



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

Official urges nations to 'use their leverage' to halt Tehran's nuclear program



April 22, 2006 Washington — The Bush administration, trying to increase pressure on Iran, called Friday for an international embargo on sales of arms to Tehran until the regime agrees to suspend its nuclear program. Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns said the United States believed it was "time for countries to use their leverage," including banning the sale of arms and "dual use" technologies that could be employed in Tehran's nuclear program to generate electricity or make a weapon. Burns singled out Russia, a longtime military supplier to Iran that has announced its plans to proceed with a \$900-million sale of Tor M-1 antiaircraft missiles over U.S. objections. "It doesn't stand to reason that Russia would continue with the arms sale, particularly of the type envisioned, Tor missiles," said Burns, the administration's point man on the Iran issue. "Iran is a country that is violating every international agreement it's made on the nuclear issue.... We hope and trust that the deal will not go forward."

U.S. suggests Iran sanctions not linked to UN

International Herald Tribune, April 22, 2006 Washington -- The Bush administration called on Friday for Russia and the countries of Europe to impose their own penalties on Iran over its suspected nuclear arms program if no agreement on sanctions could be reached soon at the United Nations Security Council. "If the Security Council cannot act over a reasonable period of time, then there will be an opportunity for groups of countries to organize themselves together for the purpose of isolating the Iranians diplomatically and economically," said R. Nicholas Burns, under secretary of state for political affairs and the lead envoy on Iran. "It's not beyond the realm of the possible that at some point in the future a group of countries could get together," he added, "if the Security Council is not able to act, to take collective economic action, collective action on sanctions."

Chances rising of strike on Iran



April 21, 2006 Paris -- As East and West stands divided over how to respond to Iran's nuclear programme, analysts have warned that a US-led military strike on the Islamic Republic had become a plausible outcome to the crisis. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday voiced barely veiled threats of a military assault on Iran, in the name of "self-defense", if the crisis was not resolved through the United Nations (UN). Several days of diplomatic maneuvering in Moscow have failed to produce a consensus among the five permanent Security Council members - Britain, France, China, Russia and the United States - on the use of sanctions against Iran. "I think it's more than just putting pressure on Iran. I think it's a real possibility," argued Mark Fitzpatrick, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). French President Jacques Chirac and Middle Eastern powers Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan have all come out strongly against the use of force, warning of dangerous repercussions for the region.

Germany: Rice issues clear warning to Iranian leadership

Farda Radio, Apr. 21 – Deputy Foreign Minister of Germany evaluated Rice's new proposal as a clear and blatant warning to the Iranian leadership. He pointed out that Iran should not consider that Russia and China will always prevent the Security Council from issuing a resolution against that country.

Senior UN nuclear inspector puts off trip to Iran



April 20, 2006 Vienna -- A senior UN nuclear inspector put off a trip to Iran in what diplomats said was a clear sign that Tehran is failing to give the UN atomic agency key concessions it demands. Heinenon, who is an IAEA deputy director general, has not set a new date for his trip, the diplomat said. The diplomat, and others, said EIBaradei had failed to win concessions from Iran on his trip there.

The diplomat said EIBaradei had even "urged them to give him enough cooperation so he could credit them for it in his upcoming report" and slow things down at the Security Council. "But since his return to Vienna, the IAEA has seen nothing new from Iran," the diplomat said. If Iran fails to meet the April 28 deadline, the United States wants the Security Council to adopt a "Chapter 7" resolution which would legally oblige Iran to meet the IAEA's calls. A Western diplomat said the United States would use the next scheduled IAEA meeting in June to "cut off Iran's technical cooperation and call for an IAEA special investigation of the key unresolved safeguards concerns" if the Council fails to adopt a tough resolution.

Some EU parliamentarians seek tougher stance against Iran



Bloomberg, April 19, 2006 New York -- Thirteen members of the European Parliament, including a vice-president, said Europe needs to toughen its stance on Iran and support a regime change in that country.

"We in the European Parliament fully support the option of giving a democratic chance to the Iranian people," Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, first vice President of the EU Parliament, said at a meeting today with leaders of Iran's exiled opposition in Auvers-Sur-Oise, west of Paris. "It's time for the EU to change its policy toward the regime. Iran has crossed the red line." Vidal-Quadras Roca led a delegation of European MPs at a meeting with Maryam Rajavi, head of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, or NCRI, an umbrella organization of resistance movements against the regime in the country. Envoys meeting in Moscow today to discuss Iran's nuclear development agreed the Islamic Republic must face international action for defying the United Nations by enriching uranium. A majority of the delegations agreed that sanctions against Iran are necessary, without deciding on specifics, said Nicholas Burns, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs. The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency is preparing a report for the council that will include an assessment of Iranian claims that it produced a supply of enriched uranium sufficient to fuel a reactor. "More negotiations, further delay and wasting time are not the way to prevent war," Rajavi said. "Time is running out. Comprehensive sanctions must be imposed against the regime to prevent the catastrophe of the mullahs obtaining nuclear weapons."

