

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9
 Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337
 Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336
 Subscription Ext.: 2322
 Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120
 Website: www.kayhan.ir/en
 E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com
 P.O. Box: 11365/9631
 Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,
 Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Are Finland & Sweden on Suicidal Course to Join NATO?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The recently released photo of US President Joe Biden addressing a press conference in Washington, flanked on his right side by Finland's President Sauli Niinistö and on his left side by Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, presents a pathetic picture.

It appears as if an ailing emperor, not in command of his senses and completely unaware of the words he is uttering, has summoned to his court two rulers of some remote lands willing to submit to his yoke, on the assumption that alignment with an empire, although a tottering one, might be in the interest of their people – more than the peace and prosperity that neutrality has brought over the past century.

The Swedes and the Finns seem to be ignorant of realities, especially the evil nature of the US, which is playing a dangerous game, and doesn't care about their security and sovereignty.

As a matter of fact, the US is totally unconcerned about the stability of all of Europe (except perhaps of the fellow English-speaking islanders of Britain), and is using the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which Finland and Sweden want to join, as an instrument of its hegemonic hold on the European Union (EU).

As could be clear by the war into which the US has pushed Ukraine as part of its bid to weaken traditional rival Russia, it will never hesitate to sacrifice the two hitherto neutral Nordic countries on the altar of its extraterritorial ambitions.

This was crystal clear at Thursday's press conference in Washington where Biden's words belittling Finland and Sweden even if they join NATO, could not be properly grasped by his two Scandinavian hosts because of their unfamiliarity with the English language.

He spoke of a vague "bottom line" and said "an enlarged and strong NATO is the foundation of US security."

In other words, the US president meant to say that he is the least concerned if Europe is destroyed and the European people plunged into death and destruction, in order to ensure that the US remains the sole superpower as a result of possible damage a war on several fronts could inflict upon Russia's economy, industries, agriculture, and political power – and indirectly on the emerging world power China, if it aligns itself with Moscow.

A satanic game plan indeed, but Russia's President Vladimir Putin seems to have his own plans. His preemptive military strike on Ukraine to thwart the bid by the Zionist Volodymyr Zelensky to put the NATO yoke on a Slavic country, is not only a warning to Finland and Sweden to avoid Washington's bait, but has begun to put a strain on the US military and financial resources.

This is clear by the tens of billions of dollars of US money going to waste in Ukraine along with the destruction of the massive flow of weapons into that country by the Russian army.

Following Putin's stark warning of possible military measures if the Nordic country's become a party to NATO's eastward expansion towards the Russian borders, on Friday, Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said, without elaborating: "We are taking adequate countermeasures."

Moscow's Gazprom has already served notice to Finland to cut the gas link, catching Helsinki off guard, and could be a prelude to stronger measures in the Baltic Sea.

In view of these fast-paced developments, it is still not too late for Finland and Sweden to withdraw their request to join NATO, and like Hungary and several other European countries, strive to forge friendly relations with Russia, which after all, unlike the US, is a fellow European country.

Simorgh, Iran-Made Light Transport Aircraft, Unveiled



Simorgh is showcased during a ceremony at Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) in Isfahan, May 19, 2022.

TEHRAN -- A new light transport aircraft, designed and developed by experts at the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA), was unveiled on Thursday in the presence of high-ranking dignitaries.

Named 'Simorgh' – a benevolent bird in Persian mythology and literature – the aircraft was showcased during an impressive ceremony in the central Iranian city of Isfahan in the presence of Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani, Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari, President of the Civil Aviation Organization Ali Abedzadeh and other senior officials.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Brigadier General Ashtiani said the aircraft will be of great assistance in serving the country and its executive agencies, both in the civil and military spheres.

The top defense official stressed that Simorgh is a redesigned and advanced version of the same generation aircraft, which perfectly fits the growing needs of the country's armed forces.

He said it has been equipped with high-tech, indigenous technology and designed in accordance with the country's climatic conditions as well as international safety standards and regulations.

Brigadier General Ashtiani stated that the homegrown aircraft's propulsion system, new components as well as controllability and maneuverability gear have been designed and manufactured by Iranian specialists and are distinctly superior to other similar models.

He also noted that all ground and aerial tests of Simorgh have been carried out inside the country.

The unveiling of Simorgh has prepared the ground for the design and manufacture of more advanced

aircraft in Iran, the Iranian defense minister said.

He referred to light weight, good payload capacity and radius of action, compatibility with Iran's weather conditions, ability to take off and land on short and dirt runways, and agility in providing air medical services as distinguishing features of the homegrown Iranian aircraft.

