



# IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(4), non-profit and independent group, is committed to advance change in Iran through an internationally monitored referendum as the only peaceful means to bring democracy and establish a secular and representative government in Iran

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### Iran's nuclear threat

#### Iran, N. Korea sanctions seen effective



**April 19, 2007-** Bush administration officials yesterday told lawmakers that U.S. sanctions against Iran, North Korea and other countries with ties to weapons of mass destruction and terrorism have had significant results. The United States has instituted a number of economic actions to help stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Treasury Department officials said. "By cutting off Sepah from the U.S. and the international financial system, we have commercially isolated Bank Sepah and may have made it more difficult for Iran to finance some of its proliferation-related activities," they said. Noting actions the administration has taken to eliminate support for international terrorism, including last year's cutoff of Bank Saderat Iran from the U.S. financial system, the officials said companies worldwide "have begun to re-evaluate their business relationships" with Iran, adding that many financial institutions have scaled back or ended their Iran-related business. Rep. Brad Sherman, California Democrat, criticized the administration for not taking action under the Iran Sanctions Act. That law requires imposing sanctions on foreign companies that invest more than \$20 million in one year in Iran's energy sector. Mr. Sherman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs terrorism, nonproliferation and trade subcommittee, included a list of foreign companies that have invested millions or more than \$1 billion in Iranian energy.

#### Iran making nuclear fuel in underground plant: IAEA

**REUTERS**  **April 18, 2007-VIENNA -** Iran has begun producing nuclear fuel in its underground uranium enrichment plant, a confidential U.N. atomic watchdog document said on Wednesday, ratcheting up its defiance of the United Nations. Tehran says it seeks only nuclear-generated electricity. But its past concealment of sensitive enrichment research from the International Atomic Energy Agency and continued stonewalling of IAEA inquiries have shaken confidence in its intentions. The United Nations Security Council has passed two sanctions resolutions on Iran since December, targeting its nuclear and military sectors and severely impeding its financial transactions with the outside world. Iran's April 9 announcement that industrial-scale nuclear fuel production had begun elicited a warning from the United States that Tehran could be hit with harsher sanctions.

#### Iran warns would-be attackers

**CNN.com** **April 18, 2007-TEHRAN, Iran -** Iran's army will "cut off the hand" of any attacker and is at the ready to fulfil its defensive duties, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday during an annual military parade. Iran is embroiled in a row with the West over its nuclear ambitions. The United States, which says Iran is trying to build an atomic bomb, has said it wants a diplomatic resolution to the standoff but has not ruled out military action if that fails.

## EU, US critic worried about Iran

**NEW EUROPE, April 14, 2007** - The German presidency of the European Union voiced "great concern" April 10 at the announcement by Iran that it intends to begin uranium enrichment on an industrial scale. Such a step by Iran would directly contradict the repeated requests by the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors, said a statement released in Berlin. The international community should have taken tougher action against Iran over the capture of the British service personnel and its nuclear programme, a former senior US diplomat said the next day. John Bolton, former US ambassador to the United Nations, claimed that the capture of the 15 sailors and Royal Marines was part of a larger effort from Tehran to "project power" in the Middle East. The capture of the British naval personnel, who were freed by Tehran earlier, was "an experiment to test the UK and European reaction," Bolton said in a BBC radio interview. "There was not much of a reaction at all," he said. "I think that gave credence to the argument of those in Tehran that wanted to talk up the process of getting a nuclear weapons capability," Bolton added. That same day, April 11, after its claim of uranium enrichment on an industrial scale, Iran said it would not accept any talks with the West over its controversial nuclear programmes as long as suspension of uranium enrichment programme remained a precondition.

## Iran's meddling in Iraq and Lebanon

### US commander accuses Iran of destabilizing actions in Iraq, Afghanistan



**April 18, 2007-WASHINGTON** - The top US commander in the Middle East

accused Iran of taking destabilizing actions in Iraq and Afghanistan on Wednesday.... Admiral William Fallon pointed to Iran's nuclear weapons program, boasts about its uranium enrichment program, and the recent capture of British sailors and marines in the Gulf as examples of Tehran's bad behavior. "So the behavior is not very good -- this recent caper with the British, the kind of cowboy-type activity that is certainly not representative of what they claim to be trying to do, which is become a major player in the region," he said. Fallon's comments came a day after General Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Iranian-made mortars and explosives destined for the Taliban were intercepted by coalition forces in Afghanistan.

