



# IRAN TODAY & TOMORROW

## WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

The Committee in Support of Referendum in Iran (CSRI), a 501(c)(3), 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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### Nuclear proliferation

#### **The Washington Times** Group discloses secret nuke effort

THE WASHINGTON TIMES *October 27* By Jennifer Joan Lee PARIS -- The Iranian opposition group that exposed the nation's covert nuclear weapons program two years ago said yesterday that supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered the effort to continue in secret. The opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), also disclosed the existence of what it said is a new uranium enrichment facility in central Iran that is nearing completion. Speaking to reporters in Paris yesterday, Mohammad Mohaddessin, chairman of the NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the Iranian regime is "playing a double game" with Europe. "Khamenei has ordered his regime to not only continue the enrichment of uranium, but to buy time and accelerate the project in order to make the bomb as quickly as possible," Mr. Mohaddessin said. "Khamenei has ordered his diplomats and his negotiators to prolong the negotiations as much as possible, possibly by between eight and 12 months, which is exactly the time needed to complete the bomb," he said. The Bush administration and European powers have branded the NCRI a terrorist group, mainly because its military wing was sheltered by Saddam Hussein at bases in Iraq, from which it launched attacks in Iran. The group, however, gained credibility in August 2002 by exposing another secret uranium enrichment facility being built underground in Natanz, 150 miles south of Tehran, and a heavy water production facility at Arak, about 120 miles southwest of Tehran. That exposure triggered the current nuclear standoff with Iran, by forcing the Islamist regime to open these sites to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Talks today between European negotiators and Iran represent a "last-chance" at getting the Tehran regime to stop enriching uranium and avoid the threat of U.N. sanctions. In exchange, the Europeans are offering technical assistance -- such as helping Iran build a light-water power reactor and providing a supply of reactor fuel -- and trade incentives. Mr. Mohaddessin said that while the regime was negotiating with Europe, it was also putting the finishing touches on a major site that would be needed to produce large quantities of enriched uranium. The site, located in Isfahan in central Iran, would convert uranium oxide, called "yellowcake," into uranium hexafluoride gas, a stage prior to enrichment. He said a test center for centrifuges had been constructed with "utmost discretion" near the site, and that between 120 and 180 centrifuges will be installed there. Uranium hexafluoride is fed into centrifuges for enrichment. Mr. Mohaddessin credited a network of sources inside Iran for his information. A spokesman at the British Foreign Office, reached by telephone, declined to comment on Mr. Mohaddessin's charges but said there was "nothing to lose" by continuing to negotiate. "If we do get compliance, that's all well and good, and if we don't, there's more chance of a consensus at the next [IAEA] board meeting because all options would have been looked at," he said.

**The Washington Times** **The Clock ticks on Iran**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES *OCT 27*- Today, negotiators from

France, Germany and the United Kingdom are set to resume talks with Iran over that country's nuclear ambitions. If top Iranian officials' remarks over the weekend indicate anything, it is that these talks, like the ones that preceded it, are likely to fail. The good news is that the Europeans are starting to notice. It shouldn't have surprised anyone, but on Sunday, Hossein Mousavian, Iran's foreign policy chief, all but pre-emptively scratched the centerpiece of European negotiating efforts: a proposal to trade light-water reactors and uranium enriched outside Iran for a promise to suspend all domestic uranium enrichment activities. One of Mr. Mousavian's deputies rejected the proposal in its preliminary form, calling it "unbalanced" and promising to negotiate with unspecified "other countries." Meanwhile, Mr. Mousavian issued threats over the Europeans' vow that they will support sending Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions if matters can't be resolved. If the nuclear question is not answered within a month, they say -- the date of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting in Vienna to determine Iran's compliance -- then considering sanctions will be the required step. The European vow to refer matters to the Security Council is the new element here. For months, the United States has been urging the IAEA to take such a route. But the Europeans have resisted, holding onto the notion that negotiations and concession-making could still work on Iran. The Iranian position this week proves that the game is up, and the Europeans are starting to acknowledge it, too. As we've pointed out many times, Iran's track record on compliance is abysmal. A year ago, the IAEA itself issued a 30-page report detailing nearly 20 years of deception on the part of Tehran. But the IAEA and the Europeans have been slow to condemn. Meanwhile, the mullahcrats use each moment to their advantage in their covert acquisition and development of nuclear technologies. Even the overt activities are moving forward. Agence France Presse reported Monday that a hardline faction of Iranian MPs are pushing legislation that would force the government to enrich uranium despite the international entreaties against so doing. We're not expecting this week to be the last for concession-making when it comes to Iran. Nor are we holding our breath for a strong Security Council response to Iran's provocations. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has yet to weigh in, and we presume that China and Russia -- both of which maintain cordial relations with Iran and are heavily dependent on Iran for petroleum -- will play obstructionist roles if the Security Council were to consider sanctions. But it is heartening to see that the Europeans are beginning to realize that they have been had. Now, with the clock ticking on the Iranian bomb, we urge them to double their efforts to show Tehran its nuclear ambitions won't be tolerated by the international community.

