



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.

July 9, 2004

No. 112

Nuclear proliferation

NEWYORKPOST Atomic Ayatollahs

New York Post, June 28, Peter Brooks - Iran insists its

"civilian" nuclear power program is for "peaceful" purposes only. That's laughable — but the consequences aren't.

If other countries don't take decisive action soon, the world will have the 9th nuclear weapons state — and its first nuclear-armed state that also sponsors terrorism — faster than you can say "atomic ayatollah."....As the U.S. ambassador to the IAEA said, "The passage of time is not a neutral factor in proliferation cases." Iran may become a nuclear power in the next 18 months...

It's time for the U.N. Security Council to insist on broad, multilateral economic sanctions.... A nuclear Iran would undermine stability in region, threatening the new Iraqi and Afghan governments and giving Syria and the Saudis strong incentive to go nuclear, too. It seems obvious: The Iranians aren't interested in negotiations — they're interested in having the bomb. We've tried to counter Iran's nuclear intentions through mommy-coddling diplomatic means for long enough: That approach has failed miserably. It's time we all recognize this fact and agree to take the matter to the Security Council for more drastic action.

(Peter Brookes is a Heritage Foundation senior fellow.)



THE Daily Telegraph GC's embarrassing cover up

Telegraph, June 27 - Western intelligence officials are

examining reports that Iran's Revolutionary Guards attempted to cover up a nuclear accident that occurred during the delivery of a secret shipment of weapons-grade uranium from North Korea. The accident allegedly caused Teheran's new £260 million international airport to be sealed off by Revolutionary Guards commanders within hours of its official opening on May 9.... At the time of the incident, Revolutionary Guards commanders claimed that Khomeini airport had been closed because of "security problems". Iranian aviation officials, however, believe that Teheran wanted to cover up evidence of the previously unreported

nuclear accident in 2002, linked to Iran's secret programme to build an atom bomb...

In December 2002, according to officials with access to the airport, a North Korean cargo jet delivering a consignment of nuclear technology, including some weapons-grade uranium, was being unloaded at night under military supervision. During the delivery, a container slipped and cracked on the Tarmac. All personnel in the vicinity were taken from the site and given thorough medical examinations...

They later determined that the site had been completely decontaminated, and Revolutionary Guards allowed airport construction to resume, confident that they had concealed the incident from the outside world. Their attitude changed, however, after inspectors working for the United Nations-backed International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) uncovered evidence in June 2003 that Iran had secretly enriched uranium to weapons grade at the Kalaye electric centrifuge plant, on the outskirts of Teheran....

Iranian aviation officials, who cannot be named for their own security, believe that the Revolutionary Guards ordered the closure of Khomeini International Airport in case the IAEA inspectors detected deposits of enriched uranium. The airport will remain closed until Russian nuclear experts can examine the site of the spill and make sure that no traces of the illegal shipment remain. A senior Western intelligence official said: "We are aware of the concerns being expressed by Iranian aviation experts and are trying to investigate them. The problem is that the Revolutionary Guards will not allow access to the airport to any foreign nationals, including UN inspectors."

The New York Times Iran reignite fears on atomic programs

New York Times, June 25, Washington - European nations said they had received a diplomatic note from Iran saying it would resume manufacturing equipment for its nuclear centrifuges, but not resuming uranium enrichment. "They've sent letters saying we haven't lived up to our commitments to normalize relations," said a spokesman for Britain, which received the note, along with France and Germany.

"Among Europeans and the U.S., there will be deep disappointment," he added.

"There is no good reason for it. Europe will be urging them to reverse this decision."

The note was interpreted by American officials in Washington as a sign that Tehran had chosen to defy the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose board passed a resolution last Friday sharply critical of Iran's efforts to hide important segments of its program from the agency's inspectors. It is not clear, in any case, that Iran has ever halted all its centrifuge production....The Iranian note was sent to Britain, France and Germany, the three nations that intervened in the fall to try to defuse a confrontation with the I.A.E.A. over inspections. Iran said it was no longer committed to a promise to halt work on the centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium, either for commercial power production or because Europe had failed to close the questions surrounding the inspection by June



Meddling in Iraq and export of terrorism

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Iran's Terrorist 'NGO'

July 7, 2004 By NIR BOMS and REZA BULORCHI

It's tempting to dismiss Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's latest threat that Iran will harm America "around the world" if it attacks its interests as empty bluster from Iran's mullahs. But there are signs that Iran is taking concrete steps to match its belligerent words with deeds.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are usually associated with humanitarian relief and peaceful advocacy work. So it is not every day that an "NGO" is in charge of recruiting "suicide volunteers" to dispatch overseas to strike at "world arrogance." Yet that reportedly was the case last month at a three-day conference sponsored by the Iranian government and its "Committee for Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement," which the ruling mullahs, in a bit of transparent fakery, choose to bill as an "NGO."