### Gates: Iran, a threat to regional stability

**USA TODAY, April 18, 2007** - Defense Secretary Robert Gates called Wednesday on the Iraqi government to speed its efforts to reach a political solution to its sectarian strife. Gates, speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, said some that while some progress had been made toward reconciliation it has not been fast enough. Gates, who also met earlier with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, told the audience that Iran represents another threat to regional stability. He noted that he had advocated as a private citizen reaching out to Iran. But he said Iran's recent actions, such as the seizure of British sailors in the Persian Gulf, demonstrate the limits of negotiation. "We should have no illusions about the nature of this regime — or about their designs for their nuclear program, their intentions for Iraq, or their ambitions in the Gulf region," Gates said.

### Iran's Evil Game

**New York Post, April 16, 2007** - To catch a snake, use your enemy's hand. - Persian proverb Last week's U.S. military report alleging Iran is now giving weapons to Iraqi Sunni insurgents may seem downright illogical next to earlier claims that Tehran was arming Iraq's Shia militias. While a risky strategy, Tehran's willingness to arm both their Shia allies and Sunni foes in Iraq could pay big dividends for the ascendant and ambitious Islamic Republic - at our expense. Continued Sunni attacks - aided by Iranian weapons - will keep the United States sufficiently distracted so as to hinder the possibility of Washington's dealing with Iran politically, much less militarily. Plus, continued Sunni violence (again, supported by Iran) will only add to the possibility that the United States will defeat itself in Iraq by opting for a politically motivated withdrawal in Washington. Moreover, while Iran has no interest in complete chaos, a tolerable level of instability fomented by Iranian-aided Sunni and Shia - in a country that for many years was its greatest threat - would be welcomed by Tehran's sinister strategists. Tehran could be supporting other evildoers in Iraq, too - even al Qaeda. And considering the recent news of disagreements between al Qaeda and Sunni insurgents in Iraq, it's certainly possible Iran will aid al Qaeda, too.

### Claims of Training Insurgents Inside Iran

**The San Francisco Chronicle, April 16, 2007** - Iraqi Shiites are being trained in advanced guerrilla warfare tactics at a secret camp inside Iran, according to two militants who say they have spent time there. The Bush administration and its top ally, Britain, have repeatedly charged that Iran is supplying arms, training and intelligence to Iraqi Shiite militants to use against the U.S.-led coalition. "Shiite fighters

are being trained in modern fighting methods, such as use of powerful explosives and bringing down helicopters," he said, declining to give more precise details. "The training was done by Iranian Revolutionary Guards. According to Abu Amer -- he asked that his full name be kept secret -- the military instruction became more popular among Iraqi Shiites after the 2005 bombing of the Samarra shrine, the event widely blamed for causing widespread sectarian war between Iraq's Sunnis and Shiites. "Many of us from the Mahdi Army were in Jalil Azad and got training in street fighting," the 32-year-old said during an interview in Qom, the center of Iran's religious authorities. "We were taught how to attack the Americans, we learned all the modern ways to shoot down helicopters and destroy tanks and armored vehicles. It is preparation for the time when we will have a big battle with the occupiers."

### **Bad Options on Iran**

**U.S. News & World Report, April 15, 2007-** Look behind the curtain of virtually every major problem in the Middle East, and you will find Iran: killings in Iraq; arms and money for Hezbollah's assaults on Israel and Hezbollah's attempts to usurp the elected government of Lebanon; support of Syria as the hotelier of the region's major terrorist groups; support and training of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and sleeper networks in countries beyond; promotion of a messianic revolutionary ideology that has deepened the Sunni-Shiite divide; the reckless seizure of 15 British sailors and marines as hostages; and defiance of the U.N. in pursuit of nuclear weapons.

## Iranians continue to interfere in Iraq situation

### Multi-National Forces website, April 14, 2007- Press Briefing of General Odierno

**Q** Are you able yet to tell us that there is direct evidence that it is the Iranian government or the leadership of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps or Al-Qods that is directly ordering this interference in Iraq?

**GEN. ODIERNO:** I'm only willing to say that it's clear that the Qods Force is involved in what's going on here by supplying training, money and weapons.

And in fact we're working now to determine whether they are in fact not only providing support to Shi'a groups but also Sunni insurgent groups.

