
Behind the UN Sanctions on Iran

Obama's Support for Anglo-Israeli Threat

by Michele Steinberg

May 24—Iran today formally presented to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the groundbreaking agreement that was signed on May 17 by Iran, Turkey, and Brazil, for Iran to deposit 1,200 kg of low enriched uranium (LEU) with Turkey, in exchange for uranium enriched at higher levels, for use in Iran's medical research reactor. Shortly after the official notification, in which a letter from the Iranian government was also delivered, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano met with the representatives of the three nations.

The breakthrough occurred, despite the desperate rush, by London and its puppet, President Barack Obama, to force a resolution through the UNSC for a new round of sanctions against Iran. The draft for new sanctions even reneges on the Obama Administration's statements that it would lift its objections to Iran's LEU production if the swap took place.

The sanctions resolution was issued from Washington just two days after the historic agreement was announced in Tehran; importantly, both Turkey and Brazil are currently members of the Security Council. The Tehran agreement is the first step in a process that was first proposed by former IAEA head, Dr. Muhammed El-Baradei, in October 2009, and endorsed by the U.S., and the Security Council Permanent Five plus Germany, the P5+1.

But, instead of pursuing this tremendous opening, Obama ordered his administration to rush the sanctions into the Security Council—which may turn out to be a huge miscalculation that will provoke international opposition, because behind the rush for the sanctions is Obama's apparent support for a British-inspired Israeli attack on Iran. The Netanyahu government in Israel is livid about the Tehran deal, because it may slow the drive for sanctions, but Netanyahu has issued orders that no Israeli statements are to be made on this issue—with the expectation that British-puppet Obama will do the Anglo-Israeli dirty work.

There is strong opposition in Washington to both an

Israeli preemptive attack, and to the sanctions, centered in Obama's National Security Team—Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, National Security Advisor James Jones, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen. But this opposition is constrained by the President's British control. According to high-level Washington intelligence sources, the U.S. would be prepared again to accept Iran's right to enrich uranium, as long as it is done under IAEA control, and is restricted to the LEU used for nuclear energy. The U.S. would be prepared to lift the new sanctions, upon the IAEA's certification that Iran has met those requirements; and that Iran has followed through with delivery of the LEU. The sanctions are intended to make sure that these preconditions for a negotiated solution would never be met.

World Rejects War Drive

At the same time, there is an international outpouring of support for the Iran-Turkey-Brazil agreement:

- On May 23, the Turkish newspaper *Zaman* disclosed that Prime Minister Erdogan had sent a letter to Obama, telling him to take advantage of the Iran-Turkey-Brazil declaration, which “has not closed the file on Iran's nuclear program, but has opened an important door for a solution through diplomatic means.” Erdogan also sent a letter to 26 countries—including all of the Security Council, explaining that the nuclear swap deal would resolve the nuclear dispute with Iran.

- On May 20, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held a press conference in Rome with his Italian counterpart, Franco Frattini, where he said, “We are in favor of Iran filing a request to the IAEA as soon as possible... This should not be hampered by discussions in the UN Security Council.” Immediately after the Tehran agreement was signed, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev “welcomed” the development. On May 22, Russia's Interfax reported that Russia will continue its cooperation with Iran on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and on delivering S-300 defensive missiles that had already been contracted.

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the uranium swap deal, and said it and “other initiatives may open the door to a negotiated settlement.”

- Meeting in Tajikistan, the Organization of Islamic Conference gave its full support to the swap agreement. OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu said on May 20, that “OIC members welcomed the nuclear swap agreement [and] have extended support to the agreement... We request from relevant international organizations to [also] extend support...”