According to the Tehran-based daily *Sharq*, the conference provided a forum for volunteers to register their names for suicide attacks. The BBC Monitoring service, quoting a number of Iranian sources, said the group's sponsors claim that over 10,000 candidates from around the world have signed up to die for the cause. The calls to join the "Army of Martyrs" began at mosques across Iran following Friday prayers, after which registration forms were distributed by the tens of thousands at local Islamic universities to prospective male and female suicide attackers.

The London based Arabic daily *al-Sharq al-Awsat* reports that the "Army of Martyrs" is operated by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps [also known as the Pasdaran], and IRGC sub-agencies tasked with intelligence gathering and the planning of terrorist attacks.

At the conference, Brigadier General Sardar Salami, director of operations for the Revolutionary Guards, delivered a keynote speech titled "Suicide Operations: A Security and Military Strategy Perspective." "As you see, the explosion of the two World Trade Center towers divided history to before and after [Sept. 11]. And with this minor incident, policy of the United States and other world and regional powers changed," Gen. Salami said according to *Sharq*.

In an indirect reference to Iran's nuclear weapons program, Gen. Salami reportedly added that, "the Americans now know that the Muslims with tendencies for suicide missions have acquired new technology and have technological capabilities which have caused more fear for them."

According to the quotations in *Sharq*, another high-ranking Revolutionary Guards commander explained the choice of terminology: "Since the Committee for Commemoration of Martyrs is an NGO, it does not need to ask for permission of the country's military institutions if it decides to carry out an operation. Their operations would be similar to those by Palestinians and have nothing to do with the regime in Iran." So the regime would be able to deny that it is sponsoring terrorism -- although not very plausibly. In a closing speech entitled, "Suicide Operations: The Last Resort," a top Revolutionary Guards official, Hassan Abbassi, tried to rationalize Iran's support of terrorism. "If Muslims create fear in the heathen world, this fear is sacred; it is not terrorism or violence," he said according to the *Sharq* account.

Last month at the Technical College of Teheran, Mr. Abbassi said: "We have identified some 29 weak points for attacks in the U.S. and in the West. We intend to explode some 6,000 American atomic warheads. We have shared our intelligence with other guerrilla groups and we shall utilize them as well." If this sounds like a fanatical rant, keep in mind the close association between the Revolutionary Guards and the Iranian government. The Iranian regime provides the organization, logistics, funding and recruitment for the "NGO." This sort of thing has a long history in Iran. In 1979, "students" calling themselves the "Followers of the Imam [Khomeini] Line," were instrumental in overthrowing the U.S.-allied shah. The "suicide bombers conference" reflects a growing pattern of incendiary behavior by Iran's current regime

A recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's nuclear program chronicles deceit and denial of access to some key sites. New satellite photos reveal that Iran is hastily demolishing some facilities north of Tehran suspected of being a nuclear site before the IAEA has a chance to inspect them. The mullahs, who are encountering resistance to their plans in Iraq and in the area of nuclear weapons, are now resorting to blatant threats and the use of state-sanctioned terrorism to intimidate their enemies and try to force them into appeasement.

A strong message of support must be delivered by the U.S. and Europe to the courageous Iranians who are bent on unseating the regime and who serve as our best hope for an Iran free of torture, terror, and weapons of mass destruction. Only then will we be certain that Iran's "10,000 candidates of terror," if they in fact exist, will not have a chance to complete their training program.

Mr. Nir Boms is a senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies and at the Council for Democracy and Tolerance. Mr. Reza Bulorchi is the executive director of the U.S. Alliance for Democratic Iran.

What's Iran up to?

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Wall Street Journal, Review & Outlook, July 1 - That's what U.S. authorities wondered as they expelled two security guards at the Iranian mission to the United Nations last weekend, after the mission was warned repeatedly against permitting its employees to videotape the Statue of Liberty, the subway, bridges and other New York landmarks.

