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Latest Development of the Iran's Nuclear Issue

By

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In the Name of God, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

Distinguished Professors and Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the invitation, giving me the opportunity to provide information in order to help you to draw a clear, realistic and complete picture of Iran's nuclear dossier. The international community faces the avalanche of biased information, therefore I feel obliged to inform the academia, scholars and public at large about the facts based on evidence and documents. I invite you to use this opportunity and to pose any question on this issue.

Today, 4th June 2007, is the 18th Anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Permit me to recall his viewpoints and historical call made over 2 decades ago, for the elimination of nuclear weapons:

“

...if they continue to make huge atomic weapons and so forth, the world may be pushed into destruction and major loss will afflict the nations. Everybody, wherever he is, the writers, intellectuals, scholars, and scientists throughout the world, should enlighten the people of this danger so that the masses of people will standup vis-à-vis these two powers themselves and prevent the proliferation of these arms. “

Distinguished Friends,

While thinking on how to start my talk in this august academic gathering, I thought I have to make an initiative in order to encourage specially the

young and enthusiastic students to follow up this meeting with in depth study, exploring facts about Iran's nuclear dossier. I decided to put my feet in your shoes and on your behalf address questions to Iranian representative! With your permission, I shall do so:

A-Generic and General Questions:

Question1-Is the IAEA an independent autonomous technical international organization or is a specialized agency under the United Nations such as the WHO, FAO,...?

Answer1-Yes, IAEA is not specialized UN Agency.

Q2-How is the linkage between the NPT and the IAEA?

A2-Accoring Article III of NPT, State Parties Sign Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA based on the model agreement (INFCIRC/153)

Q3-Are there any Member States of the Agency not party to the NPT? Are their activities under the full scope Safeguards of the Agency?

A3- India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel; No (They are exempted from full scope safeguards)

Q4-Are the nuclear activities of the Nuclear Weapon States under the Agency's Safeguards and control?

A4-NO

Q5-Is there any international or bilateral monitoring system to verify the claims of Weapon States in reducing the nuclear warheads or their nuclear weapons activities?

A5-NO

Q6-Is there any legally binding instrument for assurances of nuclear supply? Has the Agency made attempts if so what?

A6- NO. The Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) failed after 7 years of negotiations.

Q7- Is there any restriction on uranium enrichment activities by Member States according the Statute of the IAEA?

A7-NO

Q8-Is there any limit for the level of enrichment?

A8-NO

Q9-Is there any restriction for the reprocessing activities?

A9-NO

Q10- Is there any provision or notion of “SUSPENSION” of nuclear activities in general or enrichment or reprocessing activities of Member States in the Agency’ Statute?

A10-NO

Q11-Is there any restriction in construction or operation of heavy waters reactors compared with light water reactors?

A11-NO

Q12-Are Member States obliged to report the information on non-material or equipment the need for their nuclear technology, such as the suppliers, price address, names of individuals,..?

A12-NO

Q13-What kind of information on material and equipment, the MSs are expected to report?

A13-Export and import of fissionable nuclear materials has to reported

Q14- How soon the MSs have to give Design Information Questioner of nuclear facilities in accordance with Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/153)?

A14- 180 days before feeding nuclear materials into the facilities.

Q15-Is the signature and ratification of the Additional Protocol mandatory?

A15-NO

Q16-Are there still countries that have not as yet signed the Comprehensive Safeguards? How many?

Q16- Yes, 33 countries

Q17- How many countries have still not the AP in force?

A17-Over 100

Q18-How many countries have so far received the Agency’s confirmation of the absence of undeclared nuclear activities?

A18- Only 40 countries, most of which do not have considerable nuclear activities.

Q19- In what circumstances and on what legal basis the IAEA shall report the nuclear issue of Member States to the United Nations Security Council?

A19-If a-There is diversion of nuclear material and activities to prohibited purposes; b-The IAEA is unable to verify the diversion; c- Non-compliance is reported by inspectors to the Director General, where he shall report thereupon to the Board of Governors.

Q20-Have the MSs right to withdraw the designation of inspectors? Are they obliged to inform the reasons for their decisions?

A20-YES.They are not expected to report the reasons.

Q21- Have the MSs the right to exempt the nuclear materials from inspection? What kind and how much and in accordance with which legal provisions?

A21-YES, 10 tons of yellow cakes, one kg Pu.

B-Specific Questions on Iran:

Q1-When Iran started to work on nuclear energy?

A1-Atomic Center of Tehran University was established in 1956; Atomic Energy Organization of Iran was established 1974; Tehran 5 MW research reactor started its operation, the fuel was 93% enriched 1967;

Q2-When Iran joined the IAEA?

A2-1958

Q3-When Iran joined the NPT?

A3- 1974

Q4-When Iran signed the Comprehensive Safeguards agreement (based on model INFCIRC/153)?

A4-Iran signed INFCIRC/214 in 1974

Q5-When Iran signed the Additional Protocol(AP)?

A5-2003

Q6-How long Iran was implanting the AP?

A6-Iran voluntarily implemented AP for 2,5 years without ratification by parliament as a gesture of transparency and cooperation.

Q7-Had Iran accepted to grant access of inspectors to military sites? If so how many? What was the result?

A7-YES.Over 27 cases

Q8-Did Iran accepted to grant access of inspectors for snap shot, short notice, less than 2 hours ,inspections according to Article 4 of the AP?

A8-YES, over 20 times

Q9- When and why Iran suspended the implementation of AP?

