



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

P5 agree on how to react to IAEA decision on reporting Iran



Radio Farda, February 9, 2006 – Five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council agreed yesterday on how to respond to a recent decision by the governing boards of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran. Following a closed-door meeting of five permanent members of the UNSC, U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton told reporters, without getting into details, that he would distribute this letter among 14 other members of the UNSC and will consider their views in drafting the final text to be submitted to the Security Council so that it would be sent to the IAEA chief after adoption.

Iran acquires Russian fighters



Middle East Newline, February 8, 2006, Moscow -- Iran has quietly acquired three fighter-jets from Russia. Russian industry sources said Teheran has procured three Su-25UBT twin-seat attack aircraft from Moscow. The sources said the contract was concluded in 2005 and deliveries would take place in 2006. The deal marked the first Iranian purchase of the Su-25. In 2001, Iran negotiated with Georgia for surplus MiG-25s, but the two countries failed to reach agreement. The sources said the Su-25UBT marked the most advanced model of the attack aircraft. They said the fighters received new electronic warfare and jamming systems.

Strong leads and dead ends in nuclear case against Iran

washingtonpost.com February 8, 2006 -- Iranian engineers have completed sophisticated drawings of a deep subterranean shaft, according to officials who have examined classified documents in the hands of U.S. intelligence for more than 20 months. Complete with remote-controlled sensors to measure pressure and heat, the plans for the 400-meter tunnel appear designed for an underground atomic test that might one day announce Tehran's arrival as a nuclear power, the officials said....Bush administration officials, convinced that Iran has a weapons program, believe that the body of documentation is the nearest anyone can expect to "smoking gun" evidence...While it is unknown whether Iran would ultimately decide to build a nuclear bomb, it is clear from evidence gathered by U.S. and foreign intelligence and through U.N. inspections that Iran, mostly through its energy program, is acquiring and mastering technologies that could be diverted to bomb-making.

Rice: Iran has no alternative but to accept international community's just demands

Joint press conference with Israeli Foreign Minister in Washington, February 8,

2006 U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice: We talked also about other regional issues, Syria and Lebanon, about Iran and the strength of the international community in making very clear to the Iranians that they have no alternative course but to accept the just demands of the international community that any peaceful -- any nuclear -- civil nuclear energy programs would be ones that do not have proliferation risk, meaning that there would not be enrichment and reprocessing on Iranian soil, and the importance of Iran taking the message, the very strong message that the IAEA Board of Governors sent in reporting the Iranian dossier to the UN Security Council.

Iran secretly tests new surface-to-surface missile



February 7, 2006 - Iran secretly tested a new surface-to-surface missile (SSM) on January 17, seeking to establish the measurements needed for long-range missiles, the German daily Die Welt reported in its issue to appear on Saturday. The test, conducted by members of the Revolutionary Guard led by Yahya Rahim Safavi, was successful, according to Western diplomats cited by the newspaper, which did not indicate the location where the test took place. On January 28, Safavi said that Iran would use its ballistic missiles if it was attacked.

Cheney: Little doubt Iran seeks nuclear arms



February 7, 2006 Washington - US Vice President Dick Cheney said Tuesday that Iran's rejection of a Russian compromise to defuse the "dangerous" nuclear dispute all but proved that the Islamic Republic wants atomic weapons. In an interview with PBS television, Cheney pointed to Tehran's refusal to sign on to Moscow's proposal to carry out uranium enrichment on Russian territory in a bid to ease global worries that Iran seeks nuclear arms. They've rejected that," said Cheney. "That leads everybody to believe that they obviously want to have their own enrichment capacity to be able to go all the way to the levels required for a nuclear weapon".

Terrorism and meddling in Iraq

Iran says its revolution "awakened Muslims"



February 10, 2006 – On the eve of the twenty-seventh anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution, the country's Interior Minister vowed that the Islamic Republic was stirring neighbouring Muslim countries against "Western occupation". Radical cleric Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi told worshippers in Tehran on Wednesday that Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution had led to "the awakening of Muslims" in other countries, particularly in the developing world. "We are witnessing movements for independence and firmness in the face of imperialism throughout occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. These stem from the impact the Islamic revolution in Iran has had on them", he said. Referring to Tehran's nuclear program, Pour-Mohammadi said, "The enemies must know that the Iranian nation will not retreat from its path, and this path will continue with steadfastness and wisdom. We see our well-being in continuing down this path". He criticised the presence of United States troops in Iraq and said that Washington had failed to bring about democracy in that country. "I tell you that the Iranian revolution has had a great impact on Muslim and neighbouring countries and the enemies' ballyhoo is for this reason", Pour-Mohammadi added.

Iran "making mistake" with Iraq meddling: Rumsfeld



February 10, 2006, TAORMINA, Sicily By Will Dunham

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, days after calling Iran the world's top state sponsor of terrorism, ratcheted up the pressure on Tehran on Friday with fresh accusations of interference in Iraq. Rumsfeld, in Taormina, Sicily, for a meeting of NATO defense ministers, used an appearance in Europe for the second time in a week to talk tough over Iran, which the United States and European Union fear is covertly

developing nuclear weapons. Asked during a news conference about U.S. assertions that Iran, as well as Syria, supports insurgents in Iraq, Rumsfeld said: "We have undertaken a series of initiatives to try to persuade them that their behavior is harmful to a new Iraqi government and indeed harmful to the region. Thus far we've not been successful." "I think they're making a mistake," Rumsfeld said, "although I can certainly understand that from their standpoint having a free and sovereign and democratic Iraq on their borders probably is not terribly encouraging to their type of government. So I can understand their resistance to that."

