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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

Iran working on secret missile programs: opposition group



December 2 - Iran is developing new medium- and long-range missiles which can reach Western Europe and target US-led forces in Iraq, an Iranian opposition group claimed. The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) said the new long-range missiles, the Ghadr and Shahab-4, had a planned range of 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles) which would allow them to reach as far as Berlin. It also said an upgraded version of the Zelzal missile could hit targets as far as 300 kilometers (190 miles) away with minute precision and was specifically designed for "offensive use" in foreign countries, notably against US-led multinational forces in Iraq. One NCRI source, speaking anonymously, said North Korean and Chinese scientists were "definitely" helping the Iranian missile programs. The NCRI, the political branch of the main Iranian armed opposition group the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK), or People's Mujahedeen, acknowledged that none of the missile programs it described actually contravened any international weapons agreement signed by Tehran. But if Iran could produce missiles with a capacity to carry nuclear and chemical warheads it would "represent an endgame" for the Islamic regime, Ali Safavi of the NCRI said. "Had Hitler been able to acquire a nuclear bomb... the entire situation at that time would have changed with respect to peace and security in the world. And in that sense, I think that the danger and the threat posed by the Iranian regime is no less than that," Safavi told a press conference in London. The NCRI and People's Mujahadeen are listed as terrorist organizations in the United States, and have a mixed record for exposing clandestine activities within Iran. But they have been instrumental in unveiling Iranian nuclear activities, most recently alleging that a site near Tehran is a secret nuclear bomb facility. Citing a leaked report from Iran's Revolutionary Guard Air Force and unnamed sources within the regime, Safavi provided detailed descriptions of the capacity of the Ghadr, Shahab-4 and Zelzal-2 missiles, as well as of an alleged top-secret missile storage site. The Ghadr, he said, was an improved version of the Shahab-3, a ballistic missile believed to be based on a North Korean design that can reach Israel. The Shahab-4 has greater precision than the Shahab-3 and, like the Ghrab, has a range of up to 3,000 kilometers depending on payload, he added. Safavi described the Zelzal-2 as a "very, very precise missile" due to its non-directional beacon frequency system (NDB), a guiding system, and said it was designed by Iran's mullahs with the US forces in mind. He quoted the leaked Iranian air force report saying the Zelzal-2 "has been produced for deploying in other countries and in Iraq in particular." It was designed "with particular attention to the military forces, specifically coalition forces in Iraq", Safavi added. The anonymous NCRI source said Chinese and North Korean authorities had few fears about potential reprisals from Western powers if they supported Iran's missile programs because, like Tehran, they sensed a "lack of resolve" to deal with the regime's potential threat. "There's no question that Iranians have enjoyed the support of the North Koreans and the Chinese in their missile program," the

source said. The NCRI also claimed the Iranian regime was working to create nuclear and chemical warheads for the missiles and had "made enormous efforts in this field". But Safavi, who also heads a Washington-based consulting group, Near East Policy Research Inc., provided no proof for the claims aside from naming the alleged head of the nuclear work and its alleged production site.

Diplomats: Iran May Have Nuke Equipment

AP Associated Press

December 2 By *GEORGE JAHN VIENNA* - Iran may be hiding equipment bought by its military that could be used in a nuclear weapons program despite its recent agreement to freeze all such programs and place them under U.N. supervision, diplomats said Thursday. The diplomats told The Associated Press that Iran has yet to respond to a request by the International Atomic Energy Agency - the U.N. nuclear watchdog - for a full list of the components used at the suspected military site of Lavizan-Shian after handing over a partial inventory in October. The incomplete inventories are particularly worrying because they reflect purchases by Iran's Physics Research Center, an organization run by the military, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity. Iran insists its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes, and the agency has said it has found no direct evidence to challenge that statement. A linked issue is concern that nuclear equipment has disappeared from that complex and might have been moved to a nearby site, said the diplomats, who are accredited to the agency. Additionally, Tehran has shrugged off a request made months ago and continues to deny IAEA inspectors access to Parchin, a military testing ground linked to possible experiments with high explosives that can be used with nuclear weapons, the diplomats said. Because Iran insists that its nuclear programs are nonmilitary, any enrichment related activities run by the armed forces would be clandestine and thus evade the freeze. Some diplomats familiar with Iran's nuclear dossier expressed apprehension that the focus on whether Iran was honoring its commitment to freeze all declared uranium enrichment programs allowed Tehran to deflect attention from the outstanding questions about the inventory list, the missing equipment and the denial of access. After weeks of international pressure, Iran this week reluctantly agreed to a full suspension of its enrichment programs. The United States and its allies claim, however, that Iran wants to process uranium into weapons-grade material for the core of nuclear warheads.

