

## The Makings of a Good Deal

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the initial six month period of talks between the P5+1, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France) plus Germany, and Iran is set to conclude. While at press time it's still unclear whether an agreement will be reached or if the talks will be extended, it's important to focus on steps already taken and, most importantly, what a good deal must look like.

In November, an interim deal was reached in which some restrictions were placed on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for limited sanctions relief. But, Iran was allowed to continue key parts of its nuclear program, including research and development.

The goal of the current talks has been to reach a final deal that ensures Iran can never develop nuclear weapons. In a February op-ed appearing in the New York Times, then-AIPAC President Michael Kassen and Chairman Lee Rosenberg wrote, "Iran came to the negotiating table because it sought the abrogation of sanctions; we came to the table to reach an agreement that, in the words of President Obama, would 'make it impossible' for Iran to develop nuclear weapons."

In March, 83 senators and more than 390 representatives sent letters to the president supporting a diplomatic resolution resulting in dismantlement of Iran's nuclear weapons-related infrastructure. The letters also stressed the essential role of congressional action, particularly if an acceptable deal requires sanctions relief or if a breakdown in talks requires additional sanctions legislation.

Now, we must be crystal clear. Any deal must prevent Iran's ability to "break-out" and quickly produce sufficient material for the core of a nuclear weapon. Iran could currently break-out in as little as 2-3 months and could shorten that time by utilizing the new advanced generation centrifuges it has installed, but is not yet operating. Therefore, any agreement must require the dismantlement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure so that it does not have a pathway to a bomb.

Additionally, Iran must agree to a stringent and intrusive verification regime that, in the words of Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor to Vice President Biden, "gives confidence that Iran isn't conducting activities in secret" including on military installations.

Iran should be expected to meet these minimum requirements before receiving further sanctions relief. If sanctions are lifted too soon and the Iranian nuclear program continues, it will be nearly impossible to galvanize the international coalition needed to re-impose them, risking the safety and security of the United States, Israel and our friends around the world.

With the deadline approaching, we must pay close attention to the outcome of the talks to ensure the interests of America, and our ally Israel, are met. As the Obama administration has said, "No deal is better than a bad deal."