

The Iran Offer That Cheney Sabotaged

The following letter was sent in May 2003 from the Iranian government to the U.S. government. Vice President Cheney intervened to sabotage its implementation. Its text was leaked by Iranian government officials within days of the Bush Administration's June 2006 decision to resume talks with Iran. Several Bush Administration officials have confirmed its authenticity.

Iranian aims:

(The U.S. accepts a dialogue “in mutual respect” and agrees that Iran puts the following aims on the agenda)

- *Halt in U.S. hostile behavior and rectification of status of Iran in the U.S.:* (interference in internal or external relations “axis of evil,” terrorism list.)
- *Abolishment of all sanctions:* commercial sanctions, frozen assets, judgments (FSIA), impediments in international trade and financial institutions
- *Iraq:* democratic and fully representative government in Iraq, support of Iranian claims for Iraqi reparations, respect for Iranian national interests in Iraq and religious links to Najaf/Karbala.
- *Full access to peaceful nuclear technology, biotechnology and chemical technology*
- *Recognition of Iran's legitimate security interests* in the region with according defense capacity.
- *Terrorism:* pursuit of anti-Iranian terrorists, above all MKO, and support for repatriation of their members in Iraq, decisive action against anti-Iranian terrorists, above all, MKO and affiliated organizations in the U.S.

U.S. aims:

(Iran accepts a dialogue “in mutual respect” and agrees that the U.S. puts the following aims on the agenda)

- *WMD:* full transparency for security that there are no Iranian endeavors to develop or possess WMD, full cooperation with IAEA, based on Iranian adoption of all relevant instruments (93+2 and all further IAEA protocols)
- *Terrorism:* decisive action against any terrorists (above all Al Qaida) on Iranian territory, full cooperation and exchange of all relevant information.
- *Iraq:* coordination of Iranian influence for activity supporting political stabilization and the establishment of democratic institutions and a non-religious government
- *Middle East:*
 - 1) stop of any material support to Palestinian opposition groups (Hamas, Jihad, etc.) from Iranian territory, pressure

on these organizations to stop violent action against civilians within borders of 1967.

2) action on Hizbollah to become a mere political organization within Lebanon

3) acceptance of the Arab League Beirut declaration (Saudi initiative, two-states-approach).

Steps:

I. communication of *mutual agreement on the following procedure*

II. *mutual simultaneous statements* “We have always been ready for direct and authoritative talks with the U.S./with Iran in good faith and with the aim of discussing—in mutual respect—our common interests and our mutual concerns based on merits and objective realities, but we have always made it clear that, such talks can only be held, if genuine progress for a solution of our own concerns can be achieved.”

III. *a first direct meeting* on the appropriate level (for instance in Paris) will be held *with the previously agreed aims*

- a. of a *decision on the first mutual steps*

- *Iraq:* establishment of a common group, active Iranian support for Iraqi stabilization, U.S. commitment to actively support Iranian reparation claims within the discussions on Iraq foreign debts.

- *Terrorism:* U.S. commitment to disarm and remove MKO from Iraq and take action in accordance with SCR 1373 against its leadership, Iranian commitment for enhanced action against Al Qaida members in Iran, agreement on cooperation and information exchange

- Iranian general statement “to support a peaceful solution in the *Middle East* involving the parties concerned”

- U.S. general statement that “Iran did not belong to ‘the axis of evil’ ”

- U.S. acceptance to halt its impediments against Iran in international financial and trade institutions

- b. of the *establishment of three parallel working groups* on disarmament, regional security, and economic cooperation. Their aim is *an agreement on three parallel road maps*, for the discussions of these working groups, each side accepts that the other side's aims (see above) are put on the agenda:

- 1) *Disarmament:* road map, which combines the mutual aims of, on the one side, full transparency by international commitments and guarantees to abstain from WMD with, on the other side, full access to western technology (in the three areas),

- 2) *Terrorism and regional security:* road map for above-mentioned aims on the Middle East and terrorism

- 3) *Economic cooperation:* road map for the abolishment of the sanctions, rescinding of judgments, and un-freezing of assets

- c. of agreement on a time-table for implementation

- d. and of a *public statement after this first meeting on the achieved agreements*