

# USADI Dispatch

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## USADI Commentary

### EU Nuclear Footsy with Iran Undermining U.S. National Security

As the EU big three - France, Britain, and Germany - are playing footsy with Tehran over its nuclear program, new revelations this week confirmed that Iran's military is now running the mullahs' secret nuclear weapons program.

A U.S. official told the Associated Press in Vienna Tuesday that "new intelligence on Iran's nuclear activities was strengthening suspicions of two programs -- one that inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency have access to and another, run by the military and geared toward making nuclear weapons."

And another official expressed "explicit concerns" that the Iranian military was controlling nuclear programs aimed at making weapons.

The same Iranian opposition group which shed bright lights on Iran's secret nuclear sites in August of 2002, concurred with those accounts.

At a news conference in Brussels on Wednesday, the National Council of Resistance of Iran said "Tehran is aiming to develop a nuclear bomb within the next two years, using secret military facilities in parallel to the civilian program open to international scrutiny," the Associated Press reported.

"Up to 400 nuclear experts and researchers were working on the secret military programs which answered directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei," the group said.

These revelations come as Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton warned Tuesday that Iran was using the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty "as cover for the development of nuclear weapons."

Last week's European tour by Iran's Foreign Minister was primarily intended to convince the EU-3 that they should reject any attempt by Washington to refer Iran's systematic nuclear breaches to the United Nations Security Council. Iran needs time to reach to the nuclear point of no return, which explains its pretenses of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was wrapping up his trip in London, Iran's official news agency pressed home the point that "Trade between Iran and the European Union reached a record \$20 bn last year." "The latest figures show a consolidation in Iran's position as the EU's third largest trading partner in the Middle East," it added.

Given their lucrative business dealings with Tehran and geopolitical jockeying in the region, the EU-3 have reason for conciliation with Tehran. However, the specter of a nuclear armed Iran - the most active state sponsor of terrorism - is far too ominous to let appeasers in the EU dictate the policy toward Tehran.

The U.S. must demonstrate firm leadership and stop the mullahs in their tracks. In the long term, however, only a regime change will ensure that Iran will be free of weapons of mass destruction. To this end, Washington should embrace democratic opposition forces that are working to unseat the ruling mullahs.

### It "Will be Too Late" If Iran's Nuke Program Goes Unchecked

UNITED NATIONS - John R. Bolton, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security told the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that Iran is actively violating its treaty obligations by gaining access to technologies and materials for its nuclear weapons programs.

"If we permit Iran's deception to go on much longer, it will be too late. Iran will have nuclear weapons," he warned.

He said the International Atomic Energy Agency will at "some point" report Iran's non-compliance to the Security Council. If the council is unable to act, it "will not only be a blow to our efforts to hold Iran accountable, but also a blow to the effectiveness of the Council itself and to the credibility of the entire NPT regime".

He accused Iran of concealing a large-scale covert nuclear weapons program for over eighteen years. "It is clear that Iran draws from many of the same networks that supplied Libya with nuclear technology, components, and materials, including the A.Q. Khan network, as Khan himself has confessed".

He said Iran's recent failures to disclose work on uranium enrichment centrifuges of an advanced design and on Polonium-210, and to explain the presence of highly enriched uranium, are clear indicators that Iran continues its quest for nuclear weapons.

Iran has expressed interest in the purchase of up to six additional nuclear power plants, and has told the IAEA that it is pursuing a heavy - water research reactor at Arak - a type of reactor that might be well suited for plutonium production. "This ambitious reactor program is a remarkable venture for a country whose oil and gas reserves will last several hundred years," he argued.

*Kuwait News Agency, April 27, 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 Seattle Times

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### Experts fear Iran acquiring atomic arms

WASHINGTON — Already writhing with tension and terror, the Middle East is sliding toward a new crisis: As soon as this summer, Iran could be unstoppable on its way to producing nuclear material for its own bombs.

A nuclear-armed Iran would plunge the Middle East into a destabilizing new arms race, jeopardizing the West's access to Persian Gulf oil and threatening the conservative regimes of Gulf states such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, according to assessments by U.S. intelligence agencies and American and Israeli experts.

Unlike Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Iran has proven ties to international terror groups such as Hezbollah, and some analysts say a nuclear-armed Iran would be able to provide terrorists with "dirty" suitcase bombs that could be carried into Tel Aviv or New York.

Nuclear weapons also would give Tehran the clout to back up some of its radical ambitions, including the destruction of Israel, denial of U.S. military access to the region and the collapse of Western-oriented Arab regimes in Egypt and Pakistan.

With a hard-line Islamist regime in power in Tehran, U.S. experts are concerned the network of treaties and international sanctions intended to prevent nuclear-power programs from turning to bomb making aren't working.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were in Tehran earlier this month to check Iran's assertions that it has stopped work on building centrifuge facilities that can produce enriched uranium. That material can be refined into nuclear warheads. ...

Once either facility is fully on line, Iran can manufacture its own enriched uranium in secret. That material can be processed into warheads or simply passed off to terrorists to use as "dirty" bombs, conventional explosives that spew deadly radioactive material into the air.

Iran had insisted that its nuclear program has always been for the peaceful production of power, but IAEA inspectors late last year found traces of bomb-grade uranium at its nuclear facilities. The discovery kicked off a series of declarations and inspections that have left the issue unresolved.

Meanwhile, Iran's February elections consolidated the power of the hard-line clerical wing, and it is now taking a harder line on nuclear matters, said Rose Gottemoeller, a former senior U.S. nuclear-proliferation official in the Clinton White House and Department of Energy. The question of nuclear weapons "is hanging very much in the balance," she said.

If Tehran continues to thumb its nose at nuclear-weapons prohibitions, the international community is likely to impose stiff sanctions to prevent it from selling its oil and natural gas.

"The perception is that Iran's revolutionary zeal is tempered, and that they're much more conservative now than in the early 1980s," when Iranian-backed terrorists attacked Americans and Israelis in the region, said Richard Russell, a former CIA analyst who teaches at the National Defense University's Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies in Washington. "Who's to say they won't become emboldened with nuclear weapons?" ...

## Asia Times Online

April 23, 2004

### Iran's nuclear hide and seek

Once again, US President George W Bush has warned that the development of a nuclear weapon in Iran would be "intolerable". Bush told US newspaper executives in Washington this week that any effort by Tehran to produce a nuclear weapon would be dealt with, first by the United Nations.

"One of my jobs is to make sure they [the International Atomic Energy Agency - IAEA - and European leaders] speak as plainly as possible to the Iranians and make it absolutely clear that the development of a nuclear weapon in Iran is intolerable and a program is intolerable; otherwise, they will be dealt with, starting through the United Nations," he said...

Bush's latest salvo follows a report issued by European intelligence sources recently that accuses Iran of "concealing key elements of country's nuclear program" from IAEA inspectors. Since the report states that a committee of "senior Iranian officials" is involved in that alleged concealment campaign, the game of nuclear hide and seek has begun.

As viewed from Washington, Iran has made a decision to become a nuclear power within the near future - between three and five years - if all goes well. That conclusion is shared by both Democrats and Republicans...

In the pre-September 11, 2001 era, US concern about nuclear non-proliferation was not as alarmist as it has become in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks within its borders. Since then, the prospects of a radical Islamist state possessing nuclear weapons has indeed become nightmarish for George W Bush and his neo-conservative cohorts, who also hold many important national-security positions in his administration.