



## FROM IRAN: Why the West Will Lose

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from the gorgeous Mellat Park in Tehran, Iran on July 11th, 2026 for Reason2Resist. What you just saw was some footage that I shot from the train from Mashhad to Tehran this morning at about 7 a.m. And you may have been able to make out in the distance in one of these clips I just shared with you some camels gallivanting in the open desert; an unusual sight for somebody like myself who was born and raised in Canada. In any case, we arrived here this morning at around 11 a.m. after having left Mashhad last night on that same train at around 10 p.m., so it was around a 13-hour train ride. And I will be heading out to a destination I'm not inclined to disclose at the moment on my way back to Canada. I'll be heading out later tonight departing Iran and for the time being I anticipate that this will be my final report from Iran for this particular trip unless something that really obliges me to do another report happens between now and my departure time this evening. I'm going to share with you at the end of this report which is going to focus first and foremost on the most recent developments in Trump's insane and escalating war of aggression on Iran. I'm going to share with you after that and some other issues of a big picture nature that I want to comment upon the last footage that I shot when I was in Mashhad, two things in particular. We were afforded the opportunity to visit the former home of Imam Ali Khamenei, whose body was laid to rest on July 9th in the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad. He lived in this home for about ten years, right up until the time of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. And in this brief video, which is a tour of the home that he lived in at the time, you'll hear about his humble life prior to becoming the Supreme Leader Iran and also how he was surveyed by the SAVAK, the vicious intelligence arm of the Shah's regime. And the other thing I'm going to show you is that yesterday for the first time I actually went into the interior of the Imam Reza shrine and saw the tomb of the eighth Imam of the Shia faith and that was quite a powerful experience seeing in particular how the Shia faithful gather around the tomb responded to house; they were overcome with emotion in that

room. And just adjacent to where the tomb is situated, they have laid to rest Imam Khamenei. Now we were not able to actually go into the room where his tomb is situated but we stood outside it and you'll see not only that it was very close to the tomb of Imam Reza, just a short walk away dozens of metres at most, but also that this is an absolutely stunning work of architecture, the Imam Reza Shrine, the entire complex really, but particularly the building in which these tombs are held or situated. So I'll show you that at the end of this video and in the interim, let me get into the most recent developments in this insane war of aggression.

But before I begin, let me remind you that if you're not already a subscriber to Reason2 Resist, please do become one. Help us to expand the reach of our unapologetic, on the ground, resistance journalism. And if you find this video to be informative, please like and share it. So with that, the latest news emanating from Washington via the ever reliable mouthpiece of Donald Trump, Barak Ravid of Axios, is that the Trump regime, has given the Islamic Republic until today, Saturday July 11th, to renounce control over the Strait of Hormuz and to pledge that it will not attack any vessels at all and that the transit through the Strait will be free and open without any control by the Islamic republic. And on top of all of that, they have to say in some suitably abject language, the Iranians, that they made a mistake in attacking these vessels that transited through the Strait of Hormuz without their permission. And this article, of course, is based entirely as are virtually all of the articles that Barak Ravid has written, the former Israeli intelligence agent, about this war on unnamed US officials. Let me tell you folks, if you still believe in articles that are based on unnamed US officials, particularly those written by Barak Ravid, I think you need to go back to elementary school and learn the basics of a healthy dose of scepticism. I mean, seriously, there is no reason whatsoever to attach any weight to anything that Barak Ravid has to say about this war, Donald Trump, Israel, geopolitics generally, particularly when it is based upon unnamed US officials or unnamed Israeli officials or unnamed officials from some vassal of Washington. Nonetheless, I do want to point out one other thing about this article, that one of the unnamed officials said that there will be harsh consequences if Iran doesn't comply with the deal. And by the way, compared to some of the genocidal language that Trump himself has used, that is a rather mild threat. And the other thing is that Ravid says in this article that after Iran this week attacked vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, that the United States struck Iran twice, there were two rounds of bombing. Nowhere in his article does he actually mention that the Iranians hit back. He doesn't even say that they attempted, let alone actually did strike US military bases in the region.

