

Notes about the Iranian nuclear political issue

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1 What is this?

Scott Ritter, a marine & former weapons inspector for the United Nations in Iraq, claims that the change of regime in Iraq was planned by the United States for at least a decade before it actually happened. He claims that, due to a law passed by Congress (& which I can't remember), it was actually official, public policy.

He predicts that the same is happening with Iran.

To test his prediction, or to witness it as it happens, I'm keeping track of the Iranian political mess as it unfolds.

Highly recommended reading: [?]

2 Players

Britain • foreign minister, Jack Straw

European Union

France

Germany

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) • Their website is <http://www-ns.iaea.org/>¹.

- directory, Mohamed ElBaradei

Iran a democracy with a poor record of human rights [?]. Says it wants nuclear energy. Everyone else is afraid it wants nuclear weapons.

- deputy head of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Javad Vaedi
- president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He has said that the holocaust was a myth. [?]
- spokesman for Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Hossein Entezami

Russia a “key nuclear ally of Iran” [?].

United Nations

USA • secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice

- vice president, Dick Cheney

3 Timeline

2002 ??? • Iran’s secret nuclear program is made un-secret.

- Iran announces that it intends to develop nuclear energy.

2002 Nov At least one person predicts that Bush will try to invade Iran after Iraq. [?]

2005 October 5 A British diplomat accuses Iran of manufacturing some of the bombs which are used by the anarchists in Iraq. [?]

2006 Jan 10 Iran breaks the IAEA’s seals on three nuclear research(?) sites, including Natanz. [?], [?]

¹www-ns.iaea.org/

2006 Jan 12 Brittain, Germany, & France call for UN Security Council action. [?]

Iran says diplomacy “within a time frame” is still viable. Iran says it’s in compliance with IAEA regulations.² [?]

About this “within a time frame” detail: Is that a way of being beligerent, or is it a way of motivating other countries to get down to business & talk instead of trailing Iran along while those other countries complain that Iran isn’t negotiating?

See Section 4.1 Score card for 2006 January 12.

2006 Jan 15 • US Senators from both major parties want the UN to create sanctions to motivate Iran to cease its nuclear program. [?]

2006 Mar 06 IAEA board meeting (scheduled)

2006 Mar 13 President Bush begins accusing Iran of manufacturing bombs used in Iraq. [?], [?] Note that this is not the source of the accusations. The British began them in 2005 October & the American press adopted them about a week ago.

2006 Mar 16 President Bush claims that Iran is the greatest threat that the United States faces today. He says a diplomatic solution is preferable, but he repeats that the United States will pre-emptively attack any country that it believes is a threat.

Iran says it would be happy to discuss Iraq. [?], [?], [?]

Also see some comments of [../tae2006/node4.html#2006-mar-16](#)³ in [?].

4 Score card

4.1 As of 2006 January 12

Brittain stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

European Union says Russia should produce the nuclear fuel for Iran (instead of Iran producing its own fuel)

France stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

Germany stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

Iran wants negotiations; is within IAEA regulations; continues claims that it will not resume uranium enrichment; is not worried about UN sanctions because they would hurt Europe more than Iran

Russia is helping Iran build a nuclear power station at Gulf port of Bushehr

²This raises the question in Section 5.2.

³2006 Mach 16

United Nations

USA says Iran has “shattered the basis for negotiations”; wants Iran to halt is nuclear program; has not requested any particular actions from the UN Security Council

4.2 As of 2006 January 15

Britain stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

European Union says Russia should produce the nuclear fuel for Iran (instead of Iran producing its own fuel)

France stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

Germany stops negotiations; wants UN Security council action

- Iran**
- wants negotiations
 - claims it is within IAEA regulations [?]
 - claims it has allowed 1,400 men/hour of inspections [?]⁴
 - says it is discussing the fuel deal with Russia [?]

Russia is helping Iran build a nuclear power station at Gulf port of Bushehr

United Nations

USA says Iran has “shattered the basis for negotiations”; Senators call for UN sanctions [?]

My personal thought: When Senator McCain said “There is only one thing worse than the United States exercising a military option, that is a nuclear-armed Iran” [?], I know for sure that the villification of Iran has begun (as Ritter predicted).

Another personal thought: Senator Bayh must have been worried that McCain’s message was too oblique, so he said “Iran is the foremost sponsor of terrorism in the world. Iran is a menace. They have to be dealt with. Appeasement will not work. Nice words will not work”.

5 Questions & Answers

5.1 Why would Iran want nuclear energy?

Specifically, why would Iran want nuclear energy when the USA & many other countries have decided its costs are not worth its benefits due to bad experiences in the past? Is it realistic, conceivable, that Iran could want nuclear energy & not weapons?

⁴See question of Section 5.5.

