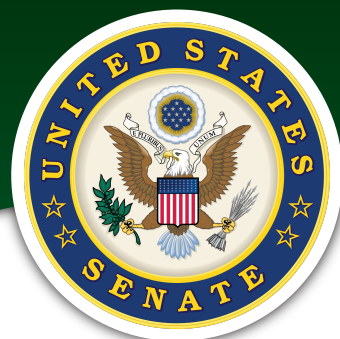


IRAN POLICY:

COUNTERING TEHRAN'S WAR AND TERROR, ADVANCING
A FREE NON-NUCLEAR REPUBLIC



COMPILED BY ORGANIZATION OF
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Senate Holiday Season Luncheon



IRAN POLICY:

COUNTERING TEHRAN'S WAR AND
TERROR, ADVANCING A FREE
NON-NUCLEAR REPUBLIC

December 11, 2024

325 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING (Kennedy Caucus Room)

MRS. MARYAM RAJAVI, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran;
SENATOR THOM TILLIS (R-NC), Committee on the Judiciary, Finance Committee & Veteran's Affairs Committee;
SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH), Chair, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, Foreign Relations Committee, Senior Member, Armed Service Committee & Appropriations Committee;
SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX), Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary;
SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ), Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary;
GENERAL JAMES JONES, USMC (RET.), Former National Security Advisor, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Marine Corps Commandant;
AMBASSADOR SAM BROWNBACK, Former United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom; Former Governor and Senator from Kansas;
GENERAL TOD D. WOLTERS (RET.), Former Supreme Allied Commander Europe;
Lt. GENERAL KEITH KELLOGG (RET.), Former National Security Advisor to the U.S. Vice President;
AMBASSADOR MARC GINSBERG, Former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco;
AMBASSADOR MOHAMMED A. AL-HADHRAMI, Yemeni Ambassador to the United States;



AMBASSADOR MARC GINSBERG

Former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco

For countering the terrorism of this regime and helping to restore human rights, dignity, and freedom to the Iranian people. I want to thank you for coming to be here today, particularly to the Edward m Kennedy Caucus Room.

That name means a great deal to me, more than most people would know. I had the privilege of working for senator Kennedy for 7 years as his national security adviser.

Senator Kennedy taught me a lot, and most importantly, he taught me that at that American policy and foreign policy must be bipartisan, must be effective, and must ensure success...

I don't like to use this phrase inflection point, but this really is one of those rare moments where this regime is on its back foot.

The world is witnessing a once in a lifetime development because behind the feared façade of the Iranian dictatorship and its terror exporters lies a regime that is unable to provide any means to its own people and deny them the freedom that they deserve.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, you will hear from a bipartisan group of distinguished experts and the senators who will share new proposals that will enable to seize this unique moment, to enhance our national security as well.

We Americans sometimes forget that while Iran has forged an axis of resistance that has placed our allies in mortal danger, It is on the cusp of developing a nuclear bomb while plotting and planning assassinations in the United States, interdicting our social media platforms, trying to kidnap American citizens, and we have stood still all far too long and let the mullahs get away with it.

Today, our keynote address will come from Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, whose inspirational leadership is an inspiration not only to us, but also to the Iranian people and to freedom loving people everywhere.

I've had the privilege of knowing Madam Rajavi, and I can tell you one thing that has made it very clear to me. Her commitment, her leadership, her dedication has galvanized a worldwide opposition into a major coalition that is determined to seize this moment.

And today, ladies and gentlemen, we set the stage for hearing from her and her ideas. Thank you very much Madam Rajavi. We welcome you here, and we wish you were here with us in person.



Speakers on the need for a decisive policy on Iran, is seen addressing the U.S. Senate Briefing. Organization of Iranian-American Communities (OIAC) organized the briefing. U.S. Senate Briefing, titled Iran Policy: Countering Tehran's War and Terror, Advancing a Free, Non-nuclear Republic at US Capitol Hill. (Photo by Siavosh Hosseini / SOPA Images/Sipa USA)(Sipa via AP Images)



MRS. MARYAM RAJAVI

President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

Greetings to all of you

Your conference is very timely in highlighting a correct policy on Iran. Recent developments, including the overthrow of the Syrian dictatorship, have dealt a strategic blow to the clerical regime. The regime's main proxy force, the Hezbollah in Lebanon, has also suffered a significant setback. The world witnessed how Assad's heavily armed forces, and tens of thousands of Quds Force proxies melted like snow under the summer sun. There should be no doubt that the Revolutionary Guards and all other oppressive forces in Iran will not be able to stand against the anger of the Iranian people and their nationwide uprising.

A year ago, Khamenei turned to war in the Middle East to divert attention from domestic issues and to prevent another nationwide protest in Iran. Such wars are the last resort of dictatorships on the brink of collapse. However, his strategy backfired. The clerical regime is the strategic loser of the war it started.

For many years, the elected representatives of the United States in both chambers of the Congress have repeatedly supported a correct policy toward the religious fascism ruling Iran. The validity of their viewpoint is now confirmed by significant developments ongoing inside and outside Iran.

A powerful protest movement has taken root in Iranian society. Despite severe repression, the organized resistance in Iran has managed to expand and, over the past year, has demonstrated its presence through thousands of activities carried out by Resistance Units.

