



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

U.S. taking hard line on Iran nuke program

The Associated Press- September 10-With pressure building to curb Iran's nuclear program, disarmament officials from major nations began meetings Thursday that the United States says will focus on Tehran in the campaign to stop the spread of atomic weapons. The Group of Eight session came as threats mount to haul Iran before the U.N. Security Council unless it renounces uranium enrichment, which the United States and other countries say will lead to nuclear weapons. The discussions will give the officials a chance to sort out differences over the approach to next week's meeting of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, which could trigger action by the Security Council. U.S. Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton was hosting the Geneva session with his counterparts from Russia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The United States wants the IAEA to declare Iran in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a move that could lead to action by the 15-nation Security Council, which could impose sanctions. European countries have urged less precipitate action. Secretary of State Colin Powell has demanded that Iran renounce uranium enrichment, which the United States regards as a step toward the development of nuclear weapons. Highly enriched uranium can be used to make nuclear weapons. Iran insists it only is interested in nuclear power, which can be created with lower levels of enrichment. The Geneva gathering is a follow-up to an agreement reached at the G-8 summit meeting in Sea Island, Ga., in June.

Iran Seen Using EU to Buy Time to Get Atomic Bomb

Reuters, September 9- Iran is using negotiations with the European Union's "big three" on suspending sensitive nuclear activities to buy the time it needs to get ready to make atomic weapons, an Iranian exile and intelligence officials said. With intelligence sources saying Iran could be months away from nuclear weapons capability, the United States wants Iran reported to the U.N. Security Council immediately, charging Tehran uses its civilian atomic energy program as a front to develop the bomb. Tehran vehemently denies the charge. France, Britain and Germany want to avoid isolating Iran and have taken a go-slow approach, negotiating with Iran to suspend uranium enrichment activities. "Iran continues to use existing differences between the U.S. and Europe to their advantage and tries to drag out talks with the EU to buy time," Alireza Jafarzadeh, an Iranian exile who has reported accurately on Iran's nuclear program in the past, told Reuters. "They feel they have bought at least 10 months," Jafarzadeh said. He said he was citing sources in Iran familiar with the results of a recent high-level meeting on Iran's nuclear program attended by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Jafarzadeh said officials at the meeting also decided to allocate an additional \$2 billion from Iran's central bank reserves to supplement some \$14 billion already spent on what he called Iran's "secret nuclear weapons program." The EU trio has expressed disappointment at Iran's failure to keep promises it made in October to suspend all activities



related to the enrichment of uranium, a process of purifying it for use as fuel for atomic power plants or in weapons. But the three remain committed to a process of engagement with Tehran. However an intelligence official said a failure to act now as Washington would like, could be decisive for the development of an Iranian nuclear weapons capability. "The Europeans express helplessness, despair and lack of strategy, which is exactly what (the Iranians) want to hear," a senior non-U.S. intelligence official said. "This is their golden opportunity, between now and the coming of a new (U.S.) administration." The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been investigating Iran's nuclear program ever since Jafarzadeh announced in August 2002 on behalf of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), an exiled opposition group, that Iran was hiding several massive nuclear sites from the IAEA. Although the EU trio are reaching the point where they too might support a referral of Iran's nuclear program to the Security Council, which could impose economic sanctions, diplomats in Vienna say they will give Iran one more chance to end its enrichment activities before the November IAEA meeting. On Tuesday, diplomats said Iran had agreed with the Europeans in principle to renew its suspension of centrifuge production, assembly and testing. But U.S. and other officials dismissed this as a ploy to escape a Security Council referral. "Iran is playing for time," a Western diplomat told Reuters. The IAEA Board of Governors meets next week to discuss Iran's nuclear program, parts of which it hid from the U.N. nuclear watchdog for nearly two decades. Vienna diplomats say the EU three oppose a U.N. Security Council report next week. Diplomats and intelligence officials say this may give Iran just enough time to reach the point where it has all the technology and expertise it needs to develop an atom bomb at a time of its choosing. "It is a matter of several months, up to a year, most probably less than a year (for nuclear capability)," the intelligence official said. "By that time we think they will have enough feed material for the centrifuges so they won't be dependent on foreign input." Iran recently announced it would convert 37 tons of raw "yellowcake" uranium into uranium hexafluoride, the feed material for centrifuges. Experts say this is enough for a bomb. The official said the IAEA was making a mistake by being so cautious about what the agency has called a lack of any evidence proving Tehran has a covert military atomic program. "If the IAEA would wait forever to see a smoking gun ... it will be too late," the official said.