Now, why is this omission journalistically significant? Because by leaving that information out, it conveys the impression that the Iranian's did nothing. That they just sat there passively while they got pounded in two rounds of bombing. And that will mislead people about the true nature of the struggle that is happening in the Strait of Hormuz and the capabilities of the Iranians to hit back and their determination to do so. It will cause people to misjudge, the readership of Axios, what is actually going on here. And I should also add that the other corporate media outlets around the West faithfully reproduce whatever Barak Ravid, any so-called breaking story, any bombshell that this clown puts out based on these ubiquitous unnamed US officials, they repeat it all over the Western corporate media. So it becomes the

dominant story, even though it has zero credibility whatsoever. So this is extremely misleading reporting. It is at best journalistic malpractice. And it only drives home the point that Barak Ravid, he is no journalist. That man is at best a scribe for the Trump regime; an uncritical scribe and at worst an agent of the genocidal child murdering Israeli military.

Now another piece of significant news is that the Europeans are saying that they will consider, they will consider some form of transit fee or service fee that will be payable to Iran under some as yet to be devised regulatory regime for the Strait of Hormuz. Now, this on the surface seems, it seems almost as though the door is opening a crack for the Iranians to achieve their objective, at least from the perspective of the Europeans. And let's be clear, the Europeans are in serious trouble here. They are far more vulnerable to a sustained closure of the Strait of Hormuz than the United States because they have far less oil and gas of their own. And they should be desperate to be getting the Strait of Hormuz opened and if they were acting in the interest of their people, they would readily pay some reasonable fee to get the ships out. But so far they fought that tooth and nail. Now, as I say this on the surface appears as though there may be some room for compromise, but here's the kicker folks, they will only agree to it if they agree to it at all, if the payment of the fee is voluntary. So the first question you should be asking yourself is: If you're not actually obliged to pay this fee to Iran in order to get your vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, why the hell would you pay it? Who is actually going to end up paying this fee? I mean, maybe some people as an act of goodwill, some companies, for reasons that are unknown to me, this is not in the nature of what for-profit companies do, nor is it in the nature of what Western governments do, who have demonstrated over decades implacable hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, but let's suppose that some shipping companies or governments do actually pay a fee voluntarily. The amount of money that ultimately will be paid to Iran will be negligible. It will not even be remotely sufficient to compensate Iran for the devastating forms of warfare that the West has waged on it for decades. Economic warfare, military aggression, cyber warfare, lawfare, you know, for example, at the United Nations Security Council. Iran, I think at this stage can fairly be said to be owed by way of just reparations somewhere in the range of trillions of dollars. So this voluntary scheme is a fraud.

And let me tell you what I think is going on here. There may be people who get all excited about this and say: Oh, the Europeans are going to actually do a deal that will satisfy the Iranians. No, what this is, is the Europeans. In their dastardly, cowardly, sneaky, slimy, con-man sort of way, coming up with some scheme which they know is not going to result in significant compensation ever being paid to Iran, but which they believe might be a face-saving off-ramp for the so-called Iranian regime to give up on its demand that there be fees paid for transiting the Strait of Hormuz. In any case, I think this scheme, anything involving purely voluntary payments will be rejected out of hand by the Iranians and the existential struggle for the Strait of Hormuz will continue and it will ultimately be lost by the West because there is no military solution to Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz for reasons that I've talked about at length on this programme, I'm not going to repeat them now. And the only real question is how much damage is Trump and his vassals in the West and his Arab autocratic vassals, the dictators in the region who serve him, how much damage are they

going to do to their own economies and to the global economy before they finally pay the piper? That's the only real question here. And I'm not really interested, nor should you be, in those people complaining that any compulsory fees payable to Iran would violate international law. First of all, as I've covered, that is debatable. But secondly, if you are perpetrating grotesque violations of international law, including against Iran itself, then you have forfeited any moral authority or right to invoke international law. And in fact, the West has taken a total wrecking ball to it. It is virtually now devoid of credibility and is having no meaningful impact on the conduct of Western states or their proxies around the world. So to hell with you and your international law. The only people in whose mouth I attach weight or whose pronouncements about international law I regard as weighty and worthy of consideration are those who actually make a good faith effort to comply with it. And that certainly doesn't include any Western government.

