Iran Revisited

Or Why Iran Must Never Be Allowed to Develop Nuclear Weapons

In February 2005, Thinking Outside the Boxe discussed the issue of Iran’s desire to acquire or develop nuclear weapons and how the EU3’s strategy of negotiation was doomed to fail. At that time, we suggested that appeasement would not contain Iran or prevent their radical Islamic regime from seeking weapons of mass destruction. In that article, Thinking Outside the Boxe concluded the following:

The EU3 should recall appeasement’s dismal historical record—Hitler wanted still more than was given to him under the Munich Agreement. On Neville Chamberlain’s return to Great Britain in September 1938 following the signing of the Munich Agreement, Winston Churchill stated, “He was given a choice between war and dishonour. He chose dishonour and he will have war anyway.” Negotiating with Tehran could ultimately be a dishonour, particularly if the regime eventually realizes its nuclear ambitions. The EU3 fits Churchill’s explanation of an appeaser: “An appeaser is one who feeds the crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.” The EU3 should recognize the folly of pursuing appeasement of Tehran and should support the United States in referring the matter to the United Nations Security Council with the intention of enforcing the NPT.

It has been ten months since we proposed referring Iran to the United Nations Security Council, an ineffective bureaucracy that has a dismal history of failures. However, Thinking Outside the Boxe is willing to support a process of going through the appropriate channels at the United Nations so that when the United States ultimately has to confront the issue on its own, no nation can say that we did not give the negotiating process a chance. Since February, there have been no gains in the negotiating process. The Iranian government has obstructed any progress that could possibly be made, despite the very admirable and legitimate efforts made by Great Britain, France, and Germany. Here is a look at the developments in the last ten months.

During the summer, the EU3 offered Iran cooperation with its civilian nuclear power programme in exchange for Iran’s abandonment of its nuclear ambitions. The proposal suggested that the European Union, along with other nations, would supply Iran with fuel supplies and assist in the development of nuclear power stations, thereby
reducing Iran’s dependence on Russia for fuel imports. Iran would, in turn, end nuclear fuel production within the country and would dismantle its fuel cycle/uranium enrichment programme. Iran, however, continued to maintain its right to a small scale uranium enrichment facility for peaceful purposes. Iran did agree to suspend its uranium enrichment activities during negotiations with the EU3.

Thinking Outside the Boxe finds Iran’s insistence on keeping a uranium enrichment programme suspicious. Why would Iran need to maintain its own programme if other nations are willing to provide development of the nuclear fuel cycle and energy sources. This is like money for nothing and women for free. We can only conclude that Iran’s insistence on its right to a small scale uranium enrichment programme is an indication that it fully intends to pursue development of nuclear weapons. If Iran’s development of nuclear power is only for peaceful purposes, why not accept the offer from the EU3? Iran’s “peaceful” purposes are disingenuous.

By August, however, it was apparent that the talks were at a stalemate and likely to collapse after nearly two years of negotiations between the EU3 and Iran. Tehran continued to demand that Iran be allowed to resume its fuel cycle activities at its Isfahan facility. Iranian officials indicated that the negotiations would be over if the EU3’s incentives did not include a nuclear programme for peaceful civilian use. At this point, Iranian officials indicated that “This means the end of this round of talks with Europe. Iran has decided to resume activities in Isfahan and no one at home and abroad can stop it.” The threat to resume activities at Isfahan would be in direct violation of an agreement reached in Paris in 2004. In response, the EU3 began seeking an extraordinary meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, to deliberate the matter and to possibly refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council. Russia and China at this point still claim to believe that Iran has purely peaceful intentions in developing a nuclear programme. Thinking Outside the Boxe believes that this further illustrates that Iran has absolutely no intention of abandoning its clandestine nuclear programme. Rather, Iran is merely stalling for time, using the current round of negotiations to delay further action by the United States and the United Nations.

The IAEA, ultimately, did not refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council in September, even though Iran resumed conversion activities at the Isfahan facility in August. However,
the IAEA did state that the issue was “within the competence of the Security Council.” Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State, then attempted to build support for a referral to the Security Council following the IAEA meeting in November. No time tables were set for referral of the matter to the Security Council. Russia still implicitly objected to any referral to the UN.

In late October, tensions mounted between the West and Iran after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran’s president who took office in August, declared that Israel should be “wiped off the map.” In a speech at a conference entitled “A World without Zionism,” the Iranian president referred to an Islamic Jihad bombing that killed five Israelis in the town of Hedera and indicated that there was “no doubt the new wave in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world.” He also made reference to Arab countries’ economic relations with Israel, stating that “Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury. Any [Islamic leader] who recognizes the Zionist regime is acknowledging the surrender and defeat of the Islamic world.” European leaders, following the lead of the United States, quickly condemned the comments of Mr. Ahmadinejad, with a statement signed by twenty-five European leaders stating that the comment was “manifestly inconsistent with any claim to be a mature and responsible member of the international community.”

