

NEAR EAST REPORT

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Clinton Imposes Trade Ban on Iran

President Clinton said April 30 that he is issuing an executive order barring virtually all U.S. trade with Iran. The President announced his decision in a speech to the World Jewish Congress in New York. The order would ban purchases of Iranian exports by U.S. firms, their overseas branches, and, in some cases, foreign subsidiaries.

Only humanitarian items, such as food and medicine, would be exempt (see p.58 for excerpts of Clinton's remarks).

The Iran issue is expected to be a major point of contention when Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin hold their summit in Moscow May 9. Some members of Congress, including Senate Majority Leader ROBERT DOLE (R-KS), have suggested that Clinton consider cancelling his trip to Moscow unless Russia agrees not to proceed with the sale of reactors to Iran.

U.S., Israel Conduct Joint Defense Exercises

In March, American and Israeli military forces conducted the largest series of joint maneuvers ever held between the two allies, demonstrating that U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation is alive and well in the 1990s. Units of the U.S. Army; the Marines (USMC) and naval vessels from the U.S. Sixth Fleet and American aircraft—a total of 7,500 American personnel—spent three weeks training with the IDF. In particular, they practiced medical evacuation procedures for wounded American service personnel, and engaged in large-scale mock armored battles in the Negev.

Secretary of State WARREN CHRISTOPHER denounced Iran as a "terrorist state," and observed that Tehran has been trying for years to purchase research reactors for the production of weapons-grade plutonium. He added that Iran is working to enrich uranium for weapons, and has searched throughout the former Soviet Union for nuclear scientists, technologies, and materials.

Christopher said Washington would redouble its efforts to dissuade Russia and China from making arms sales to Iran. He strongly urged other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations—Great Britain; Germany; Japan; Canada; France; and Italy—not to extend trade credits to Iran.

For the most part, these countries have balked at cooperating with U.S. efforts to im-

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Vice President AL GORE, in Israel as the series of maneuvers were winding down, noted that the two allies "have just completed the largest joint exercise in the history of the bilateral relationship." Gore said this showed that U.S.-Israel communication and cooperation is "at an all-time high." An Israeli Defense official told AP (Mar. 13) that the joint drills were unprecedented in size and scope. Since the United States and Israel inaugurated the era of strategic cooperation some 12 years ago, such joint training has been held at regular intervals.

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Clinton Forges Ahead On Iran Sanctions

President Clinton's executive order barring U.S. trade with Iran is a major step in the right direction. Both the President and Secretary of State WARREN CHRISTOPHER deserve high praise for their outstanding leadership on this critical issue.

"Iran is the foremost state sponsor of terrorism in the world....It has supported violence across the Middle East—in Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria [and] Gaza," Christopher said in outlining the new policy. "Iran is the primary patron of terrorists trying to derail the Arab-Israeli peace process. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, Ahmed Jibril's [PFLP-GC]—each of these organizations receives funds, training and popular support from Iran, support which they've used to leave a trail of blood from Beit Lid to Buenos Aires. A regime with this kind of record simply cannot be permitted to get its hand on nuclear weapons."

Increased economic pressure will have to be applied in order to change Iranian behavior, Christopher said. He called on American allies to avoid "any concessionary credits that Iran can simply use to fuel the terrorism that they're projecting around the world."

If European countries and Japan could be persuaded to stop buying Iranian oil, European analysts estimate that "nearly 40 percent of Iran's oil exports of 2.5 million barrels a day would be blocked out of world markets," the *New York Times*' Youssef Ibrahim wrote (May 2). "A prolonged action would deprive Tehran of a third of its annual hard currency revenues—close to \$4 billion—which would be a painful blow to an Iranian economy that is already in the throes of fierce inflation and economic depression."

Some European oil industry officials representing companies that trade with Iran acknowledge that, if Clinton hangs tough, his policy could force Western companies to rethink commerce with that radical state. "If the Americans are very, very firm in their pressure, it will create real difficulties for Iran in dealing with third parties," said the president of a major European oil trading company. "No one wants to defy America today."