Iran Reportedly Hides Work on a Longer-Range Missile

The New York Times

December 1, By *DOUGLAS JEHL* Iran is secretly developing a longer-range ballistic missile than it has publicly acknowledged, with the capacity to strike targets as far away as Berlin, an opposition group plans to assert publicly on Thursday. The group says the missile, which it says could have the capacity to carry nuclear warheads, is being developed with help from North Korean scientists, even as Iran has agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in a new pact with three European countries. The dissident group says the new missile would have a range of more than 1,500 miles, hundreds of miles longer than the most advanced missiles now in Iran's arsenal, an upgraded version of the Shahab-3 that was tested in the summer. The group, the National Council of Resistance, is the political arm of the People's Mujahedeen, and is listed by the United States as a terrorist organization. It has had a mixed record of credibility about developments in Iran. But several of its disclosures have proved accurate and have played a significant role in unearthing secret Iranian nuclear activities. Iran's defense minister, Ali Shamkhani, said in early November that the country could "mass produce" its Shahab-3 missile, a weapon capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. The versions of those missiles now in Iran's arsenal have a range of 800 miles to 1,000 miles but Mr. Shamkhani said his country recently upgraded that range to 1,250 miles. In remarks on state-run television, however, he rejected reports that Iran was seeking to produce a longer-range missile. But in an unclassified report issued last month, the Central Intelligence Agency said that Iran "is pursuing longer-range ballistic missiles" than the Shahab-3 and its follow-on versions. In public testimony last February, George J. Tenet, then the director of central intelligence, said that Iran could begin flight testing those longer-range missiles "in the mid- to latter part of the decade." Neither Iran nor the United States government has publicly described the new missile that the Iranian group says is being developed. Officials of the group said they believed the weapon is known as the Ghadr, which means capable or powerful, and would operate on solid-fueled engines, meaning

it could be launched much more quickly than the liquid-fueled, medium-range missiles now in Iran's arsenal. Officials of the People's Mujahedeen, which is based in Paris, provided a detailed written outline of their contentions and discussed them in telephone interviews on Wednesday. One senior official, Muhammad Mohaddessin, said the group believed Iran could conduct test flights of the new missile within months. In New York, Morteza Ramandi, a spokesman for the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, denied that Iran was developing a ballistic missile with a range greater than 1,250 miles. A C.I.A. spokesman said Wednesday that the agency would add nothing to its previous public statements about Iran's missile program. Iran has long sought to become self-sufficient in the production of ballistic missiles, and the C.I.A. said in the report issued last month that North Korea, China and the former Soviet Union had helped it toward that goal. In recent years, North Korea has been the most important source of Iranian missile technology. Mr. Mohaddessin said in a telephone interview that he believed the development of the new missile showed that Iran had "to a good extent become self-sufficient." While North Korean scientists were providing aid, he said, "the most important role is now played by the Iranians themselves." He said the group believed that the missile was being developed in close conjunction with efforts to design a warhead capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

IAEA to continue verification in Iran 'with full vigor' - EIBaradei

CNN, Nov. 30 - The International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday adopted a resolution that spells out how it will oversee Iran's agreement to suspend its nuclear program.

"I believe it's an important milestone in the long and difficult road to establish the nature of Iran's nuclear program," IAEA head Mohamed EIBaradei told reporters at the agency's headquarters in Vienna...During their discussions, IAEA board members expressed concern over past breaches by Iran that have resulted in a "confidence deficit," but also took note of the corrective actions that have been taken. Though the IAEA is not in a position to verify any undeclared nuclear activities, it noted that Iran has agreed to suspend all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities..."We'll continue with full vigor our verification in Iran," EIBaradei said, calling upon Iran's leadership to demonstrate maximum transparency. "The more transparency demonstrated by Iran, the sooner we can provide the international community with the needed assurances that Iran's program is dedicated for peaceful purposes. The ball is in Iran's court. Hopefully, we'll get full cooperation," he said. EIBaradei said the board would also investigate third parties from which Iran has imported nuclear material.



