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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Is the US Heading Towards Suicidal Clash With Russia?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Donald Trump's theatrics have gone too far, and if the quixotic US president doesn't halt his violations of treaties and accords that have so far curbed the doomsday nuclear arms race, then Washington should be ready to bear the consequences.

Trump the Dotard had once wondered: "Why in the world we make nuclear weapons if we can't use them".

He has not ruled out using nukes, and after threatening North Korea with "fire and fury like the world has never seen"; is on record as saying: "It might not be a bad thing for us if Saudi Arabia, Japan, and South Korea all became nuclear powers.

Teamed up with such dangerous lunatics as Mike Pompeo his Secretary of State, and John Bolton his National Security Advisor, he has withdrawn from President Richard Nixon's Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Moscow, President Bill Clinton's Agreed Framework with North Korea, President Barak Obama's deal on Iran's right to use peaceful nuclear energy, and most recently President Ronald Reagan's Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, or INF, Treaty (a pact that had actually resulted in thousands of ready-to-use nuclear weapons being scrapped).

Trump, who has openly called for a nearly 10-fold increase in the US nuclear arsenal, has gone too far, and has started serious confrontation with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

Putin made no nonsense remarks when he recently said: We'll target the USA if Washington deploys missiles in Europe.

In his toughest remarks yet on a potential new arms race, Putin said Russia was not seeking confrontation and would not take the first step to deploy missiles in response to Washington's decision this month to quit a landmark Cold War-era arms control treaty, but this does not mean Moscow will turn a blind eye to American provocations in Europe.

Unfortunately, the first new member of Trump's and Bolton's nuclear family, is a so-called "low-yield" nuke, with the apocalyptic name, W76-2. It is the most dangerous weapon ever rolled off the nuclear assembly line.

Dubbing some doomsday weapons as "low-yield" based on their destructive energy is actually meaningless, since once damage from radioactivity and atmospheric fallout was taken into account, the result will be catastrophic for the whole world.

In fact, any use of such a weapon against a similarly armed adversary would likely ignite an inevitable chain of nuclear escalation whose end result is barely imaginable.

In other words, a supposedly tactical or surgical strike with atomic weapons could rapidly spiral toward an apocalyptic exchange.

To be more precise, 'limited nuclear war', is a fool's fantasy and would rapidly engulf the entire world.

In view of this undeniable reality, the free world should knit ranks in order to thwart the doomsday intentions of Donald Trump, who should be cut to size at the earliest, for the sake of saving the world.

President Rouhani: U.S. Sanctions 'a Terrorist Act'



President Hassan Rouhani, third right, addresses a cabinet meeting in Tehran, Feb. 20, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday relations with the United States had rarely been so bad and that sanctions imposed by the Trump administration targeting Tehran's oil and banking sectors amounted to "a terrorist act".

U.S. animosity with Iran has intensified since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from an international nuclear deal with Tehran last May and reimposed sanctions lifted under the accord.

"The struggle between Iran and America is currently at a maximum. America has employed all its power against us," Rouhani said in a cabinet meeting.

"The U.S. pressures on firms and banks to halt business with Iran as one hundred percent a terrorist act," he said. "We have no doubts

that the great Iranian nation's resolve will eventually win against the U.S.," he added.

Trump has reimposed the sanctions with the aim of slashing Iranian oil sales and choking its economy in order to curb its ballistic missile program and its role in the Middle East, which has helped bring terrorist groups under control.

Unlike the United States, European powers are working to preserve the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran. But France has said it is ready to reimpose sanctions on Iran if no progress is made in talks over its ballistic missile program.

In a clear reaction to French pressure, Rouhani said: "We want a constructive interaction with the world, but the countries that work with us should not have excessive demands. Iran is firm in its stance

and will act based on its national interests."

Iran has said its missile program is purely defensive.

Rouhani said Washington's attempts to persuade other countries to oppose the nuclear deal with Iran led to "a humiliating political defeat" for the United States at the UN Security Council.

He also touched on a recent U.S. conference in Warsaw, saying the Americans were forced to make changes in the event's anti-Iran agenda after many countries announced their intention not to attend.

The Americans sought two objectives at the meeting: Spreading Iranophobia and consigning the issue of Palestine to oblivion, but they failed to achieve either of those goals, the Iranian president said.

Bloomberg Article:

Iran 'Has Big Advantage in Battle' With Enemies

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) — Why can't the U.S. and its allies get the better of Iran? An article on the Bloomberg website has tried to provide answers.

"To all appearances, the face-off is a colossal mismatch, with incomparably greater power arrayed against Tehran than for it. But Iran and its allies have several underappreciated advantages, not least the relative cohesion on their own side versus the disarray among their opponents," the article written by Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Persian Gulf States Institute in Washington, said.

