

MEMMO

March 28, 2007

New U.N. Sanctions Increase Pressure on Iran

The U.N. Security Council's unanimous decision on March 24 to adopt a second round of sanctions on Iran represents a more assertive and united effort by the international community to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program. U.N. Security Council Resolution 1747 imposes an arms embargo on Tehran, tightens financial constraints and freezes the assets of individuals and organizations affiliated with Iran's nuclear program and with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. As Iran continues to defy the international community, the United States and other nations must now demand Iranian compliance and exert maximal economic and diplomatic pressure to persuade Iran's regime to abandon its nuclear program.

The new U.N. sanctions resolution represents a more assertive and united effort to stop Iran's nuclear program.

- The unanimous passage of the new resolution demonstrates the international community's united determination to employ serious diplomatic measures to halt Iran's atomic program.
- Unlike the resolution passed in December 2006, the new resolution attempts to stem not only Iran's nuclear program, but also its destabilizing policies throughout the Middle East, including its arms exports and financial support for various terrorist groups.
- U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns noted the broader focus of the new resolution, observing that Iran no longer has "the right to transfer arms to Hizballah or to Hamas or to Syria, to any state or any terrorist organization."
- The new resolution complements legislation introduced in both chambers of Congress that closes loopholes in existing sanctions law, strengthens U.S. tools to cut off funds to Iran's nuclear program and prohibits U.S. nuclear cooperation with those aiding Iran's atomic efforts.

Resolution 1747 includes more stringent provisions than Resolution 1737, the previous U.N. sanctions resolution passed in December 2006.

- The new resolution imposes a mandatory ban upon the export of Iranian weapons to other nations or terrorist groups as well as a nonbinding call upon arms-producing states "to exercise vigilance and restraint" regarding the sale of war-related technologies to Tehran.
- Resolution 1747 imposes a mandatory freeze on the assets of 15 individuals and 13 organizations associated with Iran's nuclear program or with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps – including Iran's state-owned Bank Sepah, which constituted a central target of prior U.S. sanctions.
- The latest resolution issues a non-binding call upon all U.N. member states to refrain from entering into new commitments for grants, financial assistance and loans to the Iranian government unless they serve humanitarian or development purposes.

- The new resolution requires the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to issue a report regarding Iranian compliance within 60 days of the resolution's passage, thereby ensuring the U.N.'s ongoing commitment to monitoring the issue.
- Like the December 2006 resolution, Resolution 1747 invokes Chapter VII, Article 41, of the U.N. charter, which designates Iran as a threat to international peace and security and thus makes compliance with the resolution mandatory for all U.N. members.

Time is running out to stop the Iranian regime before it achieves full nuclear capacity.

- Iran, according to the IAEA, is close to operating more than 650 centrifuges – machines that rotate at supersonic speeds to enrich the uranium needed to produce fuel for nuclear reactors or bombs – with imminent plans to begin feeding uranium gas into the machines.
- Iran has advised the IAEA that it plans to have 3,000 centrifuges operating by May, which would potentially give the regime the capability to produce one or two nuclear weapons a year.
- IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei recently stated in an interview with *The Financial Times* that “it could be six months, it could be a year” until Iran is capable of enriching uranium on an industrial scale. Once Iran can enrich uranium on such a scale, it will have the ability to produce fuel for an atomic reactor or nuclear weapons.
- The U.N., the U.S., and the international community must continue to monitor Iran's activities and exert robust diplomatic and economic pressure on the regime in order to persuade Tehran to abandon its nuclear program.

Basic Facts Summary

- The new U.N. sanctions resolution represents a more assertive and united effort to stop Iran's nuclear program.
- Resolution 1747 includes more stringent provisions than Resolution 1737, the previous U.N. sanctions resolution passed in December 2006.
- Time is running out to stop the Iranian regime before it achieves full nuclear capacity.