

MEMMO

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Confronting Iran: Truth or Consequences

Iran must come clean and halt its illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons or face severe consequences. During the P5 + 1 talks with the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany that start in Geneva on Thursday, Iran needs to disclose its secret nuclear facilities, open these facilities to international inspections and agree to suspend uranium enrichment by year's end. America should be on guard against Iran's likely tactic of making minor concessions to distract from its failure to suspend its enrichment program as required by the U.N. Security Council on three different occasions since 2006. If Iran continues to flout international law, the U.S. and its partners should impose crippling sanctions on Tehran.

The disclosure of a secret uranium enrichment facility is the latest example of Tehran's nuclear deception.

- Last week's dramatic public announcement by the leaders of the United States, Great Britain and France of a secret Iranian enrichment facility underscores the urgent need to deal with Iran's nuclear program.
- Time and again Iran has been caught lying to the international community about its nuclear program.
- This most recent disclosure puts the lie to Iran's assertions—as recent as Sept. 22—that it had fully disclosed all aspects of its program.
- This disclosure also makes clear that at least this new facility is not part of a peaceful program. As President Obama said, “the size and configuration of this facility is inconsistent with a peaceful program.”
- During the talks Thursday with the P5+1, Iran must immediately disclose all previously undisclosed nuclear facilities, open these facilities to international inspections and take serious and tangible steps toward suspending its enrichment of uranium.
- As past talks with Iran have shown, Tehran will likely make minor concessions—such as allowing inspectors into only the newly disclosed site—as a way to distract from its refusal to suspend its uranium enrichment program.
- Such moves by Iran should not be accepted as progress by the P5+1. At best, they take us back to where we were before Iran's most recent lies were discovered.
- What does Iran need to do? President Obama put it well in Pittsburgh last week: “To put it simply, Iran must comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions and make clear it is willing to meet its responsibilities as a member of the community of nations.”



Iran's recent test-firing of short-range missiles constitutes a further provocation of the international community.

Iran is advancing its nuclear weapons pursuit and has shown no signs that it is prepared to seriously discuss the matter.

- Iran has said that it has no plans to discuss its nuclear program during the talks, including the newly disclosed facility. Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said Iran is "not going to discuss anything related to our nuclear rights, but we can discuss about disarmament, we can discuss about non-proliferation and other general issues."
- The facility—built on an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps base—was built to house 3,000 centrifuges and has no commercial use.
- The size of the facility is clearly not sufficient to produce low enriched uranium (LEU) to power nuclear reactors, but is ideal to produce highly enriched uranium (HEU) for at least one bomb a year, and perhaps more, depending on the type of centrifuge installed.
- Iran has already produced more than 3,300 pounds of LEU that—if further enriched to a weapons-grade level—is more than enough for one atomic bomb.
- Recent news reports also reveal that a "secret unpublished annex" to the recent IAEA report detailed Iran's extensive weapons-related activities connected to its nuclear program.
- In addition to its nuclear work, Tehran has made major advances in its medium-range ballistic missile technology. In the days leading up to the Oct. 1 meeting with the P5+1, Iran test-fired a series of missiles, the most advanced of which represents a technological leap in Iran's ability to target U.S. military bases in the region, European allies and Israel.

The United States and its allies should quickly impose crippling sanctions on Iran if it refuses to end its nuclear weapons pursuit.

- As the United States and its allies head into talks with Iran, the president and other leaders have said Iran must now come fully clean about its nuclear activities during the talks or face crippling sanctions.
- The president said that if diplomacy does not work, "we will be in a much stronger position to, for example, apply sanctions that have bite." French President Nicholas Sarkozy said, "We cannot let Iranian leaders gain time while the motors are running," while British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the West is "prepared to implement further and more stringent sanctions."
- It is now time for Congress to move forward with the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and other similar legislation to demonstrate to Iran that its days of stonewalling and deception are over. The bill urges the president to impose financial sanctions on Iran's Central Bank and requires the sanctioning of any entity engaged in the importation into Iran of refined petroleum.
- With Iran forced to import as much as 40 percent of its gasoline, limiting access to such products would have a dramatic economic effect and weigh heavily on the regime's domestic popularity.
- The United States could also cause the collapse of the Iranian banking system by refusing to clear international financial transactions from banks that continue to do business with Iranian banks.
- The credible threat of such crippling sanctions—combined with similar international sanctions—would offer a meaningful opportunity to convince Iran to recalculate its current nuclear policy.