Graham Calls for U.S. Military Force Against Iran on Behalf of Israel Despite the Latter's Bellicose Behavior

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has proposed a bill which urges the United States to use military force against Iran on behalf of Israel. This is problematic for a number of reasons, as Graham is not only calling for American troops to be unnecessarily put in harm's way for the defense of a foreign country, but he is also doing so despite Israel's recent bellicose assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah officials. These actions have justifiably been denounced for their blatant intention of stoking hostilities and plunging the region into all-out war. In fact, a report shed light on the White House's contention that the targeted assassinations were provocative moves, with Biden administration officials being livid about Israel's decision to kill Ismail Haniyeh and failure to inform them of the launching of operations to assassinate Hezbollah commanders as well. Now, with his proposed legislation, Graham is putting forth the idea of needlessly and harmfully dragging the United States into war in the Middle East, while also disregarding Israel's role in escalating the ongoing situation.

Public sentiment gathered through newly released polling finds that the majority of Americans oppose the idea of sending U.S. troops to defend Israel, particularly in light of Israel's inflammatory actions. According to a survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, 55% of Americans oppose the use of U.S. troops if Israel came under attack from one of its neighboring countries while only 41% say that they want troops to be sent to support Israel. Additionally, a similar number – of 56% – oppose the potential move if Israel was to be attacked by Iran specifically. The 14/15-point percentage gap is noteworthy, as it represents the highest proportion of Americans saying that they oppose sending troops to aid Israel since the pollster began surveying citizens about this question back in 2010. The dip in support transcends political leanings as well, with clear declines among both Democrats and Republicans, in addition to those who identify as Independents. The findings lend credence to the belief that Israel's destructive War on Gaza has soured the American public on its military and financial support of Israel. It also highlights how most oppose the possibility of directly involving U.S. troops in a conflict on behalf of Israel.

The recent insight into the state of public perception regarding U.S. support for Israel is in line with the growing criticism that has emerged during the past ten months since the onset of the Gaza War. We have seen this manifest itself in widespread anti-war movements on college campuses across the United States, with a rising number of people expressing discontent with the nature of the U.S.-Israel relationship and raising legitimate concerns about American complicity in Israel's war crimes and human rights abuses. As such, one of the major purposes behind these solidarity movements has been their intention to seek divestment from companies and entities that support Israel's war efforts, either financially or militarily. Thus, a significant segment of the American population has made it clear that they do not back the concept of unquestioned U.S. financial and military support towards Israel.

Senator Graham is expected to bring his proposed bill regarding the authorization of U.S. military force against Iran on behalf of Israel up for a vote when Congress returns from its August recess next month in September. One can only hope that enough principled Congressmembers ultimately oppose the prospect of directly involving U.S. troops in yet another conflict in the Middle East, especially when there is increased weariness regarding American support for Israel and ample evidence of Israel's human rights violations and belligerent behavior seeking to drag the United States into war.