Iran still buying centrifuge parts abroad: intelligence officials

[AFP, September 9](#) - Iran is continuing to buy parts for centrifuges abroad, often skirting sanctions and export controls, as it seeks to supply a program which the United States charges is secretly developing nuclear weapons, Western intelligence officials said. Their comments this week came as the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency was set to meet Monday to assess its ongoing investigation into the Iranian program and its links to the international nuclear smuggling network that was run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced father of Pakistan's atomic bomb. Khan was arrested earlier this year in Pakistan and confessed to his activities but IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei has said these were just the "tip of an iceberg" of international trafficking in nuclear technology and materials which the IAEA seeks to monitor. IAEA officials refused to comment on the intelligence sources' information but the IAEA had in a report September 1 said it was "continuing to pursue its investigation of the supply routes and sources of conversion and enrichment technology and the sources of related equipment and nuclear and non-nuclear materials." A non-US intelligence official said Iran has been getting material not only from Pakistan. Iran claims its nuclear program is strictly peaceful and that it has had to use the black market in order to skirt sanctions against it acquiring nuclear technology. "There are companies all over Europe involved. The Iranians want to keep these channels open for ongoing operations and future operations," the official said. The official said the Iranians have "for centrifuge production, kept purchasing materials in recent months." This was in Russia but also "Iranian scientists, including nuclear scientists, are coming and going also to and from China," the official said. Analysts said that while Iran has civilian nuclear programs with China and with Russia, which is building a reactor in Iran, Iran uses front companies to get around export controls on sensitive equipment. While the United States has sanctions against



selling nuclear-related equipment to Iran, even these can sometimes be defeated by selling through foreign subsidiaries or middlemen. China and Russia are both members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) which seeks to fight proliferation of nuclear weapons through guidelines for nuclear and nuclear-related exports. David Albright, a former nuclear weapons inspector and head of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), said the Iranians have simply continued using front companies in different countries "to buy things needed in centrifuges," which are machines used to enrich uranium. The Iranians are both using selling through foreign subsidiaries to skirt export controls and buying "items that aren't controlled but are needed in centrifuges," Albright said. "The interest is that this trafficking continues" since the crackdown on Khan's network and after Iran promised to suspend uranium enrichment, including a brief but now withdrawn promise not to manufacture, assemble and test centrifuges, Albright said. He said the problem with lists the NSG compiles of dual-use equipment, meaning with both civilian and military applications, was that "companies and governments don't want to limit competition so they limit what's on the list." Also, a country can claim that dual-use items such as high-speed cameras useful in weaponization steps are needed for peaceful purposes. In addition, these lists have no legal weight since export controls are a matter for individual countries. Non-proliferation expert Gary Samore, from London's International Institute for Strategic Studies said: "Obviously the Iranian enrichment program at least in the beginning depended on AQ Khan. The issue is whether there is still a key bottleneck in the program that requires foreign supplies. He said a question was "can the Iranians make maraging steel," which is a key component in making the rotors that spin in centrifuges to refine the uranium isotope U-235 which is the explosive for an atomic bomb. An intelligence official said it would be "most probably less than a year before the Iranians will be in control of the technology to enrich uranium." And he said "by that time they would have enough feed material for their centrifuges so that they won't be dependent on foreign inputs." Iran has told the IAEA it plans to convert 37 tons of uranium yellowcake into the uranium hexafluoride gas that is the feed material for enriching uranium. Experts said this would supply enough gas to make enriched uranium that could make from one to several bombs. Another source, a diplomat close to the IAEA, said the Iranians were "almost self-sufficient" in centrifuge technology, but lacked magnets needed to turn the rotors.

