

MEMMO

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Reports of Concessions in Iran Talks Raise Concerns

Recent media reports may signal troubling U.S. concessions in the ongoing secret nuclear talks with Iran. *The Los Angeles Times* reports “U.S. diplomats aren’t demanding immediate access” to suspect nuclear sites. Inspections could be delayed by 30 days while a commission determines if inspectors will be granted access. According to *The Associated Press* “The Obama Administration may have to backtrack on its promise that it will suspend only nuclear-related economic sanctions.” *The Associated Press* also reports “World powers are prepared to accept a nuclear agreement with Iran that doesn’t immediately answer questions about past atomic weapons work.” If true, these reports paint a troubling picture.

1. In Iran nuclear talks, discord on inspecting undeclared facilities

The Los Angeles Times – Paul Richter
June 9, 2015

“In the negotiating rooms, however, U.S. diplomats aren't demanding immediate access. Rather, they've signaled that they're willing to allow a panel some time to consider Iranian objections and weigh the evidence before allowing a challenge inspection to proceed. ... The proposal calls for a maximum of 30 days for deliberations by the commission on IAEA requests for inspections.”

2. U.S. finds peeling back the Iran sanctions onion no easy task

The Associated Press – Bradley Klapper and Matthew Lee
June 10, 2015

“The Obama Administration may have to backtrack on its promise that it will suspend only nuclear-related economic sanctions on Iran as part of an emerging nuclear agreement, officials and others involved in the process tell *The Associated Press*. The problem derives from what was once a strong point of the broad U.S. sanctions effort that many credit with bringing Iran to the negotiating table in the first place.”

3. World powers would accept Iran deal without answers on past arms activity

The Associated Press – Bradley Klapper
June 12, 2015

“World powers are prepared to accept a nuclear agreement with Iran that doesn’t immediately answer questions about past atomic weapons work, U.S. and Western officials said. ... Instead of resolving such questions this month, officials said the U.S. and its negotiating partners are working on a list of future commitments Iran must fulfill in an agreement.”
