

# MEMMO

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## President Obama to Tehran: Comply With Your Obligations

**Last Friday, President Obama focused on Iran's need to "take steps in the near future to live up to its obligations"—i.e., suspend its uranium enrichment and fully reveal its nuclear programs. In agreeing to open a newly disclosed enrichment facility to inspection, Iran's bow to international pressure could mark a positive first step. However, such a move does nothing to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions, and some Iranian officials have already hinted that Tehran is backing away from commitments it made during the Geneva talks. If Iran does not suspend enrichment, disclose its illicit nuclear and weaponization secrets, and open all of its nuclear facilities, America and its allies must impose crippling sanctions on the regime.**

President Obama said Iran must meet its obligations soon.

- To meet its obligations under multiple mandatory U.N. Security Council resolutions, President Obama said Iran must take concrete steps, including fully suspending all enrichment and heavy water activity, allowing international inspections of its nuclear facilities, coming completely clean about all details of its program and revealing all of its nuclear sites.
- President Obama described last Thursday's P5+1 (the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany) meeting with Iran in Geneva as a "constructive beginning," cautioning that these initial discussions "must be followed by constructive action by the Iranian government" to meet those obligations or face the consequences.
- The president also said the United States will not continue talking with Tehran if it follows its long history of deception and stalling, saying, "If Iran does not take steps in the near future to live up to its obligations, then the United States will not continue to negotiate indefinitely, and we are prepared to move towards increased pressure."



**President Obama said the United States will not continue to talk with Iran if it does not take action to address concerns about its nuclear program.**

Initial steps Iran has agreed to take must not be allowed to shift focus from Tehran's continuing enrichment of uranium.

- The president announced last week that Iran agreed to open the newly disclosed uranium enrichment facility—built on an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps base near Qom—to inspection. However, the inspection will take place more than a month after it was disclosed and ten days after the president's two-week deadline, providing Iran time to cover up any weaponization activity.

- Even if Iran allows inspection of the newly disclosed nuclear site, this will be insufficient without Iran fully disclosing whatever other “secret” facilities it may be hiding.
- The president also said Iran agreed to send most of the low-enriched uranium (LEU) to Russia and France for processing. If implemented, this could be an important step toward reining in Iran’s nuclear weapons program; however, it fails to address Iran’s continuing enrichment activity.
- If Iran were to transfer part of its LEU to Russia and France for further enrichment, this arrangement would only deal with “known” stocks of Iran’s LEU. Iran must account for all uranium stockpiles it has. As a senior administration official conceded to the *New York Times*, if Iran has secret stockpiles of enriched uranium the accomplishment would be hollow.
- Despite the president’s statement concerning the plan to send part of Iran’s LEU overseas, Iranian officials have already been quoted as saying that Tehran has not agreed to such an arrangement, raising questions as to Iran’s level of seriousness in these talks.

Iran continues to march toward a nuclear weapons capability even as it meets with the United States and other leading countries.

- While attention will now be focused on Iran’s implementation of these initial commitments, Iran can continue to advance its program as it has during past talks with the international community. If Iran is allowed to continue to enrich uranium domestically it could replace the entire stock of LEU sent abroad in around 10 months if it ran all the centrifuges currently installed in its declared enrichment facility in Natanz.
- According to a confidential International Atomic Energy Agency analysis reported by the *New York Times*, the IAEA document also says that Iran’s nuclear program, run by Iran’s Ministry of Defense, has sought to develop a “nuclear payload to be delivered using the Shahab 3 missile system,” Iran’s medium-range missile, which can strike the Middle East and parts of Europe.
- The report indicates that Iran has worked to adapt the Shahab-3 warhead to fit the core of a nuclear bomb and has worked on triggering mechanisms to detonate the bomb.

Given Iran's history of deception and stalling tactics, the U.S. and its allies must keep up the pressure to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

- Feeling the isolation and facing the prospect of crippling sanctions now being considered by Congress, the administration and our allies, Tehran is taking steps it otherwise would be unwilling to take.
- Iran’s leaders are clearly worried about the impact further sanctions will have on the country’s economy and its implications on the stability of its repressive and unpopular regime.
- Limiting Iran’s access to refined petroleum products—Tehran must import as much as 40 percent of its gasoline—and refusing to clear international financial transactions from banks that continue to do business with Iranian banks would have a dramatic economic effect and weigh heavily on the regime’s domestic popularity.
- Passage by Congress of the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (IRPSA) and other similar legislation is crucial in keeping the pressure on Iran and demonstrating to the regime that only the full suspension of its nuclear program, enrichment and heavy-water activity will prevent further sanctions from being enacted.
- The credible threat of such crippling sanctions—combined with similar international sanctions—offers a meaningful opportunity to convince Iran to recalculate its current nuclear policy.