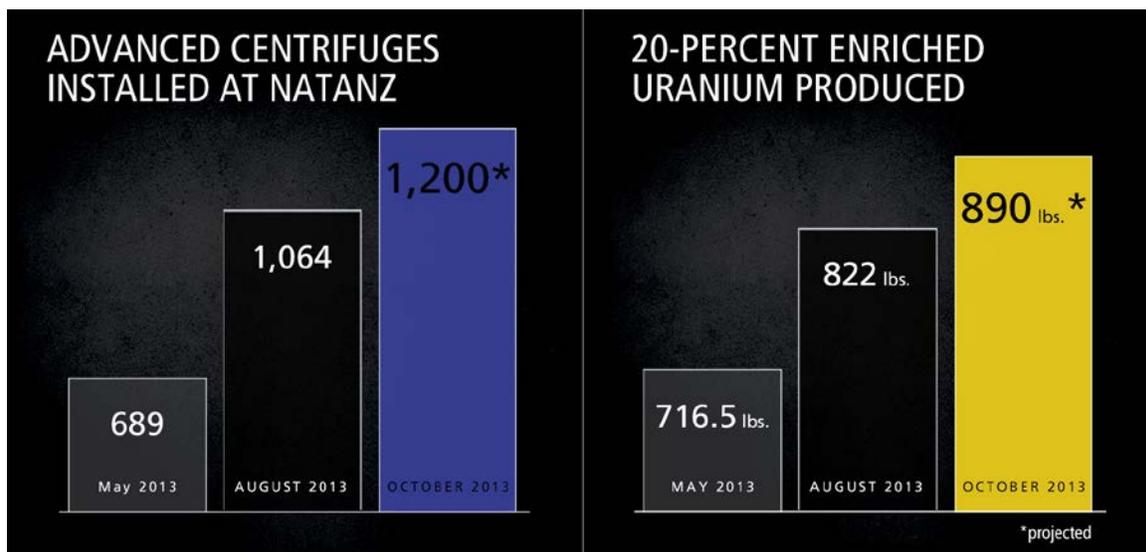


# MEMO

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## Iran Must Suspend Nuclear Activities for Diplomacy to Succeed

The United States and its partners are on the verge of renewing negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. To provide the necessary time and space for discussions, Tehran must suspend all enrichment and reprocessing activities. Iran's nuclear activities have brought it so close to a nuclear weapons capability that time for successful negotiations will run out if the regime continues on its present course. To avoid any misunderstanding in Tehran, America must clearly signal that it will consider no easing of sanctions until Iran has verifiably suspended its nuclear program. If Iran's nuclear activities continue, the United States and the international community should escalate sanctions and reinforce President Obama's message that a credible military option is on the table to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.



Despite U.S. diplomatic outreach, Iran's nuclear activities are continuing with no end in sight.

- Despite a landmark Sept. 26 phone call between President Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the regime has provided no indication that Tehran plans to halt its nuclear activities.
- In his Sept. 24 speech to the United Nations, Rouhani made clear that Tehran would not halt its enrichment program and that international "acceptance of and respect for the implementation of the right to enrichment" constitute a key Iranian objective. Indeed, in recent months, Iran's race to the bomb has continued apace:

- In the months since Rouhani's election, Iran sped up delivery of a new advanced model of centrifuges several times more efficient than its predecessor, and has installed more than 500 of them at Natanz (see graph above).
- Iran continues to produce and stockpile uranium enriched to the 20-percent level (see graph above).
- Iran continues to develop the heavy-water reactor under construction in Arak.
- Iran continues to deny international inspectors access to the Parchin military facility, where nuclear explosive testing is believed to have occurred.
- At the current rate of installation of centrifuges, Iran is rapidly approaching the break-out ability to enrich uranium from 3.5 percent to bomb-grade in weeks, not months.
- Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei – the ultimate decision-maker on Iran's nuclear program – has appointed Ali Shamkhani, a founder of the program and firm opponent of its suspension, as the new head of the country's National Security Council.

Actions, not words, should determine any U.S. decision to provide sanctions relief.

- Washington should make clear that Iran's continuation of its nuclear program – no matter how congenial its rhetoric – will result in stepped-up sanctions, and that suspending its enrichment activities is the essential first step for successful diplomacy.
- President Obama on Sept. 30 said that Iran must perform "actions that give the international community confidence that, in fact, they are meeting their international obligations fully, and that they are not in a position to have a nuclear weapon."
- In his Oct. 1 speech before the United Nations General Assembly, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the international community to "keep up the sanctions. If Iran advances its nuclear weapons program during negotiations, strengthen the sanctions."

Absent verified Iranian action, sanctions must be increased.

- In July, the House overwhelmingly passed the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013 (H.R. 850) to increase sanctions on Iran. The Senate must now act.
- America must continue its efforts to persuade oil-importing nations to dramatically reduce their purchases of oil from Iran. Violators of U.S. law must face consequences, including sanctions on financial institutions, energy companies and shipping firms that facilitate oil purchases.
- Financial institutions and individuals conducting transactions with or providing services to the Central Bank of Iran or other sanctioned banks must be identified and sanctioned.
- Major remaining sectors of the Iranian economy should be subject to sanctions.
- In conjunction with sanctions, the United States must continue to demonstrate a credible military threat in order to enhance prospects for diplomacy.