Mullahs' maneuver to avoid referral to Security Council

AFP, Sep. 7, Vienna - Iran is ready to renounce its efforts to assemble centrifuges to enrich uranium in order to avoid being brought before the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme, diplomats said here. "An accord between Tehran and the Europeans seems imminent," a European diplomat said here on condition of anonymity. Word of an accord comes less than a week before an important meeting of the board of governors of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on September 13. The deal envisions a halt "to the production and assembly of centrifuges" of the P2 kind which is used to enrich uranium, according to the source. "It could also extend to conversion tests", which are an integral part of uranium enrichment and on which Tehran had been intent, he added... The diplomat said the negotiations began three days ago and have moved between different European capitals. "These discussions have been going on for three days between ambassadors from the countries concerned and with the participation of (IAEA Secretary General) Mohamed ElBaradei", he told AFP.

Disappointed EU torn over how to handle Iran

AFP, Sep. 5 - Disappointed European leaders seem to be torn between pursuing efforts to engage Iran and calls for a harder line over Tehran's nuclear aims, to bring them closer to the US stance. "We agreed upon the need to send out a strong signal to Iran to cooperate with the IAEA," said Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, whose country holds the EU presidency, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "We cannot accept of course the development of weapon-grade uranium," he said. "That signal should be very strong and should be unanimously given by the 25" EU member states. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who along with his British and French counterparts has

spearheaded Europe's attempts to diplomatically engage Tehran, also turned up the pressure. A nuclear-capable Iran "can become a subject for the (UN) Security Council, he said, referring to the IAEA board of governors meeting from September 13 which will discuss a new report on Tehran's atomic aims. Europe seems to be in a quandary over how to proceed. "It is difficult to manage the situation," said one diplomat.

Iran to extract own uranium

AP, Sep. 4, Saghand - Iran will begin extracting uranium from deep under its central desert in less than two years, an official told The Associated Press on Saturday during an unprecedented tour of the country's uranium mine. "We will be able to extract uranium ore in the first half of 2006 from Saghand mine. More than 77 percent of the work has been accomplished," Ghasem Soleimani, the British-trained director of mining operations at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said at the mine Saturday.