Recently, the regime reacted by issuing death sentences for nine supporters of the PMOI.

Over the past four decades, various U.S. administrations have made numerous efforts to persuade the Iranian regime to abandon terrorism, and its efforts to destabilize the region and obtain nuclear weapons.

However, the regime's response has always been the same: deception, blackmail, hostage taking, and, ultimately, escalating aggression. The correct and viable solution is the overthrow of this regime by the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance. This goal is not only attainable, but it is within reach.

As far as the role of the international community is concerned, the central element is recognizing the Iranian people's right to overthrow the regime and the decisive role of the Iranian Resistance. There is an organized resistance and an alternative in Iran with vast social support and a declared political platform.



The international community, particularly the United States, is expected to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its widespread domestic repression, terrorism, warmongering, and its nuclear weapons and missile programs. The international community must stand with the people of Iran and its fight for freedom.

Distinguished guests,

I have consistently emphasized that our goal is not to seize power but to restore it to its rightful owners, the people of Iran and their vote.

Our resistance has a practical roadmap for regime change and establishing a free and democratic society. The people, who are deeply discontented and angry, along with the Resistance Units, who are part of the Army of Freedom and the main force for change in Iran. They are preparing an organized uprising.



The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), with thousands of experienced members, and Ashraf 3 in Albania that is one of its centers, and a democratic alternative, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), with international credibility and a clear program, are leading this struggle.

A wide range of Iranian experts make up an important part of the workforce needed to build Iran's future.

After the regime's overthrow, based on the NCRI's plan, a provisional government will be formed for a maximum of six months. Its main task will be to hold free and fair elections for a Constituent Assembly.

After that, power will be transferred to the representatives of the people in this Assembly, who will elect a new government for a two-year term to draft the constitution of the new republic.

The existence of a competent alternative leaves no room for chaos. For a free Iran, this resistance emphasizes on the ballot box as the only criteria for legitimacy, the freedoms and equal rights of women, the autonomy of ethnic groups, equality between Shia and Sunni Muslims and followers of other religions, the separation of religion and state, defending peace in the Middle East, and a non-nuclear Iran.

Honorable lawmakers in the U.S. Senate,

Dear friends of the Iranian people,

On behalf of the Iranian Resistance, I would like to wish you and the people of the United States a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year in advance.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Maryam Rajavi is president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the main resistance group in Iran.

"The people, who are deeply discontented and angry, along with the resistance units, who are part of the Army of Freedom and the main force of change in Iran, they are preparing an organized uprising," she told the panel.

Rajavi and her political group have a 10-point plan for regime change that calls for rebuilding an Iranian government based on separation of religion and state, gender equality, abolition of the death penalty and denuclearization.

"Our goal is not to seize power but to restore it to its rightful owners, the people of Iran and their vote."

Unlike the first Trump administration, Iran is now facing military attacks on other fronts through its proxies Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

It's unclear whether this weakened position would prompt them to bow to U.S. pressure or lash out even further. But one thing is clear: U.S. support for regime change would be a massive escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran with unknown consequences.



“The ayatollah will fall, the mullahs will fall, and we will see free and democratic elections in Iran,” Sen. Ted Cruz predicted.

"I would like to see Iran be very successful. The only thing is, they can't have a nuclear weapon," he also said.

But Brownback, a Trump appointee, insisted the U.S. must involve itself in regime change through supporting Iran's opposition.

"I think we need to support politically the opposition inside of Iran," he said. "Provide them equipment, provide them information... the regime is not just going to walk away. You've got to force them out."

And Iran watchers believe the fall of Assad, who was heavily backed by Iran and its proxy force Hezbollah, is the perfect moment to do that.

"The tectonic shift in the Syrian government... should mean to the people of Iran that change is in fact possible in the Middle East," said Gen. James Jones, former White House national security adviser and supreme allied commander of Europe.

"The change in administration has already caused tectonic shifts in geographic alignments," he went on. "Appeasement does not work. Iranian regime does not do nuance."

SENATOR THOM TILLIS (R-NC)

Committee on the Judiciary, Finance Committee &
Veteran's Affairs Committee

Thank you all. Ambassadors, generals, I feel like I'm standing on the shoulders of giants, this table that I am sitting at here. But, most importantly, thanks to everyone who's here and many familiar faces.....the mullahs today have destroyed a heritage of 1000 of years of good, freedom loving people that are under the totalitarian regime that runs Iran.

So let me leave you with this, I've studied this for a few decades now, and I believe that that Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect, understands how much I appreciate her decades of leadership, her vision for a peaceful transition. Not one that results in empowering any other new set of leaders, but one that actually results in empowering the Iranian people....

Now I'll leave you with this. Syria represents a great opportunity, but we need to be patient, and we need to be strategic.

First and foremost, as members of the US Senate, we have to protect our troops who are in the region. Secondly, we have to prevent Iran from doing what it does all around the world.

If it they can't be on the forefront as they were with the Assad regime, then they'll just resort to their terrorist tactics that they've metastasized throughout the globe. We need to hold them accountable.

This is not a time to accommodate Iran. This is time to step up the pressure. This is a historic opportunity to hopefully lay the groundwork for a peaceful and democratic Syria, but along with it, a peaceful and democratic Iran.