**REUTERS** 

### **EU Trio, Iran Fail to reach nuke deal**

*Reuters, Oct. 27, Vienna* -- France, Britain and Germany failed to reach a

deal with Iran on Wednesday under which Tehran would scrap its uranium enrichment program in exchange for nuclear power technology, but the two sides agreed to meet again.

Talks in Vienna on the European proposal ended without agreement, but Britain and Iran said the talks had been constructive.

"Some progress was made toward identifying the elements of a common approach to the issues and the two sides agreed to meet again shortly," a British Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters in London after Wednesday's talks.



**AP** Associated Press

### **Khamenei threatens to end nuclear talks**

*Associated Press, Oct. 27, Tehran* -- Iran's supreme leader

rejected a long-term suspension of uranium enrichment on Wednesday and threatened to withdraw from talks with European negotiators if they insist on such a suspension. "A long term suspension of enrichment is a discussion without logic," state-run television quoted Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying. Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, made the comments as Iranian diplomats ended a second round of talks with officials from Britain, France and Germany without agreement.



## **Tehran's nuke cannot be stopped by negotiations**

*Voice of America, Oct. 26, translated from Farsi* - The Voice of America covered the Iranian Resistance's Press Conference in Paris. At the end of the conference, Mr. (Mohammad) Mohaddessin (NCRI's

foreign affairs committee chairman) told the VOA, "The three EU member states' concession to the Iranian regime to keep the PMOI in the terror list if the mullahs halt their uranium enrichment, is a shameful and dirty deal. As the Mojahedin's Secretary General said in her message to the world community, "(This deal) clearly overlooks the violations of human rights in Iran and is a crime against humanity, encouraging the Iranian regime to step up its suppression and terrorism. It will prolong the crimes of this regime. But as far as the impact of this concession on the Iranian regime's nuclear program is concerned, it will essentially change nothing. The Iranian regime is pursuing to acquire nuclear weapons and make an atomic bomb as a matter vital to its survival."

## **Iranians protest Vienna talks, warn against continued appeasement of mullahs**

*Associated Press, Oct. 27, Vienna* -- As the talks resumed, Iranians staged a protest in downtown Vienna on Wednesday to object to phrasing in the European offer that the EU would continue to view a key Iranian resistance group, the Mujahedeen Khalq, as a terrorist organization. The Mujahedeen Khalq, which seeks to topple Iran's ruling Islamic establishment by force, also is on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations. Protesters carried banners that read, "EU: Mujahedeen Khalq off the list" and "The real terrorist is the mullah regime in Iran." The Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran said in a statement that the demonstration was intended to "warn against the continuation of appeasing the mullahs, which has only emboldened them in their drive to acquire nuclear weapons."

## **Iran's heavy water plant to operate within month**

*Xinhua, Oct. 27, Tehran* -- A heavy water plant near Iran's central city of Arak would go operational within a month, the official IRNA news agency reported Wednesday. Heavy water is used in nuclear reactors. "Two of the three units have already become operational, which enables us to produce heavy water with 15 percent," Manoushehr Madadi, research and development chief of the plant, was quoted assaying. "Within a month, the fourth unit will go operational. Then we will be able to produce heavy water with 99.8 percent," Madadi added, pointing out that the plant was constructed and operated independently by Iran.



