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Battle of Two Ideologies

By Hedayat Mostowfi

The world does not trust Iran anymore and will not tolerate Iran's deceptive time-buying tactics any longer.

On May 8th, while the U.N. Security Council was trying to arrive at a consensus on Iran's nuclear issues, the news of a letter from Iran's President Ahmadinejad to President Bush rattled the world. Secretary Rice immediately dismissed the letter as 17-18 pages on history, philosophy and religion:

This letter isn't it. This letter is not the place that one would find an opening to engage on the nuclear issue or anything of the sort. It isn't addressing the issues that we're dealing with in a concrete way.

Secretary Rice's clear statement shows that the world can no longer trust the Iranian mullahs. After being given so many incentives for years, the Iranian regime still pursued its nuclear ambitions and fueled the insurgency in Iraq. Secretary Rice's statement demonstrates that the world does not trust Iran anymore and will not tolerate Iran's deceptive time-buying tactics any longer.

As the world gets prepared to confront the would-be nuclear mullahs, the unequivocal threat of the Iranian regime is spreading deeper into every city and community in the Middle East, especially in Iraq. The mullahs have invested the resources of Iran's future generations into a psychotic ambition of becoming a member of the nuclear club and thus ruling the Middle East and beyond.

Dealing with this 21st century's menace and being able to neutralize its threat and finally ridding the world of it, is something that has challenged the West for more than 25 years. The war which is upon the international community is a war

of ideology, and not simply a war about economics between one nation set against the free world. It has to be dealt with ideologically. The ideology of the Iranian mullahs is Islamic Fundamentalism; it aims to rule the world. This will enable the mullahs to maintain their tyranny in Iran. They claim themselves as the true Muslims, and their war is a battle of Islam against non-believers. They portray the West and free world as the enemy of Islam that has to be blown up and eliminated by any means. They take advantage of poverty and inhumane living conditions of people and their naive religious beliefs throughout the Middle East, Africa and even Europe to establish their recruitment centers. They go to those places with money to help the deprived. They build schools, clinics, roads, and infrastructure, and pretend to help people for "just cause." However, in reality they use them as human weapons to be launched against civilian targets all around the world.

Islamic fundamentalism can only be properly dealt with by secular Islamic movements. Only a modern and humanistic interpretation of Islam can disarm the mullahs. Looking for such movements and regrouping them globally should be the West's first priority. The very first democratic and modern Islamic movement was founded in Iran about four decades ago.

In 1965, three young educated Muslims founded an organization to fight against the Shah's regime in Iran. Their interpretation of Islam was completely opposite of what Khomeini and the mullahs suggested. They believed in secularism, democracy and equal rights for everyone, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or political belief. Khomeini and the clerics behind him denounced the group and called them non-Muslims and even Islamic Marxists. After the 1979 revolution, their interpretation of Islam attracted masses to their organization, the People's Mojahedin of Iran (PMOI). They demanded that the newly-formed mullahs' government stop executions, stop oppressing women and ethnic groups in Iran and observe basic human rights. Between 1979 and 1981, the mullahs' regime killed about 50 PMOI members and supporters. In 1981, the regime opened fire on about 500,000 protesters in Tehran and executed more than 30 people in one night, among them many youngsters. Since then, the regime has executed more than 120,000 of the PMOI's members and followers.

There are many Muslims in Iran and around the world who oppose the fundamentalist ideology of the mullahs and thus have found the PMOI's modern interpretation of Islam very appealing. Despite the regime's conspiracies, misinformation campaigns, assassinations and mass executions of PMOI members and supporters, and even despite being placed on the FTO list since

1997 at the Mullah's request, the PMOI has grown and become the most organized and active movement against the fundamentalists ruling Iran. The PMOI educated the Iranian people and the world about the deadly ideology of the mullahs. After Iraq's invasion by the coalition forces, the group's main camp, Ashraf, became the safest city in Iraq, where thousands of Iraqi people from all ethnicities and religious groups gather for one purpose: to stop the fundamentalist mullahs in Iraq.

The era of appeasement is over. Now is the time to decide on a strategic policy for dealing with the Iranian threat. Obviously war is not an option. Sanctions and isolation will not be enough either. The National Council of Resistance of Iran's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, has our answer: "No war, no appeasement, instead regime change by the Iranian people and their resistance movement." Mrs. Rajavi laid out her policy at the meeting of the European Union Parliament in December 2004. The first step is to remove the PMOI from the FTO list. The world cannot be serious in its war against terrorism and fundamentalism if it insists on paralyzing the strongest opponent and antithesis of the Iranian mullahs. The next step is to impose sanctions on Iranian oil, suspend political and economical relations with Iran and recognize the Iranian resistance as Iran's representative in the United Nations and other international organizations, instead of the Iranian regime.

Imposing war, or permitting a nuclear Iran in the world, instead of looking to an Iranian-led solution, would be a grave mistake that in the end will only benefit the mullahs. It is possible to bring peace to the Middle East and the world without engaging in another war. The mullahs claim to be the true believers in Islam and try very hard to bring the West to another "crusade" that would fuel further Moslem hatred towards the West. The Iranian resistance is armed with the most powerful weapon to neutralize this dangerous plot: "a secular, egalitarian Islam." The clock for a nuclear Iran is ticking. What is the world waiting for?

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