

The fat lady has not sung as yet

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The media has been providing some, what feels like far from complete, insights into the claims and counterclaims about the Iran peace deal, and the supposed circumstances around its negotiation.

The Washington Post did, perhaps, provide the most direct observation on the ultimatum that led to the US back down, [saying in a newsletter](#):

The president's ultimatum drew condemnation across the political spectrum and intensified open debate about his credibility, morality and sanity.

The [BBC](#), which is having a very bad war, covered Pete Hesgeth's claim that the USA had one with a "capital V victory", and that Iran had begged for a ceasefire.

The FT did, I suspect, [report something much closer to the truth](#) when saying:

The White House pushed the idea of a temporary ceasefire with Iran even as Donald Trump escalated threats against the Islamic republic and claimed it was "begging" for a deal, according to people familiar with the talks.

For weeks the Trump administration was leaning on Islamabad to convince the Iranians to agree a pause in fighting where it would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the people said. Pakistan's crucial role, as a Muslim-majority neighbour and intermediary, was to sell it to Tehran.

There are very good reasons for thinking this to be true: it appears likely that the US has been running out of weaponry, getting through years of stockpiles of weapons in a manner that has reduced its military capacity for very many years to come, so diminished is its weapons production capacity as a consequence of its focus on high-tech, which has proved itself unable to deliver victory in this war.

The New York Times summarises the situation rather well in a newsletter this morning. [It says:](#)

The cease-fire between the United States and Iran is already looking shaky.

As explanation, it added:

Israel conducted heavy strikes yesterday on densely populated areas of Lebanon, killing at least 182 people and wounding more than 800 in the deadliest day of the war so far. The Lebanese president called it a “massacre.” Israel said it was targeting Hezbollah.

Gulf countries, meanwhile, reported a barrage of attacks from Iran. The status of the Strait of Hormuz — the swift reopening of which was supposedly the point of the cease-fire — was not clear.

There’s a lot of uncertainty about what might happen over the next few days. Talks between U.S. and Iranian officials are set to take place in Islamabad this weekend.

And just to throw some further confusion into the scene, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt has been in action peddling misinformation as hard as Pete Hesgeth does. In little-noted comments, which were covered by [The Hill](#) in the USA, it is reported that:

Amid the tenuous two-week ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran, it is unclear what exactly is in the 10-point plan from the Iranian government that President Trump deemed a “workable basis” on which to negotiate.

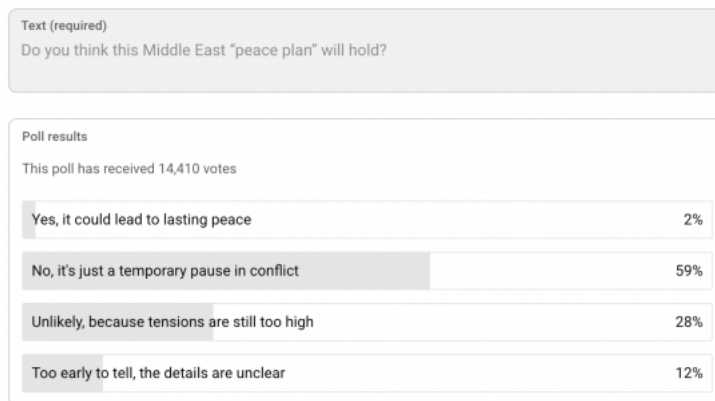
While the Iranian government publicly released a 10-point proposal Wednesday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said later that day it does not match the latest plan from Tehran that the Trump administration agreed to.

What we are being asked to believe is that the supposed negotiations are unrelated to the documents released, which have been claimed to be the foundation for them. They do, instead, apparently relate to a completely different set of proposals about which the world knows nothing. At this point, I would refer you back to the opening quote from the Washington Post, which suggested that:

*The president’s ultimatum drew condemnation across the political spectrum and intensified open debate about his credibility, morality **and sanity**.*

I added the emphasis this time. If a reasonable working definition of sanity is that it is being out of touch with reality, then I think what we saw from the Trump administration yesterday was clear evidence of its collective insanity, as demonstrated by Pete Hesgeth, Karoline Leavitt and others. They are asking us to believe that the US is in control of an agenda when the Trump administration has clearly lost all touch with the reality of what is going on in the war that it started, whilst simultaneously failing in every one of its military objectives.

In light of this, I think the poll results on my own videos yesterday are telling. This is from YouTube, where so far 14,400 have voted out of the 88,000 people who watched yesterday afternoon's video:



On this blog, the belief that a solution is available offering lasting peace seems to be just a scarce, even if the numbers voting are somewhat smaller:



So, what should we conclude? The evidence appears to be overwhelming. No one appears to think that Trump really accepted an Iranian peace plan as the basis for negotiations on Tuesday night. Almost anyone, with any sense, realises that Trump grabbed the fig leaf that he was offered by Iran, which, from their point of view, prevented a lethal bombardment, for which we should be grateful, and which, from Trump's point of view, let him off the hook of delivering genocide, which even he must have known would have been unforgivable, whilst simultaneously claiming a victory when no such thing has happened outside the fever imaginations of a few White House insiders.

What happens next? That is the real question. What we can be sure of is that, to use a turn of phrase borrowed from opera, "the fat lady has not sung as yet". This war, and its consequences, are not over.