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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Europe, U.S. Clash Over Iran Nuclear Agreement



German Chancellor Angela Merkel looks at U.S. Vice President Mike Pence during a photo call at the 55th Munich Security Conference in Munich, Feb 16, 2019.

MUNICH (Dispatches) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel robustly defended European nations' decision to stand by the Iran nuclear deal in a spirited backing Saturday of her multilateral approach to global affairs, but U.S. Vice President Mike Pence promptly accused Europe of once again undermining the United States.

Merkel's comments at the Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of top global defense and foreign policy officials, followed days of tensions between Washington and Europe over Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement last year, leaving the others involved — Germany, Britain, France, China,

Russia and the European Union — scrambling to try and keep it alive. The deal offers Iran sanctions relief for limiting its nuclear program, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has said so far that Tehran is sticking to the agreement.

Pence pushed at the conference for Europeans to end their involvement in the nuclear deal.

"The time has come for our European partners to stop undermining U.S. sanctions" against Iran, Pence said. "The time has come for our European partners to stand with us and with the Iranian people, our allies and friends in the region. The time has come for our European partners to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal."

The comments came after Mer-

kel said she shared concerns about many alleged Iranian efforts to grow its power in the region. While she said the split with the U.S. over the nuclear agreement "depresses me very much," she defended it as an important channel to Tehran.

"I see the ballistic missile program, I see Iran in Yemen and above all I see Iran in Syria," she said. "The only question that stands between us on this issue is, do we help our common cause, our common aim of containing the damaging or difficult development of Iran, by withdrawing from the one remaining agreement? Or do we help it more by keeping the small anchor we have in order maybe to exert pressure in other areas?"

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U.S. Bid to Rally Support for Iran Fight Misfires

WARSAW (Dispatches) — Nearly 30 years ago, the United States used its diplomatic clout to persuade the occupying regime of Israel and its Arab neighbors to meet publicly for the first time, at the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference.

On Wednesday and Thursday, leaders of the Zionist regime and Arab states met publicly again, at an international conference in Warsaw staged by the Trump administration. But the goal of this meeting was not "peacemaking". It was to rally support for economic and political war with Iran, for which the United States has found little enthusiasm among allies since withdrawing from the 2015 deal.

Administration officials initially tried to promote their agenda under an amorphous "seeking peace in the Middle East" rubric. But there was no denying the real purpose, especially when Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's militantly anti-Iran prime minister, sent out a since-deleted tweet that proclaimed "an open meeting

with representatives of leading Arab countries, that are sitting down together with Israel in order to advance the common interest of war with Iran."

Netanyahu's office on Thursday released a video of a closed meeting in which senior Arab officials played down concerns about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and defended the occupying regime's "right to defend itself," while denouncing Iran as the greatest threat to regional peace.

While the Trump administration, Netanyahu and Arab leaders in the Persian Gulf may have enjoyed this anti-Iran pep rally, it highlighted how few major powers are cheering along, the New York Time wrote.

France, Germany and Britain, along with Russia and China, still support the agreement they helped the Obama administration negotiate with Iran. Iran itself continues to uphold it, according to American intelligence agencies, the paper said.

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Kharrazi: U.S. Pushing for Financial Imperialism

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — It has been 40 years since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in a revolution that saw his rule replaced with the Islamic Republic.

On Talk to Al Jazeera, the broadcaster spoke to Kamal Kharazi, a former foreign minister, ambassador to the United Nations and a leading voice on the principles of the Islamic Republic. He was also a military spokesman during the Iran-Iraq war, with a central role in Iranian state media.

Kharazi is now chairman of Iran's Strategic Council for Foreign Relations and foreign policy adviser to Leader of the

Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

So, 40 years on, has the revolution achieved its goals of resisting Western interference and righting social injustices?

And how is Iran overcoming the challenges of the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear disarmament deal, the imposition of tougher sanctions, and heightened tensions in the region?

The U.S.'s withdrawal from the nuclear deal, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was the cause of much consternation, and a number of European signatory countries have vowed to work to keep it alive without the U.S.

Kharazi says the success of those efforts relies ultimately on European nations and their willingness to act independently of Washington's threats of penalties and sanctions.

However, even European partners who want to stay in the nuclear deal have raised concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program - especially after a number of missile tests and the unveiling of the new Dezful ballistic missile - fears Kharazi says were unfounded.