Iran says nuclear freeze won't last long



Nov. 30, Tehran - Iran reiterated Tuesday it was only prepared to freeze its uranium enrichment activities for a few months and would not, as the EU and Washington want, permanently mothball facilities which could make atomic bombs. The comments, made by Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, were a further blow to European Union efforts to persuade Tehran to scrap enrichment for good and were likely to fuel U.S. concerns that Iran secretly plans to produce nuclear weapons.... "The length of the suspension will only be for the length of the negotiations with the Europeans and... must be rational and not too long," Hassan Rohani told a news conference. "We're talking about months, not years," said the cleric, who is secretary-general of Iran's top security body, the Supreme National Security Council.

Canada to push IAEA to report violations of Iran nuclear deal



Nov. 29, Ottawa - Canada, the 2004-5 chair of UN Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, warned Monday it would press the body to inform the Security Council of any violation of a deal to freeze Iran's uranium program. The Canadian position, laid out in a statement by Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew, mirrored the US stance on the agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "This is a final opportunity for Iran to begin the process of restoring international confidence in its nuclear program," said Pettigrew. "To do so, Iran must cease all uranium-enrichment and other proliferation-sensitive activities and sustain this suspension in a comprehensive and transparent manner." "If it does not do so, Canada will urge the IAEA to take immediate action and to report Iran's non-compliance to the United Nations Security Council."

Boucher remains skeptical on nuke



Nov. 29, Washington - The State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington had strong "reservations" about Iran's agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog agency, which confirmed that the Islamic republic had halted such activities. "We haven't sprung new faith in Iran's bona fides or Iran's willingness to do this. We are still as skeptical about Iran as we always have been," Boucher told reporters....Asked whether the United States believed Iran should be referred to the UN Security Council because of past violations, he replied: "Yes. And furthermore, if they don't abide by this suspension, then that it self would be enough for referral."

Blair promises to 'hold Iran to account' over nuclear pledges



Nov. 29, London - Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged that he would "hold Iran to account" over its promises to halt its uranium enrichment programme, a move likely to see Tehran escape UN sanctions. "Our task has been to get the undertakings from Iran, but to recognize that in the end we will have to make sure (we use) the right authority -- in this case the (International) Atomic Energy Authority -- then make sure the undertakings they have given are actually adhered to."...He added: "But we will make sure we hold Iran to account." Blair also expressed sympathy with pro-democracy campaigners in Iran, saying: "We support those who would like the same democratic rights as we have here."

EU should not be fooled by Iran - Israel

WorldNet Daily, Nov. 30 - "They will never abandon their dream to have a nuclear bomb." The European Union should not be fooled by Iran, which will "never" abandon its bid to make nuclear weapons, warned Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom yesterday

Support of terrorism

Iran Hard-liners Mark 1983 Attack on U.S. Marines



December 2, TEHRAN - Iranian hard-liners erected a monument Thursday to commemorate a suicide bombing which killed 241 U.S. servicemen in Lebanon in 1983, witnesses said. A group called the committee of the "Commemoration of Martyrs of the Global Islamic Campaign" held the event at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery to praise the attack 21 years ago against the United States, Iran's arch-foe. "The bombing was a great achievement of Muslims in their fight against America," said its spokesman Ali Mohammadi. More than 100 others were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a truck full of explosives at a U.S. Marines barracks at Beirut's international airport. The United States accused the Iran-backed Hizbollah guerrilla group for the bombing. The Americans were taking part in a multinational effort to halt Lebanon's civil war, although many Lebanese saw the U.S. forces as actively shoring up a pro-Israel, right-wing Christian presidency. About 200 men and women gathered at the cemetery in southern Tehran. Some dressed as suicide bombers chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" as the stone monument was unveiled. The group, which has no links to official organizations, in September also placed a symbolic gravestone at the cemetery for two Palestinian suicide bombers who carried out a twin bus bombing that killed 16 Israelis earlier this year. It announced its existence in June when it started registering volunteers prepared to carry out suicide attacks on U.S.-led forces in Iraq. Iran has strongly condemned the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. The group said more than 25,000 "martyrdom seeking" volunteers have so far signed up and one of its members said the registration drive would continue. "We have been ordered to cover the faces to avoid being recognized when traveling abroad to carry out the attacks," a masked volunteer said at the cemetery. But the group has said it will only carry out attacks if Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gives the green light. Iran's deputy interior minister for security affairs, Ali Asghar Ahmadi said Sunday the volunteers would not be allowed to cross Iran's borders. "Such groups are illegal. Such measures will be strongly confronted by Iran," he said.