Thinking Outside the Boxe believes that these comments further illustrate the religious fanaticism that characterizes the Iranian government and its culture. This should be a clear signal that Iran is a nation that should not have weapons of mass destruction in its possession or at its disposal. If Iran is willing to wipe Israel off the map, their aggressive nature will not stop there. They will, undoubtedly, seek to annihilate all the nations that do not believe in their religious fanaticism. All those nations who differ on the issues of liberty, justice, freedom of speech, and the values of the West will be a target for violence and destruction of a nuclear armed Iran. This should illustrate why it is crucial that Iran is never allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

As if these displays of religious fanaticism were not enough, Mr. Ahmadinejad claims to have sensed “a light” while addressing world leaders at the United Nations in September. A transcript from www.baztab.com, a leading Iranian website, stated the following from a member of Mr. Nejad’s entourage:
When you began with the words “In the name of God”… I saw a light coming, surrounding you and protecting you to the end.

Mr. Ahmadi-Nejad also indicated the following:

I felt it myself, too, that suddenly the atmosphere changed and for 27-28 minutes the leaders could not blink. I am not exaggerating because I was looking. All the leaders were puzzled, as if a hand held them and made them sit. They had their eyes and ears open for the message from the Islamic Republic.

Even some Iranian members of parliament were dismayed by the comments, suggesting that even in the early days of Islam people did not make such comments. This should clearly illustrate that Iran is not mentally capable of possessing weapons of mass destruction. The radical Islamic fanaticism of the Iranian leaders is dangerous and frightening. Iran and its leaders enjoy the popular support of the people, who all share in a deep rooted hatred of the West and its values and way of life. A nuclear armed Iran would stop at nothing in destroying anyone and any nation that it believes does not share its radical Islamist views—western nations and Middle Eastern neighbours alike. Furthermore, Iran would use its religion to pervert truth and to justify any action it takes against another nation.

Let there be no doubt, Thinking Outside the Boxe believes that Iran is the most dangerous threat to the world and global security going forward. They place little value on human life, even their own. No nation—the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Russia—is safe or guaranteed protection from the dangers posed by Iran and its radical Islamic fanaticism. Iran and its jihadist fighters will hide behind Islam in order to commit mass murders of innocent men, women, and children.

The Iranian regime and Islamic extremists in general, many of whom Thinking Outside the Boxe believes are supported by factions within the Iranian regime, share a common set of violent ideals. Islamic extremists have killed Muslims throughout the Middle East—in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, etc., and have openly rejected the newly-democratic governments in Afghanistan and Iraq in favour of outdated, religious based theocracies where the rights and liberties of individuals are virtually nonexistent. These same Islamic
extremists have historically committed murders of innocent peoples in Britain (the July Underground bombings), Scotland (Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie), the Netherlands, New York, Berlin, etc. They neither understand nor respect the West and what it stands for with respect to liberty and human rights.

Is the world oblivious to the situation that now stands before us? It is just a matter of time before Iran resumes enrichment of uranium at its existing nuclear facilities. The past two years of negotiations between the EU3 and Iran have been a grand failure—a vast waste of time and resources as the Iranian regime has had no intentions of securing a negotiated deal. Their intentions were further made clear by their rejection of a Russian proposal to enrich the uranium in Russia. All indications suggest that Iran will continue to seek development of nuclear weapons. Should they develop nuclear weapons, the Iranian regime would likely attempt to blackmail the West or its Arab neighbours. As a worst case, Islamic extremists could be provided with these nuclear weapons to spitefully inflict death and massive destruction upon the West. Iran and the Islamic extremists must not be allowed to hold the world hostage in a grip of fear through either possession of a nuclear weapon or the threat of developing nuclear weapons.

The West must not waste any more time in negotiations that are nothing more than an exercise in futility. This matter must be referred to the United Nations Security Council immediately. The Security Council must then take the steps necessary to force Iran’s compliance with any resolution regarding abandonment of nuclear ambitions. Sanctions alone will not work—after all, the United States has had sanctions against Iran since the 1979 revolution. These sanctions have failed to prevent Iran from growing increasingly dangerous on the global security front. Now is the time for the United Nations Security Council to redeem itself and to assert its authority by taking unanimous, firm, and resolute action to force Iran to abandon its nuclear program. Words alone will not stop Iran. The Security Council must be prepared to take any and all actions necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring or developing nuclear weapons—including the use of military force. Whilst military action is not a particularly palatable choice in dealing with the issue, a few thousand lives now may be an unfortunate sacrifice on both sides to prevent the senseless killing of millions should Iran develop nuclear weapons and use them against the West, give them to terrorists to use against major metropolitan areas throughout the
world, or use them to destroy oil fields in neighbouring Arab countries.

The fate of the Middle East and global security hangs in the balance. The United Nations, in considering the appropriate actions to take against Iran in preventing the regime from developing nuclear weapons, would be wise to heed this advice:

All that it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

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1 Sources used in the preparation of this article:

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