

Everything appears to have changed

Published: March 27, 2026, 6:52 am

I was not surprised to see [The Guardian noting this overnight:](#)

Donald Trump has extended his deadline for Iran to open the strait of Hormuz by 10 days to 6 April after saying talks are “going very well”.

The president made the statement on Thursday in a social media post, saying: “As per Iranian Government request, please let this statement serve to represent that I am pausing the period of Energy Plant destruction by 10 Days to Monday, April 6, 2026, at 8 P.M., Eastern Time,” Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

I watched Trump's media performance yesterday at the organised exercise in sycophancy that his regime likes to describe as Cabinet meetings, and thought I was looking at a very frightened man. The enormity of what he has threatened to do has, I think, dawned upon him, and that he has rowed back from it is unsurprising.

I also doubt that there are any substantive talks in progress between the USA and Iran. It is very apparent that I am far from being of that opinion. The reason is obvious: there would appear to be no strategic advantage to Iran in being engaged in such a process at present, when it has a very clear upper hand in this war, which it still appears capable of maintaining despite the onslaught it has suffered.

For Trump, something almost unknown is happening: he is not getting what he wants. The ultimate spoiled man-brat has demanded, and Iran is refusing to give. Totally unaware that this might happen, Trump has issued his threats, and nothing has changed. Now he is out of his depth because his experience has left him unprepared for this possibility, and others are preparing cover for it, including by making claims about talks in which he is not in any way directly engaged. The feeding of misinformation to a 'leader' to prevent a tantrum is a well-known management technique, after all. Ken Galbraith discussed it 60 years ago in 'The New Industrial State'. I think this is happening. Trump believes that misinformation and is relying on it. In itself, that is dangerous.

The question is, where does this lead? Talks that are not taking place cannot serve as the excuse Trump will eventually need for inaction, which I believe he has now realised is the only possible course of action he can adopt. At some point, that will become apparent. I just hope that when it does, another excuse for backing away from an escalation can be created for him.

The reality is that Trump has discovered the US military-industrial complex is not as powerful as he or we thought, making the US empire very vulnerable. Alongside that, its real major ally, in the form of Israel, is also losing its power to intimidate. If the US ceases to roar, as seems likely, Israel will no longer be able to bite.

Four weeks ago, when this war started, writing those words would have been unimaginable. The expectation was that Iran would crumble, having run out of weapons as a result of the onslaught it faced long before it could put an effective block on traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Now they appear to be the only reasonable conclusion to reach based on the evidence of what is happening, and the apparent terror that is shaping Trump's behaviour.

It remains almost impossible to predict what will happen as a result, but one thing can be said: everything appears to have changed.