

USADI Dispatch

A publication of the U.S. Alliance for Democratic Iran

Volume 1, No. 18

Thursday, March 4, 2004

USADI Commentary

Stop EU's Appeasement of Mullahs, Refer Iran's Nuke Breaches to UN Council

On March 8, the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will meet and Iran is top on the agenda. Late last year, after 18 years of deception and double talk, Iran was forced to acknowledge it had been secretly developing a nuclear capability, in violation of relevant non-proliferation protocols. In November, however, in what amounted to be just a slap on the wrist, the IAEA board opted not to sanction Iran for those breaches.

Just before the October 31 deadline, the EU-3 (France, Germany, and Britain) acting purely out of a business sense, brokered a deal whereby Tehran promised to come clean. Most experts, however, scoffed at the idea, saying that the deal was full of loopholes, which allowed the mullahs to buy time and continue to play its hide and cheat game.

Indeed, more than three months of IAEA's scrutiny of Iran's nuclear program has revealed startling facts about Tehran's nuclear facilities and know how. An IAEA report last week concluded that Tehran, at a minimum, still had not answered key questions about its programs. Typical of Mr. Mohammed ElBaradei, the IAEA Director General, he put the most optimistic face on this damning report describing "sea of change" in Iran's cooperation with the agency.

The IAEA report shows that Iran has been running multiple uranium-enrichment programs, none of which were originally declared to the IAEA's inspectors. Several were kept secret even after last November agreement. The IAEA also reported that some nuclear activity was being directed by Iran's Military Industrial Organization, which undermined Tehran's claims about running a civilian nuclear program.

Surprisingly, the European Union gave Iran yet another fig leaf; it rejected a U.S. push to refer Iran's nuclear file to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. "The EU-3 has hijacked the process," one U.S. official told Reuters adding "there are countries out there who are always going to give Iran the benefit of the doubt."

The IAEA's report, short of an actual bomb attached to it, leaves no doubt that Tehran *does* have a nuclear weapons program. The clerics will continue to deceive and lie and EU will continue to appease and pad the mullahs on the back.

We had previously commented that "Iran will not set aside its nuclear weapons program... Instead, Tehran will buy time through the use of delay tactics, tricks and barterers... It would be naïve to suggest that now, after 18 years of systematic deception, Iran rulers have had a change of heart."

America's national security interests and Middle East stability are far too important to be left in hands of the EU-3. This is where the U.S. leadership must remain unwavering in its demand that the Security Council take up Tehran's nuclear breaches.

In long term, however, only a regime change will ensure that Iran will be free of weapons of mass destruction. Simultaneous with its efforts in the IAEA, our administration should increase its support of the democracy movement in Iran and embrace democratic opposition forces who are working to oust the ruling mullahs.

US says report shows Iran hiding nuclear weapons program

VIENNA - Iran is continuing to deceive the UN nuclear watchdog about its atomic program and is still secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons, US ambassador to the IAEA, Ken Brill said.

He said that an IAEA report released Tuesday "proves Iran's October 2003 declaration to the IAEA about its nuclear program was neither correct nor complete.

"The continuing pattern of Iranian deception and delayed admissions about its nuclear activities, as well as specific information in the IAEA report, strengthens our assessment that Iran's nuclear program is not consistent with its stated purpose, but is clearly geared towards the development of nuclear weapons," Brill said.

[Reuters, March 4: [John Bolton, Undersecretary of State for arms control and international security] accused Iran on Thursday of concealing a nuclear weapons program.]

AFP, February 26, 2004

Iran Operates 100 Military Contracts in Libya

WASHINGTON -- The United States has found an extensive Iranian military presence in Libya. Western intelligence sources said a British-U.S. team that inspected Libyan facilities in late 2003 found evidence of nearly 100 military-related Iranian contracts in Libya. The sources said they include the development of missiles as well as conventional and non-conventional weapons.

"Iran has used Libya as a laboratory for Teheran's defense industry," an intelligence source said. "The United States found evidence of Iranian involvement in virtually every major Libyan weapons program."

Many of the Iranian projects in Libya focused on medium- and intermediate-range missile development, the sources said...