Time for world to send 'clear and united message' to Iran



April 19, 2006 London -- British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday it was time for the world to "send a clear and united message" to Iran to stop its disputed nuclear work and support for terrorism. Blair told parliament that while "nobody was talking about military invasion of Iran or military action against Iran" it was not a time to "send a message of weakness" when Tehran calls for eliminating Israel and supports terrorism. He reminded members of parliament that Iran was in the news headlines because "they are in breach of their international obligations and not cooperating properly with" the UN nuclear watchdog.

"I would have thought that this is the time for the world to send a clear and united message to the Iranian regime to desist from that (uranium enrichment) and desist from financing terrorist activities around the world and get back to their international obligations," Blair said. Speaking during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, Blair declared that it was "perfectly sensible" for US President George W. Bush or any US president not to rule out military action...

Chirac: Iran with N-weapons is "unacceptable"



April 19, 2006 London - French President Jacques Chirac told Egyptian daily Al-Ahram on Wednesday that it was "unacceptable" for Iran to have nuclear weapons, but he left the door open to resumed discussions with Tehran. The Iranian leaders "must understand that, for the international community, the prospect of a militarily nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable," Chirac said in an interview published as he was due to arrive on a two-day visit set to be dominated by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and rising tensions over Iran's nuclear ambitions. The French president insisted that the door remained open for a resumption of talks as soon as Iran went along with the requests of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the UN Security Council, stressing that "more than ever the choice is in the hands of the Iranian leaders."

Bush all options' possible in dealing with Iran



April 18, 2006 Washington -- President Bush said Tuesday that "all options are on the table" to prevent Iran from developing atomic weapons, but said he will continue to focus on the international diplomatic option to persuade Tehran to drop its nuclear ambitions. Bush also said there should be a unified effort involving countries "who recognize the danger of Iran having a nuclear weapon," and he noted that U.S. officials are working closely with nations such as Great Britain, France and Germany on the issue. "We will continue to work diplomatically," he said. Bush was asked if his administration was planning for the possibility of a nuclear strike against Iranian nuclear facilities. "All options are on the table," he said.

Terrorism and meddling in Iraq

Annan asks Iran to cooperate in disarming Lebanon militias



April 20, 2006 United Nations -- Secretary-General Kofi Annan has urged Iran as well as Syria to cooperate in trying to restore Lebanon's political independence and disarm militias, the first time the U.N. chief has issued a report linking Tehran to instability in Lebanon. U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said Wednesday that Annan's decision to single out Iran was "significant" and "an important step forward" because it recognizes "that Iran's financing terrorist groups in Lebanon and Syria has a significant impact on what happens in those two countries." The secretary-general made no mention of Iran financing terrorist groups. But he did note the "close ties, with frequent contacts and regular communication," that Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas, who are listed as a terrorist group by the United States, have with Syria and Iran. In what appears to be an intensification of Iranian contacts with Hezbollah, U.N. diplomats noted that Nasrallah went to Damascus to meet Ahmadinejad. Since January, the Hezbollah leader has gone to the Syrian capital to meet other senior Iranian officials, most recently former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani whose trip ended Sunday, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly. Bolton said Annan's report demonstrated "the importance of Iranian interference in Lebanese internal affairs."

Muslim students 'being taught to despise unbelievers as filth'



The Times, April 20, 2006 -- Pupils protest as college linked to Iran puts fundamentalist text on curriculum, reports our correspondent. Muslim students training to be imams at a British college with strong Iranian links have complained that they are being taught fundamentalist doctrines which describe non-Muslims as "filth". The Times has obtained extracts from medieval texts taught to the students in which

unbelievers are likened to pigs and dogs. The texts are taught at the Hawza Ilmiyya of London, a religious school, which has a sister institution, the Islamic College for Advanced Studies (ICAS), which offers a degree validated by Middlesex University. The students, who have asked to remain anonymous, study their religious courses alongside the university-backed BA in Islamic studies. They spend two days a week as religious students and three days on their university course. The Hawza Ilmiyya and the ICAS are in the same building at Willesden High Road, northwest London — a former Church of England primary school — and share many of the same teaching staff. They have a single fundraising arm, the Irshad Trust, one of the managing trustees of which is Abdolhossein Moezi, an Iranian cleric and a personal representative of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Iranian supreme religious leader.