And you can count me in for getting more cosponsors on 599 and making sure that the American people stand with those who want a free, modern, and safe, and proud country called the country of Iran that everyone of you want to be from and for.





SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH)

Chair, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation,
Foreign Relations Committee
Senior Member, Armed Service Committee & Appropriations Committee

Thank you very much for that really generous introduction and thank you all so much for welcoming me here. As you all know, I always, feel at home, when I'm here with all of you. And now, I appreciated Senator Tillis' remarks. As some of you know, he and I did a split screen video to the World Forum last summer, and he has been a wonderful partner. And he teed it up very well in terms of where we are with Iran right now.

And we want to see Iran be next in terms of overthrowing. And as all of you know, Iran has been dealt a significant blow. The leadership in the country is on their back feet.

The events in Syria demonstrate the fundamental weakness at the core of Iran's regional strategic policies. And I don't think anyone here is surprised by that, because you've been fighting that, for many of you, your entire lives. Assad's decades long strategy of oppressing his own people, of spreading terror across the region, has finally run its course. And I think, as Senator Tillis said, we have to be thoughtful and patient to see the rebel groups who have overthrown Assad, what they do next. But we all have to celebrate when a vicious dictator like Assad is gone, and the Assad family is gone.

And today, what we're seeing in the Middle East is that Iran is projecting only weakness. Now is the time to think about how we invest more in the core values that we all share of democracy, of human rights, of justice for everyone. And no one knows how to stand up for those values in the face of tyranny better than the Iranian people, again, because they have been doing it for such a long time.

You know, and the people of Iran know firsthand, the dedication and the perseverance that's needed to stand up to autocracy and this includes in Ashraf 3 in Albania....And I know, that they're looking to the opportunity when they can go back to a free Iran. And as we look to the future, we have to think about ways to invest. As I said, we have to think about ways that we can continue to support the rights of the Iranian people, to determine their own future, to elect their own government, to represent the values and the opportunities that exist there.

I know that that's something you all are working on, and we are interested. I'm interested. I know Senator Tillis is interested in this. We are interested in thinking about how we can continue to partner with you and take advantage of this strategic opportunity that we have. So, again, thank you all so much for everything you've done. For all the dignitaries who are here, thank you for your continued fight. And for all of us, let's continue to work on this. We have an opportunity. We have to take advantage of it.



"There is a cottage industry in Washington to promote the goals and objectives of this regime," said Marc Ginsberg, former U.S. ambassador to Morocco. "You saw here there were Democratic senators to say to you, 'We don't buy this. We can make this a bipartisan effort.'"

The Biden administration has issued Iran sanctions waivers in hopes of future nuclear negotiations and has expressed no interest in helping to topple the ayatollah. On Wednesday, Biden renewed a sanctions waiver granting Iran access to \$10 billion in payments for energy from Iraq.

And asked if he would like to see Iran change its ruling system, Trump told Iranian American producer Patrick Bet David in October: "We can't get totally involved in all that. We can't run ourselves, let's face it."

"The ayatollah will fall, the mullahs will fall, and we will see free and democratic elections in Iran. Change is coming and it's coming very soon," the Texas Republican predicted.

"We will return to a maximum pressure policy," he added, "cut the cruel regime from resources from every direction possible – we are going to shut down nuclear research facilities, we are going to cut off their oil."



Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, the main resistance group in Iran, claimed that Iranians are preparing an organized uprising. (NCRI)



US officials see fall of Assad as opportunity to force Iranian regime change

'It's not just now or never, it's now or nuclear,' warned one official as Iran enriches its uranium stockpiles

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/us-officials-advocate-see-fall-assad-opportunity-force-iranian-regime-change?intcmp=tw_fnc

By [Morgan Phillips Fox News](#)

December 12, 2024 10:18am EST

With the [fall of Syria's Bashar al-Assad](#) over the weekend and a new White House on the horizon, Iranian resistance leaders and U.S. lawmakers alike have begun expressing hope that Iran will topple its own leadership in a similar fashion, with U.S. help.

"There's a real chance for regime change right now, that's the only way you're going to stop a nuclear weapon," Sam Brownback, former U.S. ambassador for International Religious Freedom, told Fox News Digital at a Senate panel on Iran on Wednesday.

"It's not just now or never, it's now or nuclear," he said, as Iran enriches uranium to near-nuclear-capable levels.

A bipartisan group of senators spoke in support of toppling the Iranian [Ayatollah Ali Khomeini](#) – both through a return to former President Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign through sanctions and supporting the Iranian resistance movement – a piece that was missing during the first Trump administration.

"We have an obligation to stand together with allies in making sure this regime's suppression will come to an end," said Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., at the event, which was hosted by the Organization for Iranian American Communities.

"Iran is projecting only weakness," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H. "Now is the time to think about how we invest more in the core values that we all share: democracy, human rights, justice for everyone."

"I have, for a long time, been willing to call quite unequivocally for regime change in Iran," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

It was a stronger message than has often recently been heard in Washington, D.C. circles, where there has been little appetite for getting further involved in the [Middle East](#).

