IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS FAIR DINKUM, AFTER ALL ?

As The Congress of The United States of America listens to arguments for and against the **J**oint Comprehensive Plan of Action (**JCPOA**) – commonly referred to in the vernacular of Americans as '*The Iranian Nuclear Deal*' – and as candidates put themselves forward to the masses as being valid replacements of President Barack Hussein Obama as the next head of state of the most-powerful nation on this earth, it is, perhaps, good politics for these men and women to throw cold water on the JCPOA.

These Presidential hopefuls sing the songs that are popular and have melodies that are appealing and acceptable to many people who are ready and willing to listen.

For the most part, however, these candidates, in order to sleep in The White House, tend to forsake the most paramount of precepts: That which is best for US and, at the same time, best for world peace.

In truth – the existence of the real – in respect of the JCPOA, it may well be that The Islamic Republic of Iran is fair dinkum, after all, with regard to its present nuclear intentions (being for peaceful purposes only).

It is, also, quite possible that this theocratic nation has, always, held such beliefs.

Had there been objective and impartial exchanges of ideas, back in 2005, following the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by the very determined military invasion, led by a coalition, the US, being the flag-waver, perhaps the present considerations would not have been necessary, at all.

Back in 2003, US President George W. Bush labelled Iran as being part of the 'Axis of Evil'. It stuck! Many people repeated the Bush diatribe, over and over again.

The more that it was repeated, the more it tended to be generally acceptable by the masses and, eventually, it came to be as an acknowledged truth.

But the American 'truth' of 2003 may not have been the existence of the real!

Ever since then, due to this phrase, having become a mantra, many people have come to believe that Iran, its government and its people, are evil.

The ad hominem statements of President George W. Bush, repeated a sufficient number of times when it was politically expedient so to do, commoved large swaths of US citizens to agree with the President's assertion – without any tangible evidence to support the contention that Iran, its government and its people, were evil.

But, in the same year that Americans were uttering the Bush 'Axis of Evil' phrase, the Government of Iran offered to break bread with the US and, within two years of the successful attack on Iraq, Iran made a definitive offer to the United Nations, stating, inter alia, that The Islamic Republic would not attempt, and had never attempted, to create and to stockpile nuclear weaponry.

Ironically, at the time of this 2005 offer, Iran had previously ceased working for more than two years on any

technology that could have led to the creation of a nuclear arsenal, coming to fruition.

But the US Government was not listening because, among other things, Iran was considered part of an 'Axis of Evil': One should not listen to Shaitan.

The Iranian Primer

The JCPOA is, initially, for a period of between 10 years and 15 years.

During this first phase of the JCPOA, restrictions will be put in place in order to curtail Iran's nuclear activities.

These restrictions will include activities, related to uranium mines, to production plants where centrifuges are located, to the configuration of nuclear reactors, to the operations of the country's enrichment facilities, and to limiting the extent of the stockpiling of uranium to the level of enrichment.

All of the above and more would be under the constant supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it is stated.

Never since the introduction of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of July 1, 1968, has any sovereign nation, voluntarily, agreed to such draconian restrictions in respect of its nuclear activities and, also, agreed to permit intrusions (by the IAEA) onto its soil as proof positive that it is keeping its promises.

The JCPOA, also, contains that which could be termed as being interlocking iron chains of containment.

Sanctions, that had been lifted as a 'reward' for agreeing to the terms and conditions of the JCPOA, may be re-imposed by The United Nations, for instance, in the case of any serious breach of any part of the JCPOA.

With regard to trade in nuclear materials, specifically for use of peaceful purposes in Iran, there shall be a specific and supervised modus operandi, with technical oversight provisions.

No sovereign nation, being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, has ever been subject to such draconian provisions with regard to international trade of nuclear materials to be utilised for, strictly, peaceful purposes.

The intent of the containment clauses, enshrined in the JCPOA, was to make it difficult, if not impossible, for Iran to break the interlocking iron chains.

What About The Future?

Questions have been raised as to what would transpire a decade or so later, at the time that the containment clauses and the draconian restrictions were removed from the Islamic nation.

Nobody lives forever and so one must assume that the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, will be long gone by 2030. This is almost a certainty.

Also, a certainty, is that there shall have been considerable changes in the governments of the US, in Israel, and in many other parts of the world.

In Iran, by 2030, it is quite likely that its population, then, probably, numbering close to 100 million people (about 82 million people, today), had undergone very material demographic and societal changes.

