

### WHICH COUNTRY CAN ACCEPT A NUCLEAR IRAN ?

The words may have sounded pleasant enough, perhaps even alluring, and the smiles were certainly captivating, but can one really believe that Iran does not want to become an active and equal member of the nuclear community of the world?

The words and smiles were those of the new, 65-year old, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, a cleric who holds the status of Shia Mujtahid.

In an interview with a reporter of a popular television station, President Hassan Rouhani said, among other things, that Iran's nuclear ambitions were strictly for peaceful purposes and that the Islamic-Iranian Identity abhorred the suggestion that it would ever become bellicose toward any other nation.

President Hassan Rouhani gave a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, September 24, but the speech was far from being impressive although it was considered to have been thought-provoking.

He said that it was the ardent desire of Iran to settle his country's nuclear question with the West, once and for all.

He said, in a later interview with a reporter of a well-known, American newspaper, that it had to be a matter of months that Iran's nuclear situation must be resolved – not years.

Ultimately, however, as everybody and his cat is fully aware, the éminence grise of Iran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is the person who pulls the strings of power in this country that, for many years, had been considered a pariah as far as the United States of America was concerned and, especially, Israel.

The former President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has gone on record, stating that *'the regime that occupies Jerusalem must vanish from the pages of time.'*

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei never berated President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for his belligerent statements in respect of Israel and, so, one must assume that the Iran's Supreme Leader concurred with his President's statement.

Iran has consistently and steadfastly refused to recognise Israel as a legitimate state.

Under President Hassan Rouhani, Iran is quite unlikely to want to be seen as a supplicant to the US or to any other nation, for that matter, but, at the same time, the country welcomes rapprochement with Western powers, one is told.

Not at the price that Western powers are demanding is rapprochement a possible outcome of multilateral negotiations with Iran because rapprochement must be at a price that is acceptable to all nations, without threats or any attempts to cause Iran to cower in fear in the event of a stalemate over a particular issue.

Iran's nuclear ambitions, however, are not for sale – at any price.

That has been made very definitive over the past decade, first by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who

sought and obtained the concurrence of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

While President Hassan Rouhani states that his country has never waged war on any other nation – Xerxes the Great (519–465 BC), notwithstanding – under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran has been supplying Syria with arms and ammunition that are known to have been used to kill more than 100,000 innocent, non-combatant Syrian (including thousands of women and children) and to cause more than two million, Syrian civilians to flee to neighboring states in order to seek safety from the military forces of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

Such actions of supplying weapons of war to another state appear to fly in the face of President Hassan Rouhani's statement that Iran has never waged war on any other nation: It does not have to do the fighting if somebody else is willing and able to perform this task for it, with Iran, footing the lion's share of the bill for another state to wage war.

### **The Islamic-Iranian Identity**

In numerous, official statements, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has outlined how his country sees the world and how the people of Iran should see the world.

It is well known that his policy is to smile while negotiating and, to use his own words:

*'Even enemies smile at each other while negotiating.'*

That statement was uttered on September 17, 2013 ... not so very long ago.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is a religious fundamentalist of the best (or worst) kind; and, his ambition is to create what he perceives as a new Islamic civilisation.

The nuclear ambitions of Iran are, to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a fundamental right.

He wants *'his'* country to become powerful and technologically advanced, embracing a strong, Islamic-Iranian Identity.

With Iran, being internationally recognised as a fully fledged nuclear power, it would, to the way of thinking of this powerful cleric, be the key to unlocking the door of the avowed intent of the US to impose hegemony upon this Middle Eastern country.

With nuclear power in the hands of the *'management'* of Iran, the country would have to become, de jure, a full member of the community of the most-powerful countries in the world – whether or not Iran, actually, possessed a nuclear arsenal of any magnitude.

Over the past decade or so, Iran has seen the West as being clearly hostile to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's grand vision of the coming of age of the Persian Empire of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with various differing species of emberizidae, such as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, taking the flak when covertly asked so to do.

The éminence grise, always, staying like the puppeteer, pulling the strings of the songbirds that he controls from behind an opaque curtain, is never held responsible for the actions or statements of what some people would use the nomenclature of *'his merchants of mischief'*.

Independence in the pursuit of technological innovations, a clear separation of the rolls of the sexes in the country, and the strong belief in Islam are three of the linchpins, as Ayatollah Ali Khamenei perceives the modern Islamic *'Garden of Eden'* in the Middle East.

In respect of the roll of women in his Islamic society, first on the list of priorities is religious piety.

In a speech, delivered on January 4, 2012, he proclaimed:

*‘Women (in Iran) are half the society and it is very good that if we are able, we should use this half of society. We are in complete agreement with such employment and participation insofar as it does not harm the family institution – which comes first, since it is irreplaceable.’*

He, also, maintains that women must, at all times, keep the commitment to Islamic identity: It is their sworn duty.

To his vision of the Islamic political system, there is no compromise.

And being a nuclear nation is part of that vision.

To this end, he will, always, resist the hegemony of the US and its allies, wherever they may be.

However, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is sufficiently endowed with intelligence to realise how best to manoeuvre his political forces to do his bidding – for the benefit of his Iran.

If the US and the United Nations can accept the concept of a nuclear Iran, promising the peaceful intent of that power, only, then, anything is possible, as far as Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is concerned.

But in order to achieve a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship with Washington, the government of the strongest and most-powerful nation on the face of the earth, today, must accept Iran’s commitment to an Islamic political system à la Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The US has, already, accepted the Chinese Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China as the centre of politics in the world’s second-largest economy – and Washington is forced so to do by the immense wealth of the Middle Kingdom and by virtue of the People’s Republic of China, being among the largest creditors of the US.

Why not, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei must be reasoning, could not the US embrace the Islamic democracy of Iran?

Iran wants to be treated along the lines of the People’s Republic of China where there is a great deal of trust and, perhaps, just as importantly, a great deal of respect.

The problem, of course, is that there are grave misgivings in the West toward Iran and its fundamentalistic Government, led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

In short, very few politicians in the West feel that they can trust Iran and they are fearful that, if it does become a nuclear nation *‘for peaceful purposes, only’*, the next step could very well be to obtain nuclear weaponry – and, then, hold the West to ransom, de facto.

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