IRAN POLICY: COUNTERING TEHRAN'S WAR
AND TERROR, ADVANCING A FREE
NON-NUCLEAR REPUBLIC



Senate Holiday Season Luncheon

SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX)

Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary

Well, thank you so very much. It is great to be with so many tremendous friends. And let me just say, change is in the air. You know, I will tell you on election night, we had a big party in Houston on election night. We had had so many members of the Iranian American community in Texas out knocking on doors, out making phone calls, out volunteering, out engaging, saying this election matters.

And I will tell you what, the results on election day, November 2024, were consequential for the United States, and they were consequential for the world. But there is nobody on planet Earth who had a worse day on election day than Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Ayatollah is a theocratic, homicidal, genocidal lunatic. His stated desire is not subtle nor is it complicated. When he leads chants of death to Israel and death to America, I believe him.

When he refers to Israel as the little Satan and America as the great Satan, I believe him. And if history teaches us anything is that bullies and tyrants do not respect weakness, but they only respect strength.

And I am incredibly pleased that on January 20th next year, a new commander in chief is coming to town.

And I will tell you, The Ayatollah is shaking in terror. We will return on January 20th to a maximum pressure policy. We will cut off this cruel and oppressive regime from resources from every direction possible. That includes vigorously imposing sanctions. That includes using every tool we have to shut down the nuclear research facilities, including the research facility in Fordow.

And we are going to cut off their oil. In the middle of the first Trump administration, there was a vigorous debate about whether to end the Iran nuclear deal.

Within the Trump administration, both the State department and the Defense department argued we should stay in the deal. I vociferously disagree. I spent 10, 20, 30 different visits with President Trump in the oval office, on Air Force 1, urging that he pull out of the deal and President Trump made the right decision and pulled out of that deal.



Afterwards, there was a major debate about waivers that remained in place, the most important of which was an oil waiver. Even after we pulled out of that deal, there was an oil waiver that allowed Iran to continue to sell oil. That time Iran was selling roughly 1,000,000 barrels a day of oil. Once again, there was a fight within the administration about what to do concerning the oil waiver. This time the battle lines were a little different. The Department of State once again was arguing for the wrong position. State argued, do not end the oil waiver. If you end the oil waiver, the global price of oil will skyrocket. The price of gasoline here at home will skyrocket. The Department of Energy, which you might think would know something about energy, said that's nonsense. There's plenty of global supply of oil. We could end the oil waiver. We can impose sanctions, and it's not going to affect the price of oil. Again, I engaged repeatedly with President Trump and said we've got to end the oil waiver. Again, the President agreed with me and overruled his own Secretary of State.

We ended the oil waiver, and we now know the answer to that dispute, which is State was wrong and Eenergy was right. The oil waiver ended, Iran's oil sales plummeted, and the global price of oil barely moved at all.

At the end of the Trump administration, Iran was selling roughly 300,000 barrels a day of oil down from 1000000 barrels a day when the oil waiver was in effect.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration came in and reversed all of those policies. The administration came in with a policy of appeasement towards Iran, and most disastrously stopped enforcing the oil sanctions.

And Iran's oil sales, as a result, rose from 300,000 barrels a day to today, roughly 2,000,000 barrels a day.

The Delta is a \$100,000,000,000 that flowed in to fund the Ayatollah, that funded Hamas, that funded Hezbollah, that funded war against America, that funded war against Israel.

And I'm here to tell you, on January 20th, those oil sanctions are coming back. The Ayatollah is in panic because revenue for the regime is about to disappear. Not only that, but Iran's proxies from Hamas to Hezbollah to Bashar Assad in Syria have all utterly collapsed.

Iran is weak. They are scared. And I will tell you, I, for one, have for a long time been quite willing to call unequivocally for regime change in Iran. The Ayatollah will fall.

The Mullahs will fall, and we will see free and democratic elections in Iran. And as the men and women here know full well, it is the people of Iran who have suffered so viciously under this cruel and tyrannical regime.

Freedom is coming, and it can come with a speed that can astonish almost everyone. Just ask Bashar Assad.

Our enemies are terrified, and that is a very good thing. So I want to say to the men and women here, thank you for your courage. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your passion. Thank you for your willingness to speak truth.

I'm going to close as I opened. Change is coming, and it is coming very soon. Thank you.

With the right strategy, this support can be neutralized. I propose three measures for the new US policy on this aspect.

First, designating the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization.

This step, similar to the designations of Hezbollah and the IRGC, would send a strong message that their actions, terrorizing civilians, targeting maritime security, and destabilizing the regions, are unacceptable.

Second, supporting the Yemeni government and military to liberate the port of Hudaydah, securing this vital port in the Red Sea West of Yemen will enable us to protect the Red Sea and it will also pressure them to engage in meaningful peace talks.

It would cut the support of Iran to Yemen. It's just as simple as that.

And it's not going to cost much for us, Yemenis and the military to liberate Hudaydah. We were about this close to do it in 2018, but we were stopped by the international community. I think it's time that we liberate that port.

Holding militia leaders accountable for their atrocities will weaken their operations and disrupt their ability to act with impunity.

These measures will enhance the security of the Red Sea, save the taxpayers in this country a lot of money, hold the Houthis accountable for their actions, paving the way for enduring peace in Yemen.

