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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

America's Obsolete Deployment in Europe

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

At a time when President-elect Donald Trump describes NATO as "obsolete," war-party Washington has decided to deploy yet more "obsolete" U.S. Marines in Europe. More specifically, they are heading to Trondheim, Norway, along the Russian border.

For obvious reasons, Russia is not happy, both annoyed at the U.S. for deployment yet more troops along its border, and in Norway, which promised not to host any foreign troops on the Russian border when they became part of NATO. Norway insists this is just a temporary deployment and doesn't count.

This is far from the truth. Under the whole game of "Pivot to Asia," war-party Washington wants to rule over Eurasia. Under the same concept, the Western-Russian dispute over Ukraine is now manifesting itself in myriad ways: Energy deals, investment deals, shale gas exports, free trade agreements, war games, a closer political alliance inside the G-20, the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a concerted effort to progressively bypass the petrodollar and sanctions, et al.

The gambit has become so serious that former Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev says the tensions between the U.S. and Russia should be kept under control because they have put the world on the brink of a new Cold War.

This is while Western experts say Washington's inconsiderate rhetoric/gambit over Moscow's policy in Ukraine has jeopardized U.S. strategic objective of exerting pressure on Iran. They say this has come at a very opportune time, claiming any split between Washington and Moscow will be welcome by Tehran - anything that gives it the upper hand in Syria!

Quite the opposite, Tehran is not happy to see Russian/Ukrainian people getting killed over territorial disputes so that it could subtly benefit from it in Syria. To be sure, Iran is against aggression and will do all it can to ensure stability and peace in the Caucasus, particularly in eastern Ukraine, is restored. Let us forget, these are the same "pundits" that used to say the standoff was helping Iran during the nuclear talks!

However, disputes should be resolved through dialogue, because they could easily escalate to something that may cause even more instability and bloodshed - which Tehran does not wish upon any nation under any circumstances.

Nevertheless, the unipolar, imperial elite in the West only have themselves to blame: In their fantasy to tear Russia apart, "Pivot to Asia" and control pipelines from Asia to Europe, they were the ones that offered military training and diplomatic support to the opposition to topple the government in Kiev. They are also the ones that blamed Moscow for the crisis and came up with sanctions.

In parallel, President Putin has imposed embargo on imports of agricultural products from the European Union, Norway, the U.S., Canada and Australia. The resulting glut has worsened Europe's already delicate economic situation. And that's just tip of the iceberg.

So Russia, the U.S., and the EU are all being hurt by the same sanctions regime. It is a no-win situation for all those involved. At a time of enormous strains in international relations, one would assume it is not too late to try a less confrontational policy to exit the spiral of conflict. Undoubtedly, sending yet more U.S. Marines to the Russian border is not the answer in this difficult time.

IRGC Commander:

Iran Will Not Hesitate to Respond to Any Aggression

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi on Wednesday stressed the country's resolve to counter any act of bullying, aggression or excessive demands.

"On the issue of security and defending the Islamic Revolution, we will definitely not sit by and let others threaten the country," the senior commander said.

"We will certainly not let the behavior of any bullying aggressor with excessive demands and with spitefulness and enmity against the revolutionary nation and the Islamic Revolution go unanswered," he reiterated.

Rear Admiral Fadavi referred to last year's arrest of U.S. sailors by Iran in the Persian Gulf, saying it proved that any act of aggression with any scope will receive appropriate response from Iran.

On January 12, 2016, two U.S. navy crafts carrying 10 Marines were seized by the IRGC navy forces after reaching three miles into the waters surrounding the Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf.

The IRGC navy released them the next day following an apology and after technical and operational investigations indicated that the intrusion into Iranian territorial waters was "unintentional".

Iran President:

Aleppo Victory Step Towards Syria Peace



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani (R) meets with Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis in Tehran, January 18, 2017.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has hailed the liberation of Syria's strategic northwestern city of Aleppo as a major step towards stability in the Arab state, saying the gain prevented the Middle East from having to face an uncertain future.

In a Wednesday meeting with visiting Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis, Rouhani said had the Takfiri terrorists and their supporters won in Aleppo, "a dangerous path would have opened up for the

region and an uncertain future befallen it."

Late last year, the army managed to liberate the eastern sector of Aleppo, the country's second-largest city, which had fallen to Takfiri groups back in 2012. By doing so, the Syrian forces both restored the entirety of the city to government control and dealt the hardest blow to the militants since the onset of their campaign of foreign-fueled violence in Syria in 2011.