Time to deal with Mullahs in Iran

Iran's Power Play

The Wall Street Journal, September 8-By THOMAS MCINERNEY and PAUL VALLELY

As thankful as we are that Moqtada al-Sadr's rebellion did not end in a bloody and destructive battle for the Imam Ali Grand Mosque in Najaf, our gratitude is tempered by the realization that this rebellion was not an isolated event. Like al-Sadr himself, the Najaf standoff was created by Iran and was only part of Iran's latest effort to destabilize Iraq and achieve strategic dominance in the Middle East and Central Asia. Iran's strategic ambitions and its prominence in global terror are nothing new. Almost immediately after the mullahs took over, they began exporting their brand of Islamist revolution. In the Levant, they established the terrorist organization Hezbollah, which now controls southern Lebanon, and, over time, turned Syria and the Palestinian Authority into clients. Iranian-directed suicide bombs killed hundreds of Western peacekeepers in Lebanon in 1983 and the U.S. fought an undeclared naval war against Iran in the late 1980s. Despite the hopes of many governments, the widespread popular unrest and internal power struggles of the late '90s did not result in a more democratic, less aggressive Iran. Instead, the mullahs dropped their masks -- and took off their gloves. In the past year, they purged reformists from parliament and intensified suppression of dissent. They dropped any pretense of adhering to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, issuing apocalyptic warnings about the revenge they would exact should Israel attack Iran's nuclear facilities, and accelerated their ballistic missile program. Iran is as close as ever to Syria and Palestinian terrorist groups, such as Hamas. Now, Israeli intelligence sources tell us, Iran is preparing its Palestinian proxies to seize power when Yasser Arafat's regime collapses. In Iraq, Iran aims to replicate its successes in Lebanon. Since Iraq's liberation, Iran has provided weapons, money, and personnel to militant Shia groups -- including al-Sadr's -- with the apparent goal of establishing an Iraqi version of Hezbollah, that, in time, would establish de facto Iranian control over Shia Iraq. Despite his setback in Najaf, al-Sadr almost certainly will continue to do his masters' bidding. Iran already enjoys -- and exploits -- an excellent geostrategic position and immense oil wealth. If in a few years, Iran possesses nuclear weapons and exerts control over more strategically important territory and even more energy resources, it is likely to flex its muscles in the Gulf States, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It is imperative, therefore, that we immediately and forcefully check Iran, inside and outside of Iraq. The Iraqi interim government should immediately break relations with Tehran, citing Iran's support of anti-government subversion, and secure its borders against Iranian infiltration. The Iranians cynically use religious pilgrimages to move men, materiel, and money into Iraq; therefore, until its security situation improves, Iraq must deny entry to Iranian pilgrims. Iraqi security forces must be strengthened and, if necessary, U.S. forces within Iraq should be repositioned to support them. Experience in Iraq shows we cannot rely on the U.N. to end Iran's nuclear ambitions. So, although it again would bring us into conflict with Russia, Germany, and France, the U.S. must form a coalition to do so. After declaring a nuclear-armed Iran would pose an

intolerable danger to global security and stability, members of this coalition would take the steps necessary to force Tehran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons -- up to and including a complete economic embargo with a naval blockade. Of course, the best way to end the threat posed by Iran is end the mullahs' rule of Iran. To that end, the U.S. and other countries also must revive democratic opposition groups in Iran through both overt aid and covert support. We also should create the nucleus of an armed resistance movement by removing the Iranian exile group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq from the State Department's list of terrorist organizations. That group is "the most organized, disciplined, and popular opposition movement in Iran," according to Iranian expert Alireza Jafarzadeh. It's time to rearm its 4,000 trained fighters. We understand these suggestions will strike some as too strong. Considering, however, that Iran is poised to make a play for regional dominance, our countermove must be the strongest we have ever made in our 25-year cold war with Iran. Iraq's success is dependent on it.

Lt. Gen. McInerney and Maj. Gen. Vallely, retired from the U.S. Air Force and Army, respectively, are military analysts for Fox News and co-authors of "Endgame: The Blueprint for Victory in the War on Terror" (Regnery, 2004).