He adds that Iran has every right to enhance its defense strategy and that there was no truth in accusations that it was "destabilizing the region".

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)	12:18
Evening (Maghreb)	18:06
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:26
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:50

Iran: Pence's Antisemitism Accusation 'Laughable'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Iran on Saturday rejected accusations of antisemitism by U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence, who, after visiting the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, accused Iran of Nazi-like ambitions.

The Iranian government said it respected Judaism but opposed the occupying regime of Israel, which it said was acting like a "killing machine against the Palestinians".

"Iran's historic and cultural record of coexistence and respect for divine religions, particularly Judaism, is recorded in reliable historic documents of various nations," said Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi.

"The principle that underlies our foreign policy is the aggressive and occupying nature of the Zionist regime ... which is a killing machine against the Palestinian people."

Speaking to Germany's Der Spiegel, Iranian foreign minister Muhammad Javad Zarif called Pence's accusation "laughable" and said: "Iran has always supported the Jews. We are just against Zionists. The Holocaust was a disaster."

As many as 20,000 Jews are currently living in Iran, home to the biggest Jewish population in the Middle East outside Occupied Palestine.

The U.S. reimposed economic sanctions last year after pulling out of the 2015 deal with world powers.

There are many enemies and they have all kinds of different armaments," says Kharazi.

"Those who have developed terrorist groups and have tried to topple existing governments... those are the bodies who have destabilized the region."

"We have tried to keep the status quo by fighting against terrorism in Iraq and Syria, which were defended by the help of Iran. Therefore, Iran has been a stabilizing factor, not the destabilizing factor," he continues.

On the current relationship between Iran and the U.S. and whether he sees a potential for improved dealings, Kharazi says (Continued on Page 7)

Pakistan Bears Responsibility for Anti-Iran and Anti-India Terrorism

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The two acts of terrorism that rocked the region in the space of two days — Wednesday and Thursday — killing scores of security personnel, although they occurred in two different countries, their source was the same single failed state called Pakistan, the haven of terrorists, where the government is either too weak to prevent terrorists from operating against neighbouring countries from its soil, or is a party to such cowardly acts of terrorism, in view of the billions of petrodollars it receives from the godfathers of terrorism, namely Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The modus operandi was remarkably similar in both acts of terrorism. If 27 Iranian border security personnel were martyred in Sistan-Baluchestan on February 13 when their bus near the Pakistani border was rammed by a remote-controlled explosive-laden car, the killing of 42 Indian security personnel in Phulwana in the Jammu & Kashmir state mirrored the same dastardly tactics — of a supposedly suicide crashing into the bus, some 42 km from the Pakistani border.

Immediately terrorist outfits based in Pakistan claimed responsibility for the two acts of terrorism in the two countries. Interestingly, the names of the two terrorist outfits starts with "Jaish", which is 'army' in Arabic.

If the terrorists operating against the Islamic Republic of Iran style themselves "Jaish al-Adl" (Army of Justice), though they are among the most unjust cowardly killers, the anti-Indian terrorists call themselves "Jaish-e Mohammad", when the fact of the matter is that these Godless murderers have no connection with Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) the Messenger of Mercy, whom non-Muslims revere as well, let alone any grounding in the humanitarian principles of Islam.

Both Iran and India have warned Pakistan of the consequences of harbouring terrorists and have not ruled out retaliatory actions against the bases of terrorism.

Tehran has made it clear that if Pakistan is unable or unwilling to punish the terrorists and expel them from its soil, the Islamic Republic reserves the right to confront such threats to its security as per international law and will retaliate to punish the terrorists.

Major General Mohammad Ali Ja'fari, the Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has said without mincing words: "The Pakistani government which has sheltered these terrorist elements dangerous to Islam and knows their hideout — since these are supported by Pakistani security forces — should be held responsible for this crime."

He added: "The patience the Islamic Republic of Iran once exercised against conspiracies and reactionary regimes in the region, especially Saudi Arabia and the UAE which carry out these acts on orders from the US and the Zionist regime, will be different and we will definitely take reparative measures."

He also said: "If Pakistan does not punish them, we will definitely take reparative measures against this counter-revolutionary force in the near future, and the Pakistani government will have to bear the consequences of its support for the group."

In view of these facts, Islamabad ought to be a real Islamic capital and stop kowtowing to the ungodly Wahhabi terroristic cult in Riyadh, which is pushing Pakistan to the edge of precipice — against both Iran and India.