I think it is conceivable that they would want nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is not used as much as it could be.⁵ If Iran's government thinks its nuclear industry can solve the technical problems & produce cheaper, safer nuclear energy, it would benefit its own economy (cheap energy & lots of it) **and** make a good profit by entering the international nuclear energy industry building nuclear energy grids for other countries (for a price, of course). (The other countries would be willing to convert because Iran would have proved that it was cost-effective & safe.)

Basically, Iran's government might be hoping that nuclear energy would help their economy much the same as a massively overhauled communications network has helped that of South Korea.

These benefits might be magnified by Iran's proximity to oil-rich countries (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, & some of the former Soviet countries). Maybe Iran hopes to market itself as an alternative to its oil-merchant neighbors. (If so, will its oil-rich neighbors become hostile to Iran?)

It is also possible that they would hope to alleviate their pollution problem by switching to nuclear energy. [?]

So yes, it is conceivable that a sane Iranian government would want to develop nuclear energy, not nuclear weapons.

5.2 When breaking seals, is Iran within IAEA regulations?

5.3 What is uranium enrichment? Why is it a cause for worry?

fixme. Needs more detail.

"Low-grade" uranium is suitable for fuel but not weapons. "High-grade" uranium is suitable for fuel & weapons.

Britain, France, & Germany are afraid that, if Iran manufactures its own fuel, it will produce high-grade uranium & use that for weapons. They have said they would trust Russia to produce the low-grade uranium & give/sell(?) it to Iran.

Iran wants to produce its own fuel. *fixme. Why?*

5.4 Is Iran in compliance with IAEA?

Apparently, there's no simple answer to that. Here's an excerpt from <http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/SV/Sa> I found about the issue at <http://www-ns.iaea.org/>⁷. The report is called "Safeguards Statement for 2004". The paragraphs were numbered, but that didn't transfer when I copied-&-pasted the section into this report. I have also removed the footnote superscripts for readability.

⁵Forget, for the moment, whether it *should* be used at all, whether it is worth the risk.

⁶the most recent report

⁷IAEA's web site

1.6 Islamic Republic of Iran

During 2004, the Director General submitted four reports to the Board of Governors on the implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran¹, and the Board adopted four resolutions on the subject¹.

At the end of 2003, Iran signed an additional protocol and agreed to cooperate with the Agency in accordance with the provisions of the protocol pending its entry into force. Though Iran's cooperation improved, information – particularly that related to its past uranium gas centrifuge enrichment activities – continued to be slow in coming and was provided in reaction to Agency requests. In April 2004, Iran committed itself to a joint action plan with the Agency and to a timetable for dealing with outstanding issues regarding the verification of Iran's nuclear programme. Corrective actions are being taken by Iran. In May 2004, Iran delivered to the Agency its initial declarations under the additional protocol.

Verification of the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations is ongoing. There are two major issues of direct relevance to these efforts: the origin of low enriched uranium (LEU) and high enriched uranium (HEU) particle contamination found at various locations in Iran; and the extent of Iran's enrichment programme.

In addition to its implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol with Iran, in 2004 the Agency performed verification activities related to Iran's voluntary suspension of enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. In November 2003, the Board had endorsed the Director General's acceptance of Iran's invitation to verify implementation of Iran's decision to voluntarily suspend such activities. In November 2004, Iran informed the Agency that it had extended the suspension to include all enrichment-related (including uranium conversion) and reprocessing activities throughout Iran. Subsequently, as endorsed by the Board¹, the Agency began its verification of the extended suspension.

It looks like the most accurate single-sentence summary might be “Regardless of whether Iran was in compliance in 2004, it was not so far out of compliance that IAEA complained”.

5.5 Have there been IAEA inspections in Iran?

It is possible, but <http://www-ns.iaea.org/>⁸ doesn't say. Inspections would fall under their Safeguards & Verifications duty.

⁸IAEA's web site

5.6 Why would the American government want to villify Iran?

Here are some possible answers, in no particular order.

1. They are afraid that Iran will develop nuclear weapons, not just nuclear energy. (In other words, exactly the reason they claim.)
2. They are afraid that Iran's nuclear energy program will compete with American interests in the petroleum industry.
3. They are afraid that a peaceful nuclear energy program in Iran will prove that Iran isn't all bad. It'll give Iran a friendly, justifiable, international clout which could be used to counteract America's bullying power.
4. They are afraid that a peaceful nuclear program in Iran will give Iran international clout which will increase their anti-Israeli influence among countries which already hate Israel.

6 Links

1. Rothschilds Want Iran's Banks with the pretext of oil or nuclear⁹. By Pete Papahearakles. 2012-02-25.

A Other File Formats

- This document is available in multi-file HTML format at [./](#)¹⁰.
- This document is available in Pointless Document Format (PDF) at [iran.pdf](#)¹¹.

References

⁹<http://www.beyond2012zeitgeist.com/rothschilds-want-irans-banks-with-the-pretext-of-oil-or-nuclear/>

¹⁰<http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/iran/>

¹¹<http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/iran/iran.pdf>