## **We should feel a threat from Iran - Armitage**

*U.S. Department of State, Oct. 25, interview with Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage with Saad Mohammad of Kuwait's News Agency* – Armitage: I was heavily involved in the Defense Department during the '80s, and I was spending the majority of my time with Kuwaiti and Saudi and Jordanian, many friends, and they were telling me constantly about the threat. Now, if they feel a threat, and they're the ones in the immediate neighborhood, then I think we should feel a threat. We would like an Iran that was not a threat to our neighbors and had no hegemonistic attitudes. We do keep an eye on it. But as I say, we consult quite often with all our friends in the Gulf and we hear a lot about Iran.



## **Iran will defy curbs on nuclear ambition**

*Sunday Times, Oct. 24* - Iran is to resist international demands to abandon a nuclear programme that has alarmed the West and worsened the risk of instability in the Middle East. Secret intelligence

seen by Jack Straw, the foreign secretary, reveals that Iran will not give up production of nuclear material that could be used in weapons. Under a proposed deal, the country would receive international help to develop a genuinely peaceful nuclear energy capability. However, at talks due to begin in Vienna on Wednesday, Iran will refuse to put an immediate stop to its uranium enrichment programme...A senior western diplomat said British negotiators were preparing for Iran to issue "counter-proposals and new demands". "They are going to want the benefits (to come early). The Iranians are not going to say 'no' to the offer — at least not in a word with two letters in it," said the envoy. "They are going to come back in a way that makes it look like they want to keep talking but their objective is to spin this out as long as they can." The country has also failed to report to the UN its progress in developing a new type of centrifuge for enriching uranium. Intelligence that Iran will ask for more time and enhanced terms is believed to be based on talks between officials of Iran's foreign ministry and members of its delegations at the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and at UN headquarters in New York. "Britain will have little choice but to support demands that Iran is called before the UN Security Council," said a senior source.



### **Tehran says uranium facility almost complete**

*Associated Press, Oct. 24, Tehran* - A uranium conversion facility in Iran is nearing completion, a top official said Sunday,

only days after European countries offered a deal in which Iran would reportedly have to give up all nuclear activities. State-run radio quoted Mohammed Ghannadi, second in charge of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, as saying the Isfahan uranium conversion facility in central Iran was nearing completion. "The Isfahan UCF facility is operational by 70 percent right now," Ghannadi told 21 lawmakers during a visit to the plant, which Iranian officials said was inaugurated in March. Ghannadi was quoted as saying 21 of 24 workshops have been commissioned at the facility, which converts uranium powder called yellow cake into hexafluoride gas, a stage prior to enrichment. He did not elaborate.



## International Front against Fundamentalist Mullahs



### **Good relations with PMOI, the way to confront Iran's acts in Iraq**

*Al-Manar Al-Yawm daily, Oct. 23, Iraq* - Mr. Muhammad

Shahwani, intelligence chief, has announced that he has arrested elements who work for Iran and carry out terrorist activities against the Iraqi people. But these remarks are not the first ones and will naturally not be the last because the regime ruling Iran insists on its animosity against our people and those who oppose it. Therefore I hope Iran's rulers will understand this reality and stop sending death and destruction for our people. The Iranian regime's insistence on carrying out these actions compels us to have good relations with the Iranian people and the national organizations representing them, particularly the PMOI, who strive to liberate the people of Iran from the grips of their rulers.

## Exporting terrorism and Meddling in Iraq

### **Iran must take its hands off of Iraq**

*Al-Manar Al-Yawm daily, Oct. 27* – The method used to execute a group of about 50 volunteers of the Iraqi National Guard, the place which was near the Iran-Iraq border, and

the manner of killing from behind provide many indications that maybe these actions are taking place after the manner in which the Iraqi POWs were killed during the war with Iran... Political forces and parties that have ideological or spiritual relations with Iran must urge the Iranian government to stop its actions in Iraq, namely creating trouble and divisions to gain a larger share in Iraq. Fighting for nothing is enough. The Iraqi people are fed up with bloodshed, killing, homelessness and fear of the future and the neighbor.

