

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:  
IS IT THE BIGGEST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE, TODAY ?**

Of all of the countries of the world, the Democratic Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran are seen by many as the biggest threats to world peace.

The Democratic Republic of Korea – commonly referred to as, simply, North Korea – may well be considered more of a long-term threat to world peace than Iran; the West will, sooner rather than later, have to deal with this reclusive country that is ruled by an immature kid in long pants and its known nuclear ambitions.

However, today, it is Iran that is under the spotlight in Geneva, Switzerland, where talks are being held in order for the P5+1 – the United States of America (US), the French Republic (France), the Russian Federation (Russia), the People's Republic of China (PRC), plus the Federal Republic of Germany – in order to obtain an agreement, acceptable to Iran and the representatives of the P5+1, with regard to Iran's avowed intent to continue to enrich uranium as it so desires.

On the eve of the opening of the Geneva talks, Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, speaking to a paramilitary group in Tehran, said, among other things, that the Geneva talks had, as a primary goal, the '*stabilisation of the rights of the Iranian nation, including (its) nuclear rights*'.

He said:

*'There are red lines. There are limits. These limits must be observed. We have told the authorities, and they are required to observe the limits and should not fear the blusters of the enemies and opponents.'*

The speech of the Supreme Leader of Iran was, obviously, aimed at appeasing the hard-liners – many of whom are known to be Moslem fundamentalists – with his references to the US Government's '*warmongering*' threats toward Iran.

The US broke off all ties with Iran on November 4, 1979, following the storming of the US Embassy compound in Tehran and the abduction of 52, US nationals, who were held as hostages of the Iranian Government until January 20, 1981.

On Sunday, November 17, three days before the present talks commenced in Geneva, France's President, Mr François Hollande, in a visit to Israel, said:

*'France will not give way on nuclear proliferation. So long as we are not certain that Iran has renounced nuclear arms, we will keep in place all our demands and sanctions.'*

Iran has repeatedly stated that it wants the right to have a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes, only. It has stated that any nuclear technology that it develops will be used for the generation of electricity and for medical research, etc, and denies that it wants the capability to build nuclear weaponry.

Israel, which is considered an enemy of Iran by Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei and many, if not most, of

the faithful, wants the US and its allies to stand tough on the Islamic Republic, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, trying to persuade the West to keep the present economic sanctions in place until Iran stops enriching uranium.

Israel's stand is that, regardless of statements to the contrary, Iran wants to be a nuclear power – and that means, obtaining nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told President François Hollande, among other things:

*'A good deal is a deal that strips Iran of capabilities for preparing fissile material for a nuclear bomb.'*

For France, it wants, as pre-conditions for any interim agreement with Iran:

1. All Iranian nuclear installations to be placed under international surveillance;
2. The suspension of all uranium to 20 percent purity;
3. The reduction of existing uranium stocks; and,
4. Construction of the heavy water plant at the City of Arak to cease.

As for US President Barack Hussein Obama, many heads of his friends and allies are of the opinion that he is too soft on Iran.

He has suggested the loosening of the tie cords of sanctions and, in the event that Iran does not comply with its commitments under an interim agreement, then, any such agreement would be considered null and void and other considerations would come to the fore.

The present sanctions, imposed by the United Nations, are known to have hurt the oil-based economy of the Islamic state. Since 2006, the United Nations Security Council has imposed a number of sanctions on individuals and entities, involved in the country's nuclear programme.

### **The Legal Question**

Iran is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968.

The Treaty comprises 11 Articles. It is meant to encompass, inter alia:

1. Non-Proliferation of nuclear weaponry;
2. Disarmament of nuclear weaponry; and,
3. The right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Articles I through to IV of the Treaty state:

*'**Article I:** Each nuclear-weapons state (NWS) undertakes not to transfer, to any recipient, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices, and not to assist any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices.*

*'**Article II:** Each non-NWS party undertakes not to receive, from any source, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices; not to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices; and not to receive any assistance in their manufacture.*

*'**Article III:** Each non-NWS party undertakes to conclude an agreement with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) for the application of its safeguards to all nuclear material in all of the state's peaceful nuclear activities and to prevent diversion of such material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.*

*'**Article IV:** 1. Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for*

*peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty.'*

Thus, Iran can maintain that, under the Treaty, it has a right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The US and its allies and friends maintain that Article IV of the Treaty has been superseded since 2005 by Resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The IAEA referred Iran to the United Nations in 2005 when it discovered that Iran had carried out certain nuclear activities that were '*inconsistent*' with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The United Nations has demanded, on numerous occasions, that Iran suspend its nuclear programme with regard to enrichment and reprocessing activities.

It has said that cessation of the nuclear programme of Iran should continue until '*confidence is restored in the purely peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme*'.

In short, the United Nations did not, and still does not, trust Iran.

What is of great concern to the West is that Iran, under the guise of building nuclear reactors and what-have-you for peaceful purposes, could convert part of an existing facility, producing low-enriched uranium, suitable as reactor fuel in, say a nuclear water-treatment plant, to highly enriched, weapons-grade uranium, suitable for the building of weapons of mass destruction.

What is being hoped will germinate from the current negotiations is to limit Iran's uranium-enrichment ability so that it cannot produce nuclear weaponry.

It seems highly unlikely, therefore, that the current talks will bear fruit.

For more on this important subject, please refer to:

**TARGET** Intelligence Report, Volume XV, Number 215,  
Published on Friday, November 15, 2013, Headlined:

**'*IRANIAN PRAGMATISM COULD WELL WIN THE DAY*'**

-- **E N D** --

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,  
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in  
TARGET, please feel free to e-mail your views to [editor@targetnewspapers.com](mailto:editor@targetnewspapers.com). TARGET  
does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the  
laws of libel.*