President Clinton is fully aware of the importance of gaining the cooperation of our European and Japanese allies for the sanctions against Iran to work. His upcoming diplomatic initiative to persuade these countries to join the boycott is therefore essential. We must not rest until a means is found to bring about an end to trade with Iran by European and Japanese companies.

Clinton: Iran Must Be Stopped

INSIDE



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Clinton: Iran Must Be Stopped

Following are excerpts from President Clinton's April 30 speech to the World Jewish Congress in New York, in which he announced new U.S. sanctions against Iran:

We have moved to counter Iran's support for international terrorism, and, in particular, its backing for violent opponents of peace in the Middle East. At the same time, we have tried to stop its quest to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Our policy has helped make Iran pay a price for its actions. We have refused to cooperate with Iran on nuclear energy, and have tightened trade restrictions on items that might be used to build weapons.

We have not always been successful. The most recent reports of Russia's agreement to sell gas centrifuge equipment to Iran and train nuclear technicians are disturbing to me. Iran seeks this technology in order to develop its capacity to build nuclear weapons. The United States has an overwhelming interest in fighting the spread of these weapons. We have strenuously urged the Russians to reverse these decisions, and I will make that case directly to President Yeltsin when I visit Moscow in just a few days.

Many people have argued that the best route to change Iranian behavior is by engaging the country. Unfortunately, there is no

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pose sanctions on Iran. Asked about the American position, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe criticized "unilateral embargos." A spokesman for the British Foreign Office said his government was "not convinced" that embargos work.

German Economic Minister Gunther Rexrodt said his country does not believe "that a trade embargo is the appropriate instrument for influencing opinion in Iran." Rexrodt said that only "political dialogue" would persuade Iran to "behave responsibly" (*Washington Post*, May 3).

European countries have rescheduled close to \$12 billion in trade credits to Iran in recent months, helping to alleviate the current economic squeeze faced by Tehran (*Wall Street Journal*, May 1).

Right now, the most disturbing problem for American policymakers remains the Russia-Iran nuclear deal. Clinton Administration officials said that Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhailov offered to sell Iran a complete factory which could be used to create highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. In January, Mikhailov reportedly signed

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evidence to support that argument. Indeed, the evidence of the last two years suggest exactly the reverse. Iran's appetite for acquiring and developing nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them has only grown larger. Even as prospects for the peace in the Middle East have grown, Iran has broadened its role as an inspiration nothing to suggest that further engagement will alter that course.

That is why, after Conoco announced a \$1 billion contract to help Iran develop its oil reserves, I was prepared to stop the project by signing an executive order. Conoco ultimately decided to abandon the deal.

I did not reach my decision lightly. One major hallmark of our Administration's foreign policy has been opening new markets abroad. But there are times when important economic interests must give way to even more important security interests. This is one of those times.

So tonight, I am announcing my intention to cut off all trade and investment with Iran,

Defense Exercises... continued

Israeli officials publicly noted the importance of the joint activities. Amram Mitzna, the Mayor of Haifa and former IDF Chief of Planning, said that "militarily, there is no doubt that this sort of joint cooperation gives visible strength and content to the strategic backing the United States is affording Israel. It is a boost for Israeli technology as well."

Israeli television viewers saw images of Marines conducting amphibious landings on Israeli beaches, using hovercraft in Haifa Port, and practicing aerial refuelling between U.S. helicopters and IAF aircraft. Israeli sources told AP that U.S. troops conducting ground maneuvers in the Negev were composed of rapid intervention forces "simulating a quick mass deployment during a crisis." USMC military exercises, reportedly code-named "Nouvelle Shirley," have been conducted in the area on several prior occasions. Other past joint exercises have been undertaken using the label "Juniper Falcon."

The combined medical exercise at Haifa's Rambam hospital was the latest in a series of rehearsals for the possible evacuation of



Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is shown meeting with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in Baghdad late last year. Russia's burgeoning ties with Iraq have become a growing concern for the U.S. on the eve of President Clinton's Moscow Summit with President Boris Yeltsin.

