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Commentary

Iran's Breach of Nuclear Program Obligations MUST Be Referred to UN

Imagine this: An armed robber is caught red-handed. He confesses to many of his crimes short of several robberies that included murders. The robber intends to buy time and evade the murder charge. The prosecutor has the details on 18-year crime spree – including the murders. But the judge, praising the robbers “honesty”, releases him saying he must be given a second chance. Justice?

That's exactly how the European Union is treating Iran's 18 years of lies and deception while it was developing its nuclear weapons program.

Last Monday, Javier Solana, the EU foreign policy chief, praised Iran for its “honesty” and the three big EU powers, France, Germany, and Britain said that as a reward for “honesty and transparency”, they would consider an exchange of technology with Iran.

Not shocked enough? The EU's big three have circulated a draft resolution for the IAEA's Board of Governors which does not even mention the term “breach.” This resolution is so weak that according to Reuters, even Dr. ElBaradei, the head of the IAEA, is worried.

Washington also says the draft lacks teeth and wants Iran reported to the U.N. Security Council that has the power to impose sanctions. But the EU says “no way”.

According to experts, the IAEA's detailed report on Iran's 18 years of violations of its obligations is more than enough to refer the issue to the Security Council with possibility of diplomatic and economic sanctions. Could this explain the EU's reluctance to let the issue go to the UN?

In November, *the Washington Times* reported “The European Union is by far Iran's biggest trade partner, accounting for 28 % of Iran's exports and imports in 2001, more than twice as much as second-place Japan.” This week in an article “Sugar Daddies to Dictators”, *the Wall Street Journal* reports that the French banks are the No.1 lender to Iran and that they have lent Iran, “which is building a nuclear arsenal”, about \$2.5 billion.

We must not let the EU's trade considerations dictate America's long-term security interests in seeing Iran free of WMD. If Iran, “the most active state sponsor of terrorism”, acquires a nuclear weapon, it would be only a matter of time that the terrorist groups it supports will also have access to them.

Only when the terrorist theocracy in Tehran is replaced with a democratic, secular, peaceful government, will Iran no longer be a nuclear threat. For now, Iran's breach of its nuclear program obligations must be referred to the United Nations. Anything short of that is leniency. No, it is lunacy.

EU's Leniency towards Iran

EU's Foreign Policy Chief Says Iran “Honest”

WASHINGTON - The United States on Monday disputed a top European Union official's conclusion that Iran has been honest about its nuclear program, which Washington says is designed to make nuclear weapons.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Monday that Iran had been honest and should not be reported to the U.N. Security Council this week for potential sanctions. (*Reuters, Nov. 17*)

IAEA's Chief worried about EU's Resolution

VIENNA - The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog is worried a draft resolution on Iran's past breaches of U.N. obligations is too weak, echoing U.S. criticism of the text as “deficient,” Western diplomats said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell did not try to hide his disappointment with the draft, dismissing it as “not adequate” and lacking a “trigger mechanism” in case of further breaches.

President Bush said in London the IAEA should not permit Iran to ignore its non-proliferation commitments.

The head of Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council, Hassan Rohani, warned that any resolution instructing Iran to stop enriching uranium would be unacceptable to Iran. (*Reuters, Nov. 19*)

Iran fooled UN inspectors with decoy site-exiles

VIENNA - Iran continues to deceive the U.N. nuclear watchdog and even took the agency's inspectors to a decoy site to prevent them from uncovering an undeclared nuclear workshop, an exiled Iranian opposition group said on Wednesday.

Firouz Mahvi, a member of the foreign relations committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) told a news conference IAEA experts went to inspect an alleged nuclear site in Hashtgerd, near Karaj, but were taken to a similar site.

“Information from within the clerical regime made it clear that they had been taken to a site similar to the site in question and they were not shown the actual site. This is one example of the clerical regime's deceptive tactics,” he said.

In August 2002, the NCRI sparked the crisis surrounding Iran's nuclear program by revealing an underground uranium-enrichment plant at Natanz and a heavy-water production facility at Arak both of which Iran later declared to the IAEA. (*Reuters, Nov. 19*)

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.

1201 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-661-4675, Fax: 202-318-0402, E-mail: dispatch@usadiran.org

National Review Online

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Iranian National Defense Doctrine Based On Capacity To Produce And Deploy Nuclear Weapons

Why are there such divergent views on an issue that, given the wealth of data now at the disposal of the IAEA, should not be so hard to handle?

Part of the confusion is because the wrong question is asked.

Iran is right in saying that it is not producing nuclear weapons. What Iran is doing is to set up all the technical, industrial, and materiel means needed to produce such weapons, if and when it decides to do so. In other words, while not producing nuclear weapons right now, Iran has a nuclear program designed to make such weapons within 18 months. It is like a chef who brings in all that is needed for making a soup but does not actually start the cooking until he knows when the guests will be coming...

In the past three decades Iran has trained and mobilized the scientists and technicians needed, built the research centers required, and set up structures for a complete nuclear cycle, from raw materials to the finished product... Iran has its own uranium reserves, regarded as among the richest in the world, and has a history of nuclear research that dates back to 1955. Part of the Iranian national defense doctrine is based on the capacity to produce and deploy nuclear weapons within a brief time span...

The Washington Times (Editorial)

November 16, 2003

IAEA report is a broad indictment of Iran's behavior

By any measure, the new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear weapons program should be a wake-up call for anyone concerned about the acquisition of such armaments by rogue states. An IAEA report released last week to 20 governments shows that Tehran has had a nuclear program in existence for at least 18 years — one that involved using a number of technologies, including lasers, to enrich uranium.

Although written in highly technical language, the IAEA report is a broad indictment of Iran's behavior — in particular its refusal to come clean with the agency...

But, after documenting in detail Iran's efforts to conceal its nuclear program from international inspectors, the IAEA bizarrely concluded that "no evidence" of an Iranian nuclear weapons program had been found. This last line drew a sharp rejoinder from Undersecretary of State John Bolton, who said Wednesday that this assertion "is simply impossible to believe."...

Nor is this solely the conclusion of the Bush administration. On Wednesday, the *New York Times* ran a major story reporting that Iran's nuclear program "turns out to have been broader than expected." The IAEA report "is full of examples showing that Iran fooled the global nuclear watchdog for years," the Times noted...

Newsweek

November 24, 2003

Illegal Arms - Iran Still Shopping

Tony Blair may be the Bush administration's closest ally in Iraq. But U.S. investigators say the Brits are being less helpful on efforts to curb illegal arms shipments to Iran...

To evade export controls, Iran set up networks of front companies to buy materiel from U.S. suppliers. Often the money and the equipment—some of it improperly sold off by the Pentagon as military surplus—is laundered through third countries like Britain and Singapore. Fifteen years ago, U.S. Customs shut down a London-based purchasing ring run by Iranian Soroosh Homayouni. But in 1999, investigators learned he and his brother were still operating front companies in London and Bakersfield, Calif. The Bakersfield company was raided, and Scotland Yard seized incriminating documents from the brothers' London office. Then, last July, the Feds raided 18 U.S. companies suspected of continuing to ship parts to Iran via a London-based Homayouni company. But law-enforcement sources tell NEWSWEEK the Iranian purchasing network is still active, and wonder why the Brits have not shut it down for good.