A9-In accordance with the law passed by Parliament, the Government suspended the voluntary implementation of AP, after the nuclear dossier was conveyed to the United Nations Security Council.

Q10-When Iran agreed to implement the modified code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangement?

A10-Folowing the visit of Agency's Director General to Iran in 2003 and his request Iran accepted to do so.

Q11-When and Why Iran suspended the implementation of the code 3.1?

A11- In 2007; pursuant to punitive resolution 1747 of the United Nations Security Council.

Q12-Has Iran had agreements on nuclear energy with other countries? If so which countries and when on which areas of nuclear technology?

A12- Several agreement on various projects including nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel cycle, were signed with different potential supplier specifically US, UK, Canada, Germany, France.

Iran signed an agreement with French Uranium Enrichment Company:, Eurodif, with 10% share in1974. Shah gave one billion dollars loan to the company.US and Iran signed agreement on Atomic Energy Cooperation in 1957

Q13- Has Iran received technical assistance from the IAEA or other countries on enrichment technology?

A13-NO

Q14-What is the justification for nuclear options bearing in mind the fact that Iran has huge oil and gas resources?

A14- Limited oil resource, high international market price, high added value, huge petrochemical industry are producing a lot of products. According to the IAEA's WASP program it is technically justified that Iran produce 20000 MWe by nuclear power plants. Nuclear science and technology is the meeting point of highest standard of many other science and industry, thus a country involved in this area will take big steps towards industrial development.

Q15-Does Iran have uranium mines? If so what is the latest status as far as the exploitation is concerned?

A15-YES, list of Iranian uranium mines and their detail specifications are published since 30 years ago in Agency's RED BOOK.

Q16-Why Iran decided to construct IR40 Heavy Water Research Reactor?

A16- a-To substitute Tehran 5MW Research Reactor, which is outdated (35 year old);b-The heavy water research reactor works with natural uranium, where light water reactors need high enriched uranium at least 20 percent (original fuel of Tehran reactor was 93%). At the time of planning and commencement of the IR40 project, Iran was not sure that it could succeed to enrich uranium.

Q17-Was Iran obliged to inform the IAEA about its Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) prior to 2003?

A17-NO ,since it had not fed UF6

Q18-Was Iran obliged to inform the IAEA about the Natanz Enrichment Facility prior to 2003?

A18-NO, since it had not fed nuclear material (yellow cake)

Q19-How the nuclear crisis started?

A-19-Pursuant swipe sampling in Natanz, uranium contamination including HEU(High enriched uranium) and LEU (Low enriched uranium) particles were found. The question was then raised whether the contamination was as the result of prior enrichment in Iran or not?

Q20-Has the Agency announced the sources of HEU and LEU contamination?

A20-After several sampling, analysis studying document and interviews, the Director General reported in June 2004 that, the source of HEU and LEU contamination are foreign and not as the result of enrichment in Iran.

Q21-Has the Director General of the Agency reported to the Board of Governor “ Non-compliance “ by Iran?

A21-Never

Q22-Has DG reported to the BG diversion of nuclear material or activities of Iran to prohibited or military purposes?

A22-Never

Q23- Has DG reported to BG that the Agency is unable to verify the non-diversion of nuclear activities of Iran?

A23-Never

Q24- Has DG reported to the BG that Iran has ever rejected or prevented inspectors to travel to Iran for inspection?

A24-Never

Q25-Is there any reprocessing activities in Iran?

A25-NO, in the last report DG informed that there is no indication of reprocessing activities.

Q26-Has the IAEA confirmed that Iran is master of enrichment technology?

A26-YES

Q27-Has the Agency made technical analysis of the samples to identify the level of enrichment? If so what level Iran has enriched?

A27-YES; 4.8%

Q28-Is the level of enrichment under the ceiling declared by Iran?

A28- Yes. Iran has declared that it shall enrich uranium up to 5%.

Q29-Is the enriched level nuclear weapons grade?

A29-NO

Q30-Is it technically possible that any country or Iran can increase the level of enrichment to high level needed for nuclear weapons, overnight or even in a matter of days?

A30-NO

Q31-Are the Iranian enrichment facilities and centrifuge machines under the 24 hours Agency's Safeguards Surveillance cameras?

A31-YES

Q32-Has Iran accepted to permit unannounced inspections particularly in sensitive enrichment activities? If so when?

A32-YES; in May 2007

Q33-Are the remaining outstanding questions within the framework of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement? within that of AP?

A33-NO; NO

Q34- Is Iran obliged to report on the progress of civil construction of the 40 MW Heavy Water Research Reactor in Arak?

A34-NO; It has to report 180 days before nuclear fuel is loaded in the reactor which happens years later.

Q35-Are the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council legally justified? If no, why?

A35-NO; since none of the legal requirements explained in general questions Q19 are applied.

In Conclusion: What is the concrete proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve the nuclear issue?

ANSWER:

A-The western countries and the international community at large have to admit the reality that Iran is now master of uranium enrichment technology;

B- The United Nations Security Council engagement be stopped.

C- The nuclear dossier of Iran be returned to the IAEA framework;

D-Iran and parties concerned, 3+3, start negotiation, without precondition;

E-Iran will remove ambiguities, if any, and assure non-diversion of its peaceful nuclear activities to prohibited purposes;

F-After the dossier is returned to the IAEA, Iran and the IAEA prepare a time-table for dealing with few remaining outstanding questions, although they are beyond obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Thanks a lot for your kind attention

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