Now moving on I want to talk about some larger picture issues. Actually, before I do that, for what it's worth, my prediction is there's going to be more warfare. I don't know if there's gonna be a quote-unquote "harsh response" when this day inevitably goes by without the Iranian government complying with the demands that were communicated to it through Barak Ravid and Axios by unnamed US officials, I don't think they're going to comply, I'm virtually certain of it. And therefore, there's going to be another moment of truth for the Trump regime. What is it going to do? Probably it will opt for violence. How much remains to be seen. But this is going to go on for some time and unless and until, and I may sound like a broken record here, the US economy is screaming in pain and the Iranian government has inflicted real deterrence, real deterrents on the United States, will there be any hope of a permanent end to this decades-long depraved war that the West has been waging on the Islamic Republic of Iran?! So now, before I show you this footage that I mentioned at the outset, I want to discuss some big picture issues. And first of all, I'm going to start by referring to a comment on X that I saw from a lawyer whom I know, a Canadian human rights lawyer. He has done some good work in the past. I believe him to be anti-Zionist, but he is, I would say, relatively mainstream in Canada. And I may have met him personally at some point or spoken to him in a Zoom call at some point, but I don't really know him that well; I know of him. And generally speaking, he has done good work as a human rights lawyer. And just as a matter of professional courtesy and because I think he has done some good work as a human rights lawyer, I'm not going to name him. I'm not interested in embarrassing the guy, I'm referring to him only because it's a good launching point for this discussion, which is this issue that I want to take up with you. And so he said to me, he started it off by coming on to my X feed and replying to a post that I put out about something extraordinary I had seen here in Iran, and his reply was something along the lines of: I don't know why you are honouring that man. And by that man, he clearly meant the martyr Imam Khamenei. And so this brings me to the whole question of what my opinion of Imam Khamenei is. And let me tell you that I have been asked that question. I've done probably about two dozen interviews here for a variety of Iranian media outlets and some foreign media outlets. I've been on national television in Iran on several occasions. It could be well over ten or 15 at this point, plus I've quoted in the online media. And again and again during the past week, I have been asked what I think of Imam Khamenei. And I'm going to tell you exactly what I told the Iranian

media, which is my honest response. I would never give anything but an honest response to this question. First of all, for virtually my entire life, adult life, I have heard nothing but unrelenting criticism, negativity and bombast about Imam Khamenei and the Islamic Republic of Iran. And of course, that has come overwhelmingly from Western governments and from Western corporate media. And also, it should be said some mainstream Western human rights organisations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Now I attach absolutely no weight whatsoever and I'm telling you exactly what I told the Iranian media, I have learned in the course of my life to attach a zero weight, zero weight to what the Western corporate media and Western governments say about any government that refuses to be a vassal of Washington and there's no question that the Iranian government refuses to be a vassal of Washington, whether you're talking about Venezuela, the Russian Federation China, North Korea, Yemen, you name it, I don't give a damn. I couldn't care less. A rat's ass is what I attach that much weight and importance to the opinions of Western governments and corporate media about governments around the world that refuse to be vassals of Washington.

That's number one. Now that doesn't mean that I automatically think these governments are good actors. Just because I don't attach weight to their criticisms doesn't I think that they are saintly or virtuous or that they deserve my praise. But all I'm saying is I come to the whole question with an open mind, notwithstanding the fact that I have been told all of these terrible things about the government of the Islamic Republic. So that's the first thing. The second thing is I know precious little objective information about the life of Imam Khamenei, very very little. I've learned a good bit on this trip but still it's just a small tiny fraction of the arc of this man's life that I've become familiar with and I'm really not in a position to make any broad, sweeping, confident pronouncements about what sort of individual he was. And again, this is exactly what I said to the Iranian media. Now here's what I do know. Here's what I can say with a high degree of confidence. First of all, he was not murdered along with members of his immediate family by the United States and Israel because of human rights violations or concerns about democracy or international legal violations or threats of Iran developing a nuclear weapon. That's all bullocks. That had nothing to do with why they murdered him. They murdered him and his close family members because he refused to be a vassal of Washington. It's as simple as that. He refused to sell out his people and hand over the treasures of this wealthy, rich nation, 5,000-year-old civilization, to control by the depraved paedophiles in Washington and Tel Aviv, and for that he paid with his life. That is a certainty. We can say this with the utmost confidence because of the long and sordid record of Western governments of lying about respect for international law and human rights and eliminating, killing, torturing, persecuting people in leadership positions in the non-western world in particular who refused to be vassals of Washington. And just the fact that they killed him at the same time as the Israelis and the Americans were carrying out the most in-your-face audacious genocide in human history, that tells you all you need to know about their real motivation for killing this man. What else do I know about Imam Khamenei? I know that he was in effect the leader of the most courageous and effective resistance movement, and by resistance I mean resistance to Western hegemony, in the world today, and the one that has made by far the greatest sacrifices in the world today. He was the leader of that movement, certainly a leader of that movement. And the third thing I know about Imam Khamenei is that