Simorgh light transport aircraft would develop Iran's national interests in all spheres, can be absorbed by other markets, lower production and maintenance costs, create direct and indirect jobs, and allow the Iranian aviation industry to join the world club of manufacturers of heavy and high-tech aircraft, Brigadier General Ashtiani noted.

Given regional developments and threats against the Islamic Republic, aerial transportation plays a

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President Raisi: Iran-Cuba Ties 'Strategic in Nature'

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran favors expanding its cooperation with Cuba through drawing on the "diverse capacities" that exist in each country.

The president described Iran and Cuba's ties as "strategic" in nature, saying those capacities have to be used towards expansion of the mutual cooperation "in the commercial, economic, agricultural, healthcare, and medical areas."

"Iran and Cuba's positive and constructive relations can be extrapolated to the area of the countries' international interaction too,"

Raisi told Cuba's visiting Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas in Tehran.

The Iranian president made special references to the countries' successful cooperation in the healthcare area.

In January 2021, Iran and Cuba signed an agreement to cooperate on a coronavirus vaccine project amid crippling sanctions imposed on the two countries by the administration of former United States President Donald Trump.

The cooperation led to the development of the Pastu Covac vac-

cine, which has been successfully used against several mutations of the highly infectious virus.

"By relying on their domestic potential, Iran and Cuba can reach self-sufficiency in various areas and production of strategic products," Raisi said.

He touched on existing areas and potentials of cooperation with Latin American countries, saying "Iran intends to develop its relations with independent countries that resist the global arrogance's excessive demands, including Cuba."

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Envoy: Iran Backs Efforts to Address Food Insecurity

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iran's envoy to the United Nations says the Islamic Republic supports the world body's efforts to address global food insecurity amid the acute hunger crisis gripping the world.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN, speaking at a UN Security Council meeting on conflict and food security in New York on Thursday said the food, climate, and health crises have like other countries affected Iran too.

"Food insecurity, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the adverse impacts of various international conflicts have all affected many coun-

tries, including Iran, which has suffered from U.S. sanctions for more than four decades," the envoy remarked.

He said the presence of millions of refugees from neighboring Afghanistan has also put pressure on the Iranian economy, and placed a burden on its food supplies.

Takht-Ravanchi called on the United Nations, the international community, and aid organizations to honor their commitments and to provide necessary technical and financial assistance to foreign nationals residing in Iran.

The senior Iranian diplomat stressed that disruptions in the supply chain, displacement of people, increased pressure on natural and economic resources,

and dramatic decline in the tolerance of affected populations are all long-term side effects of the crises.

"The global level of hunger continues to rise at an alarming rate, and acute food insecurity has increased significantly over the past six years," the envoy noted.

"In 2021, nearly 193 million people in 53 countries experienced dire food insecurity and needed immediate help," he hastened to add, citing global statistics.

Iran's ambassador to the world body said the whole world has been affected by acute food shortages, but Africa undoubtedly suffers the most.

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The Holy Qur'an

This is a sufficient exposition for the people and that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is One God and that those possessed of understanding may mind.

The Holy Qur'an (14:52)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:01
Evening (Maghreb)	20:27
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:55
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:15

Grossi: No Sign of Iran Not Serious on Vienna Talks

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- The head of the UN atomic agency said Friday he has found no sign of Iran's lack of seriousness in the talks with the P4+1 group of countries to revive the multilateral 2015 deal, only days after Washington said Tehran needs to demonstrate its seriousness.

"I have no indications that Iran is not serious about negotiations regarding its nuclear file," Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said in Tokyo, the Al Jazeera television news network tweeted.

Addressing a press conference, the IAEA chief, however, said he still awaits convincing responses from Iran about certain nuclear activities.

The remarks come three days after U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said, "We believe it is now up to Iran to demonstrate its seriousness."

Tehran, for its part, has blamed Washington for its indecisiveness during the course of the talks, arguing that it is up to the United States, as the violator of the Iran deal, to return to full compliance with the pact.

Several rounds of negotiations between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries – Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia – have been held in the Austrian capital since April 2021 to bring Washington back into the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Vienna talks, however, exclude American diplomats due to their country's withdrawal.

Talks have been on hold since March as Washington insists on its refusal to undo its past wrongs through measures such as removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) from its foreign terrorist organization list.

Iran maintains that the IRGC's designation in 2019 was part of former President Donald Trump administration's so-called maximum pressure campaign against Iran, and, therefore, it has to be reversed unconditionally.

The Joe Biden administration disagrees, even though it has admitted on countless occasions that Trump's maximum pressure

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