weapon. My deal: They can't have a nuclear—they get blown up. If they have a nuclear weapon, they get blown up.

In his deal, they were allowed to have a nuclear weapon. If—in all fairness to Bibi, Bibi—I remember very well—Bibi came to Washington and begged—he begged Obama not to make that deal. And Obama was on the side of Iran, not Israel. And he made the deal. That deal was a disaster.

I terminated that deal. And if I didn't terminate—and was very tough after the termination. And if I didn't do that—Howard knows better than anybody—if I didn't terminate that deal, I believe that they would have—Israel wouldn't be here right now.

And the second one was what we did with respect to the nuclear dust, as I call it, right? We blew it up. The mountain collapsed on top. It was—you can't get to it. And had—and they were 2 weeks away from having a nuclear weapon.

And if they had a nuclear weapon, they would have used it on Israel and, I hate to say it—and probably the rest of the Middle East, because they had all those missiles aimed at the Amir, at Saudi Arabia, at U.A.E., at Kuwait, at Bahrain.

I mean, the biggest surprise in this whole thing—I didn't think you guys would—I thought he would aim at Israel. But he didn't aim at Israel, much less. He aimed at your countries.

And actually, that was a mistake for them, because it brought us these countries—in particular, the five countries. It brought us—I mean, he even hit Turkey once.

Prime Minister Muhammad. Yes.

President Trump. I never understood it. I—nobody's going to understand it.

That's the problem. They're totally irrational people. And those people are now gone. And I think Iran has rational leadership now.

Q. Is Netanyahu on your—

President Trump. But you wouldn't have—

If it weren't for the United States of America, with me, and—because Obama was the opposite—Israel would not exist right now. Israel would have been blown off the face of the earth. Hundred percent. And every smart person in Israel knows that.

Okay. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in the Hôtel Royal Evian. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio; President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey; and Secretary of Commerce Howard L. Lutnick.

Categories: Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Évian-les-Bains, France; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Qatar, Amir Tamim; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Qatar, Prime Minister Muhammad.

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