

**TRYING TO REIN IN IRAN'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES:
ANOTHER DEADLINE APPROACHES**

Another week has come and gone since the last report that this medium penned and, still, The Islamic Republic of Iran procrastinates over reaching a concurrence with regard to an agreement with the five Permanent Members of the United Nations's Security Council and Germany, referred to, collectively, as the P5+1.

The P5+1 comprises:

- The United States of America;
- The United Kingdom;
- The Russian Federation;
- The People's Republic of China;
- The French Republic; and,
- The Federal Republic of Germany.

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**'*IRAN AND ITS NUCLEAR AMBITIONS:
CAN THERE, EVER, BE
A COMPREHENSIVE, ENDURING AGREEMENT ?***

As at last Wednesday, one is told that the P5+1 was still trying to obtain an agreement with Iran in respect of certain, very contentious matters over the country's nuclear programme.

It was formerly thought possible that, by next Tuesday (March 31), an agreement with Iran would be in place and that an Accord with the Islamic nation was scheduled for the end of June, this year.

Another deadline!

That brings the total number of deadlines that have been missed in respect of attempts for the P5+1 to come

into an agreement over Iran's nuclear programme to at least 13 over a period of two years.

The basis of the nuclear talks with Iran is that, in exchange for relief of the draconian economic sanctions that are biting down hard on the economy of Iran, the country would come into an agreement to limit the country's ability with regard to its nuclear capabilities, now, as well as in the foreseeable future.

Iran has stated, on numerous occasions, that it never had any intention to produce nuclear weaponry, and that it only wanted the ability to harness nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Most countries of the world, and especially Israel, do not subscribe to the mollifiable statements, uttered by the leaders of Iran.

Last Monday, Director General Yukiya Amano of the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** said, in Washington D.C., during a conference:

'We continue to verify the non-divergence of nuclear material declared by Iran, but we are still not in a position to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful purpose.'

President Barack Hussein Obama's Appeal

While the P5+1 was meeting with senior officials of Iran over an acceptable wording of an agreement with regard to Iran's nuclear programme, President Barack Hussein Obama was appealing to the Government of Iran and its population, numbering about 81 million, men, women and children, to grasp this opportunity so that The United States of America and The Islamic Republic of Iran can break bread together, thus changing the chosen course that Iran had adopted over the past few decades.

He said, among other things, on the Eve of Iranian New Year (Nowruz):

'This moment may not come again soon. I believe that our nations have an historic opportunity to resolve this issue peacefully – an opportunity we should not miss.'

'My message to you – the people of Iran – is that, together, we have to speak up for the future we seek. This year, we have the best opportunity in decades to pursue a different future between our countries.'

President Barack Hussein Obama, then, went on to issue a not-so-veiled threat, stating that Iran's negotiators had the choice of maintaining its status quo – walking the chosen road of isolation while enduring economic sanctions – or walking a different path, one that leads to more trade and investment with the world.

'This is what's at stake, today,' President Barack Hussein Obama said. *'And this moment may not come again, soon.'*

One has to speculate as to the rationale behind President Barack Hussein Obama's entreaty to the people of Iran and its Government.

Is it possible that he wants to leave The Office of the President of The United States of America with the legacy of having been the leader of the free world, who fashioned friendship, after decades of hostilities with an Islamic country that had been a thorn in the side of largest economy of the world?

The greater the challenge, the sweeter the rewards!

Is that which President Barack Hussein Obama covets?

Did not the most-powerful leader of the Western World forget that, on January 14, 2014, Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, the ultimate leader of Iran, stated that The United States of America had shown, time and again, positive active and typically mutual hatred or ill will toward Iran.

Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei said, among other things:

‘We (Iran) had announced previously that on certain issues, if we feel it is expedient, we would negotiate with Satan (The United States) to deter evil ... the nuclear talks showed the enmity of America against Iran, Iranians and Muslims.’

If President Barack Hussein Obama was not seeking to be recorded in the history as the leader of the Western World, who had brokered a binding agreement with The Islamic Republic of Iran over its potentially terrifying nuclear programme, thus placating the fears of many as to the road that the Islamic country was seemingly treading, leading to a nuclear conflict, then, what were his intentions?

Did some bubblehead in the White House persuade the President to make the appeal to the people of Iran and to the ultimate, theocratic leader?

If that was the case, that bubblehead should have his/her bubble popped.