I'm afraid this is the only way. Diplomacy alone does not work with the Iranian regime and their proxies. We have tried it for so many years.

Peace through strength works. And I hope, and I'm confident that one day, the Yemeni people and the Iranian people would be able to free themselves from the tyranny of the Iranian regime and their proxies.





AMBASSADOR MOHAMMED A. AL-HADHRAMI

Yemenis Ambassador to the United States

Thank you very much for having me here today. I'm really honored to be here, especially after the powerful statements that we heard, especially from Senator Ted Cruz, and I agree with him completely.

Change is in the air, and I think the Yemeni people and the Iranian people deserve a chance to rid themselves of the tyranny of the Iranian regime and their proxies. And I hope that will come very fast.

I am honored to address you today on behalf of Yemen, a nation striving for peace despite enduring profound challenges and a decade of conflict exacerbated by the Iranian regime's relentless ambition to dominate the region.

Yemen's suffering is not merely a tragedy, it is the deliberate result of Iran's support for chaos and regional instability.

For more than 10 years, Iran has financed an armed Houthi terrorist group, providing them with lethal weapons to destabilize Yemen and threaten international shipping lane in the Red Sea.

Tragically, Iran's support has enabled the Houthis to become a menace not only to Yemen but to the region and the world.

The Red Sea is a critical commercial shipping corridor that handles 10% of global trade and over 30% of annual cargo shipping. The US alone spends so much in the billions defending attacks that the Iranian regime spends so little on.

The Houthis must be stopped, and Yemenis can stop them. We have the resolve, manpower to counter the Houthis and the Iranian threat in Yemen and the Red Sea, but we cannot do it alone. We need your support.

While the Houthis receive free oil and gas from Iran, they, using Iranian weapons, have crippled Yemen's ability to export our own resources, hindering our government's capacity to pay salaries, provide services, or mount an effective counter offensive.

Yemenis have the determination and ability to defeat the Houthis, restore state institutions, and bring peace to our nation, and a new US strategy is critical to help us do just that, The Houthis are not inherently powerful. Their strength comes solely from Iran and its revolutionary guards.



SENATOR CORY BOOKER (D-NJ)

Committee on Foreign Relations & Committee on the Judiciary

I'm here because of deep friendship. I look around here, and I see people who are no longer friends. They're really like brothers and sisters of mine.

Everywhere I go around this country, I meet people, Iranian Americans, who stand strong with American values and principles and know that something that Martin Luther King said is so true. That we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. We're tied in a common garment of destiny. That injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

The Iranian people are suffering under an unjust regime that conducts horrific violence against its own people. That violates human rights and civil rights. That tortures and kills and abducts people within their own country.

That is not just an Iranian problem, that is an American problem. And we know Iran is the number one exporter of global terrorism and violence and killing. That they export anti-democratic vicious ideals. That we are not safe. That our cause is the Iranian people's cause. That injustice in that country upsets the global order. And this is no secret. I've sat with countries around the globe from the African continent to Europe.

And especially, in the Middle East, who point to the most destabilizing actor in the Middle East. The real threat to the thriving of the Middle Eastern community is Iran.

We have an urgent obligation now to stand together, not just as Americans, but stand together with global allies in making sure that this regime's suppression of its own people comes to an end.

And so, I am excited because my brothers and sisters who are in this room, the folks who have helped me and my office in so many ways, make sure that, not just in the Democratic party, but in the United States Senate, in a bipartisan way, we stand with the people of Iran. We stand with the ideals of justice.

I'm so excited that I am a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 599, introduced by Senator Tillis and Senator Shaheen. There is no separation between the parties when it comes to standing for justice for the Iranian people. And the protection of the Iranian diaspora, in places like Albania. We must do everything for those folks who are taking refuge in Ashraf 3. They're deserving of their fundamental rights, and we must work together to ensure that they are upheld, that they are respected, and that we share common cause. Now I was excited to hear the ambassador.



I was excited to come here. And immediately I hear one of the greatest threats to our planet right now involves Iran's efforts to get a nuclear weapon. We must prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. It could destabilize the global order and create untold crisis. We must do everything to counter Iran's efforts using the funding of terrorists and their regional proxies that are upending peace and justice.

We must work together to do everything we can to support the bravery and the resolve of Iranian men and women and children who stand up, who protest, who speak out, who have the courage to take to the streets in their nonviolent efforts for freedom, who've risked their safety, we must say unequivocally that we stand with them against the unchained oppression that they face.

So, my brothers and my sisters, my friends in this room, I see the spirit rising across the world. I see more and more people understanding that we all share common cause when it comes to the oppression of the regime in Iran right now. I see more and more change happening around our planet, giving us more strength to our mission, more strength to our cause.

We all in this world believe in peace. We all in this world believe in justice. But let me end with something a little deeper.

I love the world's religions. I was just with a sick American in my office. I love Hinduism. I could go through the faiths that have helped me become a more deep whole and deeply faithful person.

But what I'm excited about is that I share a faith with many people in this room, which is being one of the 3 Abrahamic faiths. Really, this idea that, Abraham, the father of 3 of our major world religions, believed deeply in certain ideals. Now the story of Abraham welcoming strangers in the desert who then revealed themselves to be angels. I love that Abraham invited these strangers into his tent and showed them kindness and decency. I love that because that's what I get from the Iranian American community.

