

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran’s Foreign Ministry said on Thursday touched on South Korea’s freezing of Iran’s money under U.S. pressures, saying no country is entitled to ignore Iran’s rights in favor of a third country.

“We informed them that the U.S. sanctions were unfounded and unilateral and no country must succumb to the U.S. sanctions,” ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said. “No country is entitled to ignore Iran’s rights for a third country,” he added. South Korea is refusing to about \$7 billion of oil money held in its banks.

WARSAW (Reuters) -- The United States will establish a permanent military presence in Poland as it deploys around 1,000 additional U.S. troops there, Poland’s Defense Ministry said on Friday.

On June 12 last year, U.S. President Donald Trump agreed, with Polish President Andrzej Duda beside him at the White House, to send 1,000 more troops to his NATO ally. But negotiations on the details of where the troops would be stationed and how much Poland would pay dragged on for years.


Viewpoint

Is the US Regime in its Death Throes?

Spanish Festival Crowns ‘Malakout’ as Best Short Film



Iran Futsal Remains Unchanged in World Futsal Ranking



Thousands of Yemeni Patients at Risk of Death



U.S. Sanctions More Civilian Aspects of Iran Economy

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Hardline U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday said he was expanding the scope of Iran metals sanctions, targeting 22 specific materials that he claimed were used in connection with Iran’s nuclear, military or ballistic missile programs.

Pompeo in a statement called it a “major expansion” of the Iran metals-related sanctions administered by the State Department, allowing Washington to blacklist those who knowingly transfer the materials to Iran.

Pompeo cited Iran’s construction sector as target, claiming that it is controlled by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

As a result, sanctions may still be imposed on those who transfer certain materials, including graphite or raw or semi-finished metals, to or from Iran to be used in connection with Iran’s construction sector, Pompeo said.

The United States has previously targeted Iran’s metals sector with sanctions in an effort to slash Iranian revenues.

Pompeo on Thursday gave his clearest indication yet that the United States would seek to force UN sanctions on Iran if an arms embargo lapses.

Russia and China, two of the Permanent Five nations that enjoy veto power on the Security Council, want the UN embargo on selling conventional weapons to Iran to end on October 18 as laid out under a 2015 resolution.

Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States would introduce a resolution to extend the embargo “in the near future”

which “we hope will be met with approval from other members of the P5.”

“In the event it’s not, we’re going to take the action necessary to ensure that this arms embargo does not expire,” he said.

The United States has previously said it has the authority to “snap back” UN economic sanctions that were lifted as part of a nuclear deal with Iran.

“We have the capacity to execute snapback and we’re going to use it in a way that protects and defends America,” Pompeo told the committee.

The 2015 resolution had blessed a denuclearization deal with Iran negotiated by former president Barack Obama from which President Donald Trump pulled out in 2018.

Trump has since repeatedly denounced the accord and imposed unilateral U.S. sanctions on Iran, but Pompeo claims that the United States remains a “participant” in the accord with the right to snap back UN sanctions – an argument which has been derided by world countries.

Even U.S. allies are skeptical about the legal argument and warn that such a move could damage the Security Council as an institution.

France and Britain, the other nations in the P5, reportedly support extending the arms embargo but say the greater priority is maintaining a diplomatic solution to stop Iran’s nuclear program.

The embargo issue could come to a head days before the U.S. presidential election. Trump’s rival Joe Biden backs the Iran agreement.

Says U.S. ‘Maximum Pressure’ Policy Has Failed

Leader: Iran Has Made the Best of Sanctions



Ayatollah Khamenei makes a televised address on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, July 31, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Friday Iran will not open talks with the United States that will only benefit Donald Trump, adding the U.S. president’s sanctions policy has failed.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have been rising since 2018, when Trump withdrew the United States from a landmark nuclear accord and unilaterally reimposed the most inhuman sanctions ever on Iran.

“The sanctions are a crime against a nation; even though it seems to be against the establishment, it is indeed against the entire nation,” said Ayatollah Khamenei in a tele-

vised speech.

“But the smart Iranian nation has made the best use of this attack, this animosity and benefited... by using sanctions as a means to increase national self-reliance.”

Ayatollah Khamenei said Western “think tanks admit that the maximum pressure of sanctions and U.S. force has not succeeded.”

Iran has responded to sanctions by boosting its non-oil exports, particularly to neighboring countries. “This has caused the country’s economy to be naturally less reliant on oil,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader said surrendering to the enemy is not the way to lift the sanctions. “The only cure for sanc-

tions is rather relying on domestic capabilities.”

“Some argue and propagate the idea that if you want to stop the U.S. from bullying, you need to back off. No sir! A person who is accustomed to aggression will come forward if you back off. This is a clear and natural issue. If you accept the U.S. demands, they will raise new demands.

“What the U.S. wants is that we totally abandon our nuclear industry, reduce our defensive equipment to one-tenth, and give up our regional power,” the Leader said.

