

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:
A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE !**

The Nuclear Talks Are A Waste Of Time

Following the 12th unsuccessful negotiations between The Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1 – Great Britain, The Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, The French Republic and The Federal Republic of Germany – held on January 18, 2015, it has been agreed that the next round of talks will be held on July 1, 2015.

The July 1, 2015 meeting will be the 13 th such encounter that the P5+1 nations of the world (P5 = The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council) plus Germany have made in concerted attempts to find an acceptable solution to all parties to the talks with regard to the outstanding issues in respect of Iran's nuclear programme.

As **TARGET** () stated, more than one year ago, it is highly unlikely that Iran will ever fully agree to most of the proposals, coming from the P5+1, proposals that will lead, directly or indirectly, to scaling back the theocracy's nuclear ambitions to any material degree.

The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, is, unquestionably, the stumbling block in these marathon talks, being the person who laid down, in very definitive terms, how these negotiations would be conducted.

He has gone on record, stating that he would like to see The State of Israel struck from the map of the world, along with its entire Jewish population, and, as for The United States of America:

'We (Iran) had announced previously that on certain issues, if we feel it is expedient, we would negotiate with Satan (meaning the US Government) to deter its evil ... The nuclear talks showed the enmity of America against Iran, Iranians, Islam and Muslims.'

In The Beginning, There Was the JPA

On November 24, 2013, a **Joint Plan of Action (JPA)** – also known as the Geneva Agreement – was nipped out between the P5+1 and Iran.

The JPA was only meant to be an interim Accord whereby Iran would agree to scale back certain aspects of its nuclear programme and, in return, certain economic/financial sanctions, previously imposed by the West on the fundamentalist, Islamic country, would be lifted, at least in part.

The date that the JPA was activated, officially, was January 20, 2014.

On the day that the JPA became effective, \$US7 billion was released to Iran, that amount of money, being deposited into Iranian banks over a period of six months, with the first instalment of \$US550 million, having been transferred, during the first week of February 2014.

That which is at stake with regard to the ongoing, nuclear talks with Iran is, it is fervently hoped by the

world's bodies, to rein in certain, existing activities of the country so that it can be dissuaded from becoming another nuclear state.

Israel maintains that Iran is desirous of being a nuclear power in order to be in a position to construct nuclear weaponry, among other things.

Israel believes that, as soon as Iran has the nuclear capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction, such as a nuclear bomb, these weapons will be headed for the Jewish state.

Iran maintains that it only wants to be a nuclear power for peaceful purposes, such as in the production of electricity.

In order to achieve its goals, Iran claims that it needs to enrich uranium and, in order to accomplish this, it requires tens of thousands of banks of centrifuges.

And this, alone, is very worrying to most countries of the world – because it stands to reason that, as soon as Iran becomes a nuclear power, it will consider other uses for its latest 'toy'.

And, then, it would be too late.

The Timelines: They came ... And They Went

The first round of nuclear talks with Iran was held on February 18-20, 2014, in Vienna, Austria.

At those negotiations, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Baroness Catherine Ashton, the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, were the two driving forces.

It was well expected that the first round of talks would be the first, constructive step, leading, in a relatively short pace of time, to achieving a comprehensive agreement that would allay the concerns of the world with regard to Iran's nuclear programme.

The second round of nuclear talks with Iran was held, again in Vienna, Austria, during March 17-20, 2014.

In addition to Baroness Catherine Ashton and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, present at these talks were diplomats from the six nations (the P5+1).

The talks were of no avail, as history has documented.

Further negotiations commenced prior to the fourth round of talks.

Also, of no material avail.

The fourth round of nuclear talks with Iran took place on May 13-16, 2014, also in Vienna, Austria.

At that meeting, the US Government sent its Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ms Wendy Sherman, to take an active part in the talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Once again, little progress was made, with Ms Wendy Sherman, having been prepared to draft a final agreement for Iran's approval.

Ms Wendy Sherman was quoted as saying, inter alia, as the talks drew to a close:

'We are just at the beginning of the drafting process; and, we have a significant way to go.'

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi went on record, stating:

'The talks were serious and constructive, but no progress has been made ... We have not reached the point to start drafting a final agreement.'

Obviously, there had been a little confusion between how Ms Wendy Sherman saw the situation with regard to the drafting process of a final agreement and how Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi determined that it was not to be.

The fifth round of talks with Iran was held from June 16-20, once again in Vienna, Austria.

The negotiations ended with statements to the effect that there were *'substantial differences still remaining'*.

Ms Wendy Sherman went on record, stating that it was still unclear as to whether or not Iran would act in a manner so as to ensure the world that Iran's nuclear programme was only meant for peaceful purposes.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif did not hesitate to show his disdain for the US Government, saying, inter alia, that the Obama Administration was making unreasonable demands of Iran.

The **IAEA** – the **I**nternational **A**tom**E**n**E**rgy **A**gency – in its monthly report, claimed that Iran's plants for the production of low enriched uranium *'is almost certainly continuing to increase for the time being, simply because its production of the material has not stopped, unlike that of the 20 percent uranium gas'*.

The sixth round of nuclear talks with Iran was held, yet again, in Vienna, Austria, from July 2 until July 20, 2014.

The talks were headed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Baroness Catherine Ashton.

A new face at these nuclear talks was that of the US Secretary of State John Kerry.

It was believed, in some circles, that US Secretary John Kerry could help to break the deadlock with Iran in respect of what had become a protracted battle between the theocratic government of Iran and the Western powers.