### **PMOI reveals secret dealing of Iran's ruling regime**

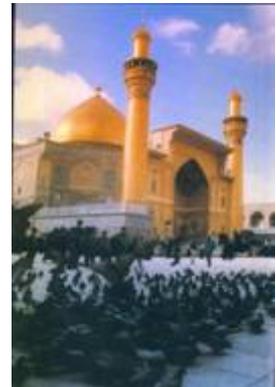
*Al-Menar Al-Yawm daily, Oct. 27, Iraq* – Ms. Mojgan Parsaii, Secretary General of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran uncovered the secret dealing of Iran's ruling regime. These secret deals aim to target the People's Mojahedin Organization and keep the terror tag on this organization. Ms. Parsaii's message says Iran's ruling regime has committed atrocious crimes and has well-known record in international terrorism. Therefore, it is the regime ruling Iran (that is a terrorist regime) and not the People's Mojahedin who echo the cries of protest by the aware people of Iran. The full text of this message appears below...

### **Demand to file complaint in Security Council for Iran's meddling in Iraq**

*Al-Forat daily, Oct. 25* – The Iranian regime is not a defender of Iraqi Shiites. It has made many efforts to control them, make them dependent, and use them to serve its own political goals. This reality is attested to by the presence of dozens of Alqaeda members in Iran and their infiltration from Iraq's eastern border into Iraq for carrying out sabotage, murder and bombings. Numerous reports from Basra create more concern and describe the situation as despicable, presenting the city as an almost Iranian city. In our opinion... an urgent complaint must be filed with the Security Council on the constant interferences, along with documents and information, so that the Council would issue a mandate for the Iranian regime to stop its meddling.

### **Iran wants to ride on the Iraqi people through the voting boxes**

*Al-Mashreq daily, Oct. 24* – The Shiite Political Council is busy picking 275 names for the "Shiites' joint list" to run for the upcoming elections... (According to official documents published in the press) Iran has spent \$45 million to maintain its security grip over some regions in Iraq and has infiltrated our parties and our men's bags. It has taken the fate of our people in the central and southern regions into its hands and it will not stop getting revenge from us, except through a civil war! An Iranian living abroad admitted that Iran has spent \$70 million to buy arms and volunteers for suicide operations. How much will it be willing to spend to have its people to the top of the government in Iraq?!...We will not allow Iran's leaders to ride from within the ballot boxes on the shoulders of the people of Iraq, whether Shiite, Sunni, Christian, Kurd or Turkmen.



## Feature



### **Curbing Iran's nuclear appetite**

*The Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 27* - Iran certainly seems likely to be high on the foreign policy agenda of whoever is the next US president. Iran seems intent on developing nuclear weapons capacity despite strong objections from the US, a string of European nations, and the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)...The international concern is not only that Iran might build nuclear weapons for its own military arsenal, but that those weapons might fall into the hands of

international terrorists. The US State Department has listed Iran as "the most active state sponsor of terrorism," openly providing funds, training, and weapons to Hizbullah and Hamas. Though Iran has had a mixed relationship with Al Qaeda, the 9/11 commission raised questions about its contacts with Osama bin Laden and whether Iran has provided sanctuary to several senior Al Qaeda officials, albeit under the claim that they are held in custody....To try to discourage Iran from pursuing nuclear weaponry, the next president will confront various options. One is to rely on an internal upheaval in Iran to install a more moderate government. There is widespread discontent, particularly among the young, with the theocratic regime of the mullahs. But student demonstrations have been ineffective and the regime shows little sign of cracking. Externally, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran has staged attacks against the regime but it is listed by the US as a terrorist organization, and some 3,800 of its fighters are being held in US custody in a camp northeast of Baghdad. An investigation by US officials has reportedly found no basis to charge them with violations of American law, and some members of Congress are arguing that they should be freed to put pressure on the Iranian government. Then there is the option of direct military action by the US. It would be tough for the next president to gain US public support for this....In the semi-diplomatic sphere, there is the prospect of UN sanctions if the IAEA is unable to persuade Iran to desist from its nuclear ambitions. But the UN's sanctions against Iraq leaked like a sieve, and a regime that has proved as duplicitous as Iran's would have little trouble in circumventing them....Still other experts, like the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center's Henry Sokolski, say Iran is too far along for "bombing or bribing" to halt its nuclear ambitions. So the answer is for existing nuclear powers, like Russia, to stop helping Iran's civilian nuclear program in ways that could also benefit its military nuclear program. This, he admits, would be difficult to pull off.

As will any of the options on Iran confronting the next US president.

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