“Unfortunately, some people, under the influence of the enemy, say what good nuclear power has

got for us. Nuclear power is the definite need for our country’s future. We need at least 20,000 or 30,000 megawatts of nuclear power, which we cannot get from any other source, unless it is not cost-effective. What should we do on the day we needed it? Whose door should we go to? Should we beg from America and Europe to give us electricity or do enrichment for us? Will they do that? We have to think about tomorrow. These are not the needs that will be ready in a few months or two years. It must be prepared in advance and we have prepared the ground for it,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the “core” of the nuclear industry has been maintained despite numerous damage caused because of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Leader denounced calls for Iran to open new talks with the United States, saying it is useless for Iran.

“Everyone must pay attention; I have said this for several times, and I have to repeat it, because some either fail to understand or pretend they can’t understand.

“If the enemy talks of negotiation, it means ‘come to the negotiating table and don’t develop missiles’. If you give in to their demands ... you’d make yourself defenseless; and if you don’t, you’d have to face the same story: disputes, threats and sanctions again. This is what negotiation means.”

Without naming U.S. President (Continued on Page 7)

Pompeo Suggests U.S. Killed 300 Russians in Syria

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday that the deaths of “300 Russians” in Syria sent a warning to Moscow, as he defended the administration as tough on President Vladimir Putin.

Pompeo came under fire at a Senate hearing over President Donald Trump’s statement that he had not raised with Putin accusations that Moscow paid the Taliban bounties to kill U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

“I don’t think there’s any doubt in the mind of every Russian leader, including Vladimir Putin, about the expectations of the United States of America not to kill Americans,” Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

“I can promise you that the 300 Russians who were in Syria and

who took action that threatened America who are no longer on this planet understand that, too,” he said.

Pompeo did not specify an incident but there have been multiple reports that US airstrikes killed Russians in February 2018 near the Syrian town of Khasham.

Russia sent troops to Syria in 2015 on the official request of President Bashar al-Assad and had largely avoided direct clashes with the United States, which sent troops and launched airstrikes without any UN mandate or Syria’s permission.

Trump, in an interview this week with Axios, said that U.S. intelligence did not think the account of Russian bounties in Afghanistan was real and that he never raised the issue with Putin.

Last year, Trump insisted that the U.S. military presence in Syria is “only for the oil”, contradicting his own officials who had insisted that the remaining forces were there to fight Daesh.

Following Trump’s earlier insistence that his administration was solely interested in “keeping” Syrian oil, the U.S. military deployed mechanized military units to oil fields in the east of the country.

Meanwhile, Russia has said a series of drone attacks on its military bases in Syria would have required assistance from a country possessing satellite navigation technology, apparently the United States.

Russia’s forces at the Hemeimeem air base and a naval facility in Tartus have repeatedly come under drone strikes. Russia’s (Continued on Page 7)

Muslims Mark Eid al-Adha Amid Coronavirus

JAKARTA/KOLKATA (Dispatches) – Muslims across Asia, taking precautions against the novel coronavirus such as wearing face masks and temperature checks, performed prayers on Friday to mark the festival of Eid al-Adha in mosques with reduced capacity as well as on the streets.

In Indonesia, worshippers were advised to maintain social distancing during the prayers as the world’s biggest Muslim-majority country struggles to contain the spread of the virus.

Indonesia’s religious ministry also asked mosques to shorten ceremonies this year, while many mosques cancelled the ritual of slaughtering livestock and distributing meat to the community.

Instead the donated sheep, goats and cows were to be killed in abattoirs to mark the ‘Feast of the Sacrifice’, celebrated by Muslims around the world to commemorate Prophet Abraham’s

willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail at God’s command.

“This year’s Eid al-Adha is very different from previous years because we need to follow health protocols as we perform prayers, like maintaining social distancing,” said Devita Ilhami, 30, who was at the Sunda Kelapa mosque in Jakarta.

She also noted they had to bring their own prayer mats, with markers on the ground to show where they should be laid.

Elsewhere in Asia, Muslims including in Thailand and Malaysia prayed in or outside mosques wearing masks.

In Malaysia, while some mosques cancelled the ritual of slaughtering livestock, 13 cows were killed in the traditional way by cutting the throat under rules limiting the number of animals and people at the Tengku Abdul Aziz Shah Jamek mosque in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani attended prayers in Kabul. Taliban militants have announced they will observe a three-day ceasefire for the holiday, offering some respite from weeks of increasing violence in the country.

In India, where Eid will be celebrated mostly from Saturday, several states have eased coronavirus restrictions to allow worshippers to gather in mosques in limited numbers.

“Only small groups of worshippers will be allowed into mosques,” said Shafique Qasim, a senior cleric at the Nakhoda mosque in the eastern city of Kolkata, adding that no prayers would be held on the streets.

Ritual sacrifices would be performed in enclosed areas, away from public view, and the remains carefully collected and disposed, he said.

In Iran, people attended the Eid al-Adha (Continued on Page 7)