Bush Can't Afford Inaction on Iran

Los Angeles Times, September 9 by Max Boot- Hyped reports about an Israeli "mole" in the Pentagon are falling apart faster than the Kerry campaign. It now seems likely that the analyst in question was, at worst, guilty of mishandling a classified document, not espionage. According to news accounts, the memo he's accused of passing to pro-Israel lobbyists called for U.S. support of Iranian dissidents trying to overthrow their dictatorial government. This may not be spy-novel stuff, but it does raise an important question: Why hasn't President Bush implemented the recommendations reportedly contained in the Pentagon paper? The case for action seems overwhelming in light of Bush's oft-stated warning: "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists." There is no question which side Iran is on. The State Department calls Iran the "most active state sponsor of terrorism in the world." Much of its support goes to groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, but the 9/11 commission also reported that Al Qaeda members — including eight to 10 of those involved in the airplane attacks on the United States — were allowed to use Iran as a transit route to and from training camps in Afghanistan. A number of Al Qaeda operatives remain in Iran, ostensibly under house arrest but in all likelihood allowed to carry on their deadly work. Iran has trained and armed Muqtada Sadr's militia, which has been attacking U.S. forces in Iraq. Former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the cleric who now heads an influential government council, makes no bones about what his country is up to. In an April sermon, he declared that the situation in Iraq posed "a threat because the wounded American beast can take enraged actions, but it is also an opportunity to teach this beast a lesson so it won't attack another country". Why would Iran be worried about being attacked by the United States? Because it is close to producing a nuclear bomb. It is also working on missiles with the range to strike targets in Europe and North America, though the likeliest vehicles for delivering an Iranian nuke would be its terrorist networks. Hassan Abasi, a senior member of the Revolutionary Guards, recently boasted that Iran had "a strategy drawn up for the destruction of Anglo-Saxon civilization". Faced with this grave and gathering threat, John F. Kerry advocates appeasement. He recommends making a deal for Iran to give up its nuclear weapons program in return for U.S. concessions, such as helping it to build "civilian" nuclear reactors. There's no reason to think this approach would work any better than a similar accord with North Korea in 1994. Iran has already violated a 2003 agreement with Britain, France and Germany to curtail its nuclear weapons development. The mullahs are hellbent on going nuclear; they are not going to give up what one Iranian newspaper editor calls "the rare pearl for which we have labored greatly". If we can't trust Tehran to make a deal, then we need a more confrontational approach. A military strike can't be ruled out, but it would be hard to pull off, especially without better intelligence than we had on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Luckily, Iran has a robust opposition movement that makes peaceful change from within a feasible alternative. Self-styled realists claim that the tyrants of Tehran can't

be budged, but then that's what they said about the Soviet commissars too, right up until the fall of the Berlin Wall. As in the Soviet bloc, most people in Iran have lost faith in their rulers. Many have even braved regime goons to protest in the streets. If they can succeed in establishing a representative government, it will not matter whether Iran has nuclear weapons, any more than it matters that India, Israel, France or any other democracy has nukes. Conversely, even without nukes, the terrorist-sponsoring mullahs would remain a major threat. We need to focus on the nature of the regime, not simply the nature of its weapons. Bush has recognized the need for democratization in the Middle East, yet, oddly enough, he doesn't seem to be doing much to help Iranian freedom fighters. Bush's own deputy secretary of State has said that regime change is not U.S. policy. I hope this is just a ruse to hide covert actions, but I fear it's the truth. On Iran, as in so many other areas, the administration seems to be paralyzed by disagreements between Defense Department hawks and State Department doves. If Bush doesn't break through this gridlock soon, he will greatly undermine his claim to offer strong leadership in the war on terror.