he could have easily sold out his if you'd wanted to. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for him to do what, for example, the Arab autocrats have done or what the European vassals of Washington have done. How they've sold out their people and their countries, these traitors time and time again in order to enrich themselves and empower themselves and glorify themselves and satisfy their gigantic egos by putting themselves in positions of power and having microphones constantly shoved in their mouths and you know living in palatial prime ministerial and presidential residences and eating fillet mignon and foie gras and sipping on the finest wine and champagne, all at taxpayer expense. He could have gone down that path, like so many before him, but he said no. He refused, and that's why they killed him. And for that reason alone, I am fully prepared to honour this man.

I don't know what else he may or may not have done in his life that was virtuous or evil, I'm not in a position to evaluate the vast majority of his life, but I can say those things with confidence and for that reason alone he does deserve deep respect on the part of people all around the world, at least those who care about justice, sovereignty of nations, equality and anti-imperialism. Now, again, this is not in some way, shape, or form an endorsement of everything he has ever said or done. Do not take this as such a statement. I simply don't know enough about the man's life in order to go any further than I've just gone. And I also want to say that the supposition that by coming here – and this is the very first time I've actually said on my programme what I think of Ali Khamenei, I've said it on Iranian television this week many times because I was constantly asked the question. But up until now, all I've been doing on my own platform is reporting what I'm seeing. That's it, reporting what I'm seeing, because I think it's very important that people understand what tens of millions of Iranians actually think about Imam Khamenei, which brings me to the whole subject of public opinion in this country.

I want to just point out that it is customary in the West that we attach in the public discourse on a daily basis enormous weight to public opinion polls offered up by corporate entities, most of which are operated for a profit, to guide us in our understanding of how the public views various issues of importance. Okay, we rely upon these polls every single day. And these polls, in broad strokes how they work is the polling firm will go and pick a statistically significant sample, randomly selected sample of people from a targeted population whose opinion they want to assess, and they'll ask them a question and they'll get an answer. It can be done in person, but more often than not, nowadays it's done electronically, it's done by telephone, so they're not even face-to-face, and they then extrapolate from the answers that they receive from this tiny little sample to the broader population, and based upon a statistical formulation, they'll come out with a conclusion that this represents public opinion within the targeted population within a certain range plus or minus two percent or plus and minus three percent and we routinely rely upon these polls. Now I'm not going to tell you that you shouldn't rely upon these polls, I think there are a lot of legitimate questions about the accuracy of polls in the West for a whole variety of reasons, all I'm going to say is this: the people who answering these questions in these polls, there's no cost to them of lying. There's absolutely no cost to them of lying. It's not like, you know, they'll be tried for perjury if they are determined to have lied to the pollster. And all they got to do is basically type an answer onto

a keyboard or say yes or no in a conversation on the telephone. They may or may not be telling the truth. They may, or may, not feel strongly about the answer that they give. They may just feel that way on that particular day, but the next day they have a completely different view about the question that was put to them. So it might be just some kind of transitory feeling that they expressed to the pollster, which doesn't really tell you much about the general views within the population.