People who have welcomed me with such love, such open heart, such abundance of goodwill. But what's even more important in that story is at the end of it, those angels say that we're going to go out and destroy a city. And does Abraham just say, that's okay. Go ahead. No. Abraham argues with angels of God. Argues with messengers of God for the ideal of justice. Will the God of mercy show mercy? These are the fundamental human values of humanity. That even though Abraham didn't live in that city that was going to be destroyed, didn't have family there, that he would stand up to fight for other people because of that common ideal.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I always tell people, before you tell me about your religion, first show it to me in how you treat other people.

This is for me the greatest expression of our common faiths. Not by what we say or how we pray, but by what we do and how we stand up for other people.

As long as I'm a United States senator and beyond, as long as I have breath in my body, I will stand with the Iranian people against repression and injustice because my cause and their cause are the same.

And as you heard from so many of our speakers, we must go forward in making sure that we can find ways to get the regime gone, to ensure that we are precise in the neutralization of any nuclear capability that exists in Iran, as the ambassador so pointed out. And we must have a plan in place to move forward. And as the great madam spoke to us when we started, she has a 10-point plan. So many of you are very, very aware of her 10-point plan. She most recently spoke last month in November, giving us additional icing on the cake of that 10-point plan. And I believe that our job is to make sure that we are ready to implement a 10-point plan.

Let me stop here by saying I can't thank all of you enough for what you've done and for what you'll continue to do. It is a noble cause. Here in this hallowed building, in this hallowed conference center, we are talking about something that is going to generate greater peace across planet Earth. And it's very exciting for all of us.





GENERAL TOD D. WOLTERS (RET.)

Former Supreme Allied Commander Europe

Well, we've heard some fantastic words this afternoon. And let me just start by acknowledging what I have observed as the positive campaign momentum that you all have displayed today.

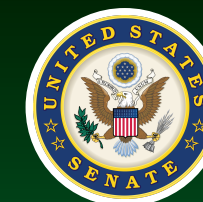
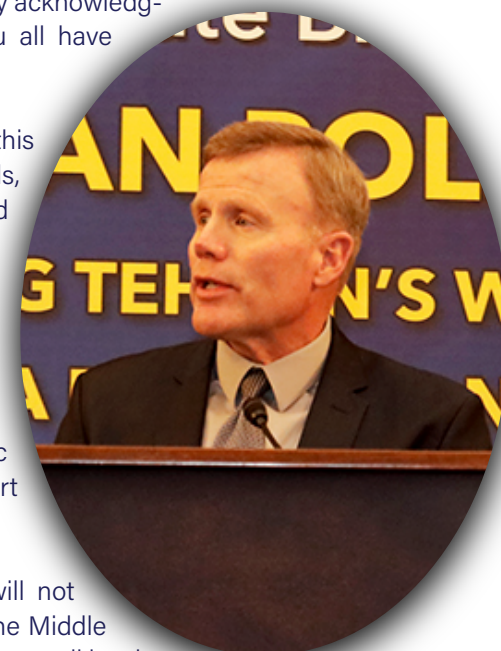
First and foremost, I want to acknowledge those who have just represented this great cause. Our Senate, members of our Congress, their staffers, Generals, officers, ambassadors, and all of those individuals here on these hallowed grounds right now. You in the audience who are willing to roll up your sleeves and give your blood, sweat and tears to this cause represent the change that is coming and the positive impact that we will have on planet Earth to generate more peace. And that is what we're after.

I will try not to repeat any of the very, very same comments that we just heard. But I wanted to acknowledge several strategic imperatives. The first strategic imperative, the people of Iran do not want this current regime. We must support the people of Iran and neutralize this current regime.

The second strategic imperative, generating peace across planet Earth will not occur until we find ways to allow for a peaceful Middle East and peace in the Middle East will be achieved via a free and democratic Republic of Iran. And this group at all levels represents the cause that we must embrace to succeed.

The global awareness of those two strategic imperatives must be proliferated. And we can do that together by gatherings such as this and getting the word out, as General Jones talked about, amongst the staffers that represent our United States Congress. I would just like to acknowledge what is so obvious about what just occurred. But I would like to do so through a military lens as a previous commander in Europe representing NATO and the great nations that support the European continent.

The most glaring, obvious change as a result of the fall of Assad is the fact that the nexus that exists in nefarious activity from Iran to the West, to Syria, to the eastern Mediterranean, to eastern Europe, to the Baltic Sea, to the Arctic and to the Atlantic has just been broken. The proxies that this terrible regime relies upon to gain influence and capability from east to west to the eastern Mediterranean has been broken. And this is something that we need to acknowledge. We need to make others aware of. We need to educate. And now, most importantly, we need to act upon. And as so many of our briefers highlighted, and I think they did so with great precision, we do so via strength, not weakness. We do so by being precise in exactly what it is we need to do to ensure that we can have a free and democratic Iran.



GENERAL JAMES JONES, USMC (RET.)

Former National Security Advisor, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Marine Corps Commandant

Ladies and gentlemen, it's an honor to be here once again. I am in my 11th year of being associated with this wonderful crusade and this effort to topple a vicious regime that has caused so much damage in the world and still has the potential to wreak havoc in many parts of the world....

