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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Nuclear Arms Race in the Region Further Exposes US Hypocrisy

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

An arms race, especially between neighbours with an unending record of hostility that has seen three devastating wars, is a horrifying idea.

What if the two belligerents possess nuclear weapons and are not members of the NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty) to keep under check and control their unbridled ambitions?

The immediate answer could be “destructive”, but on second thoughts the better word to describe such a situation would be “deterrence”, or more properly “balance of terror” – as was the term used to describe US-USSR relations during the Cold War.

The adversaries in question here are not super powers, but India and Pakistan, the two regional states, whose policies are based on military competition to deter the other from gaining the upper hand and turning into a practical threat.

Recently, when India claimed on November 5 that it had succeeded in launching its first nuclear-powered submarine, Pakistan wasted no time in announcing its intention.

What Mohammad Faisal, the foreign ministry spokesman in Islamabad said was not a mere bluster, but indication of things to come in the arms race between the two rivals of the Subcontinent.

He said: “No one should doubt Pakistan’s resolve and capabilities to meet the challenge posed by the latest developments.”

It means, Pakistan, apprehensive that the latest Indian move could disturb the delicate military balance between the nuclear-armed neighbours, is already secretly engaged in a similar project that might soon assume practical proportions – given Islamabad’s close ties to Beijing, which in turn has a cold attitude towards New Delhi.

It should be recalled that twenty years ago in 1998, when India carried out a series of successful nuclear blasts from May 11 to 13, Pakistan promptly came out with its own explosive answer by triggering at least five nuclear blasts on May 28.

This time, though India which has of late developed close ties with the US, holds the upper hand in economy compared to Pakistan’s dire financial situation, the monetary and military means at the latter’s disposal to maintain the weapons balance at any cost, should not be ruled out.

If China accounts for most of Pakistan’s weapons needs, Saudi Arabia is known to grant it blank petro-dollar cheques running into billions of dollars.

Thus, since the two countries, according to experts, have an estimated stockpile of roughly 150 nuclear warheads, Pakistan can ill afford to let India take the edge through its nuclear-powered submarine.

Moreover, in view of India’s plans to build two more such submarines as sequels to its first one named “Arihant”, for completing a “triad” that would give it the ability to deliver nuclear payloads from land, air and sea, Pakistan might borrow a deterrent from China, if it hasn’t completed its own version.

Leasing out a nuclear submarine is nothing new. In the past, Moscow had leased a nuclear sub to New Delhi, which means Beijing might already be in the process of leasing one to Islamabad on a temporary basis.

Whatever the speculations, an arms race between the two nuclear armed neighbours is not even alarming but speaks of the hypocrisy of the big powers, as far as their proxies are concerned.

The fueling of a nuclear weapons race is a dangerous development and threat to the security of the entire region, but when double standards are in vogue, even at the UN, a blind eye is turned to catastrophes in the making (similar to the case of the nuclear armed Zionist entity), while hypocrites in Washington try to mislead the world by imposing sanctions and crying hoarse over Iran’s IAEA-attested peaceful atomic project and Tehran’s right to upgrade its conventional ballistic missile defence capabilities.

Trump’s America First Policy Only Brought U.S. Global Backlash: Zarif



Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has slammed U.S. President Donald Trump’s so-called ‘America First’ agenda as a “mistake,” saying his administration’s failure to honor international commitments under such an approach has only created a global backlash against Washington.

Zarif made the remarks in an interview with London-based al-Araby al-Jadeed media outlet that was published on Tuesday.

He was asked about a recent tweet by Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, on French President Emmanuel Macron’s recent call for the creation of a “real European army” to protect itself against the U.S.

Haass had said “America First has brought us the revival of the spirit of De Gaulle. More evidence of a post-American world.”

Zarif stressed that he agreed with Haass regarding the fallout of Trump’s ‘America First’ approach.

