



MEMO

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## Iran Must Face U.N. Security Council Action for Nuclear Defiance

**Iran has expanded its nuclear activities in the aftermath of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) failure to refer Tehran to the U.N. Security Council in November. Iran is now resuming sensitive nuclear research, making clear its intention to master uranium enrichment and delaying referral to the Security Council by agreeing to discuss a proposal to move Iranian uranium enrichment activities to Russia. The five permanent members of the Security Council, including the United States, have warned Iran that it could face possible sanctions if the regime resumes its nuclear activities. Iran's continued defiance makes clear that Iran should be referred immediately to the Security Council, the proper forum for international efforts to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability.**

Iran has expanded its nuclear activities in the face of the IAEA's repeated failure to refer Tehran to the U.N. Security Council.

- Tehran announced for the first time that it has produced equipment for separating uranium from raw ore. While this is an early step in the uranium route to the bomb, the same equipment is ideally suited for plutonium separation and could be important as an alternative source of weapons material.
- This previously unknown Iranian capability, which could rapidly increase the amount of weapons material available this decade, raises questions about what other unknown capabilities the Iranians possess—underscoring the point that time is running out to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.
- Iran—which failed to show up last week at a scheduled meeting with IAEA officials in Vienna—has announced it is resuming nuclear fuel research and has removed seals from its nuclear facilities. The seals were put in place two years ago after Iran reached a deal with England, France and Germany to voluntarily stop all enrichment-related activities.
- The five permanent members of the Security Council have warned Iran that it could face possible sanctions if it resumes nuclear activities. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made clear that such a move would signal Iran's rejection of a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis.

Iran's wavering in response to the Russian proposal is meant to gain more time for Tehran to improve its nuclear program and delay sanctions.

- After initially denying that it had received a proposal that would have Russia enrich uranium for Iran, Iranian officials rejected the offer, calling it "unacceptable." Officials then reversed course, saying they would "seriously and enthusiastically" study the proposal.

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- Iran has now made clear that uranium enrichment must take place inside Iran and that any Russian proposal that entails removing all enrichment capabilities from Iran will be rejected. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated last week that “the Iranian nation and government will defend the right to nuclear research and technology and will go forward prudently.”
- The Russian proposal would allow Iran to have all fuel cycle activities short of uranium enrichment. This contradicts the previous position of the United States and the EU that Iran must suspend, and ultimately dismantle, all nuclear fuel cycle capabilities, including uranium conversion.
- Allowing Iran to continue converting uranium without the required dismantlement of Iran’s centrifuge capabilities—which can be used to turn the converted uranium into the highly enriched uranium needed for bombs—is both a dangerous precedent and unwarranted by Iran’s deception concerning its nuclear program during the last two decades.

Continued threatening rhetoric by Iran’s president only serves to underscore the importance of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

- Ahmadinejad recently compared Zionism with fascism, saying: “Zionism is a Western ideology and a colonialist idea ... and right now it massacres Muslims with direct guidance and help from the United States and a part of Europe. ... Zionism is basically a new [form of] fascism.”
- In December, Ahmadinejad dismissed the Holocaust as a “myth” and suggested that the Europeans “give a part of Europe to the Zionist regime” so the problem is “solved at its root.”
- In October, Ahmadinejad called for Israel to be “wiped off the map” and envisioned a world without the United States, saying: “This is a possible goal and slogan.”

The U.N. Security Council is the proper forum for addressing Iran’s defiance and ongoing efforts to assemble nuclear weapons.

- The Security Council has the international legal authority to put in place diplomatic, political and economic sanctions.
- Iran’s leaders are greatly concerned about the impact of being referred to the Security Council and the repercussions that any resulting sanctions will have on its economy.
- Despite its oil wealth, Iran’s economy is struggling, with a massive unemployment and underemployment problem among younger Iranians. Since Ahmadinejad was elected last summer, Iran’s stock market has lost 35% of its value and there has been a reported capital flight of more than \$200 billion out of Iran.
- Sanctions have worked recently to change Libya’s policy of pursuing weapons of mass destruction. Libya gave up its WMD program in exchange for an end to sanctions that crippled its economy.

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