

The End of Iran Sanctions Regime

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

New reports confirm there are talks underway among the current members of the United Nations Security Council about the language of a resolution that would lift economic sanctions against Iran.

Western officials say they intend to move quickly to lift the illegal sanctions regime if an agreement between the P5+1 and Iran is reached. The resolution is designed to undercut the "suspicious" efforts by the U.S. Senate and the Zionist regime to sabotage any agreement reached, by making the lifting of sanctions legally binding under international law.

This is while the negotiations on the civilian nuclear deal are far from finished, and the deal remains speculative. Western officials are hoping to have a framework in place by month's end, though.

If that framework comes to the fore, the warmongers on the Capitol Hill and their Zionist allies will no longer be able to celebrate December 23, which marks the anniversary of the first baseless UN Security Council sanction resolution against Iran over its peaceful and transparent nuclear program. The Security Council imposed eight rounds of illegal sanctions.

Yet after all these years, it is pretty much evident that the anti-Iran sanction resolutions were and still are short of scientific, technical, legal or justified virtues, and only endorsed by the member states under pressure and coercion.

Seeing the new development at the UN, though, the broader picture is: The overall U.S. strategy of containing Iran has failed in principle and the attempt to prolong an illegal sanctions regime only led to an erosion of U.S. strategic influence across Asia and the Middle East. In the interim, Washington's shortsighted containment policy only hurt Western businesses in the region, playing into the hands of rivals such as China and Russia, driving crucial allies away, and rendering Iran untouchable.

Now the warmongers seem to have realized the inherent failure of their containment approach. This unprecedented change suggests the realists in Washington have finally come to their senses. The reversal further acknowledges that the dual approach of sanctions and military threats produced nothing but America's own isolation and resentment among the international community.

Taken together, the far-reaching repercussions of the counter-productive sanctions and America's increasing isolation in the Middle East and Asia are best illustrated by the breakthrough on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline; the multi-billion-dollar Iran-Switzerland gas exports deal; the Iran-Gazprom energy deal; the good number of German and French firms now keen to invest in Iran or have already done so; the recent decision by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to consider Iran's bid for full membership in the Central Asian security group; the \$100 billion Iran-China trade exchange; plus the European energy giants which deny media speculations that they have withdrawn their bids altogether to exploit Iran's oil and gas fields and its lucrative consumer market.

As is, these positive developments deal a resounding blow to the delusory sanctions front the saber-rattling gang in Washington crafted to demonize and neutralize Iran. With what's going on at the UN Security Council, it is now pretty much evident that the anti-Iran orchestra only isolated the United States, the Zionist regime and their duped allies.

Hamas Leader Meshaal Meets Larijani

DOHA (Dispatches) -- Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal met with a senior Iranian official in the Qatari capital Thursday, Palestinian sources close to Hamas said.

Hamas and Tehran were close before the group broke with Syrian President Bashar Assad during the Syrian conflict.

On Thursday, Meshaal and Iran's speaker of parliament, Ali Larijani, discussed regional developments, the Palestinian issue, the blockade of Gaza and "Israeli threats", Hamas said in a statement.

Larijani met with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Foreign Minister Khalid bin Muhammad Al Attiyah, and chairman of the Qatari Consultative Assembly Muhammad bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi.

Meeting with the Qatari foreign minister, Larijani said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran treats the Qatari emir's observations regarding the regional issues as positive and is after the expansion of cooperation based on mutual respect."

"The establishment of security and development in the Middle East region would materialize through the assistance of all the regional countries," the Iranian official added.

The Qatari official said what the countries shared was more than what

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Iranian Assyrians Condemn ISIL Atrocities



Iranian Assyrians hold a rally in front of the UN office in Tehran to protest ISIL atrocities in Iraq and Syria.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian Assyrians have held a demonstration here to protest against the atrocious crimes perpetrated by the ISIL Takfiri terrorist group against religious minorities in Iraq and Syria.

Hundreds of them gathered in front of the United Nations headquarters in Tehran to condemn the heinous killings of civilians, especially Assyrians, in the ISIL-held areas of Iraq and Syria, urging the international community to take action against the ongoing "genocide" in the two Arab countries.

The protesters also deplored the destruction of the ancient sites belonging to the Assyrian civilization in Iraq

at the hands of ISIL extremists.

"What has happened to the Assyrians in Iraq and Syria over the past year is unparalleled in history," said the statement which was read aloud by Yonathan Betkolia, the representative of Assyrians in Iran's parliament.

The ISIL's ideology is in line with the oppressors who consider as legitimate the atrocities against Shia Muslims and Palestinians in other parts of the world, the statement added.

The demonstrators also called for "an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council in coordination with international human rights organizations and the European Parliament", stressing that the world body must

mobilize all forces to secure the release of the Assyrians from ISIL captivity.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Iran's assistance to Iraq to fight the ISIL prevented the terrorist group from invading other countries in the region.

"If Iran had not helped Iraq, ISIL would have invaded other countries in the region," Larijani said at a press conference held at the end of his visit to Qatar.

"Iran stood in the face of the ISIL to help Iraq and also the (other) countries of the region, although the main responsibility rested on the shoulders of the people of the country," he said.