But the bottom line is here, the people who respond to these polls, there's no cost to them of lying or offering up some answer that is ill-considered, is just a fleeting impression or feeling that they have. There is no cost. So let's compare this to what I witnessed here this week. What I witnessed here this week was millions of people – this is what I saw with my own eyes, okay. This is not the total number, because I was at these funeral processions and these prayer gatherings in massive mosques only for a few hours at a time. The actual events took place for far more time than I was physically present. But while I was there, three days in Tehran and two days in Mashhad, I saw millions of people with my own eyes cumulatively over that period of time. The number is certainly in the tens of millions. According to the Iranian government, it's somewhere between 40 and 43 million people in total. They came to this conclusion, they say, using a variety of methods, including the number of passengers using the metro system in Tehran. They looked at cell phone activity. They looked at bank card activity, things of that nature. In addition, there was extensive aerial footage, helicopters overhead, drone footage and so forth. So they say they looked at a variety of sources and it was 40 to 43 million, which would make it by far the largest funeral in recorded history. I can't verify. I haven't seen the data that they rely upon. They only described in broad terms how they came to this conclusion. But what I can say is that I myself saw millions of people in the streets grieving the passing. And I walked among them. I was in that great distance. I walked among them every time. Listened to them and on some occasions actually spoke to them and interviewed them. And I myself saw millions of people in the relatively short time that I was actually in or around those funeral processions. So it seems to me a virtual certainty; and I was not present at all in Iraq, in Najaf or Karbala where there were millions of people apparently. So I think it's safe to say that there were tens of millions of people, 20 million I would say at least. And the number may be as high as 40.

Now Iran has a population in the range of about 93 million people. 93 million, and the overwhelming majority of those people, I assure you, were Iranians. There were foreigners there, but they probably constituted less than ten percent, I would estimate, just based upon my personal interactions with people, less than ten percent of the total number. So you are talking about a huge swath of the Iranian population. Is it a majority? No. But it is a large segment of the Iranian population. It is at a bare minimum, a very large minority of the Iranian population and this act of support, this expression of support had a cost. The cost was you actually had to go out in public in searing heat at a time when your country was being bombed by the child-murdering Trump regime and spend hours of your time, not just actually there at the procession, getting to it was quite a chore. I saw people walking in the blazing heat kilometres from and to their residences just to get to the location of the funeral procession. So you may say this is not an enormous cost, but it is a cost. It's a hell of a lot

bigger cost than the cost that one must pay to answer a pollster over the telephone or via your computer.

Okay, so what am I saying here? I'm saying to you that I think that the evidence that I witnessed of support for the martyred Supreme Leader of Iran with my own eyes and I heard with my own ears is much more weighty than a poll, because of the fact that I literally saw these people out there in conditions that expose them to risk, in conditions that required them to expend a significant amount of their time during a period of considerable hardship for this country and I saw them cry, I saw them shout, I heard them demand justice. To me this is much more compelling than some nameless individual whom some for-profit or not-for-profit pollster says gave a particular answer in a survey that took a few seconds for them to fill out with there being no risk no cost to them whatsoever of misrepresenting their position or offering up some view that was just some transitory fleeting opinion that they happen to have in that particular moment. Okay, this is probably in my view, the most compelling credible evidence you could have of support for a political or religious figure; the fact that people come out, spend hours of their time in very harsh weather conditions, at a time when their country is being bombed by the most destructive, maniacal, evil power that the world has ever seen, that to me is the most compelling evidence of support that you could possibly have.

Now, again, does this mean the majority of the Iranian population feels this way about Imam Khamenei? I don't know. I can't say that with a high level of confidence. It may well be, but I can only tell you about what I saw with my own eyes. And what I say with my eyes completely undermines the Western narrative. The Western narrative being that only a tiny fanatical fringe of the population supports Imam Khamenei or supported him and supports the Islamic Republic. And if they are given any kind of an opportunity to overthrow them and rid themselves of this so-called regime, they will do it in a heartbeat and happily replace it with some regime that is well disposed towards Washington and the West generally. That's the narrative. Well, what we saw this week, my friends, blows that narrative out of the water. And that is why I came here. My message to that lawyer who put that comment out there, even though I do, for the reasons I've articulated, I respect what Imam Khamenei did in his life, that's not, again, an endorsement of everything he ever did. I don't know enough to give an endorsement of everything he ever did, and if I did have a fulsome view about his life or knowledge about his life, I may have some very serious criticisms to offer, but I don't. So it so happens for the reasons I've articulated that I do think he merits our respect. But that's not why I came here. I didn't come here to honour him or anyone else. I came to discover whether in fact the Western narrative about the Islamic Republic of Iran is true. And we can now say to my mind beyond a shadow of a doubt that it's complete and utter bullocks.