'Iranian group seeks UK Muslims to attack Israel'

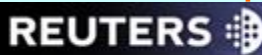
IranMania, Apr. 19, London - A hard-line Iranian group is seeking Muslims in Britain to launch suicide attacks against Israel because their British passports will enable them to enter the country with relative ease, a spokesman told The Guardian newspaper in comments published on Wednesday. Mohammad Samadi of the Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Campaign said the group's first target was Israel. "For us that is the battlefield," he told the British newspaper barely one day after the latest suicide bombing in Tel Aviv killed nine civilians. He was speaking at a "recruitment fair" for suicide bombers in Tehran. The Iranian group claims to be independent, but The Guardian said it had backing from Iran's regime. The committee says it has already recruited 52,000 people, 30% of whom are women, since it formed two years ago, the newspaper reported.

Iran's Hezbollah threatens Turkey if aided US attack

Radio Farda, April 18, 2006 -- Iran's Hezbollah leader Mohammad Bager Kharrazi yesterday said, "If the US strikes Iran, we will stage suicide attacks on US targets throughout the world and if Turkey cooperates with the US, we will undoubtedly take Turkey as a target as well." Speaking to news channel NTV, Kharrazi said, "If the US uses bases in Turkey and gets help from Turkey, we will also attack Turkey. We'll fight back no matter who helps Iran's attacker. The American rulers will be locked up in their houses in fear of their life since some of their sons are with us. We do not need to send forces from Iran to those countries; we will use the personnel from the same country."

Human violations and demonstrations

Iran shells Kurd positions in Iraq-Kurd official



April 21, 2006 Sulaimaniya, Iraq -- Iranian forces shelled

Iranian Kurdish guerrilla positions inside mountainous northern Iraq early Friday morning to repel an attack, an Iraqi Kurdish official said. "This morning Iranian Kurdish fighters infiltrated the border into the Iranian side and the Iranian army bombed the area and repelled them. The shelling hit Iraqi land at Sidakan," said Saadi Pira, an official in the leading PUK Kurdish party. There was no word on casualties in the shelling of the Iranian Kurdish rebels of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK). Sidakan is about 80 km (50 miles) north of the northern Iraqi city of Arbil and about 10 km (6 miles) inside Iraq from the Iranian border.

Students asking regime to suspend a-bomb effort

The New York Sun, April 20, 2006 Cairo -- Iran's largest and oldest student organization is publicly urging the Tehran government to suspend uranium enrichment and cooperate fully with the international community. A statement released Tuesday by Tahkim Vahdat's central committee called for a "temporary suspension of nuclear activities," VOA news reported... Voicing dissent over the nuclear program carries risk. Last month, a human rights lawyer, Abdolfattah Soltani, was released after spending seven months in prison on charges of nuclear espionage.

Ten hanged in Iran's notorious prison

Fars (state-run) news agency, Apr. 20, Tehran -- Iranian authorities hanged 10 men in Tehran's Evin Prison on various charges including murder. The 10 individuals were all hanged in the early hours of Wednesday. The sentences were carried out after they were upheld by Iran's State Supreme Court.

Iranians chain selves to Berlin embassy gate



April 19, Berlin -- About 20 Iranian demonstrators chained themselves to the gates of Tehran's embassy in Berlin in a protest against the country's disputed nuclear ambitions. The group of self-

described Iranian exiles carried banners with slogans such as "No Iran as a Nuclear Power" and distributed flyers.

Iran to hang four young men

ISNA, April 19, 2006 Tehran - The State Supreme Court upheld the execution sentence of a young man on Wednesday. The young man was only identified as 20-year-old Yadollah. He is accused of stabbing to death an acquaintance over a financial dispute in October 2004 when he was a teenager. A court in Tehran sentenced 19-year-old Faraz A. to hanging. He was accused of murder. Meanwhile, the state-run daily Iran reported that two young men, identified as Surosh and Nader, were sentenced to hanging.

Iran police crack down on un-Islamic women's dress



April 18, 2006 Tehran -- Iranian police said on Tuesday they would launch a crackdown on "social corruption" such as women flouting Islamic dress codes, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. "In accordance with the law, the police will confront those who appear in public in an indecent and inappropriate way," Fars quoted Tehran police chief Morteza Talaei as saying. "Police will seize women with tight coats and cropped trousers." Analysts said that taking a tough line on social offences could backfire on the government just when it wants support in its standoff with the West over Iran's nuclear programme. Mina, a 17-year-old girl with heavy makeup, tight jacket and bright headscarf that barely covered her hair, said she had no intention of changing her style. "They are so busy with international issues, they will have no time to pay attention to my improper dress," said Mina, who asked that her full name not be used.

The authorities -- whose campaign starts on April 21 -- tend to launch such crackdowns before the hot summer months when women like to wear lighter clothing. Talaei said the police would target taxis that carry women in "improper dress" and would sweep through popular shopping centres, where such outfits are sold. "Women who do not wear headscarves in public will also be confronted," he said.