For a dismaying answer, consider the statement made two weeks ago in Tehran by one Hassan Abassi, head of the Revolutionary Guards' Center for Doctrinaire Affairs of National Security Outside Iran's Borders. (Quite the job description.) "We will map 29 sensitive sites in the United States and give the information to all international terror organizations," the New York Sun quotes Mr. Abassi as saying.

In a June 17 report, Memri -- the Middle East Media Research Institute -- reports a nearly identical statement by Mr. Abassi about compiling a target list of "29 sensitive sites." And also: "We have a strategy drawn up for the destruction of Anglo-Saxon civilization."

That strategy would certainly explain its all-out sprint to develop nuclear weapons, which Iran could possess in about a year unless the West acts to stop it. Also relevant is Tehran's recent announcement that it has allocated billion to resume



developing long-range missile systems that can reach targets in Europe and the U.S. Then there's the 9/11 Commission's disclosure last month of Iran-al Qaeda links.

All of which suggests that maybe it's time for U.S. policy to more forcefully and directly support democrats in Iran who want to liberate their country from this terror-sponsoring regime.



The fears of the terror masters

National Review Online, June 29, Michael Ledeen - Late on

the night of June 24th-25th there was an "accident" in southeastern Iran, near Zahedan, in that fascinating area of "Iranian Baluchestan" down where Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan merge. According to Agence France Press, quoting local Red Crescent sources, a fuel truck "lost control and crashed into a police post, with the explosion engulfing other trucks, cars and buses." But the pictures of the incident are not those of a truck out of control. It all took place at a border crossing, at a customs inspection station. At the time of the explosion there were eleven trucks parked there, and several of them were carrying explosives for the construction of bombs...The explosion engulfed the entire column, which is why — as some of the pictures show — the columns of the customs building were shattered...In any event, the next day — the 25th — Pakistani border police arrested some 18 men trying to sneak into Pakistan. Fifteen of them were traveling on false Bangladeshi passports; the other three were Iranian agents. All are currently being interrogated by Pakistani authorities. Meanwhile, Iraqi authorities have rounded up eight Iranian intelligence officers in Najaf, and one other — a high-ranking officer in the Revolutionary Guards — was caught while attempting to sabotage an oil pipeline. As you see, the Iranians are frantically increasing their efforts to drive Coalition forces out of Iraq, to wreck the Iraqi economy — and especially to inflate oil prices, which the mullahs hope will bring down the Bush presidency — and to destabilize the fragile Karzai government in Afghanistan. They, ...are doing this because the liberation of Iraq is indeed threatening the authority of the remaining terror masters in Tehran. The entire region is bubbling from the heat of democratic revolution, and you can see the fears of the terror masters as they steadily increase the repression of their own people...And in Iran, despite the unfortunate claim of Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage that the mullahs preside over a democracy, one international organization after another has exposed the monstrosities carried out daily by the murderers who govern the Islamic Republic. Hands off Cain, an organization fighting capital punishment everywhere, awarded the People's Republic of China its award as top executioner for 2003, with Iran solidly in second position. Hands off Cain noted that 98.7 percent of all executions in the world last year were carried out by dictatorial, illiberal, or authoritarian states. Just as in the case of terrorism, if you want to win the war against the world's leading executioners, you must fight for the spread of freedom. The same holds for an independent press. According to Reporters Without Borders, Iran again wins the laurels for the greatest enemy of a free press. More than 120 newspapers have been banned since 2001, more than 50 journalists have been detained and 11 are still in detention, making Iran the biggest prison for journalists



in the Middle East," the organization wrote in a letter to the European Union, which has appeased the mullahs for years. The letter bitterly continued. "One wonders what to make of the Iranian government's remark on 20 June that it is the European Union that should learn from Iran about human rights." And, of course, there is the question of the Iranians' crash program to produce atomic bombs. It seems that no quantity of evidence, and no number of lies from Tehran, will convince France, Germany, and Great Britain to take any serious steps toward preventing this great catastrophe. Even our own leaders — by far the most aggressive in the so-called Western world — are only calling for stricter inspections and possibly a few additional sanctions, measures that would not seriously cripple the Iranian atomic project. But such proposals are indigestible to the feckless Europeans. Western intelligence agencies are playing along. Just a year ago, our own experts along with those in Europe and Israel, were warning that Iran might conceivably produce an atomic bomb in three to four years, and possibly even less. I was warned by Iranians I respected that the ayatollahs had demanded a bomb by the end of last year, but that was clearly wrong. Now I am being told that the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has been promised success within a few months. Meanwhile, Western agencies have become more optimistic. They are now saying that Iran can't produce nuclear weapons until — at the worst — the end of the decade. It is academically interesting, perhaps, to log the benchmarks so that we can evaluate the quality of such "intelligence," but it's madness to assume that we can fine tune this one. We have always been surprised at the speed with which others can build nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Africa all joined the nuclear club much faster than we anticipated. The Iranians are fully capable of fulfilling this project, and their deceptive abilities are extraordinary. No Western leader should rely on the projections of his spymasters. We elect governments to protect us against worst-case scenarios, not sooth us with cheery forecasts. Whatever the timing of the bomb, the dimensions of the Iranian threat are already clear enough for all to see. We now believe that Abu Musab al Zarkawi is the deus ex machina of the terror war against us in Iraq. He is working hard in Iran where he has created yet another organization for the ongoing jihad. It is called Jamiat al Jihad wa Altawheed (the Jihad and Unity Society). Watch for it, it's a growth industry. If we want a peaceful Iraq we will have to confront the mullahs. There is no other way.