Exporting terrorism and Meddling in Iraq

Rumsfeld: Iran aids rebels

Washington Times, September 8, By Rowan Scarborough

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld charged yesterday that Iran is fueling the deadly insurgency in Iraq with money and fighters. But, in an interview with editors and reporters of The Washington Times, Mr. Rumsfeld acknowledged that the United States has limited options because other nations are "not willing" to join in pressuring Iran, which has shown behavior that Mr. Rumsfeld said is "not part of the civilized world." The defense secretary, a main architect of President Bush's strategy of attacking Islamic terrorists worldwide, declared of the insurgency in Iraq, "They're losing." His assessment came on a day when the military death toll in Iraq reached 1,000 Americans since the invasion in May 2003. "I feel generally quite good about how things are going there," he said. "Needless to say, you can't feel good about it when you've lost over a thousand people." He gave the administration and the coalition a "B-plus" for managing Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein in terms of interaction between the new government and U.S. forces. "If I had to grade it so far, I'd probably give it a B-plus, pretty good, and maybe an A in interaction and maybe a B in outcome," Mr. Rumsfeld said. "But it's a tough business." His remarks came after American troops suffered some of their highest casualty rates in recent weeks in Iraq, including the loss of seven Marines in a car bombing on Monday. On the critical question of whether the far-flung insurgency is weaker or stronger today than when it began in earnest one year ago, Mr. Rumsfeld was noncommittal. Asked whether the enemy is weaker, he said, "It's hard to say that when you've just gone through a week or two where you've peaked in terms of the number of incidents. And my guess is they see they're losing. Does that mean that the pain is going to go down? Not necessarily. It may mean that it'll go up. It may mean between now and an Iraqi election and Iraqi constitution that they will be even more desperate." He added, "There are people opposing the coalition, and they're getting pounded. And they have been getting pounded. The solution to that of course, if they don't want to get killed, is to stop terrorizing the Iraqi people." Mr. Rumsfeld repeatedly has accused Iran of "meddling" in Iraqi affairs, but has offered few details. Military sources have told The Times that Iran's Revolutionary Guard helped fund Sheik Muqtada al-Sadr. The radical cleric's ragtag Mahdi's Army has staged a series of deadly insurrections in southern Iraq and in the Shi'ite slums of Baghdad. A U.S. military intelligence report obtained last week by The Times states that most of his foot soldiers are criminals who were freed by Saddam weeks before the allied invasion. Asked for details yesterday on Iranian meddling, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "They have put people in there. They have put money in there. "By 'they,' I'm not going to say which element of the government or whether it's even known to the government. But money has come in from Iran. People have come in from Iran. And it's a very difficult thing to stop," he said. "Iran is a country that is not part of the civilized world in terms of its behavior." Asked whether Iran is

funding Sheik al-Sadr, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "There's a lot of speculation to that effect." Run by radical clerics who imposed their rule through the Revolutionary Guard, Iran is one of the world's top sponsors of international terrorism, according to the U.S. State Department, and, along with Saddam-run Iraq and North Korea, it was dubbed part of an "axis of evil" by Mr. Bush. Some military intelligence sources say Iran is working to impose the same type of Shi'ite rule in Iraq, as it also seeks nuclear weapons. Mr. Rumsfeld said to date, countries are not willing to band together to force Tehran to change. "The problem of proliferation and the problem of terror and the problem of dealing with a country that's separated itself from the civilized community is that those are the kind of things that require the cooperation of a lot of countries," he said. "And when you have countries of the world that are not willing to participate in an organized effort to try to persuade a country to behave in a civilized way, it encourages them simply to continue on its merry way. And that's a problem," Mr. Rumsfeld said.....

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

Three juveniles sentenced to death

Iran Focus, September 8. Death sentences have been issued for three boys by the names of Ali M., Morteza F. and Milad B. who are presently in the Center for Reform and Education (Juvenile Prison). While all three of them were under 18 when they allegedly committed their crimes, their death sentences are going to be carried out soon as they turn 18.

Under Iran's Islamic Law children are exempt from judicial punishment but the same legal system considers girls at the age of 10 and boys at 16 as adults and punishable.

Last week a court sentenced a 16-year-old boy to death on charges of drug trafficking. Feiz Mohammad, who is from neighboring Afghanistan, was tried and sentenced to death by judge Loqham Kia Pasha in Branch 122 of the Special Juvenile Court of Karaj, 40 kilometers west of the capital, Tehran. Mohammad was accused of stealing seven kilograms of pure morphine from his employer, a ranch owner, and giving it to a group of Afghan immigrants distributing drugs. He faced no other charges. On Aug. 15 the Iranian regime hanged a 16 year old year by the name of Atefeh Rajabi in the town of Neka in northern Iran.

Canada calls for greater international pressure on Tehran

AFP, Sep. 5, Tehran - Iran again hit out at Canada Sunday for complaining about the murder in custody here of Canadian-Iranian photographer Zahra Kazemi, saying Ottawa was only crying "crocodile tears"... Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew said that dialogue with the Islamic republic was a "farce" and that greater international pressure should be brought to bear on the clerical regime...