

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 568

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. TURNER of New York, and Mr. DEUTCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

Whereas since at least the late 1980s, Iran has engaged in a sustained and well-documented pattern of illicit and deceptive activities to acquire a nuclear capability;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has adopted multiple resolutions since 2006 demanding the full and sustained suspension of all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities by the Iranian Government and its full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all outstanding issues related

to its nuclear activities, particularly those concerning the possible military dimensions of its nuclear program;

Whereas, on November 8, 2011, the IAEA issued an extensive report that—

(1) documents “serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran’s nuclear programme”;

(2) states that “Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device”; and

(3) states that the efforts described in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be ongoing;

Whereas as of November 2008, Iran had produced, according to the IAEA—

(1) approximately 630 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 3.5 percent; and

(2) no uranium-235 enriched to 20 percent;

Whereas as of November 2011, Iran had produced, according to the IAEA—

(1) nearly 5,000 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 3.5 percent; and

(2) 79.7 kilograms of uranium-235 enriched to 20 percent;

Whereas, on January 9, 2011, IAEA inspectors confirmed that the Iranian Government had begun enrichment activities at the Fordow site, including possibly enrichment of uranium-235 to 20 percent;

Whereas if Iran were successful in acquiring a nuclear weapon capability, it would likely spur other countries in the region to consider developing their own nuclear weapons capabilities;

Whereas, on December 6, 2011, Prince Turki al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia stated that if international efforts to pre-

vent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons fail, “we must, as a duty to our country and people, look into all options we are given, including obtaining these weapons ourselves”;

Whereas top Iranian leaders have repeatedly threatened the existence of the State of Israel, pledging to “wipe Israel off the map”;

Whereas the Department of State—

(1) has designated Iran as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism” since 1984; and

(2) has characterized Iran as the “most active state sponsor of terrorism”;

Whereas Iran has provided weapons, training, funding, and direction to terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Shiite militias in Iraq that are responsible for the murders of hundreds of American forces and innocent civilians;

Whereas, on July 28, 2011, the Department of the Treasury charged that the Government of Iran had forged a “secret deal” with al Qaeda to facilitate the movement of al Qaeda fighters and funding through Iranian territory;

Whereas in October 2011, senior leaders of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force were implicated in a terrorist plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to the United States on United States soil;

Whereas, on December 26, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution denouncing the serious human rights abuses occurring in Iran, including torture, cruel and degrading treatment in detention, the targeting of human rights defenders, violence against women, and “the systematic and serious restrictions on freedom of

peaceful assembly” as well as severe restrictions on the rights to “freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief”;

Whereas President Obama has made repeated efforts through the P5+1 process to engage the Iranian Government in dialogue about Iran’s nuclear program and its international commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas in the 2006 State of the Union Address, President Bush stated that “The Iranian Government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons.”;

Whereas, on March 31, 2010, President Obama stated that the “consequences of a nuclear-armed Iran are unacceptable”;

Whereas in his State of the Union Address on January 24, 2012, President Obama stated: “Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and I will take no options off the table to achieve that goal”;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Panetta stated, in December 2011, that it was unacceptable for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, reaffirmed that all options were on the table to thwart Iran’s nuclear weapons efforts, and vowed that if the United States gets “intelligence that they are proceeding with developing a nuclear weapon then we will take whatever steps necessary to stop it”;

Whereas, on December 1, 2011, Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon issued a joint statement in Washington,

DC, which emphasized that “Iran is the greatest challenge we face today in the Middle East” and that “[c]ontinued efforts by the international community are critical to bringing about change in Iranian behavior and preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capability.”; and

Whereas the Department of Defense’s January 2012 Strategic Guidance stated that United States defense efforts in the Middle East would be aimed “to prevent Iran’s development of a nuclear weapons capability and counter its destabilizing policies”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) warns that time is limited to prevent the
3 Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weap-
4 ons capability;

5 (2) urges continued and increasing economic
6 and diplomatic pressure on Iran to secure an agree-
7 ment with the Government of Iran that includes—

8 (A) the full and sustained suspension of all
9 uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing
10 activities;

11 (B) complete cooperation with the IAEA
12 on all outstanding questions related to Iran’s
13 nuclear activities, including—

14 (i) the implementation of the Addi-
15 tional Protocol to the Treaty on the Non-
16 Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and

1 (ii) the verified end of Iran's ballistic
2 missile programs; and

3 (C) a permanent agreement that verifiably
4 assures that Iran's nuclear program is entirely
5 peaceful;

6 (3) expresses support for the universal rights
7 and democratic aspirations of the Iranian people;

8 (4) affirms that it is a vital national interest of
9 the United States to prevent the Government of Iran
10 from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability;

11 (5) strongly supports United States policy to
12 prevent the Government of Iran from acquiring a
13 nuclear weapons capability;

14 (6) rejects any United States policy that would
15 rely on efforts to contain a nuclear weapons-capable
16 Iran; and

17 (7) urges the President to reaffirm the
18 unacceptability of an Iran with nuclear-weapons ca-
19 pability and opposition to any policy that would rely
20 on containment as an option in response to the Ira-
21 nian nuclear threat.

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