You may not like it. You may think that sucks. You may detest the Islamic Republic of Iran, but there are tens of millions of people here in this country who support the Islamic republic of Iran who respected or even revered the martyred Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that is a reality that we have to deal with. If you want to have an intelligent, humane foreign policy, you have to do it in reality. You don't deal with the world as you wish



it to be. You deal with the world as it is. And any politician out there that is qualified to hold public office will know this. And if you don't know this, then you've got no goddamn business holding public office. You should be run out of town, run out of the capital, run out of the halls of power because you are going to lead us down the path to misery and destruction by pursuing a foreign policy that is based upon your own personal fantasies and your own personal wish list rather than on the obvious demonstrable facts of this world. So that's why I came here. There will be people out there, you know, bad faith actors who will want to insinuate this happens every single time I come to a country like this and provide this kind of coverage, factual coverage, in a country that is being targeted by these depraved criminals from the West, I get accused of having some monetary motivation for doing this. So I'm just going to lay it out there. I haven't been paid a dime by anybody to do this, subject to one qualification which I'm going to explain to you in a moment. Not only have I not been compensated for my time in reporting here, it's been, believe me, a full-time job. There's been no partying going on here, okay. This has been hard work every day for the eight days that I've been here and it's been very uncomfortable work frankly because of the heat and we spent so much time out in the blazing hot sun photographing these events and speaking to people in the streets. It has not been what I would call a gay old time. It has been really hard, gruelling work, and I've not been paid a dime for it. And in addition, I've paid my own expenses. As I do on all of these trips, every single time I've gone to Lebanon, every time I have gone to Palestine, every time I've come to Iran, I have paid my own expenses, and I have not been compensated a dime for my work, subject to this one qualification.

The qualification is that my YouTube channel, Reason2Resist, is monetized and in addition, some people do make donations to our channel. And by the way, if you're interested in doing that, look at the description of this video. I very rarely, by the way, ask for donations. I almost never do it, but since I'm on the subject of donations, if you are interested in donating and helping us to do this work and expand our on the ground coverage, we do encourage you to make donations and you can find out how to do that by looking at the description to this video. But let me assure you that since we founded this channel about a little less than two years, we have not generated enough money from monetization, payments and donations to cover our expenses. Here I'm talking about all the expenses because of course the travelling expenses when we do on the ground reporting is just part of our expenses. We have expenses related to editing, we have staff who do some of our editing, we have various types of subscriptions and software and we have to buy computer equipment, photographic equipment, and so forth. I have an office that I use in Montreal strictly for the purpose of doing reports for Reason2Resist. I have to pay rent for that office. So when you add it all up, from the time we founded Reason2Resist a little less than two years ago, it exceeds the money we have received from monetization and from donations. So this has actually cost me money, okay? Not only do I not get paid for doing what is in effect a full-time job, some weeks it's more than a full time job, and it involves considerable personal risk when I come to war zones, as I have this week, not only am I not paid, but I've actually had to dole some money out of my own pocket in order to do this work.

So look, that doesn't mean that everything that I report is correct. I try to be as accurate as possible. It doesn't even know all of my opinions are sound opinions. I try to have good opinions, well reasoned opinions that are based upon evidence. You may want to criticise the substance of what I've had to say in some report or another, but don't tell me that I have some ulterior motive for doing this work, motherfucker. Okay, I got no ulterior motive. In fact, what I just told you, how many people who do journalism can say this, what I've just told? That they're not paid for the work that they do, and that they actually have to dole money out of their pockets to do it, even when they are putting their lives on the line to do that work. So I'm saying all of this for one simple reason, all the haters out there, who are going to want to attack my bona fides and claim that I have some personal gain to accrue as a result of doing this work, that I'm somehow have been incentivized to be an agent of the regime in Iran, you know go to hell all of you. Okay, you people, I hardly know anybody at all, particularly amongst this population of haters who would be willing to do the work that I have been doing for nearly the past two years with no compensation and also to dole out money out of their own pocket even when doing that work has entailed significant personal risk. I don't know that any of these people who criticise me have ever done such a thing. And I really doubt they ever have or ever will. So yeah, to hell with all of you haters out there.