*Michael Ledeen, an NRO contributing editor, is most recently the author of *The War Against the Terror Masters*. Ledeen is Resident Scholar in the Freedom Chair at the American Enterprise Institute.*



Mullahs ready to take it to the brink

Fox News, June 29, Washington - With a dubious nuclear technology program, the capture of British sailors last week and reports of meddling in fledgling Iraqi affairs, Iran — a member of the now-notorious "axis of evil" — appears to be testing the waters to see how

far it can push the West...

"Iran is drawing a line in the sand," said Alireza Jafarzadeh of Strategic Policy Consulting (search). Jafarzadeh, formerly linked to the Washington, D.C.-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, which has been called a terrorist organization by the State Department, has won much support on Capitol Hill for his work as a staunch watchdog of Iran's nuclear weapons programs.

"Iran clearly wants all players in Iraq to know that the bigger and more populated and stronger neighbor is the big bully in the alley," he said.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran has claimed hundreds of nuclear experts are working directly for Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and that Iran seeks to have a nuclear bomb within two years. Last week, FOX News showed satellite images of two locations in Iran that are suspected of being sites for Iran's continued efforts to produce nuclear weapons....

Jafarzadeh, who said he believes the order to restrain the British soldiers came straight from the hardline theocracy, suggested that the international community be not only united, but firm as well. Anything less would make all efforts useless.

"What would make [the mullahs] bolder and more persistent in pushing their objectives is to see indecisiveness and confusion in the international community," he said. "Tehran will only take you seriously when you are serious, when you show teeth."



Iran plays destructive role in Iraq

Fox & Friends, June 28 - Alireza Jafarzadeh: "I think Prime Minister Alawi will have to focus also on the foreign sources of insecurity that would have more reasons now to step up their attacks; sending arms, money, and agents. Iran has definitely been playing a very very destructive role and they will continue to do so....

"They don't feel good about this whole situation (Iraqi transfer of power); they feel if there is progress in Iraq, that's bad news for them. So their intention is to disrupt this whole process, to do everything possible that would eventually lead to erecting a sister Islamic Republic in Iraq. I mean that is their ideal situation.

"I think the new (Iraqi) government should really be firm and decisive. They should show them that they are not afraid of them; they will not tolerate such actions from them. The 900 miles of Iran-Iraq border has been extremely porous and has been pretty much wide open; that needs to be strongly controlled, the agents who have been arrested should be punished. The other thing the Prime Minister and the new government need to do: They need to strengthen the position of the voices of moderation and tolerance within the Muslim community and among the Muslims as a counter-balance to the rising threat of Islamic extremism. They need to do anything possible to form a sort of a united front of anti-fundamentalist, modern, democratic Muslims as a counter balance. And I think one way they could effectively do it; is an example that happened two weeks ago. Some 50,000 Iraqi citizens went to the main base of the Iranian opposition in Camp Ashraf about 100 miles north of Baghdad, who are moderate Muslims, who are opposed to Tehran, they are anti-fundamentalists. They joined voices and they spoke with one voice, Iranians and Iraqis, who denounced Iran's terrorism and Islamic extremism by saying that Iraq needs to be free of the influence of the Iranian regime. And that is when Tehran will take you seriously."