Meddling In Iraq

Iran mullahs fund Iraqi party's election campaign


Al-Shahed Al-Mostaqel daily, Nov. 30, Iraq – There are open talks among the people in Ziqar Province that indicate one of the Iraqi parties that is represented in the Interim Government has bought a very large amount of various weapons at enormous prices, including 10,000 mines, from weapons smugglers in Nasseriya. With Iran's blessings, it is going to use the weaponry to destabilize Iraq if it is defeated in the upcoming elections. The party has received \$55 million from Iran to fund the election campaign of the party's leader. Many of the Shalamcha region's residents have also expressed their concern and fear over the influx of a very large number of weapons smuggled through the border of their region and other routes from Iran...

Deteriorating conditions of human rights

Women sentenced to stoning

Iran Focus, Nov. 30, Tehran - The Supreme Court of Iran has upheld a stoning sentence for a woman by the name of Hajieh Esmailvand accused of adultery. She has been serving prison time in the town of Jolfa (northwestern Iran) since Jan. 2000 for having an affair with a 17-year-old boy. Originally she had been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and 'death by hanging'; however the Supreme Court subsequently changed the verdict from 'death by hanging' to 'death by stoning'. The boy whom Hajieh had the affair with is also on death row awaiting official orders to be hanged in public. His identity has not been made clear. The Supreme Court has also upheld the death sentence for a 24-year-old woman called Najmeh Vosoogh Razavi who was studying law in university. Najmeh is to be hanged in public next week.

Canada fires new diplomatic shot at Iran over murdered photographer

 **Nov. 28, Ottawa** - Canada hit straight back after Iran warned its new ambassador to Tehran would get into "trouble" if he pursued the case of a murdered Iranian-Canadian photographer, which has already sparked a diplomatic crisis. The office of Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew hit back with a statement, which made clear Venner [the new ambassador], would not be dissuaded from raising the case. "Canada remains committed to the Kazemi case. Ambassador Venner will pursue as far as possible the avenues of redress. It is the role of a diplomat," the statement said.

Feature

Kowtowing to Tehran

The Washington Times

Editorial, December 1, 2004. In the latest sign that Washington and its European allies have failed to persuade Iran to end its nuclear weapons programs, the International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday passed a watered-down resolution that is likely to encourage more defiance from the ruling mullahs. At a meeting in Vienna, the IAEA board of governors approved a resolution that "welcomes the fact that Iran has decided to continue and extend its suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities." The resolution also capitulates to Iran on a major point: its insistence that it is not legally required to freeze its uranium enrichment efforts. It refers to Iran's suspension as "a voluntary confidence building measure, not a legal obligation." The IAEA resolution fell short of what Washington was seeking: a binding commitment that Iran will end its nuclear weapons programs and referral of the matter to the U.N. Security Council if the regime fails to do so. But State Department spokesman Richard Boucher tried to put the best face on things, stating that Washington "went along with the resolution" because it believes that Iran will eventually violate it, and that this can serve to trigger further action. Iran has a very different view. The resolution was "a definite defeat for our enemies who wanted to pressure Iran by sending its case to the U.N. Security Council," said Iranian President Mohammed Khatami. The New York Times reported that Iranian officials toasted approval of the resolution with the French ambassador to the IAEA at his residence. The resolution is just the latest example of a lengthy, embarrassing ritual that has become commonplace since the IAEA began investigating Iran last year. IAEA inspectors periodically

visit suspect Iranian sites. Every few months, the IAEA board gets together and passes a resolution criticizing Iran's cheating and concealment activities, and the European Union 3 — Britain, France and Germany — announces that Iran has agreed to change its behavior. Months later, the world learns that Iran has continued to cheat and misinterpret the treaty. Indeed, Iran's failures to come clean about its nuclear activities have repeatedly been documented by the IAEA — as recently as Monday. Iran has successfully been buying time while advancing its weapons research and development. Appeasement has had the predictable effect of emboldening Tehran to take a much more aggressive posture in the region, which includes financing Hezbollah and Hamas terrorism in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza and the terrorist insurgency in Iraq. The current situation is probably a picnic compared to what will happen should Iran develop nuclear weapons.