What was achieved, if anything, by President Barack Hussein Obama’s appeal to Iran and its human population was to indicate the abject political weakness of the government of The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave, a political weakness that was being made manifest by the utterances of the man who sleeps in The White House.

The only other reason for his actions that comes to mind is that President Barack Hussein Obama has become a blathering idiot.

What Could Be Achieved

The only thing that can be achieved, at this late stage in the nuclear talks, is a vague outline of a skeleton of a potential agreement.

Iran loves to be vague since vagueness is, always, subject to transmogrification when it is deemed convenient so to do.

In the opinion of **TARGET** (), a skeleton of a potential agreement is the most that one may expect.

If this turns out to be the case – as is quite probable – some people might be sufficiently feeble-minded as to suggest that it is a victory for the P5+1.

Far from it.

But it would be a victory for Iran.

The nuclear negotiations, during the month of March, thus far, have resulted in no formal framework of an agreement.

All such suggestions of a formal framework of an agreement have been resisted by Iran – for good and valid reason as far as the thinking of Iran’s Government is concerned.

Instead of an agreement, Iran has suggested, during this month, that there has been some concurrence in respect of an understanding with the negotiating parties.

Gobbledegook and doublespeak.

If this situation persists – which is quite likely – then anything that the P5+1 may interpret can, always, be denied by Iran’s negotiators, who will state that it never meant that which the P5+1 has interpreted the understanding that had been agreed.

What has yet to be quantified in respect of Iran’s nuclear programme are two important matters:

1. How many uranium-enriching centrifuges should be permitted to be left in the hands of Iran after the country has come into an agreement with the P5+1?
2. What changes should be demanded in the design and configuration of Iran's reactors, presently under construction, reactors that produce plutonium?

The Definition of Plutonium

It is a radioactive metallic element similar chemically to uranium that is formed as the isotope 239 by decay of neptunium and found in minute quantities in pitchblende, that undergoes slow disintegration with the emission of an alpha particle to form uranium 235, and that is fissionable with slow neutrons to yield atomic energy.

Iran has stated, definitively, that it will not quantify either of the above-mentioned matters.

The Stumbling Block

An idea of that which the world may expect in the future in its dealings with Iran is couched in its dealings of past years.

Iran has, always, been reticent to state what were its nuclear intentions of years gone by.

France is known to be compiling a new list of demands to present to Iran.

It is generally believed that these new demands relate to Iran's past intentions, with the suggestion that the Islamic state had attempted to construct atomic weapons, secretly.

France has distanced itself from the Obama Administration in that any type of concession with Iran's Government could have the effect of weakening international attempts to prevent nuclear proliferation.

A number of intelligence agencies of the Government of The United States of America has concluded that Iran was, in the past, engaged in programmes, dedicated to the production of nuclear weaponry.

These intelligence agencies were led to believe that the dedicated nuclear programme came to a halt in 2003.

Iran has refused to answer questions in this regard.

If it can be proved that the American intelligence agencies were spot on, then, it would be very embarrassing for Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei who has gone on record, repeatedly, stating that Iran has only wanted nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

France is, in effect, calling for tougher terms to be inscribed in any proposed, nuclear agreement with Iran.

The nagging question is whether or not Iran would be willing to abide by any future agreement, aimed at preventing the country from trying to develop any and all types of nuclear weaponry.

In the past, Iran refused to implement various work plans, suggested by the IAEA with regard to inspections of its reactor sites, and the inability of the IAEA to verify Iran's determination to abide by any agreement, based on past performances, raises questions as to Iran's willingness to sit at the negotiating table, openly and in earnest.

The IAEA is empowered by the United Nations to investigate any suggestion of Iran's weapons research, including, but not limited to, reactors, ostensibly to produce nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Director General Yukiya Amano of the IAEA has said that the specific role of the IAEA, today, is to concentrate on verification matters with regard to Iran.

In order for a nuclear agreement to be reached between the P5+1 and Iran, Iran would, in due course, be expected to answer questions about its past activities that would, naturally, include whether or not those activities had possible military dimensions.

The matter of possible military dimensions has, always, been on the table, during the negotiations over a comprehensive, enduring agreement between the P5+1 and Iran.

This agreement, if it comes to pass, is aimed at being engraved in stone, with an expected shelf life of at least 15 years.

One would be advised not to hold one's breath, waiting for such an agreement, in this medium's opinion.

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