Now with that, I think I've covered off pretty much everything I wanted to say, except actually two items before I show you this footage I mentioned at the outset. Number one, in one of the speeches I was asked to give here, I mentioned at the outset of the speech, a wonderful documentary called *Alger, la Mecque des révolutionnaires*. It was produced, I think, in 2017 by a very talented documentary filmmaker from Algeria. I may get his name wrong here, but as I recall, his name was Ben Slama, something along those lines. And I do apologise to him if I've mispronounced his name. In any case, what is this documentary about? And by the way, if you don't speak French, the title means: Algiers, the Mecca of revolutionaries. And so this documentary is about the period, the few years following Algeria's winning of independence in a brutal war in which the savages in the French regime murdered millions of Algerians because they simply wanted to be sovereign and to have their own country and to rid themselves of this colonial pestilence that had afflicted them for so long. So they finally achieved independence in 1962 and for a number of years, particularly when a leader by the name of Ben Bella was in power in Algeria, Algiers, the capital of Algeria did actually serve as the Mecca of revolutionaries. It was frequented by people like Malcolm X, members of the Black Panthers, Nelson Mandela, Patrice Lumumba, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and many other leading figures from revolutionary movements around the world. And unfortunately, eventually, for a variety of reasons which are discussed in some detail in that documentary, which I've watched several times and I highly commend it to you, Algiers ceased to play that role. Well, what I told people in my speech earlier this week when I talked about this documentary is that today, the Mecca of revolutionaries is right here, Tehran. Tehran is and should be the place on which revolutionaries around the world converge in order to discuss, cooperate, collaborate in the liberation of oppressed peoples all around this world by any and all means necessary. That's what it should be. That's when it can be. And I think that that's what very much has become. And it's interesting to me that the

predecessor Mecca of revolutionaries was also from a predominantly Muslim country, like Iran is. What significance you take from that, I leave it to you to decide.

In any case, the other thing I want to share with you before I show you this footage is that when I was walking back on the night that they buried the martyred Imam Khamenei at the spectacular Imam Reza Shrine – really the footage you're about to see I think will give you some sense of its extraordinary beauty – as I was walking back to my hotel that night a woman, an Iranian woman, stopped me in the street. She saw that I was talking into my camera in English and that I was wearing a badge, a journalist identification. And she spoke impeccable English, but she was clearly Iranian. She had an accent. And she said to me, first of all, that she couldn't thank me enough for coming to her country and telling the West the truth about Iran. And then she looked into my camera, which I stupidly thought was turned on, but it wasn't. And she said to me, look all around me. And she was surrounded, of course, by masses of people mourning the martyr Ali Khamenei. She said, this is Iran. This is the real Iran. And then she pointed at herself. She said I am not AI. I'm a real human being and I'm speaking to you here from Iran today. And this is Iran. So, with that, let me turn over to you the footage that I shot first of the interior of the Imam Reza Shrine. The Imam Reza Shrine, this is for the eighth Imam of the Shia faith and the only one who is buried in Iran. And when I was there, I was told that people who are faithful Shia, members of our entourage, that tens of millions of people come to the Shrine every year. Oftentimes, it's almost like the Shrine of last hope. They come when all else has failed; they're on the verge of bankruptcy, they have some terminal illness, their marriage has broken down, the person that they love deeply has abandoned them. They come to this Shrine to be saved and to be revived and to find hope. And I was told many a story while I was there about miracles that they told me had happened when people came to the Shrine seeking assistance in their hour of need from Imam Reza. In any case, this is a belief that is widely shared amongst the Shia here, that this shrine does serve that purpose and that may help you to understand why you're about to see so much emotion amongst the faithful who were there at the time when I visited. And then afterwards, as I say, you'll see a brief report from the former residents of the martyred Imam Khamenei in the ten years prior to the Islamic Revolution.

Thank you very much for watching our coverage from Iran during the past eight days. For me personally, of course, I hope very, very deeply that our reporting has enlightened you. That is the primary motivation for our coming here and doing what we do, but even if, and I would be very saddened if this were true, we didn't actually enlighten a single human being on this planet by means of our reporting during the past week, I still will feel with all my heart and soul that coming here was eminently worth it because this was what I saw during this week, one of the most marvellous experiences of my life. I've never seen anything like it and I doubt I ever will again.