International unity against Islamic Fundamentalism



The Need to Support the International Front Against Islamic Fundamentalism

Intellectualconservatives.com 6 July 2004 by Hedayat Mostowfi Sovereignty was

handed over to the Iraqi caretaker government two days ahead of the June 30th deadline. However, the interim government has a very difficult task ahead: uprooting terrorism backed by Islamic fundamentalism. Today, Iraq has become the international front in the war against Islamic fundamentalism and terrorist murderers who can behead people without any hesitation. The world now understands that peace and security in the region, and democracy in Iraq, is impossible unless this evil foe is uprooted. The war in Iraq has developed into what can be viewed as a battle between the free world and Islamic fundamentalism. The insurgents hope to destroy the hopes of the Iraqi people for freedom and democracy by wreaking havoc in Iraq and eventually erecting an Islamic fundamentalist government. But the international community has only itself to blame for much of what is happening in Iraq today. The European Union's all carrot and no stick policy emboldened Tehran to keep up its intransigence at home and abroad. Iranians and Iraqis have paid a heavy price for this expedient approach. That Islamic fundamentalism poses the most dangerous threat to the civilized world was first stated in 1994 by Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect of the Iranian Resistance. A Muslim woman, Maryam Rajavi proposed to form an international front against Islamic fundamentalism. The Europeans did not take heed. Instead, they engaged in what they termed to be human rights dialogue with Tehran, proclaiming that they sought to cultivate "reformers" in Iran. The bureaucrats at Foggy Bottom hitched their wagon to the Europeans. Hence, the U.S. and the EU blacklisted Iran's main opposition movement, the anti-fundamentalist Mujahedeen-E Khalq (MEK). At the behest of Tehran, the Coalition forces bombed MEK's camps in Iraq, despite the group steering clear of the conflict. While the Europeans and Americans ignored the idea of an anti-fundamentalist front, the Iraqis embraced it. Some 500,000 Iraqis signed a petition, supporting the presence of the MEK in Iraq. On June 18, 50,000 Iraqis attended a rally in MEK's Camp Ashraf, denouncing the Iranian mullahs' brand of fundamentalist Islam. Parliamentarians from several Western countries, including Britain, Belgium, Norway, Luxembourg, Italy and Australia, have announced their support for the Mujahedeen and urged its removal from the US and EU's watch lists. Many in the U.S. Congress share this sentiment. During a Congressional hearing last week, Representatives Tom Tancredo (R-CO) and Brad Sherman (D-CA) underscored that the terror tag on the Mujahedeen was part of an attempt to curry favor to Tehran. "This is an organization that is on the terrorist watch list for one reason... Because the Iranians wanted us to keep it there. They are afraid of the MEK, of the political power they may wield even inside Iran," reiterated Representative Tancredo. Congressman Brad Sherman added, ".... We decided to kowtow to Tehran by closing down the offices of those who even voiced support for the MEK, one of Tehran's more dangerous adversaries, an entity with a checkered past to be sure. But it was the one concession we had not made to Tehran already and we had to make it." As we approach the anniversary of the July 1999 uprising by hundreds of thousands of Iranians in Tehran and other cities, it is imperative that European and the United States encourage the democracy movement in Iran by abandoning appeasement and taking a firm stance vis-à-vis the Iranian regime. There is a clear road map to democracy in Iran and Iraq. The West must support the call by millions of Iranians for a United Nations supervised referendum on regime change. It should also remove the terror tag on the Mujahedeen-E Khalq and embrace its call for the formation of anti-fundamentalist front against Tehran. The sooner, the better.

The only barrier against mullahs' meddling



VSD weekly, June 24-30, France – (Excerpts of interview with Maryam Rajavi): A year after her arrest by the French Security Forces, the symbol of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (Maryam Rajavi) speaks for the first time about the demonizing efforts against her movement. She says that she fights to bring democracy to Iran.

Maryam Rajavi: "The Iranian regime, unable to physically destroy our resistance, uses all its resources to discredit and demonize it. We are engaged in a misinformation campaign where the regime has misguided some Western intelligence services in the west..."

The Iranian Resistance is the most serious barrier against the meddling of the fundamentalist mullahs' regime. The first value we defend is separation of religion from state. The freedom of women is fundamental. In our view, they have a right to be elected, travel freely, choose their husband or job and get divorce... They have to choose whether they want to wear a chador or not. As of now this is mandatory in Iran. We will end these pressures...

"We are pluralists. Christian, Jewish, Zoroastrian, and atheists are represented in the heart of the council (National Council of Resistance). The Iranian government is belligerent and regressive, as it recognizes stoning, torture and other medieval acts. The regime is trying to regain its stability by exporting fundamentalism, meddling in Iraqi affairs and continuing to procure nuclear weapons..."