Middle East Newline, March 3, 2004

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran (USADI), is an independent, non-profit organization, which aims to advance a US policy on Iran that will benefit America's interests, through supporting Iranian people's aspirations for a democratic, secular, and peaceful government, free of tyranny, fundamentalism, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism. The USADI is not affiliated with any government agencies, political groups or parties.

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The Globe and Mail (Editorial)

February 28, 2004

Iran's Atomic Lies

Time and again, Iran's ruling clerics have been caught cheating on their commitments under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. Time and again, the international community has given them a pass. Each time, they swear up and down that they have no intention of producing nuclear weapons. Each time, they are caught doing things that suggest they are doing just that.

In the latest go-round, the International Atomic Energy Agency found that Iran had failed to reveal its possession of advanced centrifuge designs and components that are used to enrich uranium, a key step in the creation of a bomb. Within hours of the IAEA's finding, Iran pledged to take stronger steps to suspend its uranium-enrichment activities.

That's fine, except that Iran made similar promises last fall when a tough IAEA report found suspicious nuclear activities going back 18 years. Iran admitted that it had a secret program to enrich uranium, but claimed it was for peaceful purposes and pledged to cease and desist. It now seems that that promise was hollow. Why should other countries believe Iran's latest vows?

... European powers want a softer approach and this week, after intense talks, they struck yet another deal with the clerics. In order to avoid the IAEA report and ensuing sanctions, Iran told the EU it would suspend all enrichment. That means that, once again, Iran is off the hook.

Now, everyone wants to avoid confrontation with Iran if possible... But a face-off can't be put off indefinitely. If Iran keeps lying about its nuclear activities, the international community will have to assume it is building a bomb. A nuclear Iran is something frightful to contemplate. As the clerics themselves demonstrated when they fixed last week's election to crush the democratic opposition, this remains a ruthless, hardline regime, deeply hostile to the West and determined to be a regional power. It continues to support terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. It continues to call for the destruction of Israel.

Avoiding confrontation with Iran now could lead to a far worse confrontation later.

The San Francisco Chronicle

February 25, 2004

New revelations on Iran heighten pressure on Bush

A new report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency suggesting that Iran's secret nuclear programs are more extensive than had been earlier believed adds new pressure on the Bush administration to either increase attempts to overthrow the regime or recognize the power of the country's Shiite ayatollahs. Coming after the Iranian clerics' bare-knuckled grab of power in widely criticized parliamentary elections Friday, the revelations left Washington policymakers at a crossroads in their attempts to promote democracy and stop nuclear weapons development, analysts say.

Along with European nations -- which share the American distaste for Iran's Shiite Islamic extremism but have taken a more conciliatory line -- conservatives in Washington are pushing hard for a change in policy, saying they will insist that Iran, one of the two remaining members of the administration's "axis of evil," be put in the American crosshairs. There is even pressure to support the Mujahedeen Khalq, an anti-Tehran guerrilla group that has had off-again-on-again relations with the United States over many years and now is on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations.

The report by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency stated that Iran has failed to fully comply with an agreement reached with European officials in October, in which Iran pledged not to develop nuclear weapons and promised to release all information related to its clandestine development of a civilian nuclear power industry...

Many U.S. conservatives are angry at what they see as the Bush administration's unwillingness to confront Iran, which President Bush in 2002 linked with Saddam Hussein's Iraq and North Korea's Stalinist regime as a three-state "axis of evil." "We're three years into (the Bush administration) and we don't have an Iran policy," said Michael Ledeen, an analyst at the American Enterprise Institute who was a highly influential advocate of last year's Iraq invasion. "Iran is the leading supporter of terrorism in the world, and we claim to be in a war against terrorism. Maybe we should stop coddling them. Maybe we should support democracy."

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., a member of the House International Relations Committee, is pushing the Bush administration to take the Mujahedeen off the terrorist list and let the group's 3,500 fighters out of the quarantine where they are kept on a military base north of Baghdad. "We should no longer be constrained to play an aggressive role with Iran," Tancredo said. "By preventing elections, they've given us an opportunity to do what I think we should have done for a long time. There should be aggressive support for opposition parties inside Iran and dissident groups outside Iran," he said, citing the Mujahedeen as the leading example.

Many analysts said that by ignoring election fraud while focusing mainly on nuclear weapons, the United States will be seen by Iran's neighbors and around the world as enforcing a double standard...