**DL:** This is where the martyred supreme leader Ali Khamenei has been entombed.

**DL:** The masses of people who have come to see his final resting place. That is the tomb of Imam Reza.

**DL:** This is where they have placed the martyred Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. So you can see it's very, very close to the tomb of Imam Reza, which is a sign of great respect.

**DL:** Good day everybody, it's Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Mashhad, Iran on July 8th, 2026. I'm standing in the courtyard of what used to be the residence of the martyred Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei. We were, we as in the foreign journalists in our entourage, offered the opportunity to come here and to see how he lived, this man in his 30s. He, we were told, lived in this house for about ten years, ten years previous to the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and we're going to share with you some footage and commentary from a local cleric who is familiar with the history of this residence. And you'll see as we approach what used to be the Supreme Leader's residence and as we tour the interior, that it's a very simple, very austere residence. And frankly, if we hadn't been told that this was formerly the residence of the Supreme Leader, we wouldn't have recognised it from the street. And as soon as I saw it, I thought to myself, I tried to imagine what, let's say, some Trumpian figure from the halls of power in the West would want his or her former residence to look like. I suspect it would be a lot more conspicuous and lavish than what we found here today. In any case, let's have a closer look at the exterior and in the interior and hear from the cleric who guided us about the history of this place.

**Translator:** In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, I extend my deepest condolences on the occasion of Muharram and also on the location of martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

**Translator:** It's an old neighbourhood in Mashhad, it's called Sarshur. And this is Milan 27, well known as Ulama scholars. There were lots of Islamic scholars here living in this alley.

**Translator:** In the year 1346 Iranian calendar, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei purchased 500 metre land here with the help of his father and his father-in-law. His father-in-law was one of the merchants of that time.

**Translator:** And the land which he had purchased was 500 metres. But because he didn't have enough money to build the place, he divided it into parts. He gives 250 metres of the land to someone else to build a four story store building; two story for the Supreme Leader and two story for the constructor.

**Translator:** Okay, Iran's Supreme Leader used to live here up until the victory of the revolution in 1979.

**Translator:** He had lived in rented houses, four rented houses before purchasing this land.

**Translator:** The government intelligence force of the Shah, the supermarket was a cover and the owner was the intelligence agent.

**Translator:** Well, the guy reported all the visits that were taking place here. Martyr Beheshti, Martyred Motahhari; revolutionary figures of that time.

**Translator:** Okay, well, when Ayatollah Khamenei at that time finds out that he's a secret agent, he has a plan that when he receives guests, he sends them out from the back door. And also sometimes when he has guests, he sends his children to do some shopping from there in order to keep them busy and they can have their meetings freely. This was the home and then these two blocks next to each other are 500 square metres...

**DL:** You know, it's remarkable how simple this has remained, you know, they haven't turned it into like a Trumpian shrine to his Greatness. You would not even know it if you weren't led here by knowledgeable people.

**Translator:** Well, warm welcome to all. The whole place that you are in right now belonged to the martyred Supreme Leader and he has been living here for ten years till 1979.

**Translator:** The tree that you see growing on the wall has been planted by the Supreme Leader. The thick tree has been planted by the martyred Supreme Leader.

**Translator:** After the Islamic Revolution, when the Islamic Revolution was victorious, the Supreme Leader sold this property to his brother. Like already told, there are two doors for this building that sometimes they use one for entrance, the other for exit, in order to control the visitors who are coming here, the revolutionaries who are coming here. The martyred Supreme Leader was arrested several times in this place. That happened in 1978, one year prior to the Islamic Revolution victory, when the intelligence of Shah, one midnight, came here and they banged the door. When [inaudible] actually opens the door a bit late, they forcefully open the door and kick his leg. Yes, I do want to say that Ali Khamenei at that night was resented because his family was there, they woke up because of the harsh voice that the agents made and the Supreme Leader actually was a little bit anxious and sad because of what happened. When he was arrested at that time, well he was sent to exile for 290 days to Iranshahr in the southeast of Iran.

**DL:** So we are now in the basement of what used to be the home of Ali Khamenei in the ten years leading up to the Islamic Revolution. And they've converted this into a sort of mini archive to get a sense of the trajectory of his life.

**DL:** These documents are from criminal proceedings that were brought against the martyred Supreme Leader when he was a cleric in the pre-revolutionary years. So these proceedings would have been brought against him by the authorities of this Shah.

**END**

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