So, as we look at the world today, ladies and gentlemen, particularly our young people here, we are in a battle involving autocracies and democracies....

And nowhere is this more important than what's going on in the Middle East.

The government, the regime in Iran is the head of the snake that has impeded the progress of peace and prosperity and has impeded the desire of the Iranian people to live free in a democratic regime.

So, this week, we've witnessed yet another titanic shift in the Syrian government. We'll wait and see what that means. But what it should mean to the people of Iran is a change is in fact possible in the Middle East.

You may have to wait for it, but it will come. And I think that, if I were a citizen of Iran, or in opposition to the regime, I would be very encouraged today to know that this is in fact possible.

And I think it is very important because of the governments that I just mentioned, who will be lesser, influential in what happens in the Middle East if we do the right thing.

The change in the US administration that is upcoming in the near future has already caused some titanic shifts in the geographic alignments.

One of the lessons I think that all of our speakers have alluded to, directly or indirectly, is that with regard to the regime in Iran, appeasement does not work. Full stop. Appeasement does not work; another way of saying it is that the Iranian regime does not do nuance.



There can be no mistake in how we communicate with that particular regime. The rise of US energy leadership is something that's going to happen in the very near future.

It is going to be one of the instruments in our, vast array of ways to influence around the world that we can bring to the table. The renewed emphasis on the necessity of having friends and allies, is going to be very important.

NATO has transformed itself, from being a defensive reactive alliance to one that is now routinely embraces out of area operations and has, under the leadership of people like General Wolters and General Cavoli and others have transformed itself to being a formidable barrier to any further encroachment on the European land and serves as an example of what friends and allies can do when they want to work together to prevail, on democratic ideals.

As we go forward, I think in seeking and achieving regime change in Iran, public private partnerships are going to be very important.

It's one thing to topple a regime, but it's another thing to have a good plan for the day after that regime has been toppled.

Make no mistake. Iran is on its heels, but it's still a very dangerous government. I hope that we will reject the idea of appeasement and a search for some hope that a moderate Iranian leader can somehow emerge.

That is a pipe dream that has no validity. We have been led down that road many, many times, and it's time now to affect a strong policy that will affect a regime change as we pivot away from past failures.

But once we say something like that, you can't walk away from it and pretend like it didn't happen. It's there. President Biden has said he will not allow Iran to gain nuclear weapons.

Those statements have consequences. Those statements have real meaning. But you must have, you must have a plan to make sure that if that doesn't work, that you have the ability to back up that statement.

Last year in Paris and in Berlin, we saw a powerful demonstration of support by United States, Canadian, and European nations in Paris.

All the while in Berlin, 50,000 people marched in support of the, of the NCRI and Mrs. Rajavi's leadership.

Today, we need to recommit to the idea that as in Syria, change is also coming to Iran. A clear democratic change based on Mrs. Rajavi's 10 points, which I've always labeled as Jeffersonian in principle.

So, what should we do in 2005? One, I would say continue the education of the American media and the American public with regard to the NCRI. What it is, what it isn't, and what its hopes and aspirations are. Second, continue to build a congressional support for a free democratic Iran as mentioned by the Senators who stopped by.

Number 3, as Mrs. Rajavi indicated on the screen, give hope to the Iranian people that change is coming by talking about expectations the day after the regime falls.

Number 4, to the extent that you can improve on tightening sanctions on Iranian oil exports, I would recommend that that be strongly looked at.

And number 5, live up to not allowing Iran to develop nuclear weapons and deliver capability of those weapons. Ladies and gentlemen, we live in dangerous times, but dangerous times also have great possibilities.

We are talking about whether we've got to have a different regime in Tehran, or this will be a nuclear regime, which we really then looking at decades of some sort of standoff and a really difficult situation.

And I want people to think in their mind when they're looking at the changing regime, a regime change in Iran.

We need to do the same thing this time around. We need to do it now supporting the people like MEK, other groups that are opposed to this regime, in Iran. So stated clearly, the maximum pressure campaign 2.

We must include a political pressure component, supporting the protesters, calling for an end to the dictators in Tehran. Now Tehran's going to go into survival mode. They're going to start saying, okay.

We'll negotiate. We'll talk with people. We want to talk about the nuclear weapons. They're going to go into survival mode at this point in time, and we cannot let them go there. We cannot accept it.

They have done this previously. They always come back, and then they get aggressive again. And moving forward, we don't want them. And, also, remember the people of Iran don't want this regime. They don't support this regime.

Just like the people in Syria didn't support Assad. They were threatened and they were terrorized but they didn't support the regime, and the people of Iran don't support them.

They don't support the regime, the theocracy, the ruling mullahs. There will be no peace in the Middle East as long as this regime is in control.

We know that. Thank you for being here, for your decades of opposition to the theocracy. This is the moment to seize. It's not only now or never, it's now or nuclear.

That's what we're facing. God bless you all.





AMBASSADOR SAM BROWNBACK

Former United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom; Former Governor and Senator from Kansas

Pleasure to be back here and in the halls in the senate and in the Kennedy Caucus Room. It's got such a special memory for so many people here.