AP/WideWorld

and to suspend nearly all other economic activity between our nations. I am convinced that instituting a trade embargo is the most effective way our nation can help to curb [Iran's] drive to acquire devastating weapons, and its continued support for terrorism.

The executive order I plan to sign will cover all United States exports to Iran and all investments by American firms and the branches they own or control. We estimate that the embargo will have a limited effect on our companies and our workers, but I have determined that if we are to succeed in getting other nations to make sacrifices in order to

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American military wounded to Israeli facilities during a future emergency. Several dozen "injured" servicemen were flown by helicopter to the Israeli medical center, where their simulated wounds were treated by Israeli personnel.

American forces operated from IDF bases during the operations, receiving logistical support from their Israeli counterparts. Large quantities of U.S. hardware were also shipped and flown into Israel for the games. The U.S. maintains several major stockpiles of prepositioned equipment and munitions in Israel, as well, for use during regional crises. Some of this materiel may have also been drawn upon during the training.

Future joint exercises will build on the tactical and strategic lessons learned by both sides during the March maneuvers. They will serve to clearly demonstrate the continued vitality of the bilateral strategic relationship in the post-Cold War, post-Desert Storm era.

—Charles Perkins

Perkins is AIPAC's Senior Military Analyst.

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HEARD ON THE HILL**King, Pelletreau Testify On Iran Sanctions**

REP. PETER KING (R-NY) and ROBERT PELLETREAU, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, testified before the House International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee May 2. They discussed legislation that would place extensive sanctions against trade with Iran.

King called for an "airtight embargo" against Iran: "I can't emphasize enough the extent to which Iran is becoming a threat...to countries in the Middle East."

Ranking Member SAM GEJDENSON (D-CT) supported King's proposal, criticizing Iran's support of terrorism, pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and human rights abuses. Stopping "terrorism from bringing down the Middle East peace process is one of the most important things we can do," he said. Gejdenson added: "We need to press our allies at every level...because it is an issue of international security."

The Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Rep. BEN GILMAN (R-NY), voiced "strong approval" for sanctions, calling them "a critical first step in our efforts to isolate this terrorist regime."

Subcommittee Chairman TOBY ROTH (R-WI) expressed reservations about King's proposed legislation, saying it would cost American jobs. He also warned that if Iran sanctions remain a unilateral American initiative, they would be ineffective.

Reps. DOUG BEREUTER (R-NE), STEVE CHABOT (R-OH), and JAY KIM (R-CA) all expressed similar views about the need for multilateral cooperation.

Noting the lack of past support from U.S. allies in pursuing sanctions, Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER (R-CA) inquired whether "the Administration might rethink their opposition to developing a defensive weapon system so we could knock nuclear armed missiles out of the sky when we are confronted with them 10 years down the road."

52 Senators Sign Mikulski, Mack Letter to Argentinean President

Sens. BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD) and CONNIE MACK (R-FL) co-authored a letter expressing concern "over the lack of progress in Argentina's investigations" of the bombings of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires last year and the Israeli Embassy in 1992. The letter, signed by 52 Senators, was sent to Argentine President Carlos Menem May 3. The Senators asked Menem to approach this effort with "vigor and determination," and offered help "in pursuing the perpetrators of these terrible crimes against society."