Bush points to Iran, Syria as sponsors of international terrorism



National Guard Building, Feb. 9, Washington, D.C. – Excerpts of remarks by

President Bush: And the message is going forth from Damascus to Tehran that the future of the Middle East belongs to freedom. As liberty spreads in this vital region and freedom produces opportunity and hope for those who have not known it, the terrorist temptation will start to fall away. And as more nations claim their freedom, we will gain new allies in the war on terror, and new partners in the battle for peace and moderation in the Muslim world. Before that day comes, there will be more days of testing. The terrorists remain brutal and determined -- and they still have some resources at their disposal... Some countries, like Syria and Iran, still provide terrorists with support and sanctuary. And the terrorists are sophisticated at spreading propaganda, and using spectacular attacks to dominate our evening news.

EU criticizes Ahmadinejad for meeting with "Palestinian terrorists"



February 9, 2006, Vienna - EU president Austria has criticized Iranian President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for meeting in Syria with "Palestinian terrorist groups" and called on Iran to end such contacts, in a statement Thursday. The statement said Austria had "carried out a demarche to the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran on 5 February 2006 expressing the European Union's concern about President Ahmadinejad's meetings in Syria with representatives of Palestinian terrorist groups." Austria called "upon Iran to end such links," the statement said. "The (Austrian EU) Presidency also called upon Iran to join the international consensus on the need for a two state solution to the Middle East conflict," the statement said.

Ahmadinejad met January 20 in Damascus with the leaders of 10 radical Palestinian movements including Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

Iran is fuelling rage and violence

Iran's Ahmadinejad links cartoons to his denial of Holocaust



IRAN FOCUS February 11, 2006 – Iran's radical President declared on Saturday that the "real Holocaust" was occurring in Iraq and in "occupied Palestine", as he once again characterised the Holocaust in Europe as a "myth". Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was speaking to demonstrators on the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, said that European states were "being taken hostage" by Israel. He called on Muslims to "rise and not allow a handful of defeated Zionists in Palestine to insult the Prophet". "Holocaust is a myth that has been used for 60 years by Zionists to blackmail other countries and justify their crimes in the occupied territories", Ahmadinejad said. The Iranian president's claim that Israel is responsible for recent insulting cartoons of Islam's prophet Mohammad appearing in European dailies and the direct link he drew between the cartoons and his denial of Holocaust strengthened the views of Iran analysts who see a systematic attempt by Tehran to use the current Muslim fury to its political advantage. "Everyone knows

that the cartoons were done in Denmark, not by 'a handful of Zionists in Palestine', as Ahmadinejad claims", said Michael Leavesley, a London-based political analyst on Middle Eastern affairs. "Iran is linking the cartoons to the Holocaust denial and even its nuclear program to scare the West away". Even by his own standards, Ahmadinejad's Saturday speech was one of his most radical pronouncements against Israel, the Holocaust, and the West. "If you are looking for the real Holocaust, go to Palestine and take a look at the crimes of Israel there, or you can also find the real Holocaust in Iraq", he said. Ahmadinejad called on European governments to free themselves from "the yoke of Zionism" and "believe that Zionism is on the verge of destruction". "The Iranian nation is today chanting the death of Israel", he said. Addressing Western leaders, the Iranian president said, "You are a bunch of proxy dictators and sergeant majors of Zionists". He warned these leaders to "pack up the stuff that you unfurled 60 years ago and save yourselves from the wrath of nations". "If you don't listen to this advice, then the Palestinian people and other nations will force you to submit to their wishes", he said. In several speeches since coming to power, Ahmadinejad has described the Holocaust as a "myth" and called for Israel to be "wiped off the map"

Denmark withdraws ambassador from Tehran



IRAN FOCUS February 11, 2006 Tehran, Iran – Denmark's foreign ministry announced on Saturday that the country's ambassador to Iran has left Tehran after receiving credible threats on his life as the row continues over the publication of cartoons of Islam's Prophet Muhammad in a Copenhagen daily. The Danish embassy in Tehran had been attacked by hard-line radicals affiliated to the Revolutionary Guards several times earlier this week and its entire staff were forced to evacuate the site. Parts of the embassy were set on fire as protestors hurled hand grenades and Molotov cocktails at the site and chanted "Death to Denmark", "Death to America", and demanded the closure of the embassy. The Danish Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday that Denmark's ambassador to Tehran along with the remaining Danish diplomats, had left, fearing "real dangers". Copenhagen announced that the Finnish embassy in Tehran would be in charge of Danish interests in Iran until further notice.

Rice: Iran, Syria stoke Muslim cartoon anger



REUTERS February 8, 2006 WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice accused Iran and Syria on Wednesday of deliberately stoking Muslim anger in a dispute over cartoons satirizing the Prophet Mohammad that has sparked deadly protests. Iran and Syria have gone out of their way to inflame sentiments and to use this to their own purposes and the world ought to call them on it," Rice said at a joint news conference with Israel's foreign minister. Earlier, President George W. Bush said governments should stop the violence that has erupted over the cartoons, including attacks on Western diplomatic missions in parts of the Muslim world.

Iran: Contest for Holocaust cartoons

NCRI-February 7, 2006 - An Iranian state-run daily, Hamshahri, initiated a contest to find the best cartoons on the Holocaust in an apparent retaliation for the publication of cartoons in European countries resembling the Prophet Mohammad. Davoud Kazemi, who is in charge of the contest, told Reuters that each of the 12 winners would have their cartoons published and receive two gold coins (worth about \$140 each) as a prize. Protesters hurled petrol bombs and stones at the Danish Embassy in Tehran for a second successive day on Tuesday. Iranian regime announced it had cut all trade ties with Denmark because of the cartoons and hundreds of protesters hurled rocks and fire bombs at the Danish embassy on Monday night.