Last week's U.S.-organized Warsaw Summit was regarded by most participants and observers as an effort by Washington to shore up the coalition seeking to confront Iran.

There were allegedly representatives of more than six dozen countries, all of whom are opposed to Iran. "They include most of Europe's NATO members, many of the largest Arab countries and Israel. On its face, it's a very large and formidable coalition," the article said.

"By comparison, Iran's committed allies seem a small and ragtag bunch," it speculated, citing Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, anti-terror groups in Iraq and the Houthi fighters confronting a Saudi-led aggression in Yemen.

True, in confrontations with the West Iran can call on the general sympathy of Russia and China. But those large powers are unlikely to bail Tehran out of a crisis, and they maintain good relations with many of Iran's key opponents such as Saudi Arabia and the occupying regime of Israel, it said.

"The key to the strength of Iran's Middle East coalition is its relative vertical integration and discipline," the article said.

"The relative vertical integration of decision-making on the pro-Iranian side is also buttressed by cultural and religious deference to authority among Shia Muslims. Shias are typically supposed to adhere to the judgment of senior clerics, and Iran's revolutionary appeal is precisely to such religious-political author-

ity," it added.

That compared with the coalition of Persian Gulf countries, other pro-U.S. Arab countries, the occupying regime of Israel, the U.S., and most NATO states that are "quintessentially oriented to keeping the status quo, to preserving the global and regional order."

"This is not made easier by the disarray in the anti-Iranian camp. The Persian Gulf Arab countries and Israel don't even have diplomatic relations. They remain profoundly divided over the Palestinian issue. All co-operation on security such as sharing intelligence must be limited and surreptitious. There's no real possibility of an open alliance between them, as has become painfully clear to a disappointed Trump administration. And the Sunni-majority Arab countries are themselves bitterly divided, as the ongoing boycott of Qatar by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt demonstrates," the article continued.

NATO is badly divided on Iran as well, it said. Since the Trump administration withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal, Britain, Germany and France, along with the European Union, have been trying to keep the agreement alive despite Washington's opposition. They have created a "special purpose vehicle" for European companies to get payments for trading with Iran in currencies other than the dollar, bypassing the U.S. banking system and, therefore, American sanctions. They all sent junior delegations to Warsaw, except for Britain, whose foreign minister said he was only there to talk about Yemen.

Another key NATO member, Turkey, opted out of Warsaw altogether, preferring to join Iran and Russia in a rival conference at Sochi, Russia, ostensibly to talk about Syria. Turkey is increasingly taking a neutral attitude toward Iran, which it views as a rival rather than an adversary.

Finally, in contrast to the Shia deference to clerical authority, most rival traditions encourage believers to choose among various opinions for different purposes. This allows Takfiri extremists such as Qaeda to reject

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 The
Holy
Qur'an


O you who believe! do not take your fathers and your brothers for guardians if they love unbelief more than belief; and whoever of you takes them for a guardian, these it is that are the unjust.

The Holy Qur'an (9.23)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:18
Evening (Maghreb)	18:10
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:21
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:45

Deputy Interior Minister:

Pakistan Has Failed to Meet Iran's Demands

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Hussein Zolfagari on Wednesday criticized neighboring Pakistan over a recent deadly attack that martyred 27 troops in southeastern Iran.

"The Pakistani steps have not met our aspirations in the war against terrorists," Zolfagari said in statements cited by the ISNA news agency.

He said Islamabad had taken some steps in the fight against terrorism in recent years, "but given the level of threats, this didn't meet our aspirations".

Last week, at least 27 members of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) were martyred when a bomb-laden vehicle targeted a bus carrying them on a road in the Sistan and Baluchestan province.

The IRGC has said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) supported the attack, claimed by Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group which is linked to Al-Qaeda.

Islamabad, for its part, condemned the bombing "in the strongest terms."

"Shocked and grieved to hear about the suicide attack on IRGC bus near Zahedan, in which many lives were lost. Deepest sympathies with the families of those who have suffered in this heinous attack of terror," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Muhammad Faisal said on Twitter.

The man who carried out the terrorist bombing was Pakistani, a senior IRGC commander said on Tuesday.

Another member of the terrorist cell that planned the attack was also a Pakistani citizen, the head of the IRGC's ground forces Brigadier General Muhammad Pakpour said.

Iran has repeatedly blamed Pakistan for sheltering militants connected with attacks in the border area, although Tuesday's remarks appeared to be the first time Tehran has said Pakistani citizens were directly involved in the attack.

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