In addition to Mikulski and Mack, the following Senators signed the letter: MAX BAUCUS (D-MT), JOSEPH BIDEN (D-DE), CHRISTOPHER BOND (R-MO), BARBARA BOXER (D-CA), RICHARD BRYAN (D-NV), CONRAD BURNS (R-MT), BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL (R-CO), JOHN CHAFFEE (R-RI), DAN COATS (R-IN), WILLIAM COHEN (R-ME), KENT CONRAD (D-ND), ALFONSE D'AMATO (R-NY), TOM DASCHLE (D-SD), MIKE DEWINE (R-OH), CHRISTOPHER DODD (D-CT), BOB DOLE (R-KS), JAMES EXON (D-NE), RUSS FEINGOLD (D-WI), DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA), JOHN GLENN (D-OH), SLADE GORTON (R-WA), BOB GRAHAM (D-FL), PHIL GRAMM (R-TX), ROD GRAMS (R-MN), CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IA), TOM HARKIN (D-IA), JESSE HELMS (R-NC), DANIEL INOUE (D-HI), JOHN KERRY (D-MA), HERB KOHL (D-WI), JON KYL (R-AZ), FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ), PAT LEAHY (D-VT), CARL LEVIN (D-MI), JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (D-CT), MITCH MCCONNELL (R-KY), CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN (D-IL), DANIEL MOYNIHAN (D-NY), PATTY MURRAY (D-WA), DON NICKLES (R-OK), BOB PACKWOOD (R-OR), HARRY REID (D-NV), CHARLES ROBB (D-VA), JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-WV), PAUL SARBANES (D-MD), RICHARD SHELBY (R-AL), PAUL SIMON (D-IL), OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), ARLEN SPECTER (R-PA), AND PAUL WELLSTONE (D-MN).

Senators Propose Anti-Terrorism Legislation

On April 27, Sens. ROBERT DOLE (R-KS), ORRIN HATCH (R-UT), DON NICKLES (R-OK), STROM THURMOND (R-SC), ALAN SIMPSON (R-WY), HANK BROWN (R-CO), JON KYL (R-AZ), AND PHIL GRAMM (R-TX) introduced anti-terrorism legislation. The legislation would expand efforts to isolate state sponsors of terrorism, and make it easier to support international anti-terrorism efforts. Some of President Clinton's anti-terrorism initiatives are in the bill, including a prohibition on fundraising for foreign terrorist organizations.

In support of the measure, Dole stated: "The bottom line is that fighting terrorism is not, and should not be, a partisan issue. America must stand together...to confront the terrorist threat wherever it may exist."

McCain, Lieberman Propose Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Legislation

Sens. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ) and JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (D-CT) proposed legislation to

tighten restrictions on arms procurement by Iran and Iraq. Amending the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992, the bill would strengthen sanctions against those assisting Iran and Iraq in rebuilding their conventional arsenals and acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The proposal would impose a denial of visas, commercial credit, and authority to ship products across U.S. territory to individuals assisting those nations. For offending nations, the legislation would block licenses for the export of nuclear material, bar foreign military sales, and deny the transfer of controlled technology and sophisticated computers. It would also suspend the authority of foreign air carriers to fly to or from the U.S. and prohibit vessels that enter the ports of sanctioned countries from entering U.S. ports.

Congress Prepares International Budget

Both the Senate and House Budget Committees are drafting packages that include major cuts in international spending. Current congressional proposals would cut international programs, including foreign aid, by \$20-\$25 billion over five years, nearly 25 percent. Both Committees are planning to draft budget resolutions that would lead to a balanced budget within seven years.

Sen. PETE DOMENICI (R-NM) postponed the Budget Committee markup of the FY1996 budget package because of a lack of consensus among Committee Republicans.

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a protocol with Iran, promising to sell them: the two nuclear reactors (a deal which has been public knowledge for some time); an unspecified number of other research reactors; and a uranium enrichment centrifuge plant.

At present, the Russian Government appears to be divided over the centrifuge deal. While the Atomic Energy Ministry is aggressively supporting it, the Foreign Ministry reportedly has reservations about that aspect of the Iranian sale.

If the centrifuge sale goes through, "you'd be teaching them one of the key technologies" to making a bomb, said Leonard Specter of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, one of the leading U.S. experts on nuclear proliferation. "This is something that [the Administration] should cancel the summit over" (*Washington Post*, Apr. 29). J.H. □

Learning From Israel's Approach To Caring For The Elderly

As in most Western countries, the number of older people in Israel continues to rise: both disabled elderly, who require some form of long-term care services, and well elderly, who need assistance and encouragement to continue to lead productive and independent lives. Jewish tradition emphasizes respect for the elderly, and Israel has always made meeting the needs of its older Jewish and non-Jewish citizens a priority. The Jerusalem-based JDC-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Human Development was commissioned by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) to evaluate Israeli approaches to caring for the elderly. The Institute's final report identified sixteen innovative national and local programs for the elderly that could be imported to our country for the benefit of older Americans.