The clerics, who led the Iranian people to revolt in November of 1979, resulting in horrific scenes on the streets of Tehran, the Capital City of Iran, against, inter alia, US citizens, culminating in the successful attack on The Embassy of The United States of America and holding Embassy personnel hostage for about 410 days – until the middle of January 1981 – will all be dead, no doubt.

It is noted that these diehard clerics, since 1979, have had a large voice in the affairs of the country and have, persistently, fermented hatred of Americans among the populace at every available opportunity.

They still, continue, publicly, to incite hatred of Americans, to this day.

These diehards have not been helpful in mending broken, political fences that have divided the US from Iran.

Should the JCPOA prove effective and the vitriolic attacks by US politicians with regard to Iran and its government become bromidic, and, in Iran, there is a decided change for the best in the country's relationship with the US, Iran would have enjoyed many years of reduced sanctions and its relationship with the rest of the world would have been, hopefully, enhanced to a very positive degree.

Repeated interactions with countries, round the world, no doubt, would have dispelled, to a great extent, animosities of days gone by.

There cannot, of course, be a guarantee as to what the future will bring in respect of Iran and its people and the rest of the world, but, as one country after another learns how to trade with Iran, bringing with it positive interaction between nations and its citizenry, it is quite likely that old feuds will become relegated to history.

It is even possible that Iran, by 2030, would have come to terms with the existence of The State of Israel along with its Jewish population and stop screaming that it would like to wipe Jewish State off the face of the earth.

The words of Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, uttered on February 3, 2012, while addressing a crowd of worshippers in Tehran, will have been all but forgotten:

'From now on, in any place, if any nation or any group confronts the Zionist Regime (of Israel), we will endorse and we will help. We have no fear expressing this ... Israel is a cancerous tumour that should be cut and will be cut.'

It is not possible for a man to be an enemy of another, forever.

It is well accepted that the best indication as to how a person will act toward another is by reference to historical fact: The past, being a mirror to the future.

The Bomb Or Compromise?

Candidates, for the post of the next president of the US, suggest, in definitive terms, that the JCPOA guarantees that, somewhere down the road, Iran will go helter-skelter to build up a nuclear arsenal and, having accomplished this, the Islamic country would not hesitate to make good use of its newest weapons of mass destruction.

These candidates make claims that the only way to deprive Iran of the ability to have a nuclear arsenal at any time in the future is by decisive action, taken today – and that means that The Congress of The United States of America must vote '*No*' to acceptance of the JCPOA in its present form.

One of these arguments includes not permitting Iran, ever, to have the ability to enrich uranium to weaponsgrade.

Another argument is that, by permitting Iran to have the inalienable right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, guarantees that, as soon as it is practicable so to do, Iran will be in a position to create a nuclear arsenal.

That which these candidates do not tell those who come to hear their speeches is that, as part of the JCPOA,

Iran will be obliged to ratify the Additional Protocol of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of July 1, 1968.

This Additional Protocol spells out, in very clear terms, that the IAEA will continue its work of being an inspector and an overseer – in perpetuity.

An aspect of the many arguments with regard to acceptance of the JCPOA, one that appears, sadly, to have been overlooked, is that Iran, when it had increased its banks of centrifuges from nearly zero to more than 20,000 within a period of eight years – from 2005 until 2013 – and with the country well within reach of being in a position to have a nuclear arsenal, chose, instead of going forward, to negotiate with the P5+1 – Great Britain, The Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, The French Republic, The United States of America and The Federal Republic of Germany – to forgo that option.

Instead, after nearly three years of haggling, the JCPOA has come into being and, say whatever one will, this Protocol is aimed at proscribing Iran's ability to have the capability of being in a position to be another nuclear power, other than for peaceful purposes.

For what reason did Iran's President Hassan Rouhani fly to New York in September of 2013 with the main purpose of encouraging a dialogue between Iran and the US?

That trip must have been with the express consent and approval of Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, the final arbiter of all things political in Iran.

Iran had, at least, the following two choices, prior to President Hassan Rouhani, landing on US soil:

- 1. Continue along its chosen path toward becoming another nuclear power in the world and risk war with the West; or,
- 2. Seek a political solution in the hope of repairing 32 years of hostility with the US.

It, voluntarily, chose the coming into being of the JCPOA.

The finished draft of this very important document took more than two years of, often, heated arguments, leading to veiled threats by certain people, representing the nations, involved in the discussions.

But, today, it is a fiat accompli.

There will, one supposes, be those people and the heads of certain nations, who will attempt to pooh-pooh this historic achievement, embodied in the JCPOA, but to dismiss it, outwardly, could well be at their peril.

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