“Well, I think the United States is an extremely powerful country. The military expenditure of the United States is equal to the military expenditure of all other countries combined. However, the excessive use of any strength leads to its demise and leads to reaction on the part of the international community,” he said.

“President Trump, I think, has committed a grave mistake, as Richard Haass has pointed out. And that is he has tried to project the American military might as well as the American economic might over the ability of the rest of the international community to accept it. And that has created the backlash among U.S. allies, backlash in Europe, backlash elsewhere. So, the America First approach has in fact created this backlash and everybody expected it,” he added.

Zarif also noted that the U.S. has faced global criticism over the Trump administration’s failure to honor international agreements such as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal,

called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“The U.S. under President Trump believes that it does not need to respect the international law because...it’s too confident of its power,” he said.

And also, Zarif blasted the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for keeping on their anti-Iran rhetoric, and said that should claim responsibility for whatever he says against the Islamic Republic.

“Pompeo should either own what he says, or disown what the U.S. does; can’t have it both ways,” Zarif wrote on his Twitter page on Monday.

The verbal war between the two officials started when Pompeo insulted Iranians by saying on November 7 that Iran must listen to the U.S. if they want their people to eat.

On Saturday, Zarif tweeted that Pompeo is openly threatening to starve Iranians, which is a crime against humanity, in a desperate attempt to impose U.S. whims on Iran.

Iran to Host World’s Biggest Gathering of Islamic Scholars

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The 2018 edition of the International Islamic Unity Conference, the world’s biggest gathering of Islamic scholars, is planned to be held in Tehran later this month.

The 32nd International Islamic Unity Conference, organized by the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (WFPIST), is slated to be held in Tehran on November 24-26 with representatives from more than 80 countries in attendance.

High-ranking officials and religious figures, including 10 ministers and 40 Muftis, plan to participate in

the international event.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament speaker Ali Larijani would deliver speeches at the International Islamic Unity Conference.

The 31st edition of the international event was held in Tehran in December 2017.

It is held annually on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) in an effort to lay the ground for stronger unity and solidarity among Muslims and provide appropriate solutions for their problems.

Tehran City Council Elects Pirouz Hanachi as New Mayor

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Members of Tehran City Council have picked up Pirouz Hanachi as capital’s new mayor after a neck to neck competition between two final candidates.

By securing 11 votes from the 21-member council, Hanachi was elected as the new mayor, leaving behind his main rival

Abbas Akhondi with a narrow margin.

The two final candidates had briefed the City Council on their plans for running the city on Sunday.

Hanachi, 54, is a graduate in architecture and restoration of urban constructions. He has previously served in posts in Teh-

ran Municipality, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, and University of Tehran’s Faculty of Fine Arts, and Akhondi was President Hassan Rouhani’s former minister of roads and urban development. The new mayor is a well-known expert in urban development and revival of historical cities.

The Holy Qur’an

The Signs of Allah have they sold for a miserable price, and (many) have they hindered from His way: evil indeed are the deeds they have done.

The Holy Qur’an (9:9)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:18
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	05:12
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:39

Army to Be Equipped With Advanced Smart Gear

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army Rear Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi has said the Infantry and Rapid Reaction units of the Army are planned to be equipped with advanced smart equipment.

“Since manpower is the main asset of military organizations, it is important for us to protect it,” Rear Admiral Mousavi told the Iran’s domestic media.

“Accordingly, the provision of individual equipment needed to help our manpower to carry out its missions in the best and safest way is on the agenda of the Army,” he added.

The commander went on to say that to that end, the subsidiary organizations of the Defense Industries Organization and knowledge-based companies have taken good steps.

“We are going to provide our forces with smart individual equipment to counter threats,” Rear Admiral Mousavi said.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran’s defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Back in February, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for efforts to maintain and boost Iran’s defense capabilities, hitting back at the enemies for disputing the country’s missile program.

“Without a moment of hesitation, the country must move to acquire whatever is necessary for defense, even if the whole world is opposed to it,” Ayatollah Khamenei said on February 18.