**Q** why would the Iranians be supporting Sunni groups?

**GEN. ODIERNO:** I think it's mainly because they want to continue to create chaos in Iraq.

## Iran is destabilizing Afghanistan

### U.S. links Iran to arms in Afghanistan

**The Los Angeles Times, April 18, 2007-WASHINGTON** — U.S.-led coalition forces in southern Afghanistan recently intercepted Iranian-made weapons that were being shipped to fighters for the Taliban, the Pentagon's top general said Tuesday. The Bush administration has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying insurgents in Iraq with sophisticated weaponry, including armor-penetrating explosive devices. Pace's remarks were the first by a senior U.S. official to indicate similar activities in Afghanistan. Iranian exile groups have insisted that Quds Force operatives have been active in Afghanistan for several years. The Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, an umbrella group of opposition exiles, said Iranian activities in Afghanistan were largely limited to training minority Shiite groups. But Mohamed Mohaddessin, chairman of the council's foreign affairs committee, said Tehran was interested in sowing strife in Afghanistan to undermine the elected government of President Hamid Karzai and counter his Western backers. "Export of fundamentalism and terrorism to neighboring and Islamic countries has been one of the pillars of the clerical regime's foreign policy," Mohaddessin said.

### U.S. Says Iranian Arms Seized in Afghanistan

#### **The New York Times**

**April 18, 2007-WASHINGTON**—

A shipment of Iranian-made weapons bound for the Taliban was recently captured by allied forces in Afghanistan, the Pentagon's top officer said Tuesday. "The overall Iranian role has been to work closely with us to bring Karzai into power," said Barnett Rubin, an expert on Afghanistan at New York University. "However, the Iranians believe the No. 1 threat is an American attack to overthrow their government. They may do anything it takes to make the United States and its allies uncomfortable there." Asked how he thought the United States should respond to the purported Iranian support for militant groups opposed to American interests, General Pace said it should take military actions against Iranian-sponsored networks. According to American intelligence officials, the support to militant groups in Iraq is so systematic that it could not be carried out without the knowledge of some senior Iranian officials. "Based on our understanding of the Iranian system and the history of I.R.G.C. operations, the intelligence community assesses that activity this extensive on the part of the Quds Force would not be conducted without approval from top leaders in Iran," a senior intelligence official said this year. The Quds Force is an elite unit of the Revolutionary Guards.

## Feature

### Iran gives Europe a wake-up call

**The Baltimore Sun, April 18, 2007** - By now, the nearly two-week-long hostage crisis prompted by Iran's brazen seizure of 15 British sailors and marines in the Persian Gulf in late March is beginning to fade from public memory. But the incident has provided the West with an important glimpse into Iranian strategy - and an unprecedented opportunity for a reinvigorated transatlantic consensus about confronting the Islamic Republic. From the start, Iran's ayatollahs used the well-orchestrated seizure as a flagrant piece of political theater. The goal? To signal their regime's resolve in the deepening crisis over its nuclear program. The message - coming just days after the U.N. Security Council's passage of a second round of sanctions on Iran for its unauthorized nuclear work - was unmistakable: The Iranian regime is ready and willing to fight for its atomic effort. For European nations, this should come as a wake-up call of sorts. For a decade and a half, Europe had taken the lead in attempting to negotiate some sort of a modus vivendi with the radical regime in Tehran.

### The Failure of Europe's Iran Policy

**Spiegel Online, April 16, 2007** - It took Europe months to get American support for its strategy of negotiating with Iran. Tehran's latest announcement that it can enrich uranium on an industrial scale shows that the EU course has failed. When Ertugrul Apakan, the Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary, took the podium, he quickly shattered European hopes of being able to stop Tehran from

moving forward with its nuclear plans using diplomacy. Apakan wasn't done, however. Tehran hardliners, he said, have received a valuable boost from US policy in the region. Washington's military campaigns have eliminated two of Iran's former enemies: the Taliban in Afghanistan and Iraqi despot Saddam Hussein. America is now so weakened that it is unlikely to embark on another armed conflict in the Gulf region. "The international situation is very favorable for Iran," Apakan concluded. The nightmare of an atom bomb in the hands of the mullahs is becoming increasingly likely. Following a series of tough negotiations, the Europeans were finally able to convince the United States to support their approach. Instead of exerting pressure on Tehran through saber-rattling, Europe thought it could convince Iran to change course with a mixture of incentives and penalties. ...But the strategy has one major problem: it doesn't seem to be working. For almost four years now, the Europeans have been trying to steer Iran away from its nuclear plans. But the story is always the same: The West appeals to Iran to be reasonable and issues the occasional threat, to which the Tehran regime responds by proudly announcing that it has just completed another step on the road to becoming a nuclear state. What is there to do when Iran remains so defiant? Ironically, Iran has been the great beneficiary of the war in Iraq. Elections replaced the hostile Baathist regime with a government dominated by Shiite parties close to Tehran, thus realizing the ambition of the Shiite regime in Iran to establish an ally next door. The critical moment will arrive when this or the next president's national security adviser walks into the Oval Office with credible intelligence that a radical Tehran is at the point of getting the bomb and only military action will stop it. Time is not on our side.