Iraq Seeks Iran's Help for Reconstruction

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iraq says it welcomes Iran's participation in its reconstruction for which Baghdad aims to splash out \$400 billion.

Iraq is currently a key ally of Iran in the region, where bilateral ties have seen a complete turnaround from sworn enemies under the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Annual trade stands at \$12 billion which the two countries plan to raise to \$20 billion.

"The Iraqi government has envisaged \$400 billion for rebuilding the country's infrastructure in which Iran can have a significant share," Iraq's Deputy Commerce Minister Walid Habib al-Mousavi said in Tehran.

He made the comments in a meeting with Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Muhammad Reza Nematzadeh who called for serious efforts to expand bilateral cooperation.

The two sides discussed supply of foodstuff and other basic goods to Iraq as well as construction of refineries and cooperation in banking and auto industry sectors.

Netmazadeh expressed hope that Iraq could develop an "Arab brand of car with the cooperation of Iranian automakers".

The minister said the two sides also agreed to accelerate cooperation between their central banks.

Iraq plays a key role in Iraq's reconstruction. The Islamic Republic also provides vital supervisory assistance to the Iraqi army to fight ISIL terrorists and drive them out of the Arab country.

The two neighbors have signed an agreement under which Iran would

ultimately deliver 35 million cubic meters per day of gas to Iraq.

Iraq wants to feed the Iranian gas into three power plants in Baghdad and Diyala.

Initial deliveries of four million cubic meters per day of natural gas could begin as early as May depending on the security situation of Iraq which is battling an ISIL insurgency.

Comments Distorted

Remarks made by an adviser to Iran's president proclaiming the revival of the Iranian empire was distorted by the media, Tehran's mission in Beirut said Thursday.

"The distorted and circulated statement, which bears no association to the truth... comes in light of increased Islamophobia and an increased fear of Iran's role in the region," read a statement released by the embassy.

In a conference last week, Ali Younesi, President Hassan Rouhani's adviser on Ethnic and Religious Minorities affairs, was quoted as declaring a new, Iranian empire "whose capital is Baghdad".

The adviser, who later issued a clarification about his comments, said that his words were purposefully misconstrued.

Younesi noted that his comments suggested a historical and cultural union between regional countries and not the revival of Iran's ancient empire.

Several Iranian officials, including Iranian Speaker Ali Larijani, rose to his defense, with the speaker

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The Holy Qur'an

They ask you to hasten on the chastisement, and most surely hell encompasses the unbelievers.

The Holy Qur'an (29.54)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:13
Evening (Maghreb)	18:28
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:57
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:16

Saba: Iran to Upgrade Yemen Infrastructure

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Iran and the Houthi movement have signed an agreement, under which the Islamic Republic would help upgrade Yemen's infrastructure, Yemen's state-run Saba news agency reported.

The announcement was made by Saleh al-Samad, head of the Houthi group's political council, as he returned home late Thursday following a two-week visit to Iran, the agency said.

Al-Samad has hailed the visit as "successful and fruitful" and asserted that it would bring about positive outcome for Yemen's development plans.

He asserted that his accompanying delegation to the talks included ministry undersecretaries and heads of government agencies.

According to the senior Houthi leader, the agreement was signed by Iranian Trade Minister Muhammad Reza Nematzadeh and would cover cooperation in the sectors of energy, electricity, transportation, water and sewage.

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Press Digest

Self-Defeating Strategy

SAISAT ROOZ: For decades, the Western powers, headed by the U.S., have been trying hopelessly to contain and challenge Iran and its rising power and influence in the Middle East. Under the containment strategy and the politics of threat, they stepped up unlawful sanctions against the country and its civilian nuclear program but to no avail. This is amid the fact that not even one single person in the world believes that Iran is about to attack the U.S. or the Zionist regime as alleged by the warmongers.

Voice of Reason

VATAN EMROOZ: In the words of Ayatollah Khamenei, Tehran sees no advantage in resuming ties with Washington even if there is nuclear deal on the table. Back in 1979, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Washington refused to recognize the Islamic Republic and did everything at its disposal to challenge it by means of media propaganda, espionage and even military attack. So it completely makes sense to reiterate our Leader's words that indeed, the backstabbing U.S. government cannot be trusted.

Rules of the Game

JAVAN: The American officials have been too slow to learn such a crucial lesson after so many years of futile hostility: The reason Tehran is so influential and well-built that it can determine the rules of the game, and Washington is too weak and pathetic to press on this unholy mission to turn events towards victory or a regime change, is nothing other than the fact that back in 1979 the Iranians made the right choice to bring down a pro-Western dictator and strive for self-reliance. This happened under the leadership of the father of Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, who had proclaimed that "the U.S. cannot do a damn thing".

State Terrorism

AFTAB: The U.S. and its allies continue to pave the way for spread of terrorism across the region. The so-called international civil society has no intention to pursue justice or target the Israeli policy of occupation and terror. They adopt double standards vis-a-vis political matters related to terrorism to protect their interests. In the face of such double standards, it is crucial to assert that cowardly acts of state-sponsored assassinations have failed to force the resistance into retreat.