

THE NOVEMBER DATE DRAWS NIGH

As November 24, 2014, draws closer, questions continue to be asked as to whether or not a comprehensive nuclear agreement can be reached between The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations.

In late August, the IAEA – The International Atomic Energy Agency – complained that Iran had denied the IAEA’s nuclear inspectors to obtain access to the Parchin military base, located not far from Tehran, the Capital City of Iran.

Iran’s Defence Minister, Mr Hossein Dehghan, said, among other things:

‘The Agency (IAEA) carried out several visits to Parchin – before 2005 – took samples and found nothing untoward. There is no reason for new access to Parchin as nothing new has come up since the last inspections.’

The IAEA maintains that access to Parchin is essential in order to allay international fears that Iran has embarked on its nuclear programme in order to be able to produce weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weaponry.

There have been allegations, making the rounds of Western intelligence agencies, that Parchin is being used, inter alia, to engage in research, leading to the creation of specialised explosives that have the capacity to detonate nuclear warheads.

IAEA has obtained a number of satellite surveillance photographs, showing that there has been and continues to be increased activity at this military base.

And the activities are continuing apace, according to Mr Yukiya Amano, a Director of the IAEA.

Mr Yikiya Amano has written in a report on the matter:

‘We keep on insisting to have access to that particular site in Parchin, to the people and to their documents.’

Earlier this month, the deadline for Iran to answer questions in respect of its nuclear programme came ... and went.

By August 25, 2014, it had been agreed between the IAEA and Iran that Iran would cooperate with the IAEA investigations into the country’s past nuclear activities and to address the concerns of the warden of nuclear proliferation.

Iran was supposed to have provided the IAEA with certain vital information with regard to the country’s military dimension in respect of its nuclear programme.

Iran did not comply with the terms of the agreement in this regard.

The unwillingness to cooperate, fully, with the IAEA will, no doubt, raise serious questions on November 24, 2014, when the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – The United States of America, The Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, Great Britain, The French Republic plus

The Federal Republic of Germany, known as the P+1 – convene in order to try to nut out a comprehensive agreement whereby Iran would curb its nuclear activities in exchange for the United Nations, easing economic sanctions on the country.

Monday, November 24, was a compromise date since negotiations in respect of the comprehensive agreement were supposed to have been completed at or about July 20, 2014, when the P5+1 met as scheduled.

But Iran requested a later date and it was granted – because there was no other alternative.

It is unlikely that the November 24 meeting will result in any definitive agreement, being reached, because it is clear that it is likely to be perceived as not being in the best interests of the theocratic Government of The Islamic Republic of Iran at this time in the history of the country.

Among other things, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, was hospitalised in Tehran in September, this year. He underwent surgery on his prostate gland on September 9. The surgery was said to have been successful.

But the Ayatollah is 75 years old and there have been unconfirmed reports that his health is deteriorating.

In the event that it is determined that he has become unable to conduct the affairs of the Islamic State due to health considerations, there would be an inevitable change to the government of the country – and who knows what that could come to mean.

Procrastination may be the thief of time, but in the matter of reaching a definitive nuclear agreement between the United Nations and Iran, procrastination may be considered the best way forward as far as Iran's negotiators are concerned.

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