US Secretary John Kerry, clearly, had met his match in his talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif: The high-ranking, US diplomat accomplished next to nothing.

On July 13, 2014, Great Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague announced:

'There has been no breakthrough, today. It is now time for Iran to decide whether they (sic) want cooperation with the world community or stay in isolation.'

The seventh round of nuclear talks with Iran took place in New York on September 19, 2014.

Very little was accomplished at this meeting, also.

The eighth round of nuclear talks with Iran took place in Vienna, Austria, on October 16, 2014.

The chief players at this round included Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Baroness Catherine Ashton.

Baroness Catherine Ashton's spokesman told the world:

'Diplomatic efforts to find a resolution to the Iranian nuclear issue are now in a critical phase.'

This lady had, rightly, become exasperated with the intransigence of Iran's chief delegate: Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The ninth round of nuclear talks with Iran took place at Muscat, the Capital City of Oman, on November 11, 2014.

At this short meeting, Iran's Deputy Foreign Ministers Abbas Araqchi and Majid Takht Ravanchi held talks with their P5+1 counterparts.

Baroness Catherine Ashton was, also, present, but her role was relegated to briefing the P5+1 members in respect of the previous talks that had been held between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The tenth round of talks with Iran was held on November 18, 2014, in Vienna, Austria. That meeting was scheduled to last just six days.

The chief participants at that meeting included Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Baroness Catherine Ashton.

On November 20, two days after the talks started, the IAEA stated at its meeting:

'Iran has not provided any explanations that enable the Agency (the IAEA) to clarify the outstanding practical measures.'

IAEA's Director General Yukiya Amano made the above statement, following allegations of Iran's activities, leading to the prospects of engagement in the production of a nuclear arsenal.

On the same day, in Brussels, the Capital City of Belgium, The International Committee in Search and Justice presented a 100-page report that, inter alia, claimed the Iran was hiding the fact that it had been secreting the military segment of its nuclear programme within a civilian, nuclear programme.

That report had been authored by the President of The International Committee in Search and Justice, Professor Alejo Vidal-Quadras, a doctor of nuclear physics and formerly, the Vice President of The European Parliament.

The tenth round of talks produced no tangible results: Iran's intransigence with regard to many matters of pith and moment continued.

At the conclusion of the tenth round, Great Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond remarked that *'wide gaps on well-known points of contention'* existed.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif went on record, stating at a Press Conference:

'Today, the Iranian nuclear programme is internationally recognised and no one speaks about our enrichment right.'

The eleventh round of nuclear talks with Iran took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 17, 2014.

The talks lasted just one day.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov made the statement to the effect that the existence and operations of Iran's Arak heavy water reactor as well as economic/financial sanctions, that had been imposed on Iran, were the two key issues, still outstanding in the nuclear talks.

The twelfth round of talks between Iran and the P5+1 took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 18, 2015.

This time, the Political Director for the European Union, Ms Helga Maria Schmid, chaired the meeting.

At the conclusion of this round, Mr Nicolas de la Riviere, the negotiator for France, announced:

‘The mood was very good, but I don’t think we made a lot of progress.’

Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergie Ryabkov added to the comments of Mr Nicolas de la Riviere:

‘Major disagreements remain on the majority of dispute issues.’

The Stance Of Iran

Simply put, Iran maintains that it has the right to have a nuclear programme and that the Western World has no right to dictate to the theocratic government as to what it may, and may not, do.

In the words of Iran’s Deputy Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi:

‘We (Iran) will not accept that our uranium enrichment programme becomes something like a toy.’

One of the most-tricky points of contention between Iran and the P5+1 is limiting the enrichment of uranium at Iran’s nuclear facilities.

That means that there must be controls to the number and types of centrifuges in operation in the country.

Prior to the first round of talks, it was accepted that Iran had installed about 19,000 centrifuges, with about 10,000 of these centrifuges in operation, producing the concentration of uranium-235.

Uranium-235 is an isotope of uranium, made from about 0.72 percent of natural uranium. Unlike the isotope, uranium-238, uranium-235 is fissile (capable of being split or divided): It is able to sustain a fission, chain reaction.

The P5+1 want to limit Iran to no more than a few thousand centrifuges; Iran has stated that it wants somewhere in the region of 100,000 centrifuges in operation.

The IAEA has been unable to discover just how much uranium-235 has been produced and stockpiled in Iran over the years.

If Iran is able to become a nuclear power, covertly – as appears to be its wont, by all accounts – the threat of an arms’ race in the Middle East is considered an odds-on favourite.

Addressing the House of Representatives and the Senate, US President Barack Hussein Obama stated, emphatically, with regard to the negotiations between Iran and the P5+1:

‘These negotiations do not rely on trust: Any long-term deal we agree to must be based on verifiable action that convinces us and the international community that Iran is not building a nuclear bomb.’

Israel has stated, on numerous occasions, that it would not permit Iran to produce nuclear bombs and that it would take whatever military action that it deemed necessary to defend its territory and its people from any attack from Iran.

The US Government has gone on record, also, as not ruling out a ‘*surgical*’ military strike on Iran if needs be such.

Iran’s Defence Minister, Brigadier Hossein Dehqan, has stated that Iran’s long-range, ballistic missiles could evade detection or enemy anti-missile defence and have ‘*the capacity of destroying massive targets and destroying multiple targets*’.

These are hardly the words of a peace-loving Muslim.

It seems only too evident that Iran is not going to cower to the demands of the Western World and that it will become clear, probably later this year, that the nuclear talks are a complete waste of time.

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