Senator Ted Cruz on Urging Trump to Launch Military Action Against Iran

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> Senator Ted Cruz describes meeting President Trump aboard Air Force One the day before military strikes on Iran, where he urged Trump to launch the attack rather than pursue negotiations, arguing that Iran's collapse would significantly improve American national security.

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Senator Ted Cruz recounts a one-on-one conversation with President Trump aboard Air Force One on the day before U.S. military strikes against Iran were launched. During the flight to Corpus Christi, Texas, Trump repeatedly asked Cruz for his assessment of what the United States should do regarding Iran. Cruz explained that he urged the president to proceed with military action, arguing that the Iranian regime was at its weakest point and that an opportunity to collapse it should not be missed. He contended that very few developments would do more to improve American national security than the collapse of the Iranian regime. When Trump asked about pursuing further negotiations, Cruz advised against it, characterizing the Iranian government as negotiating in bad faith. Cruz argued that the Ayatollah's strategy was to use negotiations as a delay tactic while rebuilding Iranian military capabilities. He proposed offering Iranian leadership the same ultimatum he suggested for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro: either leave power and go into exile, or face unspecified consequences.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

- Cruz met with President Trump aboard Air Force One the day before the Iran strikes and directly urged him to launch the military action.
- Cruz argued that the Iranian regime was weaker than ever before and that its collapse would significantly improve American national security.
- Cruz advised Trump against pursuing further negotiations with Iran, claiming the Iranian government was not negotiating in good faith.

> Cruz characterized the Ayatollah's negotiating strategy as deliberate delay tactics designed to allow Iran to rebuild its military capabilities.

> Cruz proposed offering Iranian leadership an ultimatum similar to the one offered to Nicolás Maduro: leave power and go into exile, or face the alternative of remaining in power without protection.

> Cruz stated he believed the window of opportunity to act against Iran should not be missed and that the timing was optimal for military action.

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Meeting with President Trump Before the Strike

Senator **Ted Cruz** described being with President Trump the day before military strikes on Iran were launched. Cruz recalled that he was with Trump for much of Friday, flying on Air Force One to Corpus Christi, Texas for a planned event. During the flight, Trump asked Cruz to join him in the presidential limousine, where the two spoke one-on-one for an extended period. Trump asked Cruz repeatedly what he thought the United States should do regarding Iran.

Cruz's Argument for Military Action

Cruz explained that he urged the president to launch the attack. He told Trump that he believed the moment should not be missed because, in his assessment, the Iranian regime was weaker than it had ever been. Cruz argued that if the regime could be collapsed, American national security would improve significantly. He stated that very few developments on Earth would do more to improve American national security than seeing the Iranian regime collapse.

Rejecting Negotiations

When Trump asked whether the United States should pursue further negotiations, Cruz said he advised against it. Cruz stated he did not believe the Iranian government was negotiating in good faith, characterizing them as liars. He argued that the Ayatollah's strategy was to delay negotiations repeatedly while rebuilding Iranian capabilities. Cruz suggested that the only deal worth accepting would mirror the one Trump had offered to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro: the option to leave the country and live in exile, or face unspecified consequences if they remained in power. Cruz noted that Maduro had rejected that offer and suggested Maduro likely regretted that decision. He proposed offering the same choice to the Ayatollah and the Iranian mullahs: leave power and allow a new regime to take control, or face the alternative.

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