

Package to Break Nuclear Deadlock

Iran is to present the international community with a new package of proposals aimed at breaking the diplomatic deadlock over the country's nuclear program, Iranian ambassador in London, Rasoul Movahedian, has revealed.

In an interview with the Guardian published Thursday, Movahedian said, "My government has worked out a new package, a new initiative, which is going to be put forward in the near future to deal with all aspects of our relationship," IRNA reported.

He also said he was not permitted to give details before the initiative is presented "before the end of next week" to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

The initiative was said to cover the country's nuclear program, the security of energy supplies in the Middle East, counter-terrorism and joint efforts to control the drugs trade.

The ambassador said Iran's proposal would address western concerns that the rapidly developing nuclear project could be used to make weapons, but insisted his country would not surrender the right to enrich uranium.

"My government is going to continue along the enrichment path. We do not accept any preconditions for negotiations," he said.

The offer comes after the 5+1 announced last Friday that it had agreed to review and update proposals made to Iran back in June 2006.

Movahedian said the members of the 5+1 group had been approached informally with Tehran's offer, and there had been some 'positive' response.

Larijani Heads Rightwing Front

Former top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani has taken the helm of the Rightwing Solidarity Front which has cemented its hold on parliament.

At a meeting of new rightwing MPs, who won a majority of seats during legislative elections in March and April, Larijani was chosen as the head of the front, Mehr News Agency reported on Friday.

The bloc won 69 percent of the 290 seats in parliament, while reformists took only 16 percent.

In recent days, the local media reported that Larijani would prefer to become speaker of the new parliament, which is due to hold its first session on May 27.

The incumbent speaker Gholamali Haddad Adel has also expressed interest in remaining in the job.

Larijani last year stepped down as Iran's top nuclear negotiator.

Condolences Over Myanmar Calamity

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Friday cabled a message of condolence to his Myanmar counterpart, in which he expressed sympathy with the Myanmar nation and government on the recent cyclone that has caused a human tragedy there.

In his message to Nyan Win, the foreign minister also voiced Iran's readiness to send humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, IRNA reported.

Mottaki expressed deep regret over the loss of thousands of lives and billions of dollars of damage, sympathizing with the bereaved families of the disaster victims.

According to the Myanmar government, about 23,000 people were killed and another 42,000 are missing following the devastating cyclone while some foreign sources believe the toll could be around 100,000.

Leader: US Root Cause of Regional Insecurity



People of Larestan in Fars province welcome the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the presence of US troops in the Persian Gulf and Iraq is the root cause of rampant insecurity and instability in the region.

Addressing thousands of people in the city of Lar in Fars province on Thursday, the leader said the great Iranian people, by relying on Islam, have united and are determined to defend their dignity and identity, IRNA reported.

"Islam has brought us freedom, independence, dignity, public welfare and all-out development and this nation is determined to attain its lofty goals," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that Iran has established friendly and brotherly ties with its neighboring Arab states as well as other regional states and this is a source of concern for the US and the Zionist regime.

The leader also urged Muslims to forge unity to thwart plots hatched by the enemies.

"Global hegemony spares no efforts to frighten the Persian Gulf littoral states of Iran," he said, pointing out that Iran has always stretched its hand of friendship toward its neighbors.

Ayatollah Khamenei further said the US and the Zionist regime are doing their best to sow seeds of discords

among Muslim countries and this requires these states to be vigilant.

"Unity is the key that foils all plots hatched by the world arrogant powers.

The leader said that since the US has been bogged down in Iraq they try to put the blame on others.

Referring to false accusations made by the US about Iran's involvement in Iraq's insecurity, the leader said the presence of US troops in Iraq is enough to incite the Iraqi people against them.

On regional developments, the leader said the US interference in the issue of Palestine and its all-out support for the Zionist regime have complicated the problem of Palestine.

"The wise and freedom-seeking nation of Palestine has chosen their democratic government but the US, through its unlawful interventions and support for the Zionist regime, is the main cause of unrest and disorder," he said.

The leader thanked the people of Fars provinces for their warm hospitality during his stay in the province.

Ayatollah Khamenei wound up his nine-day visit to this southern province Thursday noon and returned to Tehran.

During his visit, the leader traveled to various cities of the province, met local residents, families of martyrs and war veterans, officials, elites, university students and clerics.

Soltaniyeh: Duplicity of Nuclear Weapons States Exposed

Iran's ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog said the recent anti-Iran communiqué should be appreciated as it revealed the fact that US, Britain and France have no good intentions or the political will to solve problems peacefully.

These three countries, which are armed with nuclear weapons, along with China and Russia, on the last day of the preliminary session of the Conference to Revise the Non-Proliferation Treaty, read out a communiqué in which Iran's uranium enrichment is referred to as a threat against the NPT, IRNA reported.

That is while nuclear experts believe those countries' non-abidance by the agreements of nuclear disarmament is among the most important causes weakening that international treaty.

Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh said, "Those five countries were expected to speak on why they have not abided by the disarmament requirements of the NPT and to apologize

to the world for not scrapping their nuclear weapons, as they were obliged to do so in accordance with their international commitments."

Referring to the remarks made by the US representative in response to the meeting on denying Washington's cooperation to Israel on manufacturing nuclear weapons, he said, "Having urged the US and its allies to respond to members' ambiguities on not abiding by the NPT is by itself an achievement."

The Iranian envoy also asked other western countries to explain their nuclear cooperation with Israel and their non-abidance by Article 4 of the NPT on the need for cooperation with other NPT members' peaceful nuclear programs.

Soltaniyeh warned that Iran and other countries' next move would be to pursue international mechanisms to seek the truthfulness of the US claim that it has no cooperation with Israel's non-peaceful nuclear program.

Persian Press Watch

Failure

KAYHAN: Washington and Baghdad are preparing to sign a strategic deal. It is believed that the Iraqi government would agree with Americans to set up permanent military bases on the Iraqi soil. Americans are seeking the permission of Iraqis to set up a base on the pretext of ensuring its security. The prevailing situation in Iraq indicates the US failure in establishing security there and the possibility of Americans launching military operations against regional states. If finalized, the Washington-Baghdad strategic deal can negatively affect Iraq's relations with its neighbors. The United States has been trying since its Iraq invasion in 2003 to portray the Islamic Republic as a threat to regional stability. It continues to level baseless allegations that Iran is underwriting terrorists in Iraq. This is while the misguided US policies in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought terrorists to the Middle East. Despite adopting a hostile stance for three decades against Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, American warmongers have failed to counter Iran's growing influence in the region. America wanted to turn Iraq into a "hub of democracy" in the Middle East under its failed Greater Middle East initiative. However, after more than five years of occupation, Iraq continues to experience unrest and instability.

Conservatism

RESALAT: The Society of Combatant Clergy and Society of Qom Theological School Teachers as well as many distinguished political and religious figures belong to the Right Wing, which has devised a comprehensive action plan for the next parliament. The plan is to address the people's demands and abide by the commitments of right-wing candidates who won the March 14 parliamentary elections. They occupy more than 200 seats in the next parliament. Conservatism is now the ruling discourse in the Iranian political landscape. It's time they create a positive interaction with the people and solve their problems in line with national interests and expedience.

Prudence

IRAN: Iran is the only country in recent decades which has strongly resisted the hostile and opportunistic policies of the enemies. Since the early days of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation has been resisting foreign pressures and defending its rights. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is among the rare phenomena in the political history of the world that has been formed by the people's will in the shadow of Islam. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei recently urged officials to adopt more discipline in the economic sector. As the leader said, high food prices are a global phenomenon whose threats have been minimized in Iran by the prudence of officialdom.