I've got one very direct specific thought I would really like to leave with you of the moment we're in right now regarding Iran, the Middle East, and in, really, indeed, peace throughout the world, it's not only now or never; it's now or nuclear. It is what we are facing at the moment.

And I want to develop that briefly for you. It's not only now or never, it's now or nuclear.

Either we will see a different regime in Iran shortly and soon, or we will be facing a nuclear Iran. And they've learned the lessons from North Korea and the Kim regime that the way to hold the whole world off is to go nuclear.

You got to have the bomb. And once you have the bomb, everybody kind of backs off from you. They leave you alone. And we are now on the decision-making moment of what it will be like in the Middle East.

Will you have a different peaceful democratic regime in Iran, or will you face a nuclearized theocratic regime in Tehran whose theology supports the use of the bomb.

They won't have a hesitancy to doing this based on their own theology, and this is a theocracy that we're facing. So, one has to think in terms of that, and this is critical.

To the new incoming Trump administration, congratulations. Here's a hot potato. You got a big one in front of you. I applaud the maximum pressure campaign the first time around, which was quite effective.

The second time around, it needs to be even more effective. The maximum pressure campaign needs to include all of the financial pieces to it, security, restraint, but it needs to add another component.

It needs to have a political piece to it. It needs to be pushing and supporting the people on the ground in Iran and from around the world that are opposed to this regime and do so publicly and do so boldly and do so clearly.

They need to support, and here a lot of people say, okay. Now what are you really talking about with that?



Iran is now recognized for what it is. The NCRI is increasingly recognized by United States and global media as the voice of opposition for the future of Iran.

I carry a small book with me. This is the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is the oath of office, the one that the President makes and officers of the American military carry.

I propose that in the near future, Iranian people be given a book that will have two things to it. Part 1 is Mrs. Rajavi's 10-point plan. Part 2 is the constitution, the new constitution of Iran.





LT. GENERAL KEITH KELLOGG (RET.)

Former National Security Advisor to the U.S. Vice President

Well, thank you for having me today and I really appreciate it. You know, I the comments we're going to make it's amazingly consistent.

We didn't get together and kind of have these comments beforehand, but all of these comments now are rolling one after another. And there's a consistency to it that I think is important and it's important that we talk about it today. Thank you for allowing me to part of the conference today.

I am reinforcement of what was said earlier, this is going to be it's nonpartisan because it affects both sides, both Republican and Democrat.

But I believe that we really have this underestimated Iran for the last 45 years. We just haven't got it right. And as a former military guy, I have to refer sometimes from my military background. And there was a classic military book, written by a gentleman by the name of Sun Tzu.

That was 500 BC. And he said in this very true living today, he said if you know yourself and you know the enemy, you're never going to be in peril.

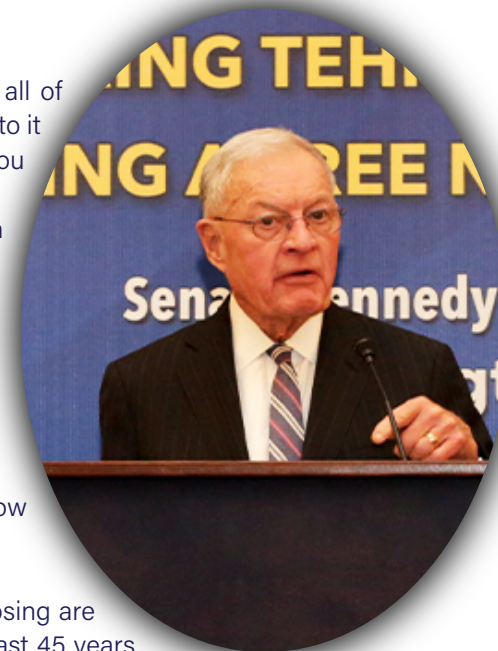
But if you know yourself and not the enemy, your chances of winning and losing are basically equal. And we have been consistently wrong about Iran over the last 45 years and I think President Trump finally tried started to get it right.

We always seem to assume, over the last 45 years when you look at the Iranian leadership, they're actually Jeffersonian Democrats in disguise. And we kind of had it wrong. And it's been a fault of both Republicans and both in the end Democrats as well.

And I think what there has to be recognition and a real hard recognition now, especially today, that the previous policies toward the Iranian regime, have failed to achieve the declared goal, which is a democratic Iran.

I'm reminded what the late Pulitzer Prize winner, Will Durant said, when he wrote he actually wrote it, but there was 11 volume treatise on the story of civilization. And he said, this is a quote, we seem to be working on the assumption that if we're nice to other people they will be nice to us. And he commented, I can tell you in the last 4000 years there has been no evidence to support that vision.

And then and then I let me just briefly go back and kind of walk our way through it because it defaults both Republican and Democrat, where we're at.



We can do that regionally. We do that collectively with all our allied, in the region. But also, the power of the press, continually press it, and continually pressing the advantage that we have in Iran.

This regime is tottering. And I will close this by saying they showed how weak they were when the Israelis went after them.

That ought to that should tell everybody that Iran is not as strong as you think they are. They're a paper tiger and you can push back on them, and I think you can push them to defeat. And with that, thank you very much.