Government forces later secured

the evacuation of remaining civilians and armed elements from the city under a ceasefire deal, brokered by Russia and Turkey, which were respectively representing the Syrian government and the armed factions. The Aleppo deal set the stage for a landmark all-Syria truce deal between Damascus and foreign-backed militant groups.

Rouhani further said the victory in Aleppo showed the world that "the Syrian people are capable of defending their homeland in the face of terrorists, and that the terror groups and their sponsors will never be able to achieve their goals.

The Iranian chief executive praised the Aleppo triumph as well

JCPOA Parties Must Fulfill Commitments: China

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson says all signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran must remain committed to their obligations.

The nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was signed by Iran and the P5+1 group of countries and formally approved by the United Nations Security Council is an "international" deal, China's Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a press.

"Parties should continue to earnestly carry out their obligations and solve differences through consultations to ensure the continued implementation of the agreement," she said.

Hua noted that Beijing has actively participated in, promoted and contributed to the settlement of differences over the Iranian nuclear issue, adding, "With an objective, just and responsible attitude, we have

been committed to promoting the [nuclear] negotiations and implementation of the JCPOA."

She expressed her country's readiness to maintain close cooperation with all parties to ensure the "sustained, comprehensive and effective implementation" of the JCPOA.

Hua also described the nuclear deal as a successful example of settling international hotspot issues through political and diplomatic means.

The spokeswoman emphasized that the JCPOA had played a pivotal role in safeguarding the international nuclear non-proliferation system and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, saying the international community widely supported and recognized the deal.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China plus Germany - signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016.

Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran on Tuesday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the historic deal and its implementation belied claims about the country seeking weapons of mass destruction and demonstrated the honesty and sincerity of the Islamic Republic.

He added that the U.S., given its hostility toward the Islamic Republic, has been creating obstacles in the banking transactions between Tehran and the rest of the world.

The Holy Qur'an

Those who amass wealth, though alive, are dead to realities of life, and those who achieve knowledge, will remain alive through their knowledge and wisdom even after their death, though their faces may disappear from the community of living beings, yet their ideas, the knowledge which they had left behind and their memory, will remain in the minds of people".

The Holy Qur'an (10:79)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:15
Evening (Maghreb)	18:27
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:44
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:12

as the Syria ceasefire as "two important steps towards establishment of peace and stability in the Arab country."

This favorable opportunity should be seized to step up the fight against terrorists, said Rouhani, stressing, "What is sought by all of Syria's friends is for peace and stability to return to the country so people can easily decide their future."

"The Iranian government, people, and Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei have always stood by the Syrian people and will always do so," the Iranian president noted.

Khamis said the Aleppo victory owes to the perseverance and resistance of the Syrian people and army as well as Iran's unstinting support.

He asserted that the Syrians were intent upon returning security to their country.

Press Digest

Central Bank Report

AFTAB: The latest report by the Central Bank puts the GDP rate at 7.4 percent. The bank also reports stability in the forex market, attributing it to the nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers last year. The report suggests lifting of sanctions has opened the doors for Iranian economy and banks to interact with the world markets. The bank concludes that had it not been for the deal, the economic situation could have been worse.

Waste of Efforts

SIASAT ROOZ: The government has complained against the United States for extending the Iran Sanctions Act for another ten years. The majority of pundits are of the opinion that the law violates the nuclear treaty and it's a waste of time and effort to stick to it. In reality, Iran is giving many incentives to the United States and gets nothing in return. This is while President Obama claims he has stopped parts of the legislation from happening that violates the Iran deal.

Digging Deep

TASNIM: Recession has now reached the mining shores. As a result, some 120 mining companies have closed down in recent years, laying off at least 10,000 miners, of which 4,600 lost their jobs this year. The report blames falling prices of stones in the world market as another reason for the current recession. There are at the moment only 40 mining companies operating in five provinces.

Banking Hurdles

HAMSHAHERI: Trade officials suggest the nuclear deal has helped resolve a number of key issues in the industry. It has lifted many barriers in the way of international industrialists. However, they still have to deal with the problem of global banking restrictions. It's their biggest issue which they say cannot be resolved as per the nuclear deal. They say the only way out is proper planning within the country and in the banking system to fix the inflation and recession.