Israel has a network of approximately 120 day care centers serving over 8,000 disabled elderly. Services offered by the centers include social and recreational activities (handicrafts, physical activity, music), personal care (such as bathing), provision of hot meals, transportation, counseling, and health promotion. They operate five to six days per week from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (until 5:00 p.m. at some centers), and help reduce the burden on the family caregivers.

The centers differ from those in many other countries, in that they are based on a social rather than a medical model, and therefore represent a lower cost option. The cost per day is much lower than institutional care in the United States.

The expected increase in the number of cognitively-impaired (including Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias) in the next decade, and the need to provide a community-based service for them and respite for their families, has led to several specific programs for this group. The centers are distinctive because the cognitively-impaired are cared for within the community, rather than in an institution. They are provided with the special attention they need, but in the context of a larger day care center that offers opportunities for contact with the broader elderly population.

With a population that includes a disproportionate number of people over 75, the cost of care might have exceeded Israel's means if it did not have innovative models of volunteer assistance. Yad Sarah, for example, is a nationwide organization that provides rehabilitative, medical and para-medical equipment, and some 20 additional supportive services at no cost to recipients.

Another example of volunteerism is the neighborhood volunteer information center developed by JDC-Brookdale, the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, and the Los Angeles municipality under the auspices of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Health and Human Services and

the Israeli Ministry of Labor and Welfare. Today, 600 volunteers serve thousands of senior citizens from a broad range of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, including Arabs, in 21 Jerusalem neighborhoods. Information and referral are provided at the center, house-to-house screening is conducted to identify elderly at-risk, and follow-up is conducted for those identified as at-risk. By monitoring changes in the status of elderly residents and notifying formal services when conditions warrant it, the centers fulfill a valuable "watchdog" function.

The special features of the centers include the mobilization of the neighborhood as a unit for information, referral and outreach; the mobilization of volunteers at the neighborhood level, building on and helping to develop a sense of community; the recruitment of volunteers from ethnic and socioeconomic groups not traditionally involved in volunteerism, and the effective integration of volunteers as aides to the professional network of services.

Most of the programs described in the report can be adapted for use in the United States at minimal cost. Some programs cannot be transferred without being modified, and others may have elements that are more innovative than others. The study offers policymakers, caregivers, professionals, and advocates ideas on how we can do a better job of caring for older Americans. This is yet another example of how a value shared by the two nations—respect for the elderly—can be translated into a benefit for America.

—Mitchell G. Bard

Bard is Executive Director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and author of Partners for Change: How U.S.-Israel Cooperation Can Benefit America.

Clinton...continued

change Iran's conduct, we, too, must be willing to sacrifice and lead the way. In my discussions with President Yeltsin, and with the G-7 leaders in June, I will urge other countries to take parallel actions.

I want you to know that I oppose the suggestion some have made that we prohibit foreign firms doing business with Iran from doing business with the United States. I don't agree with that. I think that would cause unnecessary strain with our allies at a time when we need cooperation. □

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Did you know?...

☞ In 1994, a record 2.17 million tourists came to Israel—a 12 percent increase over 1993. 60 percent hailed from Europe; 27 percent from North America; 7 percent from Asia; 3 percent from Africa; and 1 percent from Oceania.

☞ Income from tourism rose 8 percent in 1994 to a record \$2.75 billion, with the average tourist spending \$1,250 during his or her visit.

☞ While tourists from the U.S. accounted for 21 percent of visitors, the figure—386,000—represented only a 3 percent increase over 1993. By comparison, tourism from both Germany (200,000 visitors) and the United Kingdom (192,000) increased by 13 percent.

☞ An unprecedented 22,000 Egyptian tourists arrived in 1994, up from 8,500 in 1993.

Source: Jerusalem Dateline