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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran's Friendly Advice to Macron Against Fishing in Troubled Waters

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

France, as a major European country, has a distinctive voice of its own which has safeguarded its independence and traditional values, especially from the British, who have always viewed it as the main continental rival against designs to dye Europe in English colours.

The colonial rivalry between the two nations around the world is indeed a thing of a bygone era which will never be repeated in future, although it has given both Paris and London a permanent seat on the UN Security Council with the unjust veto power, because of the unfair distribution of authorities based on past laurels at the so-called World Body, which unfortunately doesn't represent the global community of nations.

It is also worth noting that after World War 2 and liberation from Nazi Germany, mainly with British and American military help for the French resistance, Paris maintained its strong independent position and policies, without bowing to the dictates of London and Washington.

These factors were on the mind of Iran's former longtime foreign minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, who following the recent American-influenced remarks of the young and inexperienced French president, Emmanuel Macron, pertaining to the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave an interesting piece of advice:

"As an Iranian, familiar with foreign policy issues and the history of France, I recommend the president of that country (France) to try to follow the path of (Late French President) General (Charles) de Gaulle regarding international affairs."

Dr. Velayati who currently serves as International Affairs Advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, following his 16-year-long four successive successful terms as Iran's foreign minister was referring to Macron's attempts to interfere in Iran's internal issues, especially its right to self-sufficiency in defence matters, particularly the country's advanced ballistic missile project.

Without mincing words, he rightly said: "It does not benefit Mr. Macron and France to interfere in the missile issue and the strategic affairs of the Islamic Republic, regarding which we have great sensitivity. What does this issue have to do with Mr. Macron? Who is he at all to interfere? If he wants relations between Iran and France to grow then he should try not to interfere in these issues."

Paris, which is currently hosting absconding Lebanese Premier, Sa'ad al-Hariri, has surely heard this and similar messages from the foreign ministry in Tehran, and should know that the Islamic Republic, which is keen to maintain its relations with France on the basis of mutual respect, really means what it says.

If France is interested in economic and industrial cooperation with Iran, the scope is vast and beneficial to both the countries, provided Paris doesn't make the folly of repeating what it said of our missiles, since our arsenal is purely for national defence and doesn't contain the unconventional weaponry, including nuclear bombs that the French arsenal has, and it is time these weapons of mass destruction should be destroyed for the sake of world peace.

France is free to pursue, upgrade and enjoy relations with all world countries, including those in our neighbourhood, but this does not mean that in a bid to appease some super-rich reactionary regimes with a track record of destabilizing regional countries through terrorists, it should fish in troubled waters, especially in Lebanon and Syria against the aspirations of the people of those countries and their legal governments.

Hopefully, Macron as the elected representative of the people of France, would give the necessary guidelines on national interests and national sovereignty to his guest, Hariri, who was illegally and undiplomatically detained by Saudi Arabia while on a visit to Riyadh and then forced to announce resignation on foreign soil by blaming his own government's constitutionally legal coalition partner, the legendary anti-terrorist movement, Hezbollah.

Hariri's two children are being held hostage in Saudi Arabia, which means whatever unwarranted remarks against his own country's national interests, peace and security he might make in Paris should not be taken seriously by Macron and the French media.

Iran, Russia, Turkey Intensify Talks on Syria



Foreign Affairs Minister of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu (C), Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) and Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif pose for a photo during their meeting in Antalya, Turkey on November 19, 2017.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- Top diplomats from Iran, Russia and Turkey met Sunday morning in Antalya to discuss the war in Syria ahead of a three-way summit in the Russian city of Sochi on Wednesday.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Muhammad Javad Zarif of Iran and in the southern Turkish city for the closed-door meeting, an official said.

Speaking after the meeting, Lavrov described the talks as "very useful," adding that the sides "reached agreement on all the key issues," according to Russian news agencies.

"We discussed a series of topics that may arise in the meeting in Sochi, the point of this summit is to address what our success is in regards to Syria and what further measures we must take," said Cavusoglu during a press conference after

the meeting.

Lavrov said the chiefs of the Iranian, Russian, and Turkish armed forces will also hold talks before Russia's President Vladimir Putin meets with his counterparts of Iran and Turkey -- Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Hassan Rohani -- in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi on November 22.

The meeting will focus on reducing violence in Syria and matters related to the delivery of humanitarian aid to the region, officials said.

The meeting comes as violence is diminishing in Syria's six-year war although a political solution still seems out of reach.

Moscow, Tehran and Ankara are sponsoring the so-called Astana peace talks, named for the Kazakh capital where they are regularly held, which calls for the creation of "de-escalation" zones in key areas of Syria.

Zarif said coordinated efforts by Iran, Russia and Turkey within the framework of the peace process in Astana have helped reduce violence and establish a ceasefire in Syria.

The talks have also given strength to the Syrian government and resistance forces to continue their battle against Daesh and other terrorist groups with more resolve, he added.

Although Turkey has supported militants looking to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad's government, it has muted its critiques of the Syrian government, which is backed by Russia and Iran.

According to the Anadolu news agency, Putin and Erdogan have already met five times this year and spoken by telephone 13 times.

Erdogan last met Putin for talks in Sochi on November 13, agreeing on the need to boost elements for a lasting settlement.

Iran's Envoy to United Nations: Hardly More Foolish Thing Than Saudi Sectarianism

UNITED NATIONS (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian diplomat at the United Nations says Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of the dangerous ideology known as Takfirism, which is employed by such terrorist groups as Daesh.

"One cannot afford to underestimate the toxic danger that is the Saudi-born ideology of Takfirism," Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad Hassani-Nejad said Friday in response to earlier remarks by a Saudi UN diplomat.

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a non-binding human rights resolution against Iran on November 14 with 83 votes in favor, 30 against, and 68 abstentions.

Saudi Arabia's UN Ambassador Abdallah al-Mouallimi said afterwards that Iran had adopted a sectarian approach in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria and that the resolution shed light on what he called human rights violations taking place in Iran.

Hassani-Nejad said Saudi Arabia was presenting "its inherent sectarianism and prejudice as support for human

rights."

"There is hardly a more foolish thing in the world of politics than Saudi Arabia presenting its inherent sectarianism and prejudice as support for human rights," the Iranian diplomat said.

Takfirism is largely influenced by Wahhabism, the radical ideology dominating Saudi Arabia and freely preached by Saudi clerics. Followers of the extremely intolerant ideology invoke "decrees" by Saudi clerics that declare people of other faiths and beliefs as "infidels" and rule that they should be killed.

"The Saudi-born Takfiri ideology," Hassani-Nejad said, "acts like the predator species, which seeks to have all other species go extinct. The Saudi government, Saudi charities, and Saudi-backed organizations continue to support this lethal poison (Takfirism), which provides the necessary hardware and software for terrorism and extremism."

He said the Saudi envoy's "lies" did not change the fact that "Saudi Arabia is behind terrorism and the... ideology that nourishes it."

UK to Repay £450mn Debt to Iran Soon: Envoy

LONDON (Dispatches) -- Britain will soon repay a decades-old debt of over 450 million pounds to Iran, the Iranian ambassador said on Friday, adding that the payment was not linked to the case of an Iranian jailed for subversive action.

"An outstanding debt owed by the UK to Tehran will be transferred to the Central Bank of Iran in the coming days. The payment ... has nothing to do with Nazanin Zaghari's case," Hamid Baedinejad wrote on his Telegram channel.

Zaghari was detained in April 2016 in Tehran as she tried to leave Iran. She was sentenced to

five years in prison after an Iranian court convicted her of plotting to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Britain's debt to Iran dates from the 1970s, before the Islamic Revolution of 1979 toppled the U.S.-backed Shah. Iran paid up front for 1,750 Chieftain tanks and other vehicles, but most were never delivered because of sanctions imposed on Tehran after the revolution.

A British government official, who asked not to be named, said on Friday it was "speculation" that the money would be paid.

The Treasury said in a statement the money was frozen by a Brit-

ish court and could not be paid because of sanctions.

The Telegraph newspaper reported on Thursday that Britain was working on a plan to pay Iran the debt, as part of efforts to secure Zaghari's release.

On Thursday, British Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman denied there was any link between the debt and the convict's case. Tehran also dismissed the Telegraph report.

In 2009, the International Chamber of Commerce ordered Britain to repay Iran for the undelivered vehicles, but UN and EU sanctions prevented that.

The Holy Qur'an

What! do you think that you will be left alone while Allah has not yet known those of you who have struggled hard and have not taken any one as an adherent besides Allah and His Apostle and the believers; and Allah is aware of what you do.

The Holy Qur'an (9.16)

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Noon (Zohr)	11:50
Evening (Maghreb)	17:14
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:18
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:45

Quake-Hit Regions Get Relief as Tremors Continue

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Rescue and relief operations continued in Kermanshah Sunday, seven days after a deadly earthquake struck the western Iranian province.

Volunteer medical and rescue teams raced to treat the injured and help retrieve bodies and save those possibly trapped under toppled buildings after a devastating earthquake struck the border region near Iraq.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani traveled to the province to inspect the damage and recovery efforts.

The earthquake has led to an outpouring of solidarity from Iranians across the country and millions more in the diaspora. Ali Daei, a legend in football and former national team coach, has started a campaign to gather food and supplies.

The Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are working hand in hand in the province. Army chief General Abdolrahim Mousavi and IRGC chief Major General Muhammad Ali Jafari are visiting the earthquake-affected areas for a second time to oversee relief and rescue operations.

IRGC deputy for coordination Ali Akbar Pour Jamshidian said on Sunday that portable bathrooms would be set up soon in the quake-stricken areas.

The IRGC has also stationed seven portable field hospitals in Kermanshah to help those injured. They include tents, operating rooms, outpatient wards, gynecology wards, pharmacy, radiology labs, and even dental facilities.

As many as 436 people were killed after a 7.3-magnitude earthquake hit the province. Reports coming out of the area say that aftershocks continue to rattle the province.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday that a range of issues would be discussed with Britain during a visit to Tehran this month by Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

British media have said Zaghari worked for the Thomson Reuters Foundation. However, Johnson said in a statement to a parliamentary committee last week that Zaghari had been "simply teaching people journalism."

Johnson's remarks amounted to an accidental confession that Zaghari